

Elevating Aging-in-Community *in* Calumet City

A Strategic Guide



*Content developed by Planning/Aging
in partnership with the Aging in a Changing Region
program of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus*

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Executive Summary

Calumet City was one of five municipalities that participated during 2021 in the “Aging in a Changing Region” (AiaCR) program, run by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and Planning/Aging, funded by a grant from the RRF Foundation for Aging.

Planning/Aging led two public meetings and reviewed input to identify strategies by which Calumet City could elevate its support of aging-in-community. The following recommendations are divided into two categories: Policy Recommendations dealing with Calumet City’s approach to and handling of its support for aging-in-community, and Programmatic Recommendations which address Calumet City’s key aging-in-community challenges or opportunities.

Policy Recommendations

- Elevate and promote the City’s commitment to aging-in-community
- Broadly promote Calumet City as the first designated south suburban Age-Friendly City
- Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior
- Commit to taking a ‘whole of enterprise’ approach to supporting aging-in-community
- Incorporate aging-in-community into key municipal conversations and initiatives
- Establish an Aging-in-Community Commission to play a policy advising and review role
- Designate City staff in multiple departments as aging-in-community point-persons
- Continue to regularly attend the MMC’s Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional aging-in-community activities
- Look to play a role in south suburban aging-in-community initiatives and collaborations

Programmatic Recommendations

- Work with AARP and AARP Illinois to leverage Calumet City’s Age-Friendly designation
- Look to spread the compelling story of Calumet City’s aging-in-community commitment
- Establish a “one-stop” resource center for information on existing older adult services and programming
- Build upon the AiaCR workshops to create an annual Aging-in-Community Resource Fair
- Consider a handbook to help residents navigate aging-in-community issues and connect with available resources
- Review existing operations and programs for their aging-in-community consistency
- Recognize the public realm as important for aging-in-community, and leverage improvement opportunities
- Use an aging-in-community lens when viewing Calumet City’s housing issues
- Support efforts to establish an affordable south suburban regional home repair and modification program

It is up to the City and the community at large to review, select and prioritize from this list of strategic recommendations and develop an implementation plan going forward. As Calumet City’s conversation about aging-in-community is still at an early stage, additional ideas, and strategies for supporting aging-in-community can and should be added to this list.

WHAT IS AGING IN COMMUNITY?

Aging-in-community refers to a coordinated municipality-wide effort to support the evolving needs and interests of its aging population.

Aging-in-community is inclusive of the narrower term “aging-in-place” which focuses on one’s dwelling, using a broader, community-level lens to identify a set of plans, programs, procedures, and services that in combination help support its older residents.

Aging-in-community is an important component of ‘livable community’ efforts that address the needs and interests of residents throughout their lifespans.

Communities that support **aging-in-community** are by definition ‘age-friendly’ and ‘dementia-friendly’ communities.

Evidence from successful **aging-in-community** programs throughout the United States identifies several key indicators of the likely success of a municipality’s **aging-in-community** program: issue champions amongst (but not overreliance upon) its elected officials, staff leadership, and the overall community; dedicated human and financial resources; collaborations with key aging network and other municipal stakeholders; and mindful coordination between **aging-in-community** and other key municipal priorities.

The “Aging in a Changing Region” Program

Municipalities throughout the metropolitan Chicago region – as in regions throughout the country – are experiencing substantial growth in the number and percentage share of their older adult populations and are looking for strategies to address these shifts.

In 2021, three partner organizations – the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (*an organization of the Chicago region’s 275 cities, towns and villages*), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (*the regional planning organization for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties*), and Planning/Aging

(*a consultancy focused on the intersection between city planning and the growing aging population*) received funding from the RRF Foundation for Aging to support selected municipalities with these efforts. This program – called “Aging in a Changing Region” (AiaCR) – is based on the idea that regardless of where a municipality is in discussing, planning, and implementing strategies to support aging-in-community – providing them with strategic guidance can help advance their efforts.

