

# THE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE: OUR SHARED ACTION AGENDA

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Our region's demographics are undergoing a structural shift. By 2030, nearly 20% of the population are older than 65. By 2035, adults over 65 will outnumber children under 18. By 2050, there will be more than 1 million Americans older than 100. This change will affect housing, transportation infrastructure, parks, social services, and emergency management within every local government.

The MMC Age-friendly Communities Collaborative will take on this tremendous need – and opportunity – to adapt our institutions to this coming shift. Our membership consists of regional mayors seeking to provide leadership, build interjurisdictional capacity, and advance new policies and legislation to build a region inclusive of residents of all ages. Mayors may elect to send an elected official, commissioner, or staff member as their representative.

## AN AGING AGENDA WITH FIVE SHARED PRIORITIES

Our Collaborative has pledged to work together to innovate policies and services together to adapt our region to become friendly to residents of all ages, while also acknowledging that there is no “one size fits all” solution to any shared policy priority.

Overall, our policy priorities are:

- **Housing:** We will help our older adults stay in our community as they age, whether that is helping them keep up their current homes, move in with other generations, or live independently in a new unit;
- **Transportation:** We will help residents access family, medical services, open space, and other amenities, by making it easier and safer to find rides, walk, take transit, or use paratransit to destinations;
- **Human Services and Health:** We will reduce social isolation and vulnerability by connecting our residents to health resources and by making our communities more dementia-friendly;
- **Community Engagement and Programming:** We will engage residents of all ages through local programs; and
- **Safety:** We will ensure that residents of all ages feel safe and protected in our communities and regionally.

## STRATEGIES OF THE COLLABORATIVE

The Collaborative will advance these shared priorities through the following strategies:

- **Shared Learning:** The Collaborative will meet regularly to discuss policy strategies, connect communities to one another, and formulate shared initiatives across the five policy areas in the agenda.
- **Resource Development:** The Collaborative will work together with MMC staff to identify shared resources, such as grants, programs, or external partnerships, to better serve our residents of all ages.
- **A Unified Voice on Aging Issues:** The Collaborative will be the regional voice on issues of aging in place and will ensure that regional planning and state and federal legislation and policy better reflect our priorities.
- **An Innovative Regional Structure:** The Collaborative will ask MMC staff to research and recommend an on-going structure for collaboration over the course of 2020.

The Collaborative will meet 5 times a year at a rotating location across the region.