



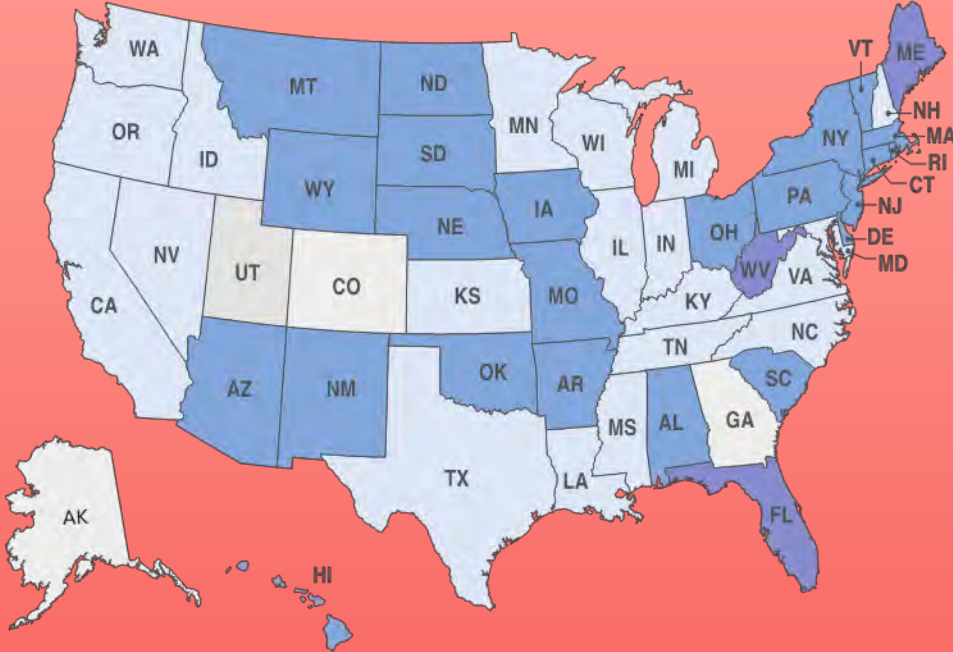
**Age-Friendly Communities
Are Livable for
People of All Ages**
aarp.org/livable

Is Your Community Age-Friendly?

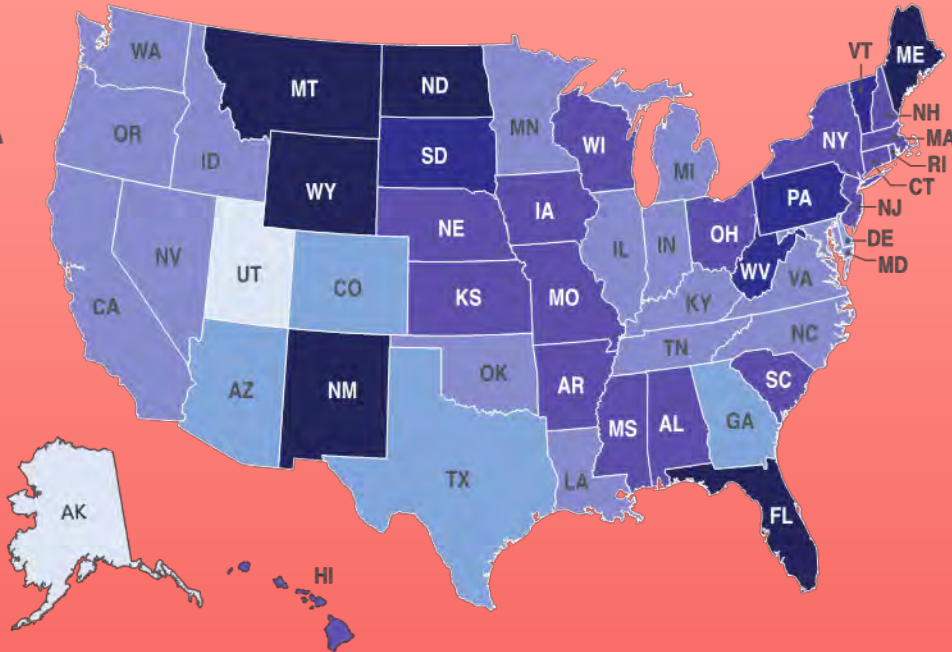
Darrin Wasniewski, AARP Wisconsin &
Kara Homan, AICP, City of Appleton

America is aging

2015



2030



PERCENT OF POPULATION AGE 65+

0-10	10-12.5	12.5-15	15-17.5	17.5-20	20-22.5	22.5-25	25-27
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Source: US Census

People want to stay in their homes **and communities...**

Two-thirds (67%) of all adults — and 79% of those 50-plus — want to stay in their current communities. Adults primarily value communities that foster good health, promote street safety, and provide good opportunities for community engagement and social interaction.

High numbers of Americans want “forever homes” — to stay in their current homes as they age. The percentage is even higher for adults age 50-plus, with more than three-quarters wanting to remain in their home as they age. But more aging-in-place modifications and technology are needed to make that possible.

Source: AARP Home and Community preferences Survey 11/21



Numbers of Older Adult Head of Households and Renters Soaring

Households headed by people age 65-plus are expected to grow from 34 million to 48 million in the next 20 years.

The number of renters among adults 65-plus is expected to grow from 7.4 million in 2020 to 12.9 million by 2040, with a particularly significant increase among Black renters age 65-plus (projected to double from 1.3 million to 2.6 million).