In March 2021, MMC put out a call for interested municipalities to apply to participate in the AiaCR program. Interested

municipalities submitted applications that combined a self-assessment of their aging-in-community work to date, their aging-in-community goals, and assistance they envisioned to help them advance their goals. In June 2021, the AiaCR partners introduced the 2021 Cohort of municipalities – Bensenville, Calumet City, Hawthorn Woods, Mount Prospect and Park Forest – that reflect the region's diversity in terms of community geography, socio-economic factors, community type, and aging-in-community experience.



Calumet City's City Hall, as viewed across Pulaski Park

Municipal Workshops

A key element of AiaCR was a pair of educational and strategic workshops in each selected municipality. Once the 2021 Cohort was selected, Planning/Aging engaged a core team of municipal point persons to identify their aging-in-community goals and develop strategies for their workshops. While certain aspects of the workshops bore similarities between municipalities, many aspects such as timing, target audiences and structure were unique to each municipality, due to each community's specific preferences.

Planning/Aging provided background to build understanding and support for aging-

in-community, which was framed as being consistent with “livable communities for all ages” as values held by older adults – appropriate and affordable housing options, reliable transportation services, convenient goods and services, safe places to gather and access to information and engagement opportunities – are identical to those held by younger adults.

Planning engagements typically include an assessment of a community's assets and challenges. The limited AiaCR scope required a more streamlined assessment process. Prior to each first workshop, Planning/Aging spoke with community

stakeholders, reviewed guidance documents such as the community's Comprehensive, Housing, Transportation and other plans, and reviewed any surveys on residents' perceptions about their communities. Each community was also asked to have key internal stakeholders complete an assessment of the degree to which their agency or department supports their growing older adult population and offer insights as to their challenges or opportunities.

The highlights from this input were presented at the workshops, leading to a facilitated discussion engaging participants to drill down on their aging-in-community experiences – residents sharing how they perceive the community will be able to support them going forward, and internal stakeholders considering ways they might be able to augment or modify their services to better support aging-in-community in the future.

The workshops were documented with notes and photographs. Some workshops were recorded and made available on municipal websites. In all instances, workshop presentations were given to the municipalities, so that they could be made widely available.



WHAT THIS DOCUMENT ISN'T

- ✘ **ISN'T** a detailed physical plan document with specific infrastructure or other capital projects identified and costed out, with their implementation details outlined
- ✘ **ISN'T** a compendium of 'best practices' from other local or non-local municipalities – while identifying certain approaches from elsewhere can be valuable as references, anything planned for Calumet City should be tailored to the specifics of Calumet City
- ✘ **ISN'T** a write-up of a rigorous, data-driven assessment and planning process with a precise schedule for future evaluations and updates, as Calumet City's involvement with the AiaCR program was a qualitative assessment of current conditions and potential future efforts and strategies



WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS

- ✔ **IS** a practical strategic guide tailored to Calumet City on how to elevate its current support of aging-in-community – designed to be used as an ongoing resource, not to gather dust on shelves due to its unreadability or impenetrability
- ✔ **IS** specific topical recommendations of further actions Calumet City may choose to take, either through utilization of its existing resources, joining with other entities in collaborative activities, or by engaging external partners
- ✔ **IS** a working framework of specific action steps that Calumet City can take to elevate its support of aging-in-community, and which can be modified, adapted, or augmented at any point to even better meet evolving community needs

Calumet City's Aging-in-Community Context

There are two primary aspects to a municipality's support of aging-in-community: 1) making a policy commitment, and 2) translating that commitment into programs and initiatives that carry out a commitment to supporting aging-in-community. Calumet City, with its successful early 2021 application and admission into the AARP "Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities", has made a visible policy commitment to aging-in-community.

