



Aging in a Changing Region 2021 in Review

Age Friendly Communities Collaborative
March 3, 2022



Brad Winick
Planning/Aging



AiaCR 2021 - Background

- RRF Foundation for Aging is funding AiaCR for 2021 & 2022 (*Thank you!*)
- AiaCR is a partnership between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning) and Planning/Aging
- We called for applications from interested municipalities & were met with healthy interest
- We interviewed & selected a diverse 2021 Cohort of municipalities & are finalizing a similarly diverse 2022 Cohort
- A significant component of AiaCR is a pair of public workshops that each Cohort municipality hosts & Planning/Aging leads
- Following the workshops, each municipality receives a strategic “observations & recommendations” document to use going forward

AiaCR 2021 - Cohort Municipalities



Municipality	County	Community Type	Total Population	Total Acreage	Density (People/Acre)	Racial Makeup % (White/Black/LatinX/AAPI)
Bensenville	DuPage/Cook (W)	Middle ring suburb	18,813	3,550.90	5.30	42.4 / 3.1 / 49.3 / 4.2
Calumet City	Cook (S)	Middle ring suburb	36,033	4,675.40	7.71	9.5 / 74.3 / 15.6 / 0.0
Hawthorn Woods	Lake	Rural/exurban	9,062	5,223.00	1.74	81.7 / 1.9 / 3.5 / 11.1
Mount Prospect	Cook (N)	Middle ring suburb	56,852	6,643.40	8.56	67.0 / 3.0 / 15.3 / 12.1
Park Forest	Cook (S)/Will	Outer ring suburb	21,687	3,176.10	6.83	25.0 / 66.0 / 4.6 / 0.5

AiaCR 2021 - Workshops



Municipality	Aging-in-Community Involvement Level	AiaCR Core Team	Workshop Dates	Workshop Focus Audience
Bensenville	Early Involvement	1 Village Administration; 1 Community Development	October 27; November 3	1 -- Stakeholders; 2 -- Older Adult Residents
Calumet City	Early Involvement (AARP Network member)	3 Economic Development	October 22; December 3	1 & 2 -- Older Adult Residents & Stakeholders
Hawthorn Woods	Early Involvement	1 Village Trustee; 2 Parks & Recreation	October 13; December 8	1 -- ~ Older Adult Residents; 2 -- ~ Stakeholders
Mount Prospect	Advanced Involvement (AARP Network member)	1+ Human Services	September 29; December 1	1 -- Stakeholders; 2 -- Older Adult Residents
Park Forest	Early Involvement	1 Community Development; 1 Parks & Recreation; 1 Community Health	September 2; November 4	1 & 2 -- Older Adult Residents & Stakeholders



AiaCR 2021 - Common Recommendations

- Elevate and promote your commitment to aging-in-community
- Establish an ongoing Aging-in-Community Commission to play a key policy advising & review role
- Designate staff in multiple departments as aging-in-community point-persons
- Review existing ordinances, plans & programs for their aging-in-community consistency



AiaCR 2021 - Specific Recommendations

Bensenville

- Utilize aging-in-community to help better serve the diverse Bensenville community
- Maximize the new Senior Citizens Center's aging-in-community & intergenerational benefits
- Consider revisiting Accessory Dwelling Units as an aging-in-community benefit

Calumet City

- Broadly promote Calumet City as the first designated south suburban Age-Friendly City
- Build upon the AiaCR workshops to create an annual Aging-in-Community Resource Fair
- Support establishing an affordable south suburban home repair/modification program

Park Forest

- Make aging-in-community a strategic priority in Park Forest's current strategic planning
- Revisit the Jolly Trolley and public transportation services within Park Forest
- Develop aging-in-community handbook to help residents navigate issues & access resources