Source: The Urban Institute, The Future of Headship and Homeownership.



Caregivers

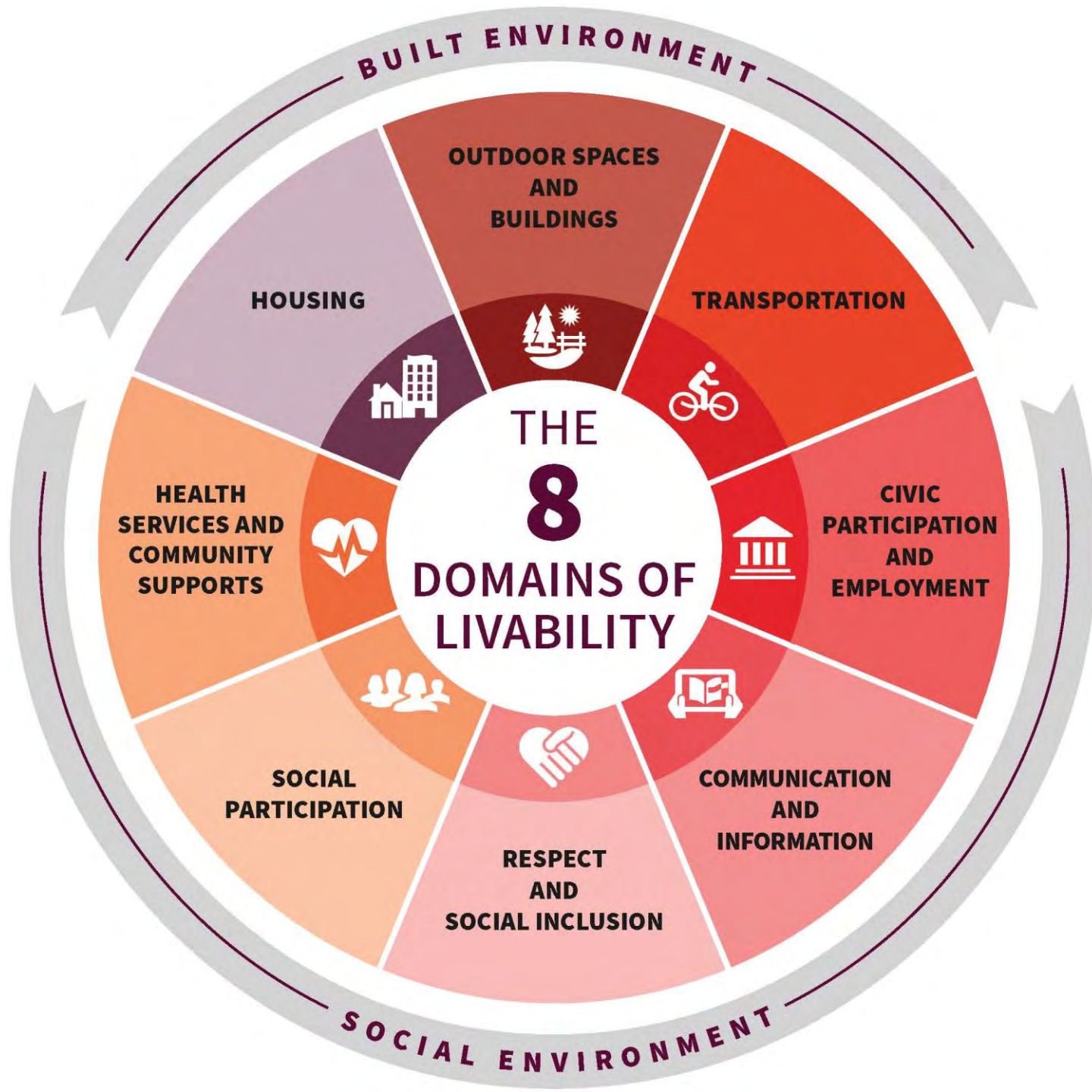
One in five Americans is a family caregiver, and caregivers often have unique needs for their homes:

40% care for someone living in their home.
38% care for someone living on their own.

Of those, 49% are concerned about the ability of the person they are caring for to continue to live on their own.



What is the first thing that comes to mind
when you hear the term, “Age-Friendly”?



The 8 Domains of Livability

is the framework used by states and communities enrolled in the network to organize and prioritize their work to become more livable for both older residents and people of all ages.

The availability and quality of these community features impact the well-being of older adults.



Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

People need public places to gather — indoors and out. Green spaces, seating and accessible buildings (elevators, zero-step entrances, staircases with railings) can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages

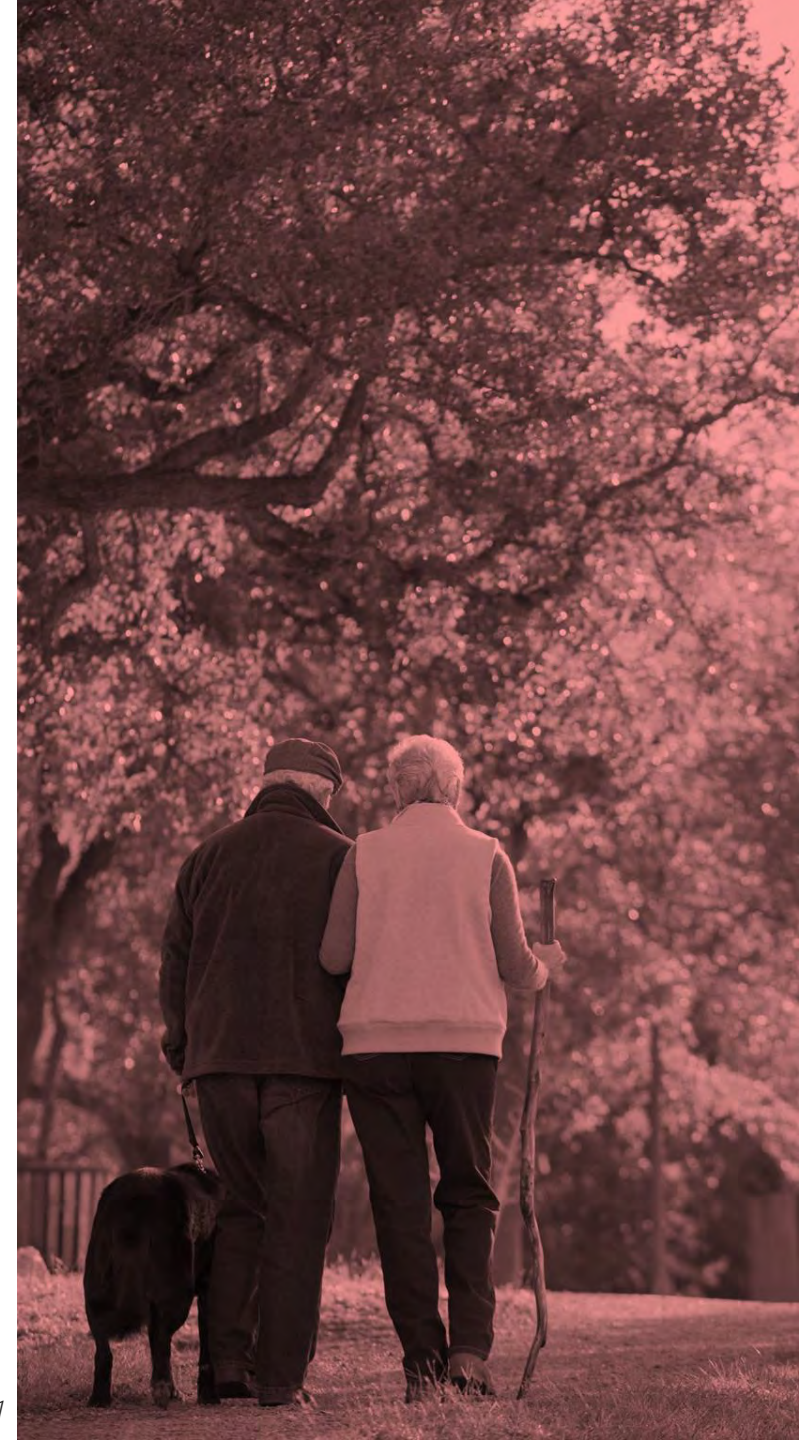
Nearly three-quarters of adults (73%) say it is important to have safe, well-lit parks that give residents places to gather and interact with friends.

Resources:

[Creating Parks and Public Spaces](#)

[The Pop-up Placemaking Toolkit](#)

[The Walk Audit Toolkit](#)



Housing

We spend more time in our homes than anywhere else, so housing costs, choices, and accessibility are critical. Great communities provide housing opportunities for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities.

More than three-quarters of adults ages 50 and older want to stay in their homes (77%) and communities (79%) as they age.

Resources:

[Making Room for 'Making Room'](#)

[The ABCs of ADUs](#)

[AARP HomeFit Guide](#)





Transportation

Driving shouldn't be the only way to get around. Pedestrians need sidewalks and safe, crossable streets. Moving easily and safely from one place to another vastly improves quality of life.

Well-maintained, accessible and safe streets are reported as being among the most important community features for transportation.

Resources:

[Future of Transportation](#)

[Roadmap to Livability: Transportation Workbook](#)

[AARP Public Policy Institute Transportation Resources](#)





Social Participation

Participating in social activities makes people feel as if they matter to a community, which provides a sense of meaning and belonging. Social activities can help relieve the angst of perceived social isolation.

Top predictors of loneliness: size and diversity of an individual's social network and being physically isolated. Other contributing factors include age, depression, urbanicity, anxiety and overall health

Resources:

[Engaging the Community Creates Community](#)

[Age-Friendly and Accessible Event Guide](#) (Cleveland, OH)

[Community Guide to Accessible Events and Meetings](#) (Seattle, WA)





Respect & Social Inclusion

Everyone wants to feel valued. Socially inclusive gatherings and activities are a great way for people to learn from one another, honor what each has to offer and, at the same time, feel good about themselves.

A strong majority (71%) of adults ages 50+ believe it's important for their community to treat all residents equally regardless of race, gender, age, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or other differences.

Resources:
[Disrupt Aging](#)
[Equity By Design](#)





Civic Engagement & Employment

Why does work need to be an all or nothing experience? An age-friendly community encourages older people to be actively engaged in community life and has opportunities for residents to work for pay or volunteer their skills.

Holding a perception that one can make a difference on problems that exist in their community is a top predictor of 50+ civic engagement.

