



Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh Action Plan 2022-2025



Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh works to make our region better for older adults—and better for everyone. This Action Plan lays out our strategies for achieving key goals in the coming three years.

Cover Photo: Bike Pittsburgh

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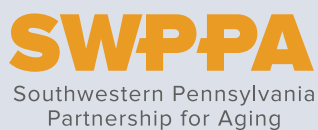
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Photo: Bike Pittsburgh

Over the past eight years, we've come a long way. That's thanks to passionate, dedicated people who see potential and opportunity in a population that's growing older every day. We are now an initiative by Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging (SWPPA), Chatham University and University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

Our work is made possible through critical anchor funding from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation and generous support from the Jefferson Regional Foundation and the Heinz Family Foundation. Initial support came from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, the Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation and founding partner SWPPA.

We extend a special thanks to the many neighbors and community partners who contributed their ideas, time and vision expressed on the following pages. To bring this Action Plan to life, it will take their commitment and ours, as well as inspiration from new partnerships that will emerge in the coming years. This is a living document and an open invitation to join us.



“All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we’re giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world.

That’s one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver.”

– Fred Rogers,
Pittsburgh’s Beloved Neighbor

Letter from the County Executive and Pittsburgh Mayor



Rich Fitzgerald



Ed Gainey

We are thrilled to present you with the Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh Action Plan 2022–2025, a roadmap to building equitable, age-inclusive neighborhoods across Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh. Celebrated as a national leader, Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh has put forth a bold vision that builds on the longtime work of local leaders and pushes the envelope of what is possible when we listen and work together.

When our region joined the World Health Organization and AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities in 2015, 16.8% of residents were ages 65 and older. This number has since grown to 19.7% and is expected to further increase. This changing demographic is an opportunity to harness the diverse contributions of our older neighbors and bring generations together to solve our biggest challenges. Most importantly, it is a call to action for us to consider what we and our neighbors require to age—and thrive—in our communities. As our region’s older adult population grows, so too does the need for robust physical and social infrastructure that serves people across the lifespan.

We know that not everyone is afforded the same opportunities to thrive in their communities as they age. We must remain diligent in addressing disparities across race, gender, sexuality, disability, income and other identities, and we commend our local age-friendly champions for their intersectional approach to this work.

Bold initiatives like this make us proud to call our region home. We are at our strongest when we work together—across ages, identities, sectors and communities—to create more livable, welcoming communities for all. We enthusiastically offer our continued support and commitment to building an Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh. Let’s get to work!



County Executive Rich Fitzgerald
Allegheny County



Mayor Ed Gainey
City of Pittsburgh

Who We Are

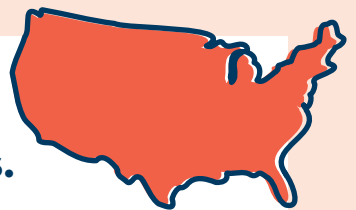
At Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, we are dedicated to making our region more inclusive and respectful of all ages. Our mission is to bring generations together to rethink how our neighborhoods are built and to advance equity through advocacy, education and innovation.

People want to age in place, but that should mean more than sitting in a living room. At Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, we believe in aging in community—having opportunities to participate in life our entire life.

We should all be able to work, play and meet for a meal. We should all be able to choose (and do) what matters to us. But our world—the built environment and the social environment—was not designed for all ages and abilities. That’s where we come in.

By working together to make our region a good place to grow up and grow old, we’re saying to older adults and people of all ages and abilities: We care about you. We respect you. We want you here.

We’re part of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.



1,439
communities



51
countries

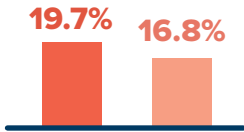


300+ million
people¹

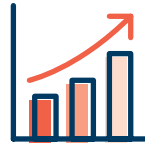
In the U.S., AARP leads designation through the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. **At present, 711 communities have signed on as members.**² We were among the early adopters when SWPPA inspired Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh to join in September 2015.

Our region is facing a new demographic reality. We are growing older—rapidly.

Allegheny County already has an older population.

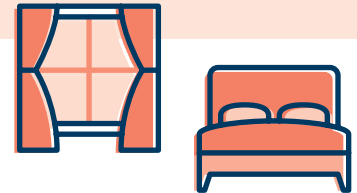


19.7% of residents are 65+, compared to 16.8% nationally.³



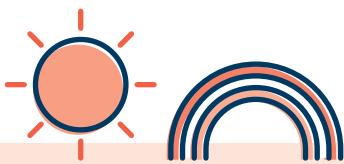
By 2050, we can expect an **85% increase in people 85+.**⁴

We see this as an asset—people with career expertise, buying power, skills—and as an opportunity to redesign our neighborhoods to match who lives here.