In their AiaCR application, the core team – consisting of Val Williams, Richard Chambers, Christina Signorelli, and Maria Varela of the Department of Economic Development – self-assessed that Calumet City was at an 'Early Involvement' stage in

its commitment to aging-in-community, having recently been designated "an AARP Livable Community". They identified involvement with the AiaCR program as an opportunity to develop strategic recommendations to help flesh out Calumet City's commitment to being a truly Age-Friendly community. This document is intended to help do just that.

Calumet City is aging and is likely to continue to do so. While Calumet City's 65 and Over population is slightly lower than Cook County's (13.2 percent vs. 14.3 percent), its 50 to 64 population is well higher than Cook County's (20.4 percent vs. 18.6 percent). Calumet City's 65 and Over population has increased in recent decades (it was 11.7 percent in 2010 and 12.7 percent in 2000), and

Calumet City is Steadily Aging

	Calumet City		Cook County		CMAP Region	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Under 5	1,857	5.1%	322,193	6.2%	518,065	6.1%
5 to 19	7,974	21.8%	946,085	18.2%	1,644,152	19.4%
20 to 34	7,671	21.0%	1,191,506	22.9%	1,794,152	21.1%
35 to 49	6,816	18.6%	1,032,143	19.9%	1,701,494	20.1%
50 to 64	7,440	20.4%	965,178	18.6%	1,635,766	19.3%
65 to 74	2,487	6.8%	421,947	8.1%	691,947	8.2%
75 to 84	1,883	5.2%	221,513	4.3%	346,833	4.1%
85 and Over	423	1.2%	97,710	1.9%	150,858	1.8%
Median Age	37.1		36.8		37.5	

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Community Snapshots

<https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/102881/Park+Forest.pdf>



Val Williams gives an update on economic development activities

it appears likely to continue to do so.

Calumet City officials refer to there being seven older adult buildings in town, three of which (*the Victory Centre buildings and Bernardin Manor*) exclusively house older adults, and four of which (*the Garden House buildings, the Park of River Oaks Condos, and the River Oaks Towne Houses Cooperative*) significantly house older adults. These seven buildings house constitute approximately 900 units in total. If all these units housed exclusively older adults, at a generous estimate of 1.5 residents per unit, they would house a total of about 1,350 older adults. CMAP's most recent survey data indicates that Calumet City currently has approximately 5,000 residents over 65 years of age. This means that these seven buildings house a maximum of about 27 percent of Calumet City's older adults.

Put another way, about three quarters of Calumet City's older adult population lives in general housing throughout the community.

Calumet City is a practical city, and this practicality is reflected in viewing its Comprehensive Plan and other guidance documents largely as aspirational documents, with its day-to-day focus on specific challenges such as economic development, physical infrastructure improvements, and public safety. The Comprehensive Plan and other guidance documents include general goals such as connectedness, accessibility, livability, and pedestrian safety that are consistent with aging-in-community.

Calumet City's Public Workshops

- The goals of the two public workshops were to provide general educational background about aging-in-community, and hear older adult residents' input on what should be addressed in this new attention towards aging-in-community in Calumet City
- For each of the workshops, the City's core team led the publicity and outreach efforts (*and provided a lovely array of treats, gifts, and decorations!*), and Planning/Aging led the workshops themselves and made short presentations on aging-in-community
- Calumet City decided to stage their two workshops on Friday mornings, the first on October 22nd and the second on December 3rd, with residents (*primarily older adults*) the focus attendees of each. At each workshop, key City departments and partner stakeholders attended, presented their services, and interacted with the residents
- The attendance at the two workshops was small but it grew from the first to the second. The attendance at Workshops #1 was approximately 20 (*half residents, half stakeholders*), and attendance at Workshop #2 was approximately 25, about 15 of whom were residents
- The highlight of each workshop was a facilitated discussion in which attendees discussed their experiences living and aging in Calumet City, and identified key issues and challenges they have experienced while aging-in-community