Resources:

[Create the Good](#)

[AARP Employer Pledge Program](#)





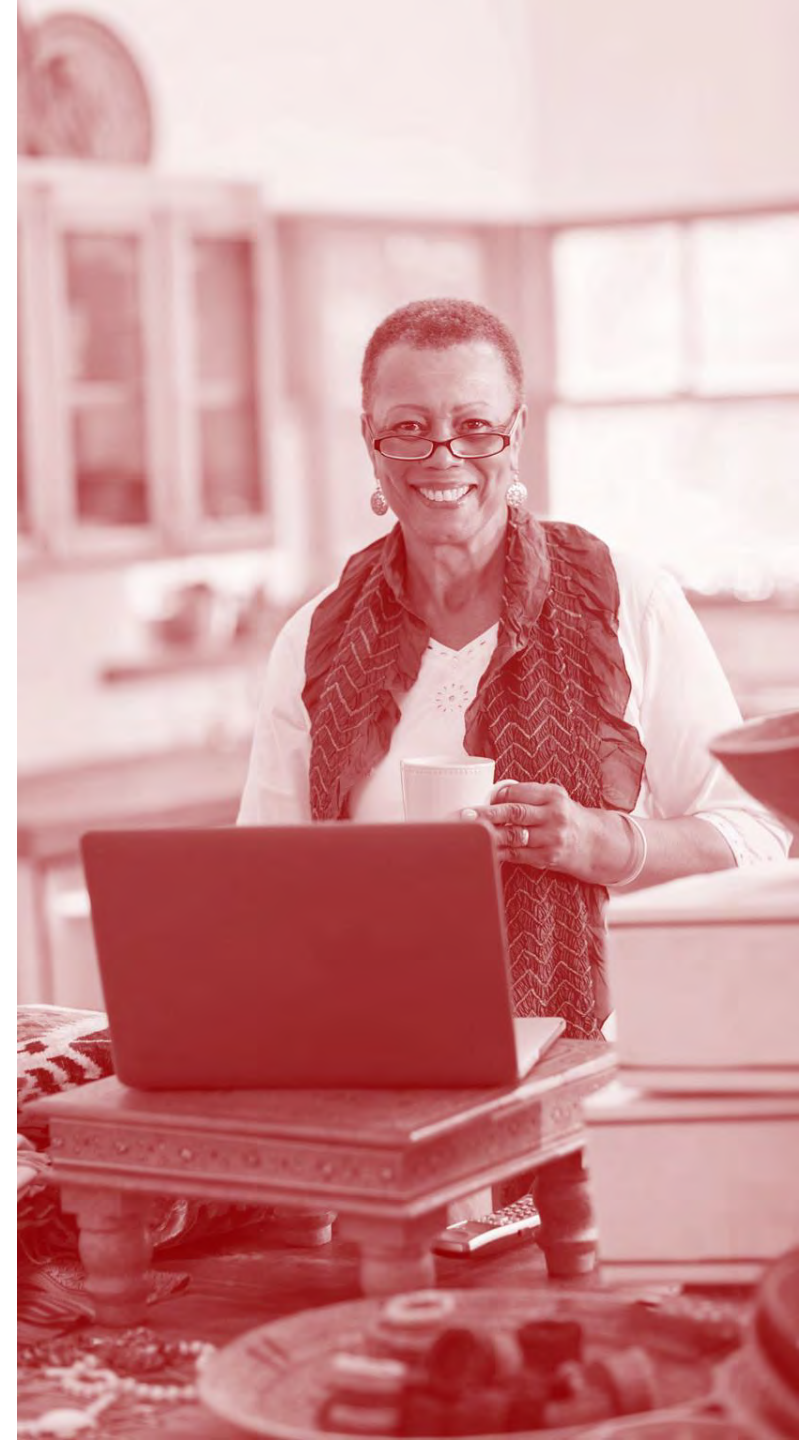
Communication & Information

Age-friendly communities recognize that information needs to be shared through a variety of methods since not everyone is tech-savvy, and not everyone has a smartphone or home-based access to the internet.

76% of adults age 50-plus place high importance on having access to reliable and affordable in-home high-speed Internet.

Resources:

[Roadmap to Livability: Community Listening Toolkit](#)
[Exploring Digital Equity Fact Sheet Series](#)
[AARP Free E-Newsletters](#)





Health & Community Svcs.

Community support is strongly connected to good health and well-being throughout life, alongside accessible and affordable health care services, which are vital for maintaining health and independence.

U.S. adults age 45+ think many healthcare issues are important: staying mentally sharp (96%), staying physically healthy (92%), having adequate health insurance coverage (91%)

Resources:

[RTL: Health Services and Community Supports Workbook](#)
[AARP Prepare to Care Guide](#)





Disaster Preparedness

Community planning plays a vital role in reducing the long-term risks to life and property from natural hazards such as hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, and floods.

Adults aged 65 and older are a growing demographic who are often disproportionately impacted by severe weather.

Resources:

[AARP Disaster Resilience Toolkit](#)
[Guide to Expanding Mitigation](#)
[Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide](#)





700+ Communities — and Counting!

Nine states, one territory, and hundreds of towns, cities and counties are enrolled in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Local leaders who have joined the network are working to make their communities great places for people of all ages.

[CHECK OUT THE MEMBER LIST](#)



Mapping Age-Friendly Efforts

Use the interactive AARP Livable Communities Map to discover where, and how, AARP is helping communities become more livable and age-friendly so people of all ages can thrive — and make where they live and want to remain a lifelong home.