8 in 10 Americans ages 50+ want to remain in their homes for the long term.⁵

A positive outlook on growing older can add **7.5 years to your life.**⁶



We must celebrate aging and not hide from it. Ageism (prejudice or discrimination based on age) is associated with poorer health and slower recovery from illness.

Older adults are not a homogenous group. Communities of color have, for generations, experienced disparities across income, education and other social determinants of health, resulting in vast differences in life expectancy.

White women in our region can expect to live to **78**, while Black women can expect to live to **69**.

White men can expect to live to **70** while Black men can expect to live to **64**.⁷

Everyone deserves the opportunity to grow old in communities that thrive.

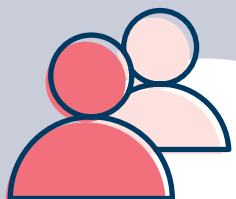
What We're Doing

The Action Items we've prioritized for the next phase of our work are organized into three groups: people, community and culture. Change is needed for individuals—our day-to-day experiences—and it's needed in community, or in how we relate to one another. In a bigger, broader way, change is needed within institutions and society.

How can we make the Pittsburgh region a better place to age in community? How can we utilize our strengths to reshape social norms? The projects on the following pages—for people, community and culture—are where we've chosen to start.



In the coming three years, Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh will work to...



PEOPLE

Reimagine the experience of aging in our region

- #1 Age-Friendly Neighborhoods
- #2 Forever Homes
- #3 Intergenerational Living
- #4 Job Search, Simplified
- #5 Tech Hubs
- #6 How-To Guides
- #7 Safer Streets
- #8 Healthy Rides
- #9 Bus Buddies



COMMUNITY

Create opportunities for engagement across generations

- #10 Joy Across Generations
- #11 Coffee Connect 2.0
- #12 Community Conversations
- #13 Collective Grief
- #14 Accessible Venues
- #15 Emergency Preparedness
- #16 Age-Friendly Resource Center



CULTURE

Change perceptions and combat ageism

- #17 Age-Friendly Community Panel
- #18 Campaign to Counter Ageism
- #19 Dementia Friendly
- #20 Health Systems That Care
- #21 Age-Inclusive Workplaces
- #22 Universities for All
- #23 The Care Economy
- #24 Beyond County Lines



PEOPLE

We believe everyone has the right to live, work and move how they choose.

Together, we will reimagine the experience of aging in our region.

People deserve options. Good options. People of all ages should be able to choose where to call home, what to do with their time and how to get from place to place.

Yet, options are often limited—and not always created equal. People experience aging differently, especially when factoring in race. Disparities between our Black and white neighbors run deep, which is why we examined the intersection of race and age in our Age-Friendly Survey. One finding: 67% of white respondents ages 65+ rate their community as “excellent” or “very good” as a place for people to live as they age, versus 39% of Black respondents.⁸

We’re committed to improving housing, employment, digital access and transportation options, so that people can thrive in their neighborhoods—and have access to them their entire lives.

Action Items



Almost 1 in 3 Black residents rate their neighborhoods as fair or poor for older people.⁹

Locally, more than 8 in 10 care recipients live in homes that have been modified,



with features like grab bars and emergency call systems.¹⁰ Yet residents say access to these is often limited, leaving some people feeling **“trapped in place.”¹¹**

Among the nation’s 25 largest metropolitan areas, Pittsburgh tops the list for housing inadequacy. More than 11% of homes have some kind of structural damage.¹²



#1 Age-Friendly Neighborhoods

Empower and support leaders (Ambassadors) to improve the experiences of older adults and people of all ages in their neighborhood. Inaugural cohort Clairton, Coraopolis and the Hill District will activate resident-led projects from 2022–2024.

Tactics Completion of three Aging Your Way workshops each year, resulting in at least three community-led projects. Participation will result in a reduction in loneliness, increase in empowerment and positive change in age beliefs. *Lead partners include Lively Pittsburgh, Macedonia FACE, Clairton Family Center and University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.*

#2 Forever Homes

Expand home modification and maintenance solutions to enable people to live at home as long as possible. Promote affordable ideas, cutting-edge smart home technology and environmental upgrades.

Tactics Coordination with housing advocates to help sustain and grow existing programs, like Johns Hopkins’ [CAPABLE](#). Host at least three info sessions with older adults, people with disabilities and care partners to share innovations. *Lead partners include University of Pittsburgh Occupational Therapy and Healthy Home Labs, Allegheny County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging and Local Housing Options Team.*

#3 Intergenerational Living

Champion unique, local housing solutions, including Rachel Carson EcoVillage and Vincentian Schenley Gardens, plus future developments, like Nesterly and Pennsylvania Department of Aging’s [SHARE](#) Program.