Key Observations from the Calumet City Public Workshops

- Residents were originally attracted to Calumet City for its convenient location, affordability, open space, neighborhood fabric, peace and quiet, availability of housing for older adults, and shopping amenities
- Many of the older adult workshop attendees have a long-term allegiance to Calumet City, along with a palpable desire to be part of an effort to maintain and restore some of what they believe are diminished aspects of Calumet City's livability
- Challenges to aging-in-community in Calumet City identified included: the need for additional support for people dealing with emotional, mental, or cognitive issues; snow removal support for homeowners and others; and better access to services provided by stakeholder agencies such as Thornton Township
- Residents overwhelmingly indicated that they rely on private cars to get around town, with public transit seen as a decent option in warm weather, although security concerns impact transit use
- Discussion about non-vehicular transportation around town brought out mixed responses – while the overall sidewalks/paths/trails network and its accessibility was seen as rather good, certain gaps were identified, along with concerns over its maintenance and perceptions of safety

City Administrator Deanna Jaffrey welcomes Workshop #1 attendees



Brad Winick of Planning/ Aging provides aging-in-community background



- Calumet City's public realm and public spaces were viewed positively and seen as adequate, although here too perceptions of personal safety entered the discussion
- As the above observations reflect, there is much older adult resident focus on issues of safety and the perception of safety. This includes concerns about commercial vacancies, missing parking lot lighting, known crime incidents at arterial gas station mini-marts, and an appreciation for the increased police presence throughout town
- *(As in every 2021 Cohort municipality)* high taxes were bemoaned, tempered by optimism that the City's focus on economic development and business-friendly climate will attract new businesses that may reduce the tax burden
- Attendees were very engaged with the stakeholder presentations *(by ComEd, aging network stakeholders Thornton Township Senior Services and Catholic Charities South Suburban, and City public safety departments)* and asked lots of detailed questions
- It was made clear by the stakeholder presentations – and confirmed by attendees – that access to and the distribution of information about existing City and stakeholder services *(general ones as well as services specifically targeting older adult residents)* needs improvement
- The rather small number of attendees at the workshops underscored the challenges the City faces engaging with the older adult population. Finding ways to better connect with more older adults is an ongoing challenge
- Apparent fragmentation between some of the City's departments, sister agencies, and other stakeholder entities with respect to their older adult programming and services has resulted in an unintentionally siloed and non-strategic overall City approach
- Notable for their non-participation were two of the City's key public-facing sister agencies: the Calumet City Public Library and the Calumet Memorial Park District. Typically, in communities that are highly supportive of aging-in-community, these partners play important and well-coordinated roles in providing older adult-focused programming and are strong aging-in-community partners
- Developing good mutually beneficial partnerships is an important aspect of establishing City-wide older adult programs and services, and there is much more opportunity here; it is anticipated that the Calumet City Public Library, the Calumet Memorial Park District, and other partners will eventually join with the City's aging-in-community efforts

Recommendations for Elevating Aging-in-Community in Calumet City

The following recommendations are divided into two categories: Policy and Programmatic. The Policy Recommendations primarily deal with Calumet City's approach to, handling of, and expression of its support for aging-in-community. The Programmatic Recommendation are topical and address Calumet City's key specific aging-in-community challenges or opportunities.



Police Chief Kevin Kolosh addresses public safety matters

Policy Recommendations

Elevate and promote the City's commitment to aging-in-community

The February 26, 2021 City Council resolution of Calumet City's recognition as an "AARP Livable Community" is a great start, but it is very difficult to find on the City's website. In general, Calumet City needs to express its support for aging-in-community more visibly. This starts with the City's website, which currently conveys very little indication of its support for aging-in-community. A comprehensive evaluation of the website – beginning with the home page, on which a clear statement such as "We actively support aging-in-community!" can set a tone, followed by a continuity of commitment and purpose on appropriate following or linked pages. Recent edits to the website have made "Senior Services" easier to locate, but a standalone "Aging-in-Community" page might also be a good place to gather all relevant information.

