

AARP® Network of Age-Friendly Communities

Real Possibilities

An Introduction

NETWORK PROFILE

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities consists of villages, towns and counties throughout the United States. The Network is expanding regularly as additional communities make the commitment to become age-friendly. AARP advances efforts to help people live easily and comfortably in their homes and communities, and it encourages older residents to take an active role and have their voices heard.

EIGHT DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY

AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities targets improvements that influence the health and quality of life of older adults:

- 1. Outdoor spaces and buildings**
Availability of safe and accessible recreational facilities
- 2. Transportation**
Safe and affordable modes of private and public transit
- 3. Housing**
Range of housing options for older residents, the ability to age in place and home-modification programs
- 4. Social participation**
Access for older adults to leisure and cultural activities, and opportunities for social and civic engagement with both peers and younger people
- 5. Respect and social inclusion**
Programs to promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction and dialogue
- 6. Civic participation and employment**
Paid work and volunteer activities for older adults, and opportunities to engage in the creation of policies relevant to their lives
- 7. Communication and information**
Access to technology that helps older people connect with their community, friends and family
- 8. Community support and health services**
Access to homecare services, health clinics and programs that promote wellness and active aging

LEARN MORE!

[AARP.org/agefriendly](https://www.aarp.org/agefriendly)

[AARP.org/livable](https://www.aarp.org/livable)



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The Program Cycle

United States

Enrolled communities: 37*

Total US population: 316,128,900
age 50+ (2013 estimate): 30%
age 65+ (2013 estimate): 14%
age 65+ (2030 estimate): 20%

Households with a 65+ member: 23%

Age 65+ people with disabilities: 51.8%

Employed 65+ population: 29.4%

Voting rates (all eligible voters): 58.7%
age 45 - 64: 51%
age 65+: 58.9%

Median household income: \$51,371
age 50+: \$46,640
age 65+: \$36,743

Other: 40% of 65+ live alone

Other: 80% of 65+ own homes

Other: 45.2% of 65+ lack access to public transit

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Step 1: ENTERING THE NETWORK

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities serves as a catalyst to educate, encourage, promote and recognize improvements that make communities supportive for residents of all ages. The network provides U.S. cities, towns and counties with the resources to become more age-friendly by tapping into national and global research, planning models and best practices.

Step 2: PLANNING PHASE (Years 1 - 2)

This phase has four key elements:

- The establishment of mechanisms to involve older people throughout the age-friendly community cycle
- A baseline assessment of the community's age-friendliness
- The development of a three-year community-wide action plan based on the assessment
- The identification of indicators for monitoring progress

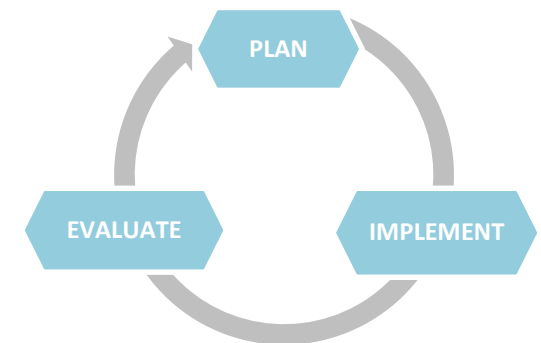
This phase is completed when an action plan is submitted to the World Health Organization (WHO) for review and endorsement.

Step 3: IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION (Years 3 - 5)

No later than two years after joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, a community needs to submit its action plan to AARP for review and endorsement. Upon endorsement and recommendation to the WHO by AARP, a community begins a three-year period of implementation. At the end of this period the community is required to submit a progress report to AARP outlining its progress against the indicators developed in the Step 2: Planning Phase.

Step 4: CONTINUOUS CYCLE OF IMPROVEMENTS (Years 5+)

At this point a community is able to continue their membership by entering into further implementation cycles.



AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES MEMBER BENEFITS

- Organizational guidance from national experts
- Streamlined admission into the World Health Organization's age-friendly network
- Resources for identifying and developing assessment and survey tools
- Information about identifying and developing community-success criteria
- Strategies for identifying and developing ways to monitor progress
- Access to a network of communities and best practices
- Access to a volunteer network of support
- Access to evaluation tools
- Invitations to organized trainings and networking events
- Resources at AARP.org/livable and AARP.org/agefriendly
- Support and guidance from AARP
- Recognition by AARP and others