

Elevating Aging-in-Community *in* Maywood

A Strategic Guide

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

November 2022



Executive Summary

Maywood participated during 2022 in the “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) program, funded by a grant from the RRF Foundation for Aging, and led by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Planning/Aging. Planning/Aging developed strategies for Maywood to elevate its support of Aging-in-Community. The following recommendations are divided into three broad categories: Communication; Coordination; and Collaboration Recommendations.

Communication Recommendations

- Elevate and promote Maywood’s commitment to Aging-in-Community
- Put out a consistent and an integrated message about Aging-in-Community
- Review municipal operations and programs for their Aging-in-Community consistency
- Designate Village staff in multiple departments as Aging-in-Community point-persons
- Establish a one-stop Aging-in-Community resource center
- Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior

Coordination Recommendations

- Commit to taking a ‘whole of government’ approach to supporting Aging-in-Community
- Incorporate Aging-in-Community into key municipal conversations and initiatives
- Apply an Aging-in-Community lens towards key municipal re/development opportunities
- Leverage public realm improvement opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community

- View Maywood’s housing issues in part through an Aging-in-Community lens
- Ensure that existing housing programs are consistent with Aging-in-Community
- Engage with the North West Housing Partnership as another housing repair asset
- Consider an overall Housing Plan to link and augment Maywood’s recent successes
- Investigate home-sharing as an option to support older adult homeowners
- Support older adults as resource-providers as well as resource-users

Collaboration Recommendations

- Better collaborate with the network of existing service-providing stakeholders
- Better incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community efforts
- Establish an Aging-in-Community Commission to play an ongoing policy and review role
- Help establish and support a new sub-regional Aging-in-Community collaboration
- Regularly attend the MMC’s Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative

The recommendations are fleshed out in this document. It is up to the Village and community to review, select and prioritize from this list of recommendations and develop implementation plans going forward. 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.

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

The “Aging in a Changing Region” Program

Municipalities throughout the metropolitan Chicago region – like 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 help address these shifts.

Three partner organizations – the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (*MMC, serving the Chicago region’s 275 cities, towns and villages*), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (*CMAP, the regional planning organization for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties*), and Planning/Aging (*a consultancy focused*

on the intersection of city planning and the growing aging population) – received funding from the RRF Foundation for Aging to assist municipalities’ support of Aging-in-Community. This program – “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) – builds upon the idea that wherever a municipality is currently in its support of Aging-in-Community, strategic guidance can help elevate its support going forward.

In 2021 and in 2022, MMC invited municipal participation in the AiaCR program. Interested municipalities submitted applications that combined an assessment of their Aging-in-Community goals and work

Maywood's gateway sign in front of the Madison Street municipal campus



to date, and assistance they envisioned to help advance these goals. The 2022 Cohort of municipalities – Bellwood and Broadview (*participating jointly*), Highland Park, Maywood, Richton Park, and Yorkville –

reflects the region's diversity in terms of geography, socio-economic factors, community type, and Aging-in-Community experience.

Maywood's "Healthy Community" Framework

Maywood has indicated a commitment to adopting an integrated, multi-sectoral "Healthy Community" framework with its community development efforts and has branded its efforts as "Elements of a Healthy Maywood". There are many such frameworks, and most of them incorporate a combination of social determinants of community health (*i.e. social justice, cohesion/inclusion, access to information, services and healthy food, educational and economic opportunities, and community*

safety), and physical determinants of community health (*i.e. affordable housing and transportation options, parks and open spaces, community design, and environmental quality*). "Elements of a Healthy Maywood" uses a 12-component metric (*see below*) as an organizing principle and is mapping its various existing and envisioned programs and resources to the 12 identified components of community health.

