

Age-Friendly Community Status Update

Village of Arlington Heights, Illinois



Village of
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
Illinois

2017 Applied for Age-Friendly Community Designation

○ The Letter of Commitment

- While there is flexibility in how this document can be worded, the following items must be addressed in a Letter of Commitment that is signed by the community's highest elected leader.
- 1. Establishing mechanisms to involve older people
- 2. A baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the community
- 3. The development of a community-wide action plan based on the findings of the assessment
- 4. Identification of indicators so progress can be monitored against the action plan



<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2014/sample-letters.html>

2019 AARP Age-Friendly Online Community Survey

- For ONLINE Survey; contact AARP
- https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/livable-documents/documents-2019/NAFSC-2019-research-survey-request-form.pdf?Q_SurveyVersionID=current&Q_CHL=preview
- Template Directly Addresses 8 Domains of Livability
- No Additional Questions Related to your Municipality



The image shows a survey form titled "LIVABLE COMMUNITIES Great Places for All Ages" with the AARP logo. The form includes fields for "Survey of" and "Area of the Survey". Below these are several questions:

OUR COMMUNITY

1. How would you rate your community as a place for people to live as they age?
(This would be the geographical location where your home is located. A community can be located within a city or town or county.)

Excellent
 Very good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor

2. What is the name of your community? _____

3. What is your 5-digit ZIP code?

4. How long have you lived in this community?

Less than 5 years
 5 years but less than 15 years
 15 years but less than 25 years
 25 years but less than 35
 35 years but less than 45
 45 years or more

5. How long have you lived in your county?

5 years or less
 5 years but less than 15 years
 15 years but less than 25 years
 25 years but less than 35
 35 years but less than 45
 45 years or more

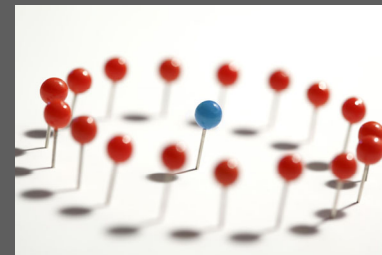
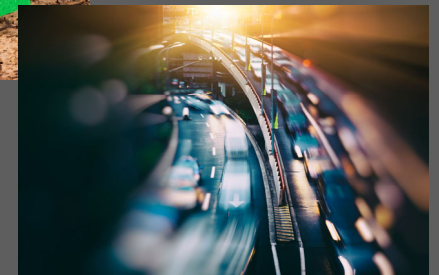
6. Some people reside in places outside of their state for part of the year. Which of the following describes how you reside in your state? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

Year round, do not reside anywhere outside of [THE SURVEY AREA]

Priority Outcomes



- 1. Access to Safe Affordable Housing**
- 2. Increase Affordable Transportation Options**
- 3. Central Source of Community Information**
4. Increase Use of Senior Center Activities
5. Access to Affordable Home Health Care Providers
6. Install Audio/Visual Pedestrian Crossings
7. Job Opportunities for Older Adults and Those with Disabilities
8. Civic Activities that are More Affordable
9. Create Separate Pathways for Bikes vs. Pedestrians
10. Involving Older Adults in School Events



ACTION PLAN



Village of
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
Illinois

VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMISSION

COMMUNICATION: OBJECTIVE 1

Work with Village staff to increase the community's awareness of age friendly information, resources, through increasing number of people on email list by 20%.

- Set a benchmark of contacts collected in 2020/2021.
- Gather contacts.
- Send communication/information via emails, social media posts, and other communication methods to contacts informing them of Age Friendly and other info on resources at the Senior Center.
- Continue with outreach of other departments and partner agencies annually to grow list.
- **UPDATE/OUTCOME**
 - **Completed, email list of 10,660**
 - **Increased Social Media presence**
 - **Participation increase**



COMMUNICATION: OBJECTIVE 2

Work with Senior Center staff and the Village's Communications to evaluate and update the Senior Center marketing plan to inform the community of Age-Friendly programs and services in Arlington Heights

- Review current senior center marketing plan.
- Ensure that plan encompasses age-friendly as well as addresses diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Staff to review with Village's Communications department for further evaluation.
- Implement plan and review annually.
- **UPDATE/OUTCOME**
 - **Completed and Ongoing.**
 - **Launching Plan for AARP Community Living Survey Cycle September 2023**



COMMUNICATION: OBJECTIVE 3

Work with Village staff to conduct a feasibility study on a 311 (Information Call Center) to present findings to the Village Board.

- Contact local and out of state call and information centers in the area for study.
- Conduct site visits and interviews with local call centers.
- Compare costs of services, infrastructures, staffing, management, and efficacy.
- Present findings in a report to present to the Board.
- **UPDATE/OUTCOME**
 - **Promoting the 211 Metro Call Center. Encouraging agencies to add info to site.**



AFFORDABLE HOUSING: OBJECTIVE 1

Work with the Village Board on the Affordable Housing Ordinance to include affordable housing for older adults.

- Advocate for affordable housing when projects presents themselves.
- Attend housing commission meetings to keep informed of upcoming projects.
- Write letter to the Village Board/Housing Commission/Planning to advocate for affordable housing projects and programs that benefit older adults.
- Advocate for affordable housing for ages 60+.
- **UPDATE/OUTCOME**
 - **Commissioner attending Housing Commission meetings consistantly.**
 - **Housing presentations-affordable housing, shared housing, Arlington Heights Housing programs.**



AFFORDABLE HOUSING: OBJECTIVE 2

Research other affordable housing options and community resources for older adults to maintain independence in Arlington Heights

- Review current housing options for older adults in the community.
- Research shared housing, affordable housing, accessory unit dwellings, and programs that enable aging in community for feasibility.
- Work with Senior Center staff to create a report on findings of housing options and programs to present to the Senior Citizens' Commission, Housing Commission and Board.
- **UPDATE/OUTCOME**
 - **In Progress**



SAFE & AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION: OBJECTIVE 1

Evaluate current resources for transportation and make recommendations for future needs.

- Update Transportation resources flyer and post on website/in senior center and other locations.
- Work with Senior Center Manager and Disability Coordinator to evaluate current public transportation routes and note any gaps in service or accessibility for older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Present findings in a report to the Board.
- **UPDATE/OUTCOME**
 - **Conducting an upcoming Transportation Summit in late August with providers and patrons.**



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES: OBJECTIVE 1

Create and implement opportunities for civic engagement such as classes and forums.

- Connect with local governments, agencies, and other resources for presentations on information to live well and age well in the community.
- Schedule presentations on a quarterly basis.
- Schedule community forums on housing and aging issues.
- **UPDATE/OUTCOME**
 - **16 Town Hall Talks/155 participants.**
 - **ONGOING**



Contact/Questions

- Tracey Colagrossi, MS
- Senior Center Manager
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Village of Arlington Heights
- Tcolagrossi@vah.com
- 847-253-5532 ext. 301