Tactics Promotion of success stories to influence current housing policies. At least two Open House-style events at existing cohousing and home-sharing sites to share the benefits of this model, with attendees of all ages. *Lead partners include Vincentian Collaborative Systems, Chatham University and Western PA LGBTQ+ Older Adult Advocacy Team.*

#4 Job Search, Simplified

No tech skills required? Promote these jobs offline and—in collaboration with libraries, senior centers and other third spaces—target older candidates who may have tech barriers that limit other options for work.

Tactics A pilot cohort of three entities with potential candidates and at least five local businesses that are hiring non-digital jobs, with the goal of matching at least 20 people with work.

Lead partners include Partner4Work, Mon Valley Initiative and Presbyterian SeniorCare Network.

#5 Tech Hubs

Grow existing programs to offer one-on-one, drop-in hours at popular locations. Promoted through non-digital channels, tech hubs will destigmatize finding support, whether it's basic tutorials or more advanced instruction.

Tactics Launch of at least four Age-Friendly Tech Hubs across the region, with a focus on under-resourced communities of color.

Coordinated promotion and outreach, making hubs easy to find and use. Advocate for affordable, at-home connectivity. *Lead partners include Macedonia FACE, AgeWell at the JCC, Vintage, Inc., Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Anna Middleton Waite Learning Center.*



Photo: Larry Rippel

“We have a lot of things going on in our community, but many people don’t know about it because everything is posted on social media. Not everyone has access to social media or the internet.”

– Mary, 53; Braddock



29% of white neighbors 65+ rate their technology skills as “excellent” or “very good,” versus 14% of Black neighbors 65+.¹³



Well-maintained parks ranked as a top community feature,¹⁴ yet Survey Share-Out session participants cited a **need for safer, more accessible walking paths.**¹⁵

#6 How-To Guides

Partner with regional companies to create step-by-step manuals—hard copies and short videos—on how to access and use their digital platforms. Advocate for all entities to offer telephone options, too.

Tactics Production of at least five guides to demystify digital experiences that have become the norm, like shopping for groceries, using a healthcare portal or banking online. *Lead partners include Virtual Senior Academy, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, North Hills Community Outreach and Computer Reach.*

#7 Safer Streets

Building on the success of [The Crossings](#), empower residents to advocate for better sidewalk accessibility, traffic calming measures and other improvements that make streets and trails safer and more comfortable for all generations.

Tactics Resident-led prioritization of improvements, paired with data collection and local advocacy. Consultation with at least five housing developers to ensure new builds are walkable and connected to transit. *Lead partners include pathVu, Bike Pittsburgh, Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania and Committee for Accessible Transportation.*



Photo: Bike Pittsburgh



Photo: North Hills Community Outreach

#8 Healthy Rides

Work with local health systems to prioritize the transportation needs of every patient, as an essential feature of healthcare access. In partnership with Age-Friendly Health Systems leaders, advocate for better mobility options across care settings.

Tactics Initiation of at least two pilots, in urban and suburban locations, that incorporate analysis of current conditions and testing new practices, like addressing patients' transportation needs while booking appointments. *Lead partners include ACCESS Transportation Systems, Allegheny County Health Department, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania and UPMC Mercy.*

#9 Bus Buddies

Expand volunteer support for older adults using the bus and paratransit systems. Pair residents with trained volunteers who ride with them and can assist with outings (e.g., shopping, pharmacy) and navigation.

Tactics Development of an intergenerational program—an add-on to friendly visiting options—that increases understanding and utilization of the transit system, while also promoting social connection and solidarity. *Lead partners include Pittsburgh Regional Transit, ACCESS Transportation Systems and Wesley Family Services.*



23% of Pittsburgh residents **do not have access to a car.**¹⁶

“Older adults want dignity. We need transportation that allows us to keep our independence—to come on our own and leave on our own.”¹⁷

–Age-Friendly Survey Share-Out Session



Photo: Lively Pittsburgh

COMMUNITY

We believe in the power of rich, mutually beneficial relationships.

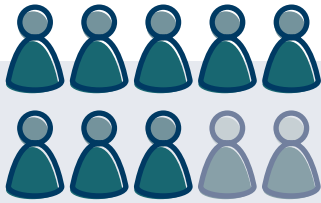
Together, we will create opportunities for engagement across generations.

Our region has a strong sense of community. And it's no wonder: Many families have been rooted here for generations.

One in five respondents in our Age-Friendly Survey had lived in their same community for 45+ years.¹⁸ That's a strength, and it's a challenge. Longtime residents and newcomers—of all ages and abilities—can benefit from knowing and learning from each other.