Elements of a Healthy Maywood – Volunteers Needed

Affordable Quality Housing

- Housing Collaborative
- Aging in a Changing Region

Community Safety

- Homeland Security & Public Safety
- Public Safety & Crisis Management

Economic Opportunity

- Business Lunch & Learns

Access to Care

- Health & Wellness Collaborative
- Federally Qualified Health Center

Educational Opportunity

- Explorers
- Venturing

Environmental Quality

- Growth Garden
- Cross Community Climate Collaboration (C4)

Food Access

- Farmer's Market
- AgeOptions Senior Food Program
- VeggieRx
- Maywood Market Grocery Store

Community Design

- American Rescue Plan Act
- MAPSCorp
- Illinois Department of Housing

Parks & Recreation

- Wine Down Wednesday
- Movies in the Park
- TeenZone
- Summer Camps

Social/Cultural Cohesion

- Maywood Fest
- Gospel Concert
- Faith Leaders Collaborative

Social Justice

- West Suburban Action Project (PASO)
- Fred Hampton Foundation

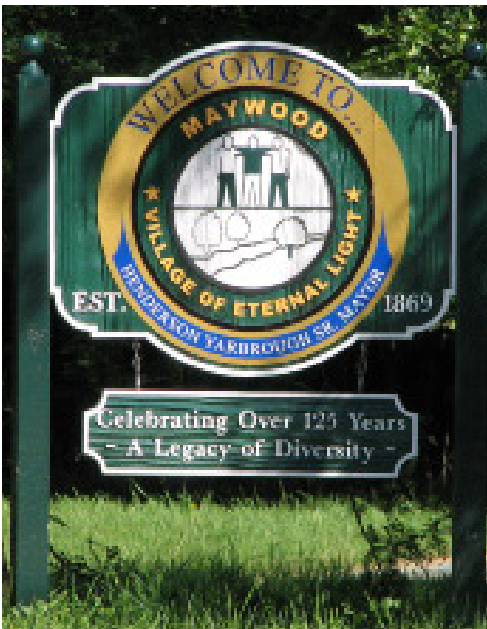
Transportation Options

- Proviso Township



The health of a community is dependent not only upon the genetics of its residents, but also upon the environment within which those individuals live. A person's health is a product of their environment. As such, a healthy community is one in which all residents have access to a quality education, safe and healthy homes, adequate employment, transportation, physical activity, and nutrition, in addition to quality health care. Unhealthy communities lead to chronic disease, such as cancers, diabetes, and heart disease. The health of our communities is critical to the growth and development of our region. To build healthy communities in Maywood, we must develop multi-sectoral collaborations between community members and stakeholders to ensure the sustainability and adequacy of resources to support comprehensive reform.

While this Aging in a Changing Region engagement is listed under the “Affordable Quality Housing” component of Maywood’s current “Elements of a Healthy Maywood” framework – and while affordable quality housing is certainly an important topic that residents spoke about at the public workshops – one of the key themes of this “Strategic Guide” is that Aging-in-Community should also be integrated across many components of this framework. Stated more succinctly, putting Aging-in-Community within a single silo will virtually guarantee its limited impact and benefit to Maywood and its older adult residents.



The community takes pride in its history



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 Maywood should be tailored to the specifics of Maywood
- ✘ **ISN'T** a write-up of a rigorous, data-driven assessment and planning process with a precise schedule for future evaluations and updates, as Maywood'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 Maywood 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 Maywood 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 Maywood 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

Maywood's Aging-in-Community Context

Maywood is a typically aging municipality, and this is likely to continue. Maywood's broad population buckets are virtually identical to Cook County's overall: its 65 and Over population is 14.0 percent vs. Cook County's overall 14.6 percent, its 35 to 64 population is 39.4 percent vs. Cook County's 38.3 percent), and its 34 and Under population is 46.6 percent vs. Cook County's 47.0 percent. Maywood's 65 and Over population has increased in recent decades (*it was 12.2 percent in 2010 and 9.6 percent in 2000*), and it appears likely to continue to do so.

