

# CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: January 21, 2020  
 General Plan Element: **Public Services & Facilities**  
 General Plan Goal: **Provide services to improve neighborhoods and the lives of Scottsdale residents**

## ACTION

**Age and Dementia Friendly Community.** Adopt Resolution No. 11690 authorizing the participation in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the Dementia Friendly America Community Network.

## BACKGROUND

Participating in age and dementia friendly networks and developing an action plan based on a community assessment was discussed at the City Council Retreat on March 15, 2019 and included in the Organization Strategic Plan accepted by City Council on April 15, 2019. This initiative will be carried out with existing staff time and resources.

Obtaining political support (represented through the passing of this resolution) is one of the first steps of the application process for joining both networks and demonstrates the city's dedication to ensuring an age and dementia friendly Scottsdale.

Scottsdale's median age is more than nine years higher than the national average and the highest median age of any of the 100 largest cities in America. In addition, it is estimated that more than 6,400 residents are facing dementia, while Arizona is expected to experience the largest percent increase in the number of residents 65 and older with some form of dementia between 2019-2025.

Established in 2012, AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities currently comprises more than 430 members and assists communities through a structured program cycle. The network provides resources for members to identify and understand community needs and make improvements that enable beneficial change for people of all ages.

Dementia Friendly America (DFA) launched its pilot program in 2015 and currently comprises more than 250 communities. The network fosters community transformation through emphasis on multi-sector engagement and provides a toolkit designed to help communities better support people living with dementia and their care partners.

Through participation in organizational networks including AARP's Age-Friendly Communities and DFA's Dementia Friendly Communities, Scottsdale will have access to resources including technical

expertise, best practices and toolkits in order to implement a community assessment and action plan which will help ensure an Age and Dementia Friendly Scottsdale.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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**Recommended Approach**

Adopt Resolution No. 11690 authorizing the participation in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the Dementia Friendly America Community Network.

**Proposed Next Steps**

Staff will submit applications to AARP and DFA requesting participation into their networks and engage with both organizations towards an Age and Dementia Friendly Scottsdale community assessment and action plan.

**RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS**

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City Manager's Office, Human Services Department

**STAFF CONTACTS**

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Brent Stockwell, Assistant City Manager, 480-312-7288, BStockwell@ScottsdaleAZ.gov  
Greg Bestgen, Human Services Department Director, 480-312-0104, GBestgen@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

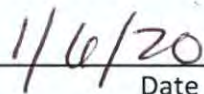
**APPROVED BY**

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Brent Stockwell, Assistant City Manager  
480-312-7288, BStockwell@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

  
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Date

  
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Jim Thompson, City Manager  
480-312-2811, JThompson@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution No. 11690
2. AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities Introductory Booklet
3. Better Together: A Comparative Analysis of Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities

RESOLUTION NO. 11690

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND THE DEMENTIA FRIENDLY AMERICA COMMUNITY NETWORK.

WHEREAS, Scottsdale's median age is more than nine years higher than the national average and the population of residents 65 and older is increasing;

WHEREAS, in order to plan and innovate for the future, the city must address the needs of an aging population;

WHEREAS, members of AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities become part of a network of towns, villages, townships, boroughs, cities, counties and states committed to becoming age friendly through implementing changes that make communities more livable for people of all ages;

WHEREAS, membership in AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities includes resources for identifying community needs, access to technical expertise, and a structured framework for making community improvements;

WHEREAS, nearly 15,000 Scottsdale seniors are living with disabilities and more than 6,400 residents are facing dementia;

WHEREAS, members of Dementia Friendly America engage multiple community sectors, including local government, to adopt dementia-friendly practices; and

WHEREAS, membership in Dementia Friendly America provides tools, resources, and technical assistance to equip communities to better support residents living with dementia and their care partners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale as follows:

Section 1. The Council supports the planning process and requests participation in AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities and Dementia Friendly America's Community Network.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2020.

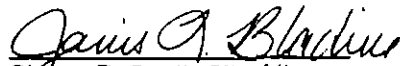
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an Arizona  
municipal corporation

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Jagger, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Sherry R. Scott, City Attorney  
By Janis L. Bladine, Sr. Assistant City Attorney





## AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

An age-friendly community is livable for people of *all* ages



[AARP.org/AgeFriendly](https://www.aarp.org/AgeFriendly)

**AARP**<sup>®</sup>  
Real Possibilities







The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities reached the 400 member mark in September 2019. The red dots indicate town-, city- and county-level members. The blue pins identify state- and territory-level members. Check out the member list at [AARP.org/AgeFriendly-Member-List](http://AARP.org/AgeFriendly-Member-List).



**Websites:** [AARP.org](http://AARP.org) and [AARP.org/Livable](http://AARP.org/Livable)  
**Email:** [Livable@AARP.org](mailto:Livable@AARP.org)  
**Facebook:** /AARPLivableCommunities  
**Twitter:** @AARPLivable  
**Free Newsletter:** [AARP.org/LivableSubscribe](http://AARP.org/LivableSubscribe)

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 or older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. The AARP Livable Communities initiative works nationwide to support the efforts of neighborhoods, towns, cities, counties, rural regions and entire states to be livable for people of all ages.