Dialogue is an essential ingredient for empathy and compassionate action, and yet so often, it's missing. Or it gets lost in the noise. We're committed to building a region where people support one another, where we actively move outside our age silos and come together in community.

Action Items



Nearly 8 out of 10 adults want to spend more time with people outside their age group.¹⁹



Teens involved in intergenerational programs experience an **improved sense of self and identity, self-confidence and purpose** in life.²⁰

#10 Joy Across Generations

Increase the presence of activities and events intentionally geared towards multigenerational audiences. Collaborate with arts and environmental organizations to find fun, meaningful ways for different generations to connect—indoors and outdoors.

Tactics At least three new creative aging pilots, inspired by [Connected by Nature](#) and [Color Beechview](#). Cross-promotion of existing opportunities that foster intergenerational dialogue and solidarity across age and ability. *Lead partners include Venture Outdoors, Dance and Be Fit, Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and Lively Pittsburgh.*

#11 Coffee Connect 2.0

Reach new audiences with Coffee Connect, a signature program that promotes intergenerational conversation and social connection in third spaces like neighborhood coffee shops and online.

Tactics Continuation of biweekly meetings on Virtual Senior Academy, as well as monthly in-person events in Age-Friendly Neighborhoods. Development of a video and accompanying toolkit for community members to host their own events. *Lead partners include Virtual Senior Academy, Age-Friendly Community Panel and University of Pittsburgh Office of Engagement and Community Affairs.*

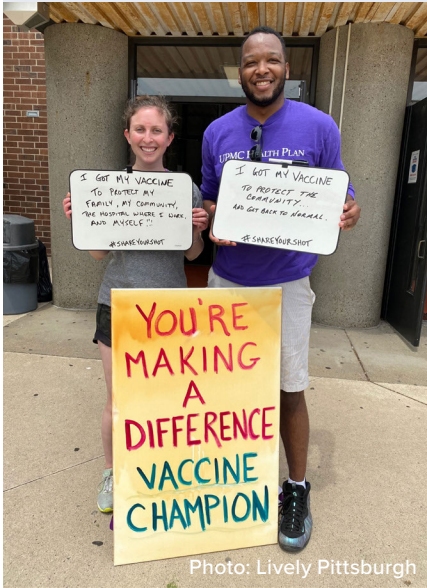
#12 Community Conversations

Building on the success of [Legislative Briefings](#), convene municipal leaders and residents of all ages for round-table discussions to learn about priority areas. Highlight data, stories and evidence-based policies and practices.

Tactics A series of five breakfasts will result in increased knowledge and motivation to make the region a better place to grow old. Development of advocacy tip sheets for each priority area. *Lead partners include Wesley Family Services, Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance and Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania.*



140,000+ children lost a caregiver to COVID-19 from April 2020 to June 2021.²¹



#13 Collective Grief

Identify and support intergenerational avenues for navigating grief—the kind that stems from personal events as well as community-wide trauma. Recognize the importance of connecting across generations when coping with loss.

Tactics Three community-led gatherings focused on bringing residents of all ages together, with a focus on equipping young people with tools to live with the complexity of grief. Collaboration with local mental health experts to provide resources. *Lead partners include 10.27 Healing Partnership, Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh and Lively Pittsburgh.*

#14 Accessible Venues

Equip event spaces with wheelchairs and other assistive devices that make it easier to access programming. Inspire institutions to anticipate needs rather than making accommodations upon request.

Tactics Creation of an accessibility checklist, plus a secured storage space for donated equipment. Outreach to at least 40 venues, with half committing to increased accessibility. *Lead partners include Global Links and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.*



One in five older adults nationally say they are lonelier now, in 2022, than they were a year ago.²²



56% of Allegheny County residents ages 75+ live alone.²³



78% of residents have contact with loved ones every day or several times a week.²⁴

“There’s a really strong sense of family in my community. We just need to be better about building on that.”

– RaNaja, 26; Duquesne



#15 Emergency Preparedness

Referencing learnings from COVID-19 response, work with partners to develop equitable local plans that keep communities of color and older residents top of mind. Ensure that communication efforts are accessible to all and not exclusively digital.

Tactics Development of a recognized plan and org chart for Allegheny County, clearly illustrating who is responsible for outreach to higher risk populations. Representation from those groups in the development process. *Lead partners include Allegheny County Health Department and The Pittsburgh Foundation’s Public Health Infrastructure Committee.*

#16 Age-Friendly Resource Center

Provide technical assistance to corporations, nonprofits and others who are new to the field of aging. Guide folks to current data, best practices and other local and national experts.