Broadly promote Calumet City as the first designated south suburban Age-Friendly City

Most of the communities currently active with aging-in-community are primarily white and resource-advantaged (*for example, the regional members of AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities – in addition to Calumet City – are Arlington Heights, Evanston, Mount Prospect, River Forest, and Woodstock*). The national aging-in-community practice is grappling with broadening and diversifying



Christina Signorelli welcomes Workshop #2 attendees

the practice, and Calumet City would bring a distinctive voice to this conversation. Calumet City might choose to proactively promote the fact that it was the first south suburban Cook County AARP Network member, as this could expose Calumet City to lessons learned elsewhere and potential future partnerships.

Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior

Ageism is discrimination against older people due to negative and inaccurate stereotypes. Just as anti-racism is the practice of actively identifying and opposing racism, anti-ageism seeks out, calls out, and looks to change anything that perpetuates ageist ideas or behavior. Consciously ensure that all references to Calumet City's older adults characterizes them as civic assets and resources to be leveraged, rather than viewing them solely through a needs-based or a medical lens. Most of Calumet City's older adults live independently among the general population, rather than in buildings that specifically cater to and support older adults, so they should be celebrated for their independence as much as their

dependence.

Commit to taking a 'whole of government' approach to supporting aging-in-community

Experience elsewhere indicates that a key success factor for building a robust aging-in-community program is positioning it within a whole of government framework, wherein diverse governmental departments and sister agencies coordinate in addressing shared issues or challenges, rather than delegating aging-in-community to a single department or agency. While this applies to any municipality, it is particularly important for a city like Calumet City that must utilize its human and financial resources creatively and efficiently.

Incorporate aging-in-community into key municipal conversations and initiatives

To do this, aging-in-community should become an important lens through which proposed or existing City projects, programs or strategies are viewed and evaluated – regardless of whether the initiatives are seen as primarily benefitting Calumet City's economic development, infrastructure, sustainability, public safety, or other key City agendas. This evaluation should ask:

how do or how would these plans, programs or strategies impact the older adult population? In doing this, the City will likely find that impacts on older adults will often be consistent with impacts on the overall population – this underscores the notion that support for aging-in-community is an important component of being a livable community for all ages.

Establish an Aging-in-Community Commission to play a policy advising and review role

A wide swath of Calumet City should collectively “own” aging-in-community, and an ongoing entity would be invaluable to playing a key aging-in-community role, in part to embed this commitment into City practice and insulate it from potential future electoral changes. This entity might include a broad range of members representing the public and private sectors, including

key stakeholders (*faith communities, sister agencies such as the Calumet Public Library, the Calumet Memorial Park District, and local schools*), and residents including – but not limited to – older adults, who (*with staff support*) might be charged with: meeting regularly; helping establish a resource repository; reviewing development/ redevelopment proposals as to their impacts on aging-in-community; preparing and presenting to the City Council an annual ‘State of Aging-in-Community’ report; and sponsoring aging-in-community events.

Designate City staff in multiple departments as aging-in-community point-persons

While certain individuals may informally play such a role for the overall Calumet City municipal government, it is likely that not all residents know this and may search for who to contact on a department-by-department basis. Designating and publicizing a specific staff liaison in each key public-facing department as their aging-in-community designee would make the government more accessible to older adults as well as more efficient, as for instance a resident wanting to report a sidewalk or trail upkeep concern would ideally be able to make such a report to the designated aging-in-community staff person within the Department of Streets, Alleys, Water, and Sewer (Public Works) rather than search various departments for the appropriate way to do so. The aging-in-community liaisons should meet regularly and share contacts to learn from one another and address issues proactively and in a coordinated manner.

Continue to regularly attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional aging-in-community activities

The quarterly Age-Friendly Communities



Resident input was the highlight of each workshop

Collaborative meetings typically include representatives of several dozen regional municipalities involved with aging-in-community activities and provide topical knowledge and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Calumet City's experiences with and lessons learned from the AiaCR program during 2021 will likely be of interest to other municipalities. Involvement with the Collaborative also serves as a good portal to other regional aging-in-community activities sponsored by a range of stakeholder entities, such as the bi-monthly American Society on Aging topical roundtables (*see the Appendix for further resource information*).