Maywood's housing stock is significantly different from Cook County's overall housing stock, however. Maywood consists way more of detached single-family homes

(63.0 percent vs. Cook County's overall 40.5 percent), and it has way fewer homes in large (20 or more dwelling unit) buildings (5.0 percent vs. Cook County's overall 18.8 percent). Over ¾ of Maywood's housing is found in single-family or two-flat buildings. This means that the vast majority of Maywood's 3,200+ older adult residents live independently in such dwellings scattered throughout the community, as opposed to only a small percentage who live in identifiable older adult residences (*including Maywood Supportive Living's 100 units, Garden House Apartment's 145 units, and Phoenix Homes' 72 units*).

A review of Maywood's current 2014 Comprehensive Plan shows that while it includes critical general goals like

Maywood is Steadily Aging

	Maywood		Cook County		CMAP Region	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Under 5	1,130	4.8%	315,368	6.1%	508,895	6.0%
5 to 19	4,453	19.1%	934,763	18.1%	1,624,354	19.2%
20 to 34	5,305	22.7%	1,179,280	22.8%	1,781,246	21.1%
35 to 49	4,609	19.7%	1,026,034	19.8%	1,688,609	20.0%
50 to 64	4,597	19.7%	956,384	18.5%	1,625,883	19.2%
65 to 74	1,671	7.2%	433,863	8.4%	713,897	8.4%
75 to 84	1,133	4.9%	219,634	4.2%	348,205	4.1%
85 and Over	453	1.9%	104,191	2.0%	160,449	1.9%
Median Age	37.4		37.0		37.7	

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey five-year estimates

[CMAP Community Data Snapshot | Maywood \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov/cmap-community-data-snapshot/maywood)

affordable housing, connectedness, livability, accessibility, and pedestrian safety, it does not make any references to Aging-in-Community, although it does refer to “aging-in-place” as a need of Maywood’s older single-family home-dwellers. But as Maywood is at its core an optimistic and an opportunistic village, its 2014

Comprehensive Plan serves largely as an aspirational document, while Maywood’s real focus is on identifying and taking advantage of specific entrepreneurial opportunities and visions to address key challenges such as economic development, infrastructure improvements, and public safety.

Maywood’s Housing Stock

	Maywood		Cook County		CMAP Region	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Single Family, Detached	5,531	63.0%	889,820	40.5%	1,719,774	50.3%
Single Family, Attached	66	0.8%	115,249	5.2%	253,603	7.4%
2 Units	1,170	13.3%	211,928	9.6%	237,178	6.9%
3 or 4 Units	649	7.4%	232,291	10.6%	268,464	7.8%
5 to 9 Units	467	5.3%	216,511	9.8%	266,933	7.8%
10 to 19 Units	447	5.1%	102,644	4.7%	150,679	4.4%
20 or More Units	443	5.0%	412,247	18.8%	494,837	14.5%
Mobile Home / Other*	11	0.1%	17,799	0.8%	28,748	0.8%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey five-year estimates

*“Other” includes boats, recreational vehicles (RVs), vans, etc.

[CMAP Community Data Snapshot | Maywood \(illinois.gov\)](#)