AiaCR 2021 - Lessons Learned I

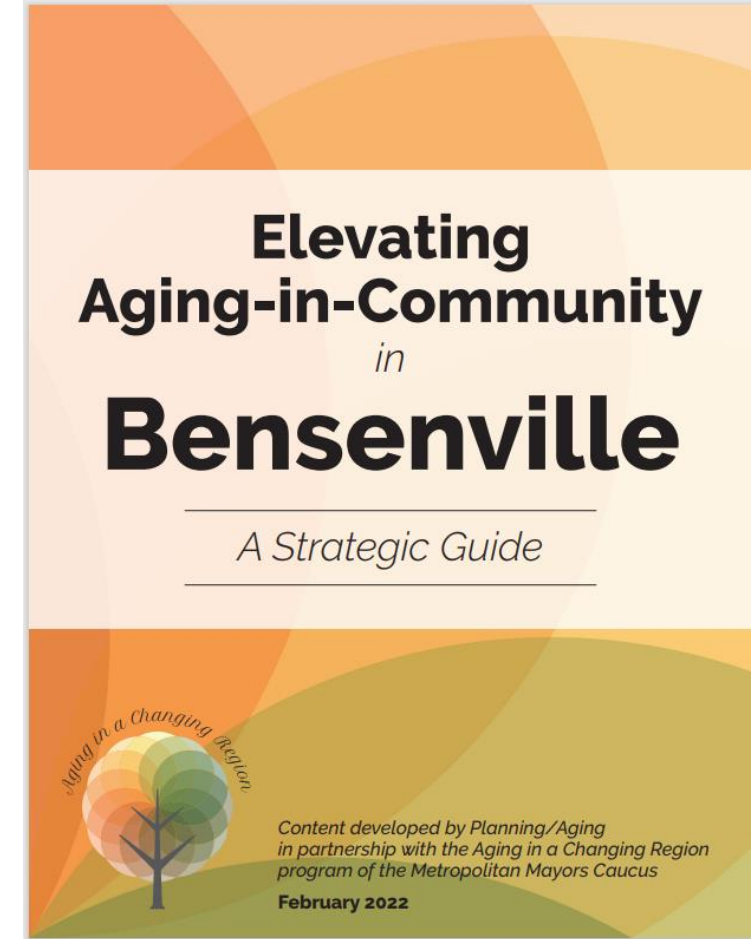
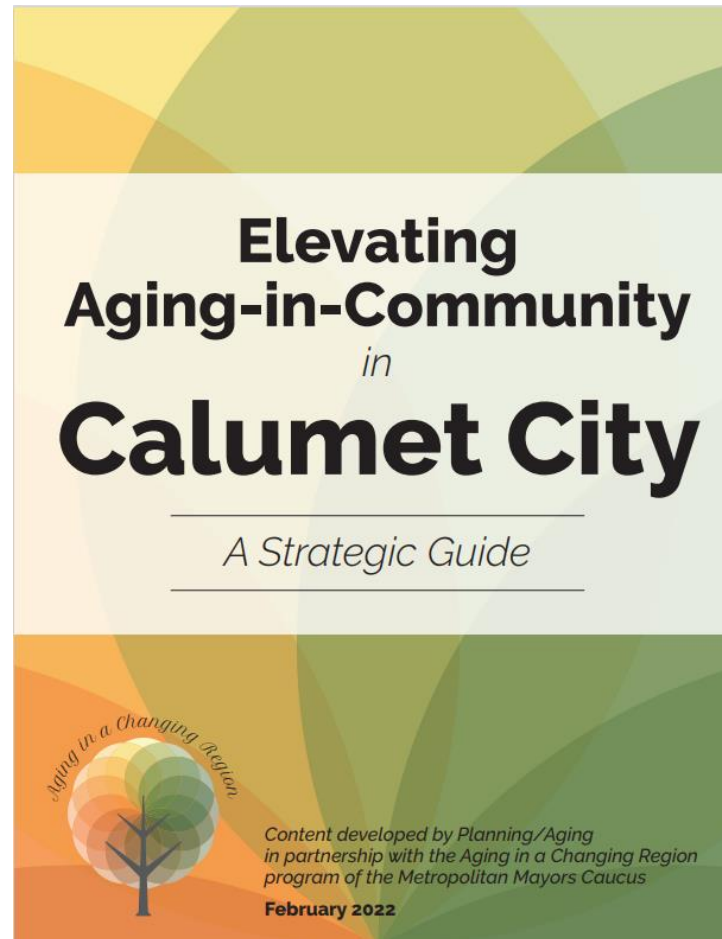
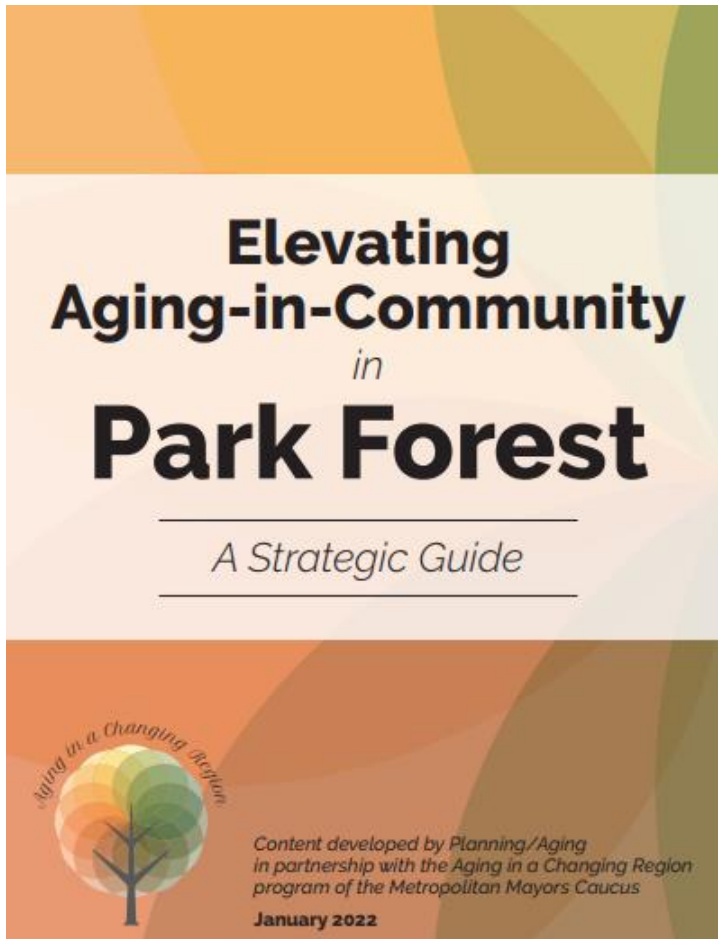
- 1) Different starting points – Regardless of where they currently are, each municipality can elevate its support of aging-in-community
- 2) No one size fits all – Both the AiaCR process & support for aging-in-community itself will look different in each municipality
- 3) Champions are important -- Municipal leadership support should begin at the kickoff meeting
- 4) Take a 'whole-of-government' approach – The Core Team should ideally represent multiple sectors or departments
- 5) Break down silos -- Engage key stakeholder partners (*from the aging network & others*) throughout the process



