



Alaska Commission on Aging Fact Sheet

- The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is an 11 member advisory council whose mission is to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation.
- ACoA satisfies a requirement of the federal Older Americans Act (OAA), allowing Alaska to receive almost \$11 million in federal OAA funding in FY2016. The requirements are that the council must:
 - Be comprised of older individuals eligible to participate in OAA-funded programs;
 - Advise the “state agency on aging” regarding matters of aging issues. In Alaska, the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is the state agency on aging as designated by the Governor.
- The Alaska Commission on Aging develops the comprehensive *Alaska State Plan on Senior Services*, makes recommendations on legislation and appropriations beneficial for older Alaskans, and provides education/outreach regarding matters related to aging.
- The Alaska Commission on Aging also serves as a statutory advisory board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) and advises the AMHTA on the needs of older Alaskans with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. The Commission, in partnership with the AMHTA and other agencies, published *Alaska’s Roadmap to Address Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (2015)*. The Commission also makes recommendations to the AMHTA Board of Trustees regarding mental health programs for Senior Trust Beneficiaries (older people with dementia and other cognitive impairments) and the use of funds that benefit this vulnerable population.
- The Alaska Commission on Aging serves as an advocate and educator regarding the needs of Alaska’s older people to help ensure the dignity, health, safety, and independence of Alaska’s seniors. In collaboration with partners, the Commission coordinated the *Power of Aging Symposium*, to provide information about senior issues, in addition to the *Alaska Senior Housing Summit*, which was the first and only summit devoted to a discussion of senior housing in Alaska. The Commission hosts regular community forums to encourage senior citizen input on issues affecting them and sponsors the bi-weekly statewide senior legislative advocacy teleconferences during session to examine and discuss legislation of interest to seniors.
- Legislative Audit conducted a sunset audit of the Commission in 2015, concluding that the Commission is serving the public’s interest by helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives and that the Commission meets the federal requirement for each state to establish an advisory council to advise the state on matters related to aging.
- The Commission’s FY2016 budget is \$542,700 (\$45.9 GF; \$348.1 Interagency Receipts that include federal pass-through funds; \$29.6 GF/MH; and \$119.1 MHTAAR). The commission consists of eleven members and has a staff of four full-time employees.

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