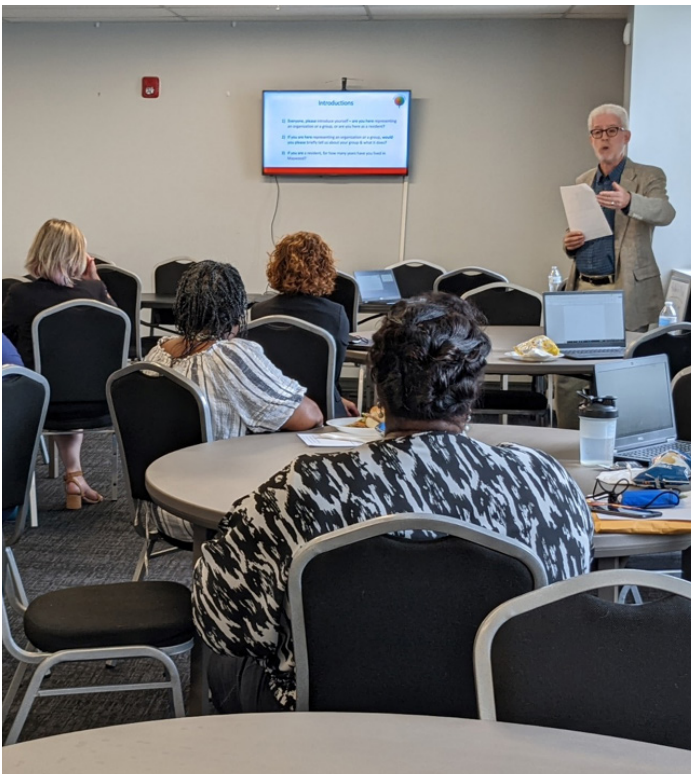
AiaCR Municipal Workshops

A key component of AiaCR is a pair of educational and strategic workshops. At each workshop, Planning/Aging provided a brief educational background to explain Aging-in-Community, framed in an intergenerational “livable communities for all ages” manner, as values held by older adults – appropriate and affordable housing options, transportation options, convenient goods and services, safe places to gather, and access to information and engagement opportunities – are consistent with those held by younger adults.

Planning engagements often include an assessment of a community’s assets and challenges. The limited AiaCR scope required an informal streamlined

assessment process, in which Planning/Aging spoke with community stakeholders, and reviewed guidance documents such as the community’s Comprehensive, Housing, Transportation or other plans, and other available, relevant municipal information.

The highlights from this input were presented, leading to facilitated discussions that were the core of the workshops: engaging residents to share their lived experiences and ideas as to how they think the community would be able to support them in the future; and internal and other key stakeholders to consider ways they might be able to augment or modify their services and strategies to better support Aging-in-Community going forward.



*Framing the issues
at Workshop #1*



*Robust community engagement
at Workshop #2*



Mayor Booker welcomes the attendees to Workshop #2

Maywood's Public Workshops

- Maywood two workshops were held on Thursdays: Workshop #1 on July 7th and Workshop #2 on August 4th. The focus audience at Workshop #1 was key stakeholders, while the focus attendees at Workshop #2 were residents (*primarily older adults*)
- The attendance at Workshop #1 was approximately 15 (*half stakeholders, half Core Team members*), and attendance at Workshop #2 was approximately 45-50, about 2/3 of whom were residents, with the rest stakeholders or Core Team members
- The highlight of each workshop was a facilitated discussion – at Workshop #1 attendees discussed their perceptions of existing services available to Maywood's older adult residents, and at Workshop #2 older adult residents shared their lived experience living and aging in Maywood, as well as what they identified as issues and challenges to their Aging-in-Community. Also, at Workshop #2, key partner aging network stakeholder organizations outlined their services available to Maywood's older adult residents

Key Input and Observations

- The older adult residents in attendance were proud of their tenure living in Maywood, optimistic about and showed a desire to be part of Maywood's future
- Attendees cited Maywood's proximity to excellent transportation resources, the Forest Preserves, the additional assets located in nearby communities, excellent housing stock, convenient access to needed goods and services, and committed neighbors as key reasons they were originally drawn to Maywood
- At the same time, many attendees bemoaned the loss of important goods and services, safety and security concerns, some community divisiveness, and a shortage of appropriate and affordable housing options as key challenges they see to Aging-in-Community in present-day Maywood
- Maywood has good emergency health services with nearby hospitals, but lacks in adequate primary, preventative and mental health services
- Attendees expressed deep concerns about an overall lack of communication

and information sharing – many indicated that they are not generally aware of available services