AiaCR 2021 - Lessons Learned II

- 6) Assess current aging-in-community climate -- Informal assessments (*by stakeholders and – if possible – residents*) are very valuable
- 7) Share knowledge – Every municipality benefits from a broadly held basis of knowledge about available services & programs
- 8) Local framing -- Link aging-in-community to key issues important in each municipality (*e.g. sustainability, economic development, housing, public safety*)
- 9) Listen & learn – The facilitated discussions are the most valuable components of the workshops
- 10) Keep it simple & readable – Final reports are only helpful if they are used

AiaCR 2021 – Final Reports



Read the strategic guides at <https://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/aging-in-community/aging-in-a-changing-region/>



AiaCR 2021 Municipalities Panel

Mary Ribando

Executive Assistant
Village of Bensenville

Val Williams

Economic Development Department
City of Calumet City

Rob Gunther

Director of Recreation, Parks & Community Health
Village of Park Forest



AiaCR 2021 – Panel Questions

- 1) How would you describe your municipality's experience in the AiaCR 2021 Cohort?
- 2) Do you think that the right number & types of stakeholders & residents participated in the Workshops? Why or why not?
- 3) Have you begun addressing any of the strategic recommendations in the final report? If so, which ones?
- 4) Are there things you would do differently if you had a do-over chance to be an AiaCR Cohort municipality?
- 5) What advice would you give to a municipality hoping to join a future AiaCR Cohort?
- 6) Do you have any other thoughts to share?



AiaCR 2021 – Q & A

The floor is open...



AiaCR 2021 – CMAP's Technical Assistance

As their part of the AiaCR program, CMAP has identified a technical assistance opportunity, and they have begun working with Park Forest on an Aging-in-Community Handbook

Here from CMAP to discuss this today are:

- Enrique Castillo – Senior Planner
- Dominick Argumedo – Senior Planner