COMMUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

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WHY NOW?

COMMUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Major Demographic Changes
Strengthening of the Social Compact
'Silo-ed' Approach to Problem Solving

Aging
Youth Development
Early Childhood
Education
Housing
Transportation
Competition For Scarce Resources
WHAT IS CFAA?
Vision

- **People of ALL ages are supported, empowered and engaged in community life**

- **Diverse organizations and residents work together for the common good**

- **Strong social networks foster interdependence across ages and cultures**
• Life span
• Cross-generational
• Assets and place-based
• Economies of scale
Approach
5 PHASES OF WORK

I. Initiating the work
II. Strengthening cross sector collaboration
III. Building resident leadership
IV. Assessing your community using an intergenerational lens
V. Planning and moving into action
**THEORY OF CHANGE**

**CFAA Key Strategies**
- Building cross-sector alliances
- Empowering and engaging residents
- Creating places, practices, & policies for cross-age interaction
- Expanding opportunities and supports across life span

**Intermediate Outcomes**
- **Increased Capacity:**
  - Expanded collaboration/resource sharing
  - Increased ability to use IG strategies to address issues
  - Increased civic engagement opportunities for all ages

**Increased Well-Being:**
- Increased social connectedness
- Tangible improvement in targeted issue
- Increased sense of collective responsibility

**Long-Term Outcomes**
- Increased capacity to address critical issues from a multi-generational perspective
- Improved well-being of all ages and increased social capital
Key Strategies

Building Cross-Sector Alliances
Engaging Residents of all Ages in Leadership Roles
Creating Places, Practices and Policies for Cross-Age Interaction
Addressing Issues from a Lifespan Perspective
Building Safe Healthy Communities

- Increased access to healthy, affordable food
- Increased participation in physical exercise
- Decreased levels of violence
- Increased trust and connection between residents of multiple generations and law enforcement
- Improved physical infrastructure
Increased trust and engagement across age, race, class and ethnicity

“I think older people are afraid of younger people...but when you mix them up together...its not so scary, is it? Young people are like everybody else, you have to get used to them...reach out to them...embrace them”

-Older adult resident
Community Capacity OUTCOMES

- Expanded opportunities for all ages to contribute to communities (community planning, bridging leadership, advisory boards, organizing, advocacy)
- More inclusive leadership development practices
- Expanded organizational alliances (universities, aging network, faith-based)
CFAA’s dual focus on promoting well being across the lifespan and building community capacity appeals to many groups and increases likelihood of long term impact.
The intergenerational approach is particularly effective as an entry point to bridging historical divides.
Lessons Learned

The CFAA approach demonstrates and broadens the concept of collective impact
Intergenerational community building is most successful when it engages individuals from all stages of life (not just young and old) and intentionally focuses on fostering meaningful relationships from the outset.
Multi generational spaces hold great promise for building social capital and creating a tangible representation of the CFAA vision.