

# Dakota County Communities for a Lifetime Initiative

## What Cities and Counties Can Do to Create Age-Friendly Communities

Issues	Key Challenges	Action Steps, Goals, Recommendations	Potential Partners
<b>Housing</b>  <i>(For more info., see CFL City Profiles, pg. 5)</i>	Affordable housing options are limited, forcing some people to leave their community. Too many people are paying > 30% of their income for housing, especially renters (58% of Dakota C. renters).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage development of a <b>full range of housing options</b> (rental apts., condos, single level units, independent and assisted living).</li> <li>• Offer <b>tax incentives</b> for new affordable housing for older adults or mixed-age.</li> <li>• Support projects funded through <b>HUD Section 202 housing</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Housing developers</i></li> <li>• <i>Cities</i></li> <li>• <i>Trade groups</i></li> <li>• <i>Dakota County Community Development Agency</i></li> <li>• <i>Nonprofits</i></li> </ul>
	Home and building design is tailored to narrow range of physical abilities, when most people want to “age in place” and in their community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institute <b>home modification and repair programs</b> and <b>loan fund</b>.</li> <li>• Encourage and incentivize <b>universal design</b>, “visit-ability” in new housing.</li> <li>• Enact <b>Accessory Dwelling Unit policy</b>.</li> </ul>	
	Suburban housing, services and transit are typically not mixed or well-coordinated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Build Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)</b>: housing with walkable streets, transit options, and easy access to goods and services.</li> <li>• <b>Create partnerships</b> with housing and service providers.</li> </ul>	
<b>Planning, Zoning, and Land Use</b>  <i>(pg. 17)</i>	Land use and transportation planning affect how people and goods move from place to place.	<b>Integrate mixed land use</b> (housing, commercial and retail uses, and public services) to create more housing options, walkability, and shorten distances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cities</i></li> <li>• <i>Housing developers</i></li> <li>• <i>Transportation providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Cities</i></li> <li>• <i>Residents</i></li> <li>• <i>Community leaders</i></li> <li>• <i>Developers</i></li> </ul>
	Lack of public support for community design that supports aging in place/community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Engage older adults/boomers</b> in the planning process.</li> <li>• <b>Conduct focus groups</b> that include Boomers/older adults.</li> </ul>	
	Zoning regulations discourage a broad range of age-appropriate housing options.	<b>Update zoning codes</b> to encourage a range of housing options, including accessory dwelling units.	
<b>Outdoor Spaces, Parks</b>  <i>(pg. 18)</i>	Pedestrian crossings are often inadequate and unsafe; sidewalks in many communities are nonexistent or not connected to a larger system of sidewalks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improve pedestrian crossings</b> by providing adequate crossing times, non-slip markings, visual audio cues, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Implement a sidewalk system</b> in key areas (near multi-unit housing, downtown) that is well-maintained, free of obstructions, and with curb cuts.</li> <li>• Increase <b>green spaces, equipment, and outdoor seating</b> to make more welcoming to older adults, others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cities</i></li> <li>• <i>Counties</i></li> <li>• <i>Businesses</i></li> </ul>

<b>Mobility/ Transportation</b>  <i>(For more info., see CFL City Profiles, pg. 12)</i>	<p>Many older drivers experience specific difficulties related to the driving environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve <b>signage, road design</b>, and <b>speed reduction</b> to save lives.</li> <li>• Provide <b>safety programs</b> and <b>driving refresher courses</b> (ex. CarFit).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Transportation providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Cities</i></li> <li>• <i>Counties</i></li> <li>• <i>Community education</i></li> <li>• <i>Libraries</i></li> <li>• <i>Residents</i></li> <li>• <i>Businesses</i></li> </ul>
	<p>Customer-oriented community transportation options are lacking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create more <b>transit options</b> that are flexible and responsive.</li> <li>• Support <b>volunteer driver programs</b>.</li> <li>• Support a <b>shared shuttle</b> or <b>circulator bus</b>.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Road design can make walking, biking difficult and dangerous.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use <b>walk audits</b> to identify and prioritize pedestrian improvements.</li> <li>• Implement <b>Complete Streets design</b>.</li> <li>• Conduct a <b>Bike Pedestrian Plan</b>.</li> </ul>	
<b>Health, Supportive Services, and Food Access</b>  <i>(pg. 19)</i>	<p>Community information on available services is dispersed across agencies and providers. People aren't aware of what is available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote services such as <b>Senior LinkAge Line/One Stop</b>, <a href="http://www.MinnesotaHelp.info">www.MinnesotaHelp.info</a>, <b>DARTS hotline</b> (651-455-1560)</li> <li>• Create a <b>directory of information</b> (in print and online) that provides access to local service providers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Health care providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Home care providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Nonprofits</i></li> <li>• <i>Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Businesses</i></li> </ul>
	<p>Home-based services are often disjointed (for ex., medical and homecare).</p>	<p>Encourage providers to <b>integrate home-based services</b>.</p>	
	<p>Lack of transportation to clinics, grocery stores affects access to health care, food.</p>	<p>Improve access to <b>medical transportation, to farmers markets, grocery stores, home-delivered food</b>.</p>	
<b>Cultures and Lifelong Learning</b>	<p>Few arts and cultural programs are offered to older adults.</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for <b>intergenerational learning</b> around arts and cultural activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cities</i></li> <li>• <i>Community education</i></li> <li>• <i>Libraries</i></li> <li>• <i>Nonprofits</i></li> <li>• <i>Residents</i></li> </ul>
	<p>Few opportunities for older adults to stay up-to-date on technology.</p>	<p>Increase <b>technology trainings</b> (ex., classes pairing older adults and youth).</p>	
<b>Strengthen Neighborhoods and Public Safety</b>	<p>Connections and safety could be improved in some neighborhoods. More older adults are living alone and isolated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage <b>Neighborhood Watch</b> programs; implement <b>home visiting, check-in calls</b>.</li> <li>• Create <b>Neighborhood Networks</b> to strengthen connections and support.</li> <li>• Conduct <b>safety audits</b> and make improvements as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Local law enforcement</i></li> <li>• <i>Cities</i></li> <li>• <i>Community education</i></li> <li>• <i>Residents</i></li> </ul>
<b>Employment/Volunteering Opportunities</b>  <i>(pg. 20)</i>	<p>With more people retiring, the workforce is shrinking. Volunteering options are limited in many communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide <b>employment options for older workers</b>; more options to engage older adults as assets.</li> <li>• Enhance <b>volunteer recruitment</b> and <b>coordination activities</b>.</li> <li>• Work through community education and other programs to link older adults and youth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cities</i></li> <li>• <i>Community education</i></li> <li>• <i>Libraries</i></li> <li>• <i>Nonprofits</i></li> <li>• <i>Residents</i></li> </ul>

\*Adapted from: - A Blueprint for Action: Developing a Livable Community for All Ages  
- World Health Organization, Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities  
- AARP, Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices

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