Look to play a role in south suburban aging-in-community initiatives and collaborations

Calumet City has experience collaborating with nearby communities on specific infrastructure planning and development projects and should continue to seek opportunities to work collaboratively on sub-regional or regional projects. While south suburban aging-in-community, public health or livable communities' initiatives are intermittent or in their nascent stages, Calumet City should look for opportunities to participate in such evolving efforts.

Programmatic Recommendations

Work with AARP and AARP Illinois to leverage Calumet City's Age-Friendly designation

Calumet City, as south suburban Cook County's first and currently only member of AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, should continue to leverage this unique position to harvest tangible AARP assistance. At the national level, the City should actively engage with AARP Livable Communities which houses the Network of Age-Friendly States and

Communities. AARP Illinois is currently in flux, as it is replacing both its State Director and its volunteer Executive Council President, but its Advocacy and Outreach team is strong, and might be receptive to specific requests for targeted technical assistance with locally identified projects and challenges. AARP likes to work with existing success stories.

Look to spread the compelling story of Calumet City's aging-in-community commitment

One of Calumet City's strengths is the grant-writing expertise of its Department of Economic Development. Leverage this expertise by widely promoting Calumet City's commitment to aging-in-community, as there are numerous aging network, community planning, and public health organizations that may be interested in engaging with a resource-challenged community that is committed to supporting aging-in-community, and this 'getting the word out' could blossom into tangible partnerships and support.

Establish a "one-stop" resource center for information on existing older adult services and programming

The public workshops underscored that key municipal stakeholders and residents lacked comprehensive knowledge of various existing older adult services and programming available in the Calumet City region. This lack of knowledge restricts the ability of older adult residents to avail themselves of valuable resources and hampers the ability of municipal stakeholders to make referrals to these resources. An important response would be the establishment and maintenance of a "one-stop" resource center at which residents and stakeholders could learn about and access existing resources. This resource center could initially be



Richard Chambers turns to hear a resident's humorous anecdote

established by staff working with the Aging-in-Community Commission, with provisions for its ongoing maintenance and updating established and agreed upon upfront. Hard copy resource information could be made accessible at City Hall with duplicate electronic information made available on the refocused City website, as discussed above.

Build upon the AiaCR workshops to create an annual Aging-in-Community Resource Fair

Linking residents with key municipal and aging network stakeholders was an important success of the workshops. It would be valuable to build upon this success and – once public health conditions allow – to stage an annual Aging-in-Community Resource Fair to which important stakeholders would be invited, and at which residents could learn about available resources, connect individually with the stakeholders, have their questions answered and sign up for existing programs. This Resource Fair could be planned and run by the Aging-in-Community Commission, with potential sponsorship by some of the key stakeholder organizations.

Consider a handbook to help residents navigate aging-in-community issues and connect with available resources

At the workshops, residents expressed questions and concerns about issues – ranging from infrastructure maintenance to transportation to available supportive services and programs for older adults – that highlight a lack of understanding about existing municipal and external programs and services that can impact their aging-in-community experiences. These questions and uncertainties can translate into resident frustrations, and some residents suggested that an aging-in-community guide would help navigate aging-in-community. As part of the AiaCR program, CMAP is providing technical assistance and developing an aging-in-community handbook template to be customized in interested municipalities. Calumet City should keep an eye on this development and consider indicating interest in learning how to be engaged as a future handbook community.

Review existing operations and programs for their aging-in-community consistency
Building upon the brief internal assessments done in preparation for the workshops, City and sister agency staff should conduct a system-wide review of their operations, ordinances, plans, and programs to identify any wording or requirements that explicitly or unintentionally undercut support for aging-in-community, and work with the Aging-

in-Community Commission to remedy any findings. Even if this review does not unearth barriers, it may reveal opportunities for enhancements to foster broader community *(not limited just to older adults)* participation.