Tactics Activation of a telephone number and digital contact form for community inquiries. At least 50 presentations or consultations per year in collaboration with Community Panel members. *Lead partners include SWPPA, Chatham University, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and the Age-Friendly Community Panel.*



Photo: Bike Pittsburgh

CULTURE

We believe aging
should be valued
and celebrated.

Together, we will change perceptions
and combat ageism.

Aging is often viewed as a decline— as frustrating, sad and lonely. Age discrimination (ageism) rooted in these myths can take years off our lives²⁵ and cost our economic system billions of dollars annually.²⁶

What if we viewed aging as an ascent? Research shows that older people are happier. The peak of our emotional life may not occur until well into our 70s.²⁷ And we rely on older generations as leaders and innovators. Successful start-ups are more likely to be run by entrepreneurs over 50 than under 30.²⁸ As more people live longer lives, we're sitting on a new, growing resource: people with buying power, career expertise, lived experience, and diverse skills and interests.

We're committed to countering the narrative, and shifting our culture to one that empowers older adults and recognizes the contributions of people of all ages.

Action Items

#17 Age-Friendly Community Panel

Amplify the lived experiences of older adults—especially from over-burdened and under-resourced communities of color—and advocate for policies and practices that make neighborhoods livable for everyone.

Tactics Eight trained and paid panelists will log at least 750 hours consulting for municipalities, nonprofits and companies. Panel will meet monthly for cross-neighborhood collaboration and learning. *Lead partners include first cohort residents from Braddock, Clairton, Downtown, Duquesne, Hazelwood, Lawrenceville, McKeesport and Wilkinsburg.*

#18 Campaign to Counter Ageism

Celebrate the richness of aging and intersectionality—age plus race, ability, gender identity—through a public relations and learning campaign. Reframe the public’s understanding and inspire culture change to improve health.

Tactics Campaign featuring older residents will result in greater access to resources and an increase in engagement. Small group dialogue will lead to a positive change in age beliefs. *Lead partners include Allegheny County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging, Chatham University and University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.*

#19 Dementia Friendly

Educate companies, organizations and individuals on how to improve the physical and social environments for people living with dementia and their care partners. Share best practices for communicating and welcoming all neighbors.

Tactics Completion of training with at least 30 local businesses, with a focus on replicating in Age-Friendly Neighborhoods and across industries (e.g., hospitality, retail, financial services). 500 Allegheny County residents will become Dementia Friends by 2023. *Lead partners include Dementia Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, Presbyterian SeniorCare Network and Dementia Friends Pennsylvania.*



Older people with positive views of aging perform better on hearing tests²⁹ and memory tasks.³⁰ They are less likely to develop anxiety, depression, PTSD and suicidal thoughts.^{31, 32}

#20 Health Systems That Care

Foster collaboration among leaders working to improve health outcomes for older adults. Advance high-quality care centered on what matters to individuals, as well as equitable planning at the health department level.

Tactics Biannual convenings of healthcare and public health professionals leading local work on Age-Friendly Health Systems (via Institute for Healthcare Improvement) and Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (via Trust for America's Health). *Lead partners include Allegheny County Health Department and UPMC Mercy.*

#21 Age-Inclusive Workplaces

Celebrate businesses that are great places to work for professionals at every age, ability and life stage. Motivate the business community to value mentorship opportunities and retirement planning—for financial readiness as well as purposeful engagement.

Tactics Creation of a rubric for employers to identify the strengths and gaps of their workplaces. Recognition of achievements through annual awards. *Lead partners include Partner4Work, Mon Valley Initiative, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and UPMC Pathways to Work.*



Among Age-Friendly Survey respondents still in the workforce, **64% are “extremely likely” or “very likely” to continue to work as long as possible.**³³



Our region’s 65+ workers are the only age group to have fully recovered to pre-COVID levels.³⁴ **Teams that include older people have been found to be more effective than teams that do not.**³⁵



In older age, altruistic motivations become stronger. **Older people often engage in legacy thinking, wanting to create a better world for future generations.**³⁶

#22 Universities for All

Advance learning across ages by joining the Age-Friendly University (AFU) Global Network. One local university will seek institutional endorsement, then recruit other colleges to initiate a regional movement.

Tactics Completion of at least three convenings of faculty, staff, students and leadership to identify and act on opportunities and gaps as related to the [10 AFU principles](#). Identification of two additional university partners. *Lead partners include Chatham University and Drexel University.*



Photo: Larry Rippel

“I have to be around others who understand the concept of lifelong learning. You don’t work to a certain point, retire and stop learning.”

– Andrea, 66; Hazelwood

#23 The Care Economy

Champion innovative solutions to caring across generations and abilities—from child care to eldercare—centering mature workers as one answer to labor shortages. Advocate for fair wages, flexible jobs and training opportunities. Promote careers in aging and education for care partners.