- Attendees get their information from a variety of informal and formal sources – but notably, nobody indicated that they rely on the Village's website for timely or comprehensive information
- There is clear evidence of deeply siloed knowledge and information, including amongst Maywood's municipal staff and leaders
- Housing concerns cited included the need for home repair assistance (*for both middle-income and income-qualified older adult homeowners*), and a mismatch between older adults' current housing and their needs, resulting in some of them living in only the first floor of their homes due to their inability to navigate stairs
- Questions were raised about the existence, volume and extent of available snow removal and lawn care services for older adult homeowners
- Maywood and the region's existing transportation assets are fragmented, and their offerings are siloed, limiting their utility to older adults, whose overall awareness of these services is very limited
- Most workshop attendees (*and presumably Maywood's older adult residents in general*) rely largely on private cars for their required trips, and they make very limited use of available public or private transportation services
- Non-vehicular access throughout Maywood is a varying experience, with many good sidewalks, paths and trails identified, but with widespread accessibility challenges also cited due to sidewalk cracks and maintenance challenges



An example of Maywood's beautiful historic homes

- Attendees expressed the need for more walkable services and retail
- Some concerns about public safety were shared, including questions about the number and location of security cameras
- Human capital opportunities were cited at several points in the workshops, such as: Maywood's older adults having lots of valuable experience to share; a need for multi-lingual communication assistance needed for non-Spanish-speaking and Spanish-speaking residents to better understand one another; and the desire for better development and leveraging of intergenerational and mutual support and cooperation

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR ELEVATING AGING-IN-COMMUNITY IN MAYWOOD

✔ COMMUNICATION

Elevate and promote Maywood's commitment to Aging-in-Community

Put out a consistent and an integrated message about Aging-in-Community

Review municipal operations and programs for their Aging-in-Community consistency

Designate Village staff in multiple departments as Aging-in-Community point-persons

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

Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior

✔ COORDINATION

Commit to taking a 'whole of government' approach to supporting Aging-in-Community

Incorporate Aging-in-Community into key municipal conversations and initiatives

Apply an Aging-in-Community lens towards key municipal re/development opportunities

Leverage public realm improvement opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community

View Maywood's housing issues in part through an Aging-in-Community lens

Ensure that existing housing programs are consistent with Aging-in-Community

Engage with the North West Housing Partnership as another housing repair asset

Consider an overall Housing Plan to link and augment Maywood's recent successes

Investigate home-sharing as an option to support older adult homeowners

Support older adults as resource-providers as well as resource-users

✔ COLLABORATION

Better collaborate with the network of existing service-providing stakeholders

Better incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community efforts

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

Help establish and support a new sub-regional Aging-in-Community collaboration

Regularly attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional Aging-in-Community activities

Recommendations for Elevating Aging-in-Community in Maywood

The following recommendations have been grouped into three broad categories of Communication (*and knowledge-sharing, both internal and external*), Coordination (*between Maywood's various programs and goals*), and Collaboration (*with existing and potential partners*).

COMMUNICATION

Elevate and promote Maywood's commitment to Aging-in-Community

Maywood needs to express its support for Aging-in-Community more visibly, as it is very difficult to find any commitment to Aging-in-Community in any of Maywood's communications, including but not limited to the Village's website, which is understood to be currently undergoing a major renovation. This major website renovation provides a good opportunity to make a clear statement such as "*Maywood actively support Aging-in-Community!*" to set the tone, followed by a continuity of commitment and purpose on appropriate following or linked pages.

At the present time, searches on the Village website for "Aging-in-Community", "aging-in-place", "older adults" and "seniors" come up virtually or totally empty. The Village website currently has no single place for searchers to find relevant information or services for older adult residents. A new standalone "Aging-in-Community" page might be a good place to gather all relevant information.

Put out a consistent and an integrated message about Aging-in-Community

In conjunction with the Village website makeover, Maywood has an opportunity to convey a "whole-of-enterprise" approach towards Aging-in-Community, whereby support of older adult residents is purposefully integrated into the work of all municipal departments and sister agencies, and not isolated to any one entity.

Review municipal operations and programs for their Aging-in-Community consistency

Village and sister agency staffs should conduct a system-wide review of their operations, ordinances, 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 (*see below*) to remedy any findings. Even if this review does not unearth barriers, it may reveal opportunities for enhancements to foster broader community (*not limited to just older adult*) participation.