Recognize the public realm as important for aging-in-community, and leverage improvement opportunities

Calumet City's public realm and its walkability, accessibility and perceived safety are important elements of a livable community for all ages and its support of aging-in-community. The core team and workshop attendees both pointed out connectivity gaps and maintenance concerns within certain streets, sidewalks, and parks. Calumet City is currently involved with several infrastructure planning and improvement projects, and these projects should be reviewed as to their aging-in-community impacts, and recommendations should be made as needed to better also leverage the projects' benefits to support aging-in-community.

Use an aging-in-community lens when viewing Calumet City's housing issues

While the core team indicated that housing was not currently a top aging-in-community concern to the City, with three quarters of older adults living independently throughout the community, it should be considered. It is likely that many residents may find that their current housing situation might not support their ability to age well and safely, due in part to a need to navigate stairs to access fundamental living or support spaces such as bathrooms or laundries. Viewing issues about the condition and affordability of Calumet City's housing stock through an aging-in-community lens will better identify older-adult related housing needs, help quantify gaps, guide housing-related



Bonita Parker of ComEd was one of several stakeholders to share resource information

policy decisions, and inform potential development/redevelopment planning.

Support efforts to establish an affordable south suburban regional home repair and modification program

The AiaCR partners have recently convened a conversation about the demand for a south suburban affordable home repair and modification program with potential program partner organizations, specifically to help support older adults aging throughout south suburban Cook County. With three quarters of its older adults living in independent housing throughout the community, Calumet City should look to become involved with and offer input and support for this nascent program.

Aging-in-Community Resources

Listed below are some of the better centralized document repositories at which to find aging-in-community resources. There may be some redundancies as certain documents may be included in multiple repositories. Some of these repositories will provide links to additional resources. Carefully evaluate any resources found here for their applicability to Calumet City's specific interests and needs.

Aging in a Changing Region Partner Organization Resources

[AFCC REPOSITORY - Google Drive](#)

This repository is maintained by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and includes both resource materials and documents developed for its Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative.

[Home - CMAP \(illinois.gov\)](#)

The Chicagoland Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the seven-county metropolitan Chicago region, and develops and provides plans, programs, and other initiatives.

[94b4305c-4586-4bd3-acf1-e177194f8820 \(illinois.gov\)](#)

CMAP developed this Aging in Place white paper in 2016.

[Planning Aging-Supportive Communities](#)

This 2015 American Planning Association (APA) Planners Advisory Service report was primarily authored by Brad Winick of Planning/Aging. APA members can download the report for free, others are required to purchase it for \$25.

Local/Regional Aging Network Organizations Serving Calumet City

[Home - AgeOptions](#)

AgeOptions (*formerly known as the Suburban Cook County Area Agency on Aging*) is designated by the federal Older Americans Act and the Illinois Department on Aging as the planning and service agency for the 30 townships surrounding Chicago, and supports partner agencies to provide a wide range of aging-in-community services.

[Senior Services | Thornton Township](#)

Thornton Township provides a wide range of programs and services to support older adults aging-in-community, including a number of services and events located at the Thornton Township Calumet City Senior Center located at 1420 Huntington Drive.

[Senior Community-Based Services \(catholiccharities.net\)](#)

Catholic Charities South Suburban Senior Case Management Services is the central access point for older adults throughout southern and southwestern Cook County – including those who live in Thornton Township – and it provides a wide range of home and community-based services.

Ageing-in-Community General Resources

ASA Roundtables

The local chapter of the American Society on Aging stages free bi-monthly topical Roundtables, often on aging-in-community topics. Currently being staged virtually due to COVID-19, they had previously been presented at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Bonnie Ewald (Bonnie.Ewald@rush.edu) serves as the roundtable coordinator.

[AARP Livable Communities Publications and Resources](#)

This repository is the best location at which to explore AARP's many resources, including its Livable Communities and Public Policy Institute initiatives and publications, and the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

[AARP Illinois](#)

While the AARP-Illinois office is in flux due to its current efforts to replace both the State Director and the volunteer State President, they have a number of staff persons involved with advocacy and community engagement.