[SEARCH THE MAP](#)

Livability News & Notes



As Gen X and Boomers Age, They Confront Living Alone — More older Americans are living by themselves than ever before. That shift impacts housing, health care and personal finances, especially for women. *Source: [The New York Times](#)* ▶

AARP LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Resources



Tools to help local leaders



Livable Communities Landing Page:

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



Livable Communities Newsletter:

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



Livable Communities Map:

livablemap.aarp.org



Community Challenge Grant Program:

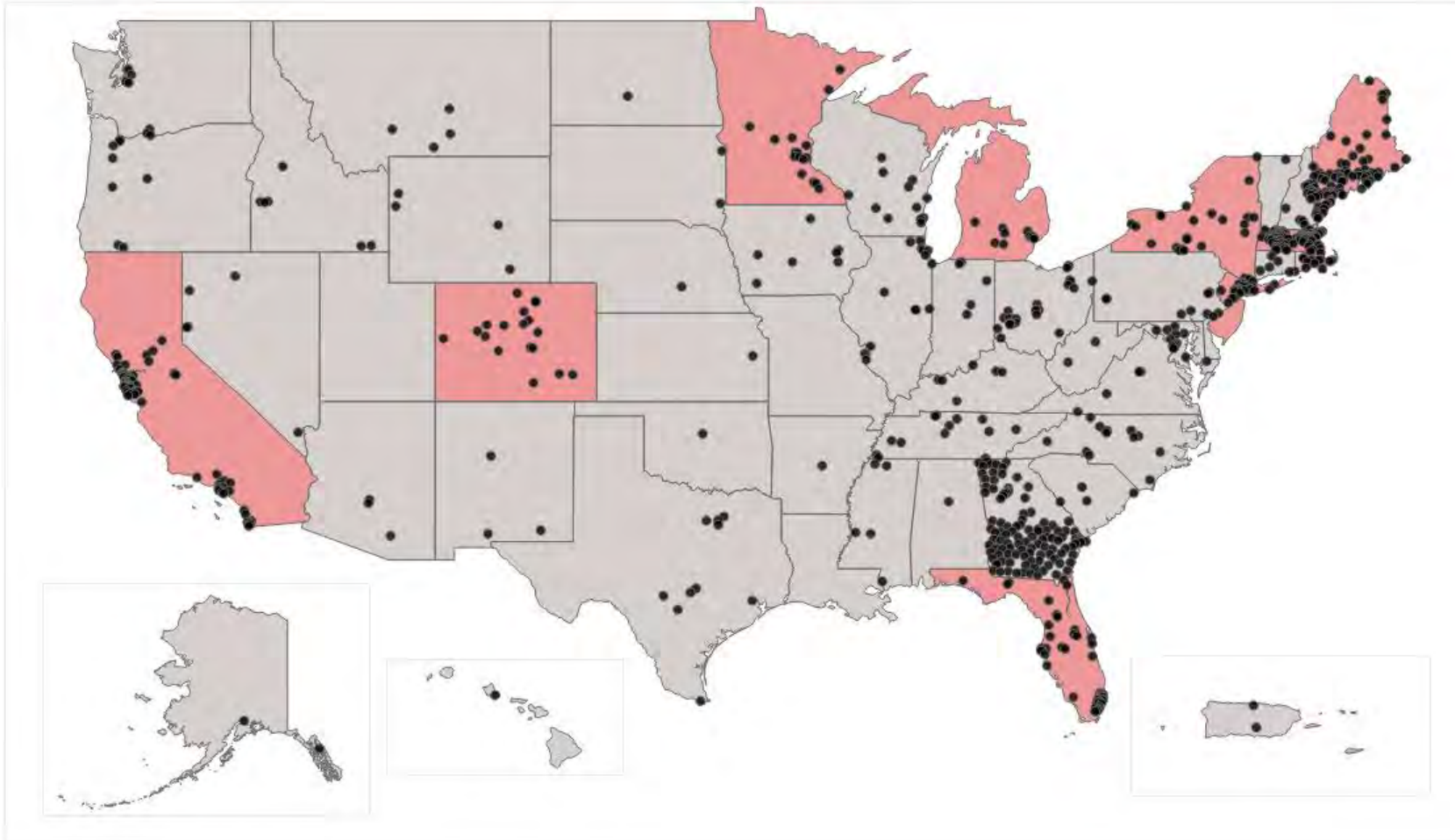
[aarp.org/communitychallenge](https://www.aarp.org/communitychallenge)

