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

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| Housing | 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). | • Encourage development of a full range of housing options (rental apartments, condos, single level units, independent and assisted living).  
• Offer tax incentives for new affordable housing for older adults or mixed-age.  
• Support projects funded through HUD Section 202 housing. | • Housing developers  
• Cities  
• Trade groups  
• Dakota County Community Development Agency  
• Nonprofits |
|  | Home and building design is tailored to narrow range of physical abilities, when most people want to “age in place” and in their community. | • Institute home modification and repair programs and loan fund.  
• Encourage and incentivize universal design, “visit-ability” in new housing.  
• Enact Accessory Dwelling Unit policy. | |
|  | Suburban housing, services and transit are typically not mixed or well-coordinated. | • Build Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): housing with walkable streets, transit options, and easy access to goods and services.  
• Create partnerships with housing and service providers. | |
| Planning, Zoning, and Land Use | Land use and transportation planning affect how people and goods move from place to place. | Integrate mixed land use (housing, commercial and retail uses, and public services) to create more housing options, walkability, and shorten distances. | • Cities  
• Housing developers  
• Transportation providers |
|  | Lack of public support for community design that supports aging in place/community. | • Engage older adults/boomers in the planning process.  
• Conduct focus groups that include Boomers/older adults. | • Cities  
• Residents  
• Community leaders  
• Developers |
|  | Zoning regulations discourage a broad range of age-appropriate housing options. | Update zoning codes to encourage a range of housing options, including accessory dwelling units. | |
| Outdoor Spaces, Parks | Pedestrian crossings are often inadequate and unsafe; sidewalks in many communities are nonexistent or not connected to a larger system of sidewalks. | • Improve pedestrian crossings by providing adequate crossing times, non-slip markings, visual audio cues, etc.  
• Implement a sidewalk system in key areas (near multi-unit housing, downtown) that is well-maintained, free of obstructions, and with curb cuts.  
• Increase green spaces, equipment, and outdoor seating to make more welcoming to older adults, others. | • Cities  
• Counties  
• Businesses |

*(For more info., see CFL City Profiles, pg. 5)*
| Mobility/Transportation | Many older drivers experience specific difficulties related to the driving environment. | • Improve signage, road design, and speed reduction to save lives.  
• Provide safety programs and driving refresher courses (ex. CarFit). | • Transportation providers  
• Cities  
• Counties  
• Community education  
• Libraries  
• Residents  
• Businesses |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Customer-oriented community transportation options are lacking. | • Create more transit options that are flexible and responsive.  
• Support volunteer driver programs.  
• Support a shared shuttle or circulator bus. | | |
| Road design can make walking, biking difficult and dangerous. | • Use walk audits to identify and prioritize pedestrian improvements.  
• Implement Complete Streets design.  
• Conduct a Bike Pedestrian Plan. | | |
| (For more info., see CFL City Profiles, pg. 12) | | | |
| Health, Supportive Services, and Food Access | Community information on available services is dispersed across agencies and providers. People aren’t aware of what is available. | • Promote services such as Senior LinkAge Line/One Stop, www.MinnesotaHelp.info, DARTS hotline (651-455-1560)  
• Create a directory of information (in print and online) that provides access to local service providers. | • Health care providers  
• Home care providers  
• Nonprofits  
• Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA)  
• Businesses |
| Home-based services are often disjointed (for ex., medical and homecare). | Encourage providers to integrate home-based services. | | |
| Lack of transportation to clinics, grocery stores affects access to health care, food. | Improve access to medical transportation, to farmers markets, grocery stores, home-delivered food. | | |
| (pg. 19) | | | |
| Cultures and Lifelong Learning | Few arts and cultural programs are offered to older adults. | Provide opportunities for intergenerational learning around arts and cultural activities. | • Cities  
• Community education  
• Libraries  
• Nonprofits  
• Residents |
| Few opportunities for older adults to stay up-to-date on technology. | Increase technology trainings (ex., classes pairing older adults and youth). | | |
| Strengthen Neighborhoods and Public Safety | Connections and safety could be improved in some neighborhoods. More older adults are living alone and isolated. | • Encourage Neighborhood Watch programs; implement home visiting, check-in calls.  
• Create Neighborhood Networks to strengthen connections and support.  
• Conduct safety audits and make improvements as needed. | • Local law enforcement  
• Cities  
• Community education  
• Residents |
| Employment/Volunteering Opportunities | With more people retiring, the workforce is shrinking. Volunteering options are limited in many communities. | • Provide employment options for older workers; more options to engage older adults as assets.  
• Enhance volunteer recruitment and coordination activities.  
• Work through community education and other programs to link older adults and youth. | • Cities  
• Community education  
• Libraries  
• Nonprofits  
• Residents |
| (pg. 20) | | | |

*Adapted from:  
- A Blueprint for Action: Developing a Livable Community for All Ages  
- World Health Organization, Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities  

For more information about the Dakota County Communities for a Lifetime Initiative, contact Jess Luce, 651-554-6104, or by e-mail: jess.luce@co.dakota.mn.us.