Designate Village staff in multiple departments as Aging-in-Community point-persons

The current Village website suggests alternative ways to express concerns or request services, including using the "MyCivic" smartphone app, by contacting the Community Engagement Department, potentially by filling out a Service Request under the Reference Desk, or by going through the many Forms, Requests and

Proposals on the Forms and Permits page, depending upon the concern. It appears, however, that many residents – including but not limited to older adults – find this confusing or overwhelming and may search for what to do or 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 point-person’ would make Maywood’s government more efficient and more accessible to older adults. The departmental Aging-in-Community liaisons should meet regularly to learn from one another and identify ways to address common issues proactively and in a coordinated manner.

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

The public workshops underscored that key municipal stakeholders and residents lacked knowledge of the existing older adult services and programming available to Maywood residents. This lack of knowledge restricts the ability of older adult residents and their caregivers 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 established by the new Aging-in-Community Commission with staff assistance, with provisions for its ongoing maintenance and updating established and agreed upon upfront. Hard copy resource information should be made available at Village Hall with electronic information made available on the new Village website, as discussed above.

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 Maywood’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 Maywood’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 and contributions to Maywood more so than for their dependence.



Maywood’s older adults are amongst its greatest assets



One of Maywood's many tree-lined residential blocks

COORDINATION

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 village like Maywood that must utilize its human and financial resources creatively and efficiently.

Incorporate Aging-in-Community into key municipal conversations and initiatives

Aging-in-Community should become an important lens through which proposed or existing Village projects, programs or strategies are viewed and evaluated -- regardless of whether the initiatives are seen as primarily benefitting Maywood's economic re/development, infrastructure, sustainability, public safety, or other key municipal agendas. This evaluation should ask: how do or how would these plans, programs or strategies impact the older adult population, and how would they advance Maywood towards being a livable community that supports residents of all ages? In doing this, the Village 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.

Apply an Aging-in-Community lens towards key municipal re/development opportunities

Maywood is currently “reimagining” several substantial re/development possibilities – including portions of the 5th Avenue corridor, the municipal campus and driving range on Madison Street, and much of the Eisenhower Tower, ComEd and Cook County facilities east of 1st Avenue along the expressway. As these large re/development projects move towards fruition, Maywood should maintain an Aging-in-Community lens on them so they will contribute to addressing the Village’s overall Aging-in-Community needs, including as potential opportunities for developing appropriate and affordable housing.



The rail crossing running through downtown is a challenge

Leverage public realm improvement opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community

Maywood’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. Workshop attendees pointed out connectivity gaps and maintenance concerns in certain areas. Maywood is currently involved with several infrastructure and streetscape 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.

View Maywood’s housing issues in part through an Aging-in-Community lens

Maywood’s older residents speak openly about housing-related concerns, such as their ability to navigate multiple-story single family houses, affordability, and upkeep challenges. With the majority of Maywood’s older adults living independently throughout the community, viewing issues about the condition and affordability of Maywood’s housing stock in part through an Aging-in-Community lens will better identify older-adult related housing needs, help quantify gaps, guide housing-related policy decisions, and inform potential development/re/development planning.

Ensure that existing housing programs are consistent with Aging-in-Community

Maywood already enjoys fruitful partnerships with key housing and economic development agencies, including the West Cook County Housing Collaborative, the Cook County Land Bank, and the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the newly-formed Maywood

Community Development Collective, and others. The Village should certainly maintain these relationships and ensure that the benefits from these partnerships are integrated and consistent with its overall Aging-in-Community strategies, which should be an important part of a possible new municipal Housing Plan (*see below*).

Engage with the North West Housing Partnership as another housing repair asset

The North West Housing Partnership (NWHP) creates and preserves affordable quality diverse housing for low to moderate income residents through renovation, senior assistance, and housing related educational programs, and is looking to expand its Handyman program and other programs to the near west Cook County. Maywood should engage with NWHP as another housing asset to benefit its homeowners.