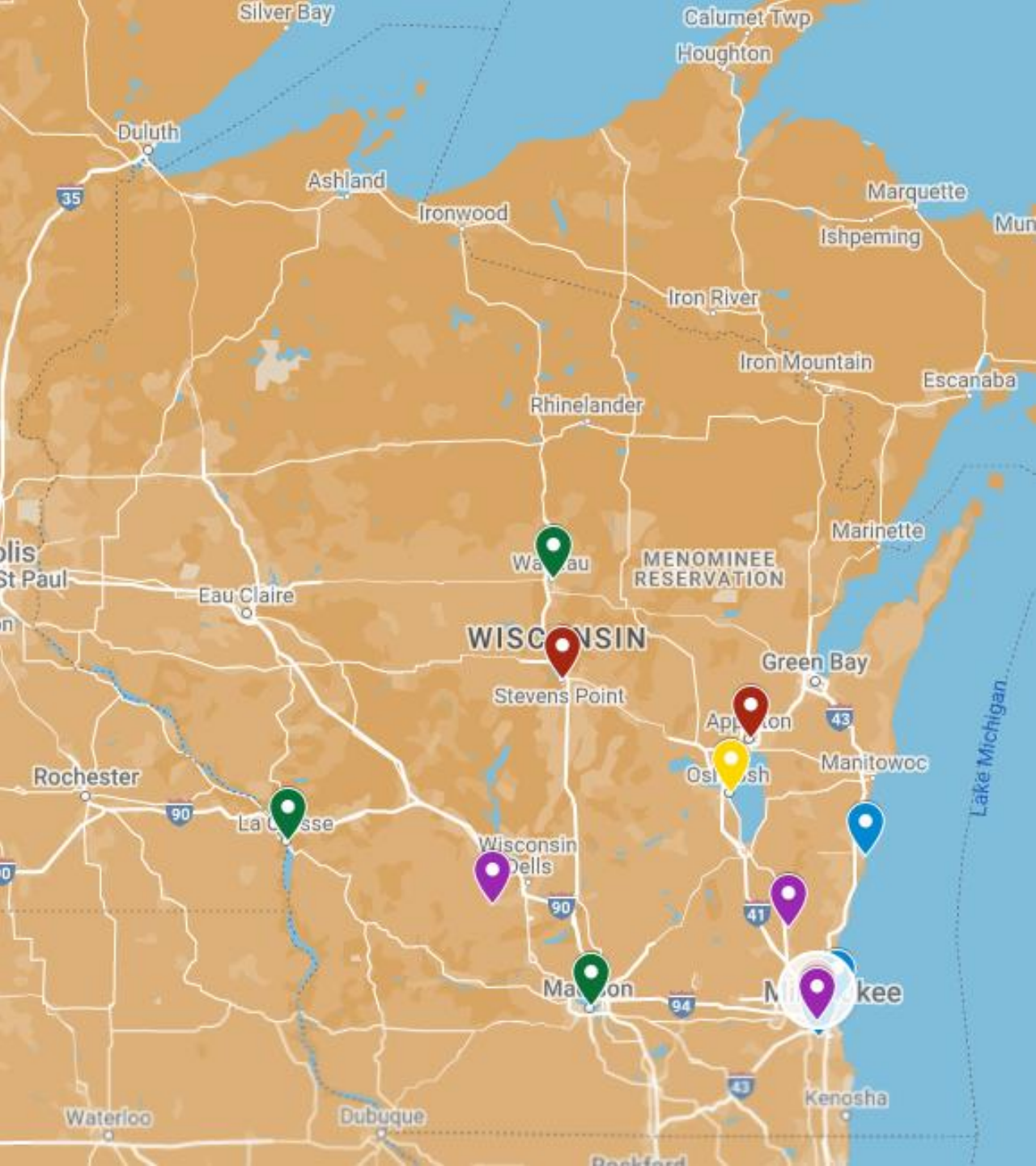


20+ Free Publications:

[aarp.org/livablelibrary](https://www.aarp.org/livablelibrary)

AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (NAFSC)





There are currently 771 communities, 10 states and 1 territory enrolled (updated 7.11.23)

AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (NAFSC)

Current WI Network Members:

- **Appleton, Greendale, La Crosse, Madison, Oshkosh, Reedsburg, Sheboygan, Shorewood, Stevens Point, Wausau, Wauwatosa, West Allis, & West Bend**

An Age-Friendly Community is...



...one where a community's elected leadership has made a commitment to actively work with residents and local advocates to make their town, city, or county an age-friendly place to live through enrollment in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities!

AARP Livable Communities



Membership Application

Join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

AARP Livable Communities

When a town, city, county or state joins the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, it is joining a global and age-friendly community.

The AARP network is an organizational affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. If you are a community wishing to join the global network instead of or in addition to the AARP program can find application information on the WHO website.

To enroll your community in the AARP network, please complete and submit the application below.

Note: Since content added to this form cannot be saved, we advise that you review and download a PDF of the questions in advance, print the information you'll need, and draft the narrative responses offline for later pasting into the applicable fields. If this form doesn't work, email your questions and materials to AARPAge-FriendlyNetwork@aarp.org.

