

## Fact Sheet: Washington's Network of Aging & Disability Resource Centers

# Community Living Connections

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*Washington State's CLC network provides unbiased, reliable information and counseling to individuals with all levels of income.*

#### Vision Statement:

*Individuals and families confronting challenges around disabilities and aging throughout Washington State can easily access relevant options for services and supports that maximize independence and quality of life in their home and community.*

#### Mission Statement:

*CLCs provide quality information and education about disability and aging supports and services, as well as assistance to access them.*

#### Philosophy:

*We are better together; collaborative partnerships support high quality, responsive, and accountable service delivery.*

### Background

The federal Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) initiative is a collaborative effort led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). ACL brings together the Department of Health and Human Services Office on Disability, the Administration on Aging and the Administration for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. ACL actively partners with the Veterans Administration as well as the Department of Education. This initiative seeks to streamline access to long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older adults, all persons with disabilities, family caregivers, veterans, regardless of economic circumstances. Currently, 52 states and territories are operating or are in the process of implementing the core elements of an ADRC.

In Washington State, the Department of Social and Health Services and the Healthcare Authority administer publicly-funded long-term support services; however, many people are not eligible for those services: they may be able to pay privately, do not meet the level of care criteria and/or may be just a little above income or resources for publicly-funded LTSS. ADRCs build on the strength of existing community agencies, such as Area Agencies on Aging, Centers for Independent Living, Brain Injury Resource Centers, and others, to provide a unbiased, single, and more coordinated system of information, options counseling and access assistance for all persons seeking home, community-based and long-term services and support. They minimize confusion, enhance individual choice, and support informed decision-making.

#### Purpose:

Washington State's ADRC network is named *Community Living Connections* (CLC) to signify the goal of helping individuals live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. It does this by connecting them to needed and wanted services and supports. When needed, CLC also provides options counseling and decision support around more formal residential care options.

Washington's CLC addresses the frustrations many consumers and their families experience when they need to obtain information and access to supports and services. CLC programs raise visibility about the full range of

### CLC Core Components:

- Information, Referral, and Awareness (I&R/A)
- Person-Centered Options Counseling, Planning, and Assistance
- Assist with Access to Public LTSS
- Evidence-based Care Transitions
- Consumer Populations, Partnerships, and Stakeholder Involvement
- Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement

### For More Information

[www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/professional/adrc](http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/professional/adrc)  
or call 1-800-422-3263.

public and private LTSS programs available, provide objective information, advice, counseling and assistance, and ensure people are able to make informed decisions about their LTSS. They assist a wide range of individuals, including family caregivers, in obtaining long term supports and services in the most desirable and appropriate setting. Because they do not limit their services to low-income individuals, CLCs can help families with private resources use their resources more wisely, which may delay or prevent “spend-down” to Medicaid or unnecessary institutionalization.

### Statewide Expansion in Progress

With funding from the Administration for Community Living, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Veterans Administration, and the Center for Technology and Aging, Washington State is achieving statewide expansion through the following avenues:

- CLC sites in the following areas, serving 16 counties: Pierce County, Northwest Washington, Southeast Washington, and Eastern Washington
- A five year expansion plan created with the help of the Statewide ADRC Planning and Policy Committee made of stakeholder organizations and constituents
- Implementation of the Statewide ADRC Expansion Plan: While only the four areas are called CLCs (or ADRCs), all areas of the state are planning and developing their local CLC through stakeholder involvement, expanding and formalizing partnerships, serving individuals of all ages, providing care transitions, and participating in the National Options Counseling and Certification Program