Tactics Development of a coordinated, intersectional advocacy strategy, coupled with a pilot initiative to recruit and match retirees with child care and eldercare settings. *Lead partners include Allegheny County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Allegheny County Department of Children Initiatives, MomsWork and SWPPA.*

#24 Beyond County Lines

Promote adoption of the age-friendly movement throughout the region, sharing best practices with neighbors and colleagues across SWPPA’s 10-county footprint. Establish a learning exchange with national and international leaders.

Tactics Co-sponsorship of an annual symposium with SWPPA connecting a diverse set of community members and professionals working across sectors, with the goal of at least three new Southwestern Pennsylvania communities joining the WHO/AARP Network by 2025. *Lead partners include SWPPA, AARP Livable Communities, Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania and Wesley Family Services.*

How We Work

Membership in the WHO and AARP Network reflects a commitment to actively work on making your town, city, county or state a great place to live for people of all ages. Joining the Network kicks off a five-year cycle of planning, implementation and evaluation. We are in our second cycle.

Impact comes in many forms. Sometimes, Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh takes the lead on projects and advocacy, or we convene work groups to implement new ideas. Other times, we rally around neighbors and partners to support their work. We also serve as educators to the wider community, sharing up-to-date research and changing the way our society views aging.



Photo: Grace Wong

Every community does it differently. To create this roadmap, we built on what worked during our first cycle in the Network and embraced the chance to try new things. Here's how we approached planning this time around.



We conducted an Age-Friendly Survey.

JANUARY–MARCH 2021 1,646 RESPONDENTS

- Allegheny County residents ages 45+
- Modified AARP questionnaire
- Available online, in print and by phone
- More than triple our goal of respondents
- Convenience sample
- Additional analyses to examine disparities and ensure sample was representative of County's demographics



We gathered feedback through five Survey Share-Out Sessions.

AUGUST–NOVEMBER 2021 203 ATTENDEES

- Three virtual and two in person
- Neighborhood-specific sessions in Plum, McKeesport and the Hill District
- 42 zip codes represented
- Small group discussion for reactions and ideas
- Input compiled into a report and used as data



We relied on the expertise of our work groups.

STARTED IN 2017 70+ ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

- Transportation, Housing, Dementia Friendly, Digital Access, Workforce
- Co-chairs representing eight unique organizations



We listened again and modified our Action Items.

SEPTEMBER 2022 65 PARTICIPANTS

- Two virtual Listening Sessions
- Breakout rooms for small group discussion
- Follow-up survey to gather input from additional stakeholders

Highlights



September 2015

Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh join WHO and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities



November 2015

Age-Friendly Champions meetings convene leaders in and outside the field of aging



January 2016

Aging Your Way workshops spark resident-led action



March 2020

Coffee Connect transitions online, with 62 sessions to date



March 2021

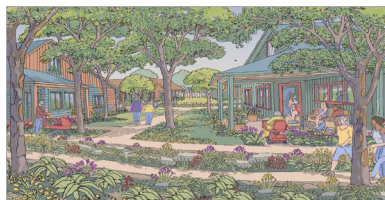
Age-Friendly Survey reaches 1,646 residents



Cycle 2 begins
(September 2020)

July 2020

Rachel Carson Ecovillage in advance planning stage



April 2020

Transportation Network delivers 50,000 meals and 5,000 boxes of PPE





April 2017

Performances of The Crossings create a stir



October 2017

Action Plan release at press event in City-County Building



October 2018

Color Beechview public art project



December 2018

Legislative Briefings educate elected officials



May 2022

Launch of Age-Friendly Neighborhoods, with Clairton, Coraopolis and the Hill District selected for 2022-2024



November 2021

Humankind National Public Radio feature alongside experts from Harvard, Johns Hopkins



July 2022

Announcement of new collaborative structure with SWPPA, Chatham University and University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work



Our Collaborative Structure

Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh is an initiative by Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging (SWPPA), Chatham University and University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Together, the partners guide the project's strategic direction and engage people of all ages—residents, students, professionals, community leaders—to make our region a better place to grow old.

The initiative was founded in 2015 by SWPPA, a volunteer-led organization with more than 300 members representing one million older adults across 10 counties of Southwestern Pennsylvania. For more than 30 years, SWPPA has convened leaders committed to improving quality of life for older generations. Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh was, and continues to be, a natural extension of this work.

Chatham University serves as host partner, housing Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh's staff at their Chatham Eastside location. University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work serves as research coordinator, tracking the initiative's impact. Both institutions are committed to equity across the life course and addressing the challenges and opportunities of an older population.

In addition to these three supporting partners, we have 120+ network partners—and counting—who support Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh in a variety of ways. See Appendix A for a complete list.