Section 1: Community Details

Application Submission Date

01/24/2023

State

Select a State

Community Name

Total Population

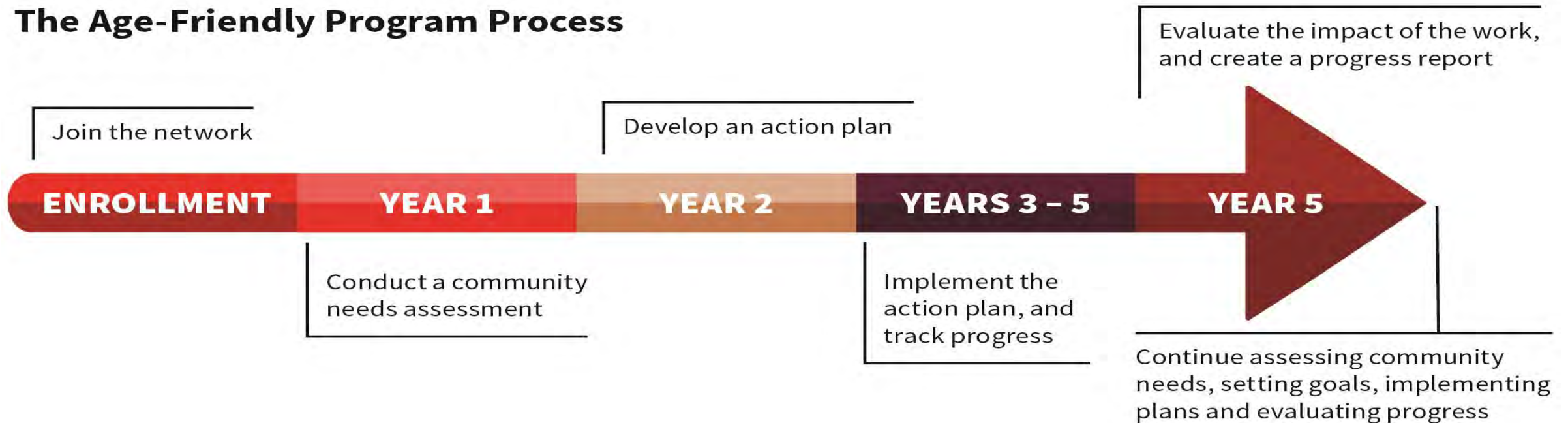
Percentage of Residents Age 65 or Older

The Age-Friendly Program Process

All communities seeking to enroll in the AARP age-friendly network are required to submit a membership application and commit to a 5-year process of improvement which includes:

- ✓ conducting a community needs assessment
- ✓ developing an action and evaluation plan
- ✓ implementing and assessing the plan's impact
- ✓ the voice of older residents in all stages of planning and implementation

The Age-Friendly Program Process



Benefits of Enrolling

Membership in the network:

- ✓ Serves as an organizing structure for making community improvements
- ✓ Fosters partnerships among community groups and local stakeholders
- ✓ Enables changes that benefit people of all ages
- ✓ Provides resources for identifying and assessing community needs

Membership provides a community with:

- ✓ Access to technical assistance and expert-led webinars
- ✓ Access to a national network of over 700 communities enrolled in the network
- ✓ Support and best practice materials from AARP
- ✓ Help for local leaders to identify and understand community needs

Impact of Joining

68%

Advocated for Policy
Change

Age-friendly initiatives are catalyzing local policy change. Nearly 2:3 age-friendly communities reported that they had successfully advocated for changes in municipal or organizational policy.

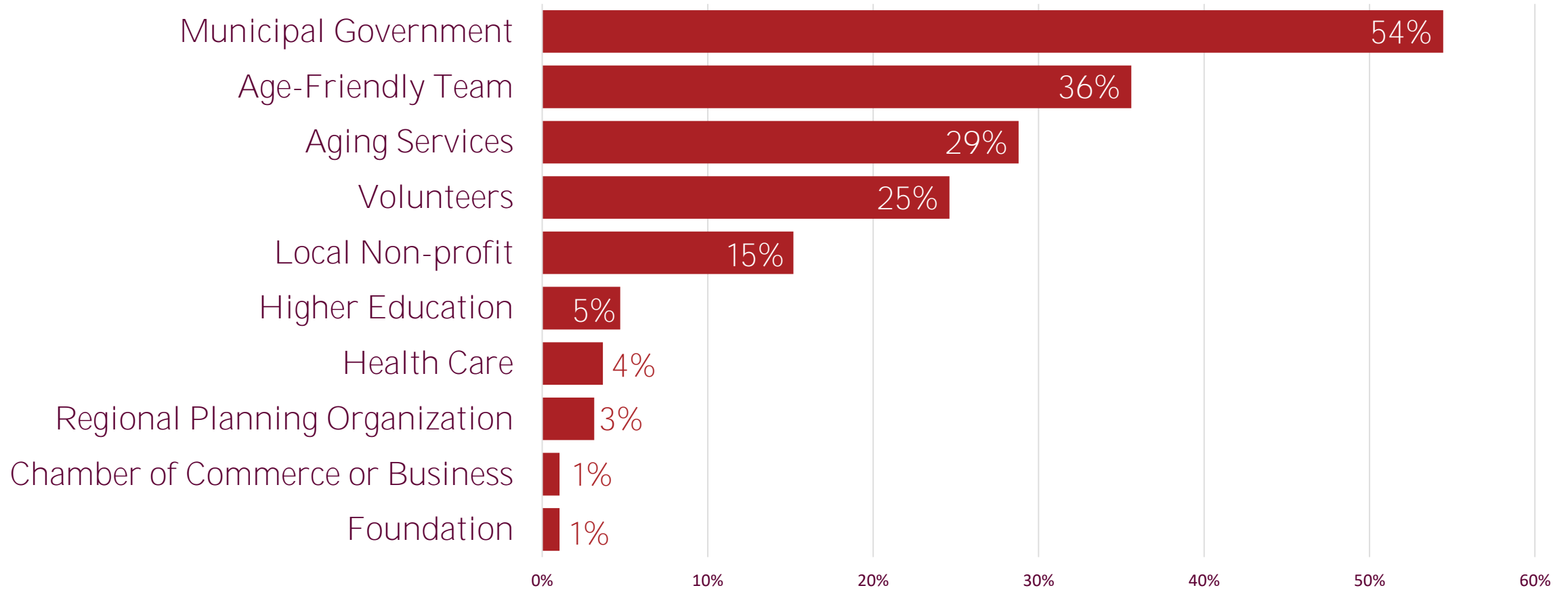
86%

Overcame Barriers to Age-
Friendly Change

The NAFSC 5-year program cycle and framework is setting communities up for success. By applying the age-friendly programmatic framework, respondents reported overcoming barriers to improve the community for older residents.