[Resources for Age-Friendly Communities | The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation](#)

The New Jersey-based Taub Foundation includes aging-in-community as one of its primary focus topics, and maintains a comprehensive and well-organized aging-in-community library.

[Age-Friendly Resources | Grantmakers in Aging \(giaging.org\)](#)

New York City-based Grantmakers-in-Aging is the preeminent membership organization for philanthropies focused on aging issues. It maintains a resource center full of GIA-funded and other resources.

[Publications \(usaging.org\)](#)

Washington DC-based USAging (formerly the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging – "n4a") maintains an extensive searchable database of primarily n4a-sponsored reports and other documents.

[Research \(ncoa.org\)](#)

The Washington DC-based National Council on Aging (ncoa) provides research articles and other materials for older adults, caregivers, aging professionals and advocates, primarily developed by ncoa staff and its partners.

Planning Resources

[Search \(planning.org\)](#) (American Planning Association resources search results for "aging-in-community")

The American Planning Association maintains a resource library searchable by topic, including this link to aging-in-community resources.

Transportation Resources

[Aging and Disability Transportation Overview | NADTC](#) (National Aging and Disability Transportation Center)

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) is a program initially funded in 2015 by the Federal Transit Administration and administered by Easterseals and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Its resource center provides information on transportation for older adults and people with disabilities.

[Home - National Center for Mobility Management](#)

The National Center for Mobility Management is a program of NADTC that focuses on and maintains resources on person-centered transportation services.

Housing/Aging-in-Place Resources

[North West Housing Partnership - Affordable Housing, IL \(nwHP.net\)](#)

This northwest metropolitan Chicago area suburban five-town collaborative runs several housing programs, including their Handyman Program which helps support aging-in-place and aging-in-community.

[Aging in Place Resources | Aging In Place Resources for Seniors Living at Home](#)

Aginginplace.com is maintained by its Oregon-based founder Patrick Roden, a nurse by training, and it maintains a comprehensive set of resources dedicated to supporting older adults aging in place.

[Welcome - HomesRenewed™ Resource Center](#)

HomesRenewed was founded by Maryland-based contractor and aging-in-place advocate Louis Tenenbaum and its website provides various aging-in-place materials and resources.

[Aging in Place: Growing Older at Home | National Institute on Aging \(nih.gov\)](#)

The National Institute on Aging is a program of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and has developed a database of aging-in-place resources.

Ageism Resources

[Home \(reframingaging.org\)](#)

The Reframing Aging Initiative began in 2012 as a shared initiative of eight national aging organizations to find out how the American public perceives of aging, and once it was determined that this perception was negative, developing an infrastructure of strategies and techniques to convey more positive and supportive messaging. This website offers many tools and resources.

[Old School: Anti-Ageism Clearinghouse](#)

This clearing house was established by anti-ageism activist Ashton Applewhite and her colleagues, and it provides free and vetted resources to help educate people about ageism and how to dismantle it.

Intergenerational Resources

[Resources - Generations United \(gu.org\)](#)

Generations United is the preeminent national advocacy and informational organization supporting intergenerational collaborations, programs, and policies. Established by a group of organizations that focused on different portions of the lifespan, it maintains a resource library.

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ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document itself was produced to be supportive of aging-in-community. All of the graphic details – font selection, a minimum 12-point font size, page layouts, the inclusion of graphics, avoiding the use of reversed-out text on light colored backgrounds, etc. – were made to make this document easily legible for anyone with visual sensitivity issues. Just as the body of this document makes the case that municipal decisions supportive of aging-in-community are innately supportive of livable communities for all ages, this document itself should be seen as innately supportive of readers of all ages.

One final aging-in-community recommendation is that all municipal documents, websites, social media postings, etc. should consciously strive to be easily legible for all viewers, including – but not limited to – older adults.