Consider an overall Housing Plan to link and augment Maywood's recent successes

Maywood has recently made several great strides in diversifying its housing stock, with the re/development of the former Baptist Retirement Homes into Maywood Supportive Living, providing 100 units of affordable older adult housing with services, and the groundbreaking for the Access Health and Housing program's 20 newly constructed, scattered site, accessible and affordable homes for persons with disabilities. There are a variety of other new construction and substantial rehab projects on sites throughout the Village. Maywood should consider securing outside resources to establish an overall Housing Plan to help ensure that the current and planned new housing meets Maywood's needs, including providing an appropriate range of housing options to support Aging-in-Community.



Two of Maywood's scattered multiple-unit apartment buildings

Investigate home-sharing as an option to support older adult homeowners

Several workshop attendees mentioned interest in inter-generational home-sharing as an option that might support them as they aged in their current homes, as a possible way to better link Maywood with the adjacent medical campus. Des Plaines-based Center of Concern (*see the Appendix for contact information*) has run its Home Sharing program for 40 years and has indicated its willingness to provide guidance on how to set up and run a home sharing program, if any Maywood organization is interested in doing so.

Support older adults as resource-providers as well as resource-users

Several workshop attendees expressed a desire to share their knowledge and the skills accumulated over their decades of living and working. They indicated that they would be interested both in sharing their knowledge with their older adult peers, as well as inter-generationally with younger adults or high school age students, perhaps as part of a knowledge-swap wherein younger folks could provide older adults with needed technology or computer skills.



The Maywood Park District is a key Aging-in-Community partner

COLLABORATION

Better collaborate with the network of existing service-providing stakeholders

This engagement made clear that a sizable gap exists between Maywood's elected officials and staff and the network of external stakeholder organizations that currently supports Maywood's older adults and their caregivers with a range of support services. Efforts (*such as the new Aging-in-Community Commission discussed below*) should be made to elevate awareness of these existing service-providers to better collaborate with them, and to increase the volume of referrals to appropriate older adult Maywood residents and caregivers.

Better incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community efforts

For unknown reasons, Maywood's extensive faith community was virtually absent from this engagement, although many of Maywood's churches play a substantial role supporting Maywood's older adults and their caregivers. For instance, Area Agency on Aging AgeOptions currently partners with three Maywood churches – Neighborhood United Methodist Church, Saint Eulalia Parish/Quinn Center of Saint Eulalia, and Rock of Ages Baptist Church – in its Caring Together, Living Better program that provides resources and education to caregivers. Better coordination with the faith community will only increase Maywood's overall Aging-in-Community support level.

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

A wide swath of Maywood should collectively "own" Aging-in-Community, and establishing a new, ongoing Aging-in-Community Commission would be invaluable to helping embed this commitment into Village practice and insulate it from potential future electoral changes. Ideally, the Commission – which could build upon the existing Senior Club – would include a range of members representing both the public and private sectors, and key community stakeholders (*faith communities, sister agencies like the Maywood Park District, the Maywood Public Library, and the numerous social services, health care, housing and community development organizations already engaged with supporting older adults in Maywood*), and residents including – but not limited to – older adults. The Commission would be charged with setting its own operational rules; meeting regularly to provide an ongoing forum for coordinating Aging-in-Community activities; reviewing significant development/redevelopment proposals as to their impacts on Aging-in-Community; helping establish an Aging-in-Community resource center (*discussed above*) and preparing and presenting to the Village Council a 'State of Aging-in-Community in Maywood' annual update.

Help establish and support a new sub-regional Aging-in-Community collaboration

This engagement also underscored the potential benefits of a new intersectional collaboration, leveraging municipal and stakeholder partners, to continue the Aging-in-Community conversation. Numerous aging network organizations have already indicated their interest and support. In addition, Bellwood and Broadview are also participating in the AiaCR program, and this is a likely recommendation for them as well, lending credence to a sub-regional collaboration. Rather than expecting Maywood or any single municipality to administer this new collaboration, an external partner would be appropriate.