Lead Organization Coordinating Age-Friendly



How are communities preparing for the long-term sustainability of age-friendly initiatives?

- ✓ Integrated Into Municipal Plans (56%)
- ✓ Recruiting Partners from Multiple Sectors (55%)
- ✓ Staffing Commitment from Municipality (50%)
- ✓ Included in Our Action Plan (31%)
- ✓ Staffing Commitment from Organization (26%)
- ✓ Relationships with Diverse Funders (25%)
- ✓ Leadership Succession Plan (13%)
- ✓ Not Yet (21%)

What Does this Look Like in Wisconsin?



What Does this Look Like in Wisconsin?



What Does this Look Like in Wisconsin?

AARP Wisconsin

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20 February 2023

Comments of AARP Wisconsin Regarding Appleton's Proposed College Avenue Reconfiguration

On behalf of AARP Wisconsin's almost 16,000 members in Appleton, we write to submit comments regarding the City of Appleton's proposed College Avenue Reconfiguration, also commonly known as a "road diet". AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps empower people to choose how they live as they age, strengthens communities, and fights for the issues that matter most to families, including issues that support the creation and preservation of livable communities. Appleton has been a member of AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities since May 2022 and it is this relationship that brings me here today.

Environmental psychology tells us that most drivers regulate their driving speed on what feels comfortable based on street design. This means that in wider, more open spaces, people tend to drive faster, no matter posted speed limits. These faster travel speeds have a negative effect for people traveling by foot or mobility device. Not only do people feel less safe around cars traveling at higher speeds, research shows they are less safe. Here are some statistics to help frame the importance of designing roads for all people in Appleton:

- Wisconsin Department of Transportation estimates that at least 40% of the city's residents are non-drivers.
- A typical person outlives his or her ability to drive by 8-10 years.
- People over the age of 65 are disproportionately represented as victims of pedestrian-auto crashes.
- Optimum speeds in a commercial district where high pedestrian and biking activity is desired is 25 mph. At 35 mph there is an 85% chance that a person walking will be killed if hit by a motor vehicle.

We would like to highlight some relevant information contained within AARP's publication Road Diets: A Livability Fact Sheet which, we noted, is linked within the supporting material on the city's project information page. People often worry that road diets will divert traffic, but research does not support this. People in cars tend to use the most direct route to their destination and timing traffic signals correctly can actually decrease the time it takes to get through an area even with less travel lanes and slower speeds.

AARP Wisconsin

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17 January 2023

Comments of AARP Wisconsin Regarding Madison's Draft TOD Overlay Zoning

On behalf of AARP Wisconsin's almost 30,000 members in Madison, we write to submit comments regarding the City of Madison's DPCED Planning's proposed TOD Overlay Zoning. AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps empower people to choose how they live as they age, strengthens communities, and fights for the issues that matter most to families, including issues that support the creation and preservation of livable communities.

A livable community has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive features and services, and adequate mobility options for people, regardless of age or ability. While for many communities the general shortage of affordable housing is a challenge, a community can increase its livability by implementing measures to facilitate transit-oriented developments (TODs) that intentionally incorporate affordable housing. Without this intention, the desirability of TODs can exacerbate the challenges of housing affordability due to increased land and property values.

AARP applauds the overall direction of the DPCED's proposed plan along Madison's soon-to-be implemented Bus Rapid Transit corridors and along some High-Frequency Local Bus Routes. We especially appreciate the broad scope of the DPCED's efforts to support and encourage TODs, as well as engaging in a development process that has included substantial public input and technical analysis. Wisconsin Department of Transportation estimates that over 30% of Madison residents are non-drivers. This number is sure to grow in coming years with our aging population as research shows a typical person outlives their ability to drive by 8-10 years. We believe proactive measures, such as TOD, work to ensure every person's right to mobility.

As Madison's policymakers seek to extend the benefits of TODs, we urge you to ensure that those benefits are available to people of low and moderate incomes and to those with different mobility challenges and needs. TOD policies must ensure that these developments provide both housing and transportation options and a range of features that allow people to retain independence as they age.

For these reasons, AARP offers the following additional recommendations:

- In general:
 - To foster the ability of people to retain their independence, residential housing in TOD policies should encourage incorporation of visitability and universal design features, like wide doorways and hallways, accessible bathrooms, and accessible kitchens to name a few. Although the term "visability" refers to

How Age-Friendly do you think your community is?

Take a self-assessment. Rank your community on a scale of 1-10 on each of the domains of livability:

Domain	Score
Housing	_____
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	_____
Transportation	_____
Civic Participation/Employment Opportunities	_____
Communication and Information	_____
Respect and Social Inclusion	_____
Social Participation	_____
Health Services and Community Supports	_____

Advice for communities

Do it! Plenty of age-friendly work happens and has been happening for years, but involvement in the NAFSC embeds you in a larger learning network and adds legitimacy and urgency to the cause.

Legitimacy. Being part of the World-Wide movement gives the local AF more clout.

Collaboration. The collaborations are so refreshing! You will benefit from closer collaborations with AARP, between and across government departments, and with the community and business partners.

Municipal Engagement. Make sure elected officials know what you are doing. They are some of the most effective age-friendly champions and the easiest to engage (when) you can show that you are a doing committee, not a sitting committee.

Funding. DEI is a growing foundation for many grants and funding programs and Age-Friendly hits those objectives. It is a positive, proactive, feel-good policy initiative.

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