Photo: Bike Pittsburgh

Appendix A: Our Partners

More than 120 organizations were involved in the creation of this Action Plan. We will continue to welcome new partners to join us along the way.

10.27 Healing Partnership	Casa San Jose	Drexel University
1Hood Media	Catapult Greater Pittsburgh	Eastern Area Adult Services*
AARP Livable Communities	Chatham University*	Eat'n Park Hospitality Group
ACCESS Transportation Systems*	Christ United Methodist Church Bethel Park	Fireman Creative Studios
ACTION-Housing, Inc.	City of Pittsburgh Citiparks*	Global Links
AgeWell at the JCC	City of Pittsburgh Office of the Mayor	Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance
Allegheny Conference on Community Development	Clairton Cares	Highmark Wholecare
Allegheny County Department of Children Initiatives	Clairton Family Center	Homewood Children's Village
Allegheny County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging*	Committee for Accessible Transportation	Human Services Center
Allegheny County Health Department*	Community and Family Builders	Institute on Disabilities at Temple University
Allegheny County Library Association	Community College of Allegheny County	Jefferson Community Collaborative
Alzheimer's Association	Community Internet Solutions	Jewish Association on Aging
Anna Middleton Waite Learning Center*	Community Living And Support Services (CLASS)	Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh
Attack Theatre	Computer Reach	Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh
Beacon Communities	CONNECT (Congress of Neighboring Communities)	Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
Beechview Area Concerned Citizens	County Executive's Office	Jewish Healthcare Foundation*
Bhutanese Community Association Pittsburgh	Dance and Be Fit	Latino Community Center
Bike Pittsburgh	Dementia Friendly Greater Pittsburgh*	Lawrenceville United
Bloomfield Development Corporation	Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania	Library for Accessible Media of Pennsylvania
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	Dementia Friends Pennsylvania	LIFE Pittsburgh
	Dezudio	LifeSpan, Inc.
	Dress for Success	Light of Life Rescue Mission

Lively Pittsburgh*	Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative	University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health
Local Housing Options Team	Plum Community Center	University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work*
Lutheran SeniorLife	Presbyterian SeniorCare Network*	UPMC Center for Social Impact*
Macedonia FACE	SLB Radio Productions, Inc.	UPMC Community HealthChoices
Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania	South Hills Interfaith Movement	UPMC for Life
MomsWork	Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc.	UPMC Mercy
Mon Valley Initiative*	Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission	UPMC Pathways to Work
Mon Valley Providers Council	Superior Home Care	UPMC Senior Services
National Council of Jewish Women Pittsburgh	Sustainable Pittsburgh*	UrbanKind Institute
New Sun Rising	SWPPA*	Ursuline Support Services
North Hills Community Outreach	The Pittsburgh Foundation's Public Health Infrastructure Committee	Venture Outdoors
Omicelo	United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania	Veterans Breakfast Club
Open Minds, LLC	University Center for Social and Urban Research	Vincentian Collaborative Systems
Partner4Work*	University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center	Vintage, a service of Familylinks*
pathVu*	University of Pittsburgh Geriatric Medicine	Virtual Senior Academy
Penn State Intergenerational Program	University of Pittsburgh Healthy Home Labs	Wesley Family Services
Pennsylvania Intergenerational Network	University of Pittsburgh Occupational Therapy	Western PA LGBTQ+ Older Adult Advocacy Team
Perkins Eastman	University of Pittsburgh Office of Engagement & Community Affairs	World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh
Persad Center		Youth Opportunities Development
Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership		
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy		
Pittsburgh Regional Transit		
Pittsburgh Senior News		
Pittsburghers for Public Transit		

**Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh Steering Committee or Leadership Circle*

Appendix B: Works Cited

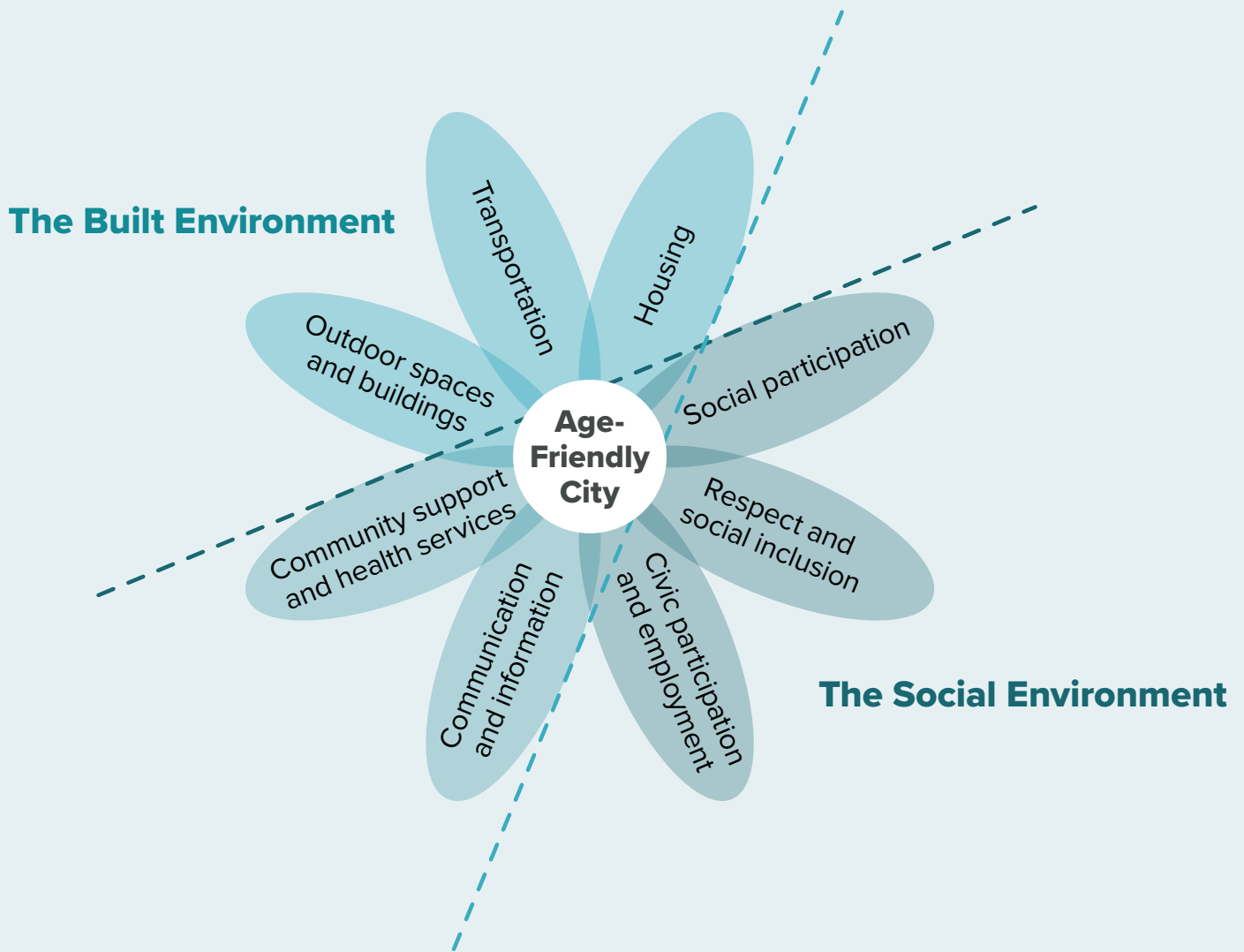
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Appendix C: Action Items

The World Health Organization (WHO) developed a framework with eight domains of livability, which influence health and quality of life among people of all ages.³⁷

People		WHO DOMAIN(S)	YEARS		
Live	1. Age-Friendly Neighborhoods	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION	1	2	3
	2. Forever Homes	HOUSING	1	2	3
	3. Intergenerational Living	HOUSING	1	2	3
Work	4. Job Search, Simplified	CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT	1	2	3
	5. Tech Hubs	COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION	1	2	3
	6. How-To Guides	COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION	1	2	3
Move	7. Safer Streets	OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS	1	2	3
	8. Healthy Rides	TRANSPORTATION	1	2	3
	9. Bus Buddies	TRANSPORTATION	1	2	3
Community					
Connect	10. Joy Across Generations	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION	1	2	3
	11. Coffee Connect 2.0	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION	1	2	3
	12. Community Conversations	CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT	1	2	3
	13. Collective Grief	RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION	1	2	3
Assemble	14. Accessible Venues	OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS	1	2	3
	15. Emergency Preparedness	COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH SERVICES	1	2	3
	16. Age-Friendly Resource Center	COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION	1	2	3
Culture					
Inspire	17. Age-Friendly Community Panel	RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION	1	2	3
	18. Campaign to Counter Ageism	RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION	1	2	3
	19. Dementia Friendly	COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH SERVICES	1	2	3
Influence	20. Health Systems That Care	COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH SERVICES	1	2	3
	21. Age-Inclusive Workplaces	CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT	1	2	3
	22. Universities for All	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION	1	2	3
Grow	23. The Care Economy	COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH SERVICES	1	2	3
	24. Beyond County Lines	COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION	1	2	3



The eight domains of livability from the World Health Organization's report, *Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide* (2007).



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