Initial conversations with an ideal external partner – the Proviso Partners for Health (PP4H), a community-driven, multi-sector coalition promoting community health, health equity, and transformational systems change – have been met with great interest, and PP4H may add an Aging-in-Community “hub” to its current roster of programs to undertake this new collaboration.

Regularly attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional Aging-in-Community activities

The quarterly Age-Friendly Communities 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. Maywood's experiences with and lessons learned from the AiaCR program during 2022 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*).



Aging-in-Community collaborations are key going forward

Aging-in-Community Resources

Some excellent centralized document repositories at which to find aging-in-community resources are listed below – Maywood is likely already familiar with many of them. 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 for their applicability to Maywood's specific interests and needs.

Aging in a Changing Region Partner Organization Resources

[Aging-in-Community - Mayors Caucus](#)

The Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and Aging in a Changing Region are the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' two programs focused on helping municipalities issues related to their growing older adult populations.

[AFCC REPOSITORY - Google Drive](#)

This data 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.

[Aging in Place - CMAP \(illinois.gov\)](#)

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-in-Community Aging Network Organizations Serving Maywood

[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 – Proviso Township](#)

Proviso Township Senior Services offers a free transportation service, low cost handyman services, and a medical equipment lending service to Maywood's older adult residents.

[Solutions for Care | Aging in Place](#)

For 50 years, Solutions for Care has been providing numerous in-home support, resource and informational, and other services for Maywood's older adult and disabled residents.

[Making A Difference For Older Adults | Aging Care \(agingcareconnections.org\)](#)

Aging Care Connections provides a variety of caregiver support services for Maywood's older adults and their caregivers.

[West Suburban Senior Services – Chicago Methodist Senior Services \(cmsschicago.org\)](#)

Recently made part of Chicago Methodist Senior Services, West Suburban Senior Services provides a range of services for west suburban older adults and their caregivers from its Bellwood office.

[Proviso Partners - HOME](#)

Proviso Partners for Health is a community-driven, multi-sector coalition promoting community health, health equity, and transformational systems change in the Proviso communities of Maywood, Bellwood, Broadview, and Melrose Park.

Aging-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](#)

The AARP-Illinois state has a number of staff persons involved with advocacy and community engagement, and who may be able to provide linkages to AARP's extensive data resources.

[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 US Aging (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.

[Home Sharing | Center of Concern](#)

Des Plaines-based Center of Concern provides a broad range of services to support its mission "...to provide housing solutions, support services, and counseling for older adults, people with disabilities, and others in need, enabling them to live with dignity and independence." It manages a longstanding home sharing program throughout Cook County.

[IHDA - Illinois Housing Development Authority](#)

This state agency's mission is "to finance the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois" and administers numerous programs to support lenders, developers, local government, nonprofits, community groups, homeowners and renters in delivering and maintaining affordable housing.

[Missing Middle Housing: Diverse choices for walkable neighborhood living](#)

Opticos Design founder Daniel Parolek coined the term "Missing Middle Housing" to convey the provision of enhanced housing options for sustainable, walkable communities. This link provides examples and resources for consideration.

[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.

Acknowledgements

Maywood Resident Workshop Attendees

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Village of Maywood Elected Officials, Staff & Commission Member Participants

Mayor Nathaniel George Booker

LaSondra M. Banks, *Community Engagement Manager* • Gwaine "Dianne" Williams, *Village Clerk* • Chloe Hartmann, *Intern* • Readith Ester, *Board of Fire and Police Commission* • Lonette Hall, *Executive Director*, Dawn Williams, *Commissioner* & Jeff Harris, *Maywood Park District* • Sarah Lira, *Chairman* & Angel Files, *Planning & Zoning Commission*

Aging in a Changing Region Team Members

Kyle Smith, Katie Friedman, Crispina Ojeda-Simmons & Nancy Firfer, *Metropolitan Mayors Caucus* • Jonathan Burch, Enrique Castillo, Dominick Argumedo & Gurleen Kaur, *Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning* • Brad Winick, *Planning/Aging*

Report Designer

Kathrine Nichols

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.