Cover photographs (clockwise from top): Washington, D.C., block party, provided by Van Ness Main Street; bike-sharing in Honolulu, by Colby Takeda, Blue Zones Project Hawaii; Age-Friendly Festival, provided by Age-Friendly Sarasota, Florida.

AARP, 601 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20049 | [AARP.org](http://AARP.org)  
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- The population of the United States is rapidly aging.
- By 2030, one of every five people in the U.S. will be 65 or older.
- By 2035, the number of adults older than 65 will be greater than the number of children under 18.

**T**hat's why AARP staff and volunteers are working throughout the nation to engage and mobilize communities, share expertise, and deliver technical assistance to the towns, cities, counties and states in the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities**.

The work that happens within the network — which is a program within the larger **AARP Livable Communities** initiative — is hands-on and locally determined and directed. The common thread among the enrolled communities and states is the belief that the places where we live are more livable, and better able to support people of *all* ages, when local leaders commit to improving the quality of life for the very young, the very old, and everyone in between.

AARP engages with elected officials, partner organizations and local leaders to guide communities through the age-friendly network's assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation processes.

People of all ages benefit from the adoption of policies and programs that make neighborhoods walkable, feature transportation options, enable access to key services, provide opportunities to participate in community activities, and support housing that's affordable and adaptable. Well-designed, age-friendly communities foster economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages.

Established in 2012, the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities is the United States affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for their own and the world's growing population of older adults. Enrollment in the AARP network includes automatic (but optional) membership in the World Health Organization network.

This booklet provides an overview of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, the enrollment process and the obligations of member communities. Turn the page to learn more. ►



## FIRST IN THE NETWORK!

► In April 2012, Macon-Bibb, Georgia, became the first community to join the brand-new **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities**, thanks to the age-friendly efforts of AARP volunteer Myrtle Habersham, Bibb County Commission Chairman Samuel F. Hart (seated, left) and Macon Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert.



◀ In 2017, grant funds from the **AARP Community Challenge** (see below) helped a Macon neighborhood turn a vacant lot into a community park with outdoor games, seating and tables so people of all ages can visit and play together. "Chess allows people to open their minds," said Antonio Lewis-Ross, president of South Macon Arts Revitalization Technology (SMART). Outdoor game tables "bring people together and gives them something to do other than just hanging around."



Learn about the AARP Community Challenge at [AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](http://AARP.org/CommunityChallenge).

Photographs by Matt O'Brien (top) and Julia S. Greenleaf

## Introducing the Age-Friendly Network

The **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** serves as a catalyst to educate local leaders (both elected officials and engaged residents) and encourage them to implement the types of changes that make communities more livable for people of all ages, especially older adults.

The network provides cities, towns, counties and states with the resources to become more age-friendly by tapping into national and global research, planning models and best practices.

Membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities means that a community's elected leadership has made a commitment to actively work with residents and local advocates to make their town, city, county or state an age-friendly place to live.

### A community's age-friendly leaders and champions will likely include:

- Elected officials
- Government agencies
- Nonprofit organizations and foundations
- Academic institutions
- Local businesses and Chambers of Commerce
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Community coalitions
- Residents and lots of volunteers

### A few important points:

- Communities in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities are not retirement villages, nursing homes or assisted-living facilities. Nor are they planned communities or age-restricted housing developments.
- Membership in the network does not mean AARP endorses the towns, cities, counties or states as places to live. Nor does it mean the member communities and states are currently age-friendly and great places to retire.



## The Benefits of Membership

Members of the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** become part of a network of towns, cities, counties and states that are committed to enhancing the lives of people of all ages and enabling older residents to have rewarding, productive and safe lives.

### Membership in the network:

- Helps local leaders identify and understand community needs
- Serves as an organizing structure for making community improvements
- Fosters partnerships among community groups and local stakeholders
- Provides leadership opportunities for volunteers
- Enables changes that benefit people of all ages

### In addition, membership provides a community with:

- Public recognition for committing to becoming age-friendly
- Resources for identifying and assessing community needs
- Access to technical assistance and expert-led webinars
- Support and best practice materials from AARP

### According to a membership survey, after enrolling in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities:

- 60% of member communities achieved a change in public policy, most often by integrating an “age-friendly lens” into community planning
- 34% achieved a private-sector investment or action — such as by local retailers and restaurants securing “age-friendly business” designations, commitments by builders to expand their use of age-friendly design standards, and partnerships with taxi services to provide discounted rides to older adults
- 85% described other successes, such as raising awareness about livability issues, increasing collaborations within the community, and implementing educational and engagement programs

\* Survey distributed to members of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (February 2019)

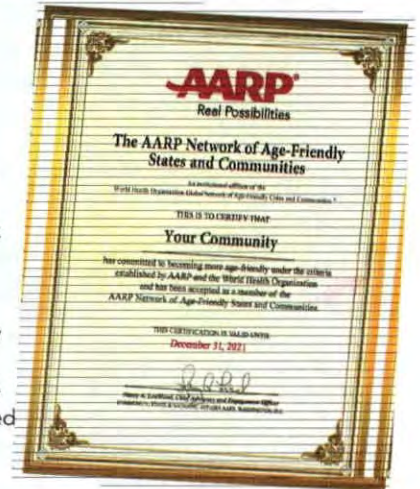
## Joining the Network

Communities enroll individually, as part of a region or as a state.\*

All towns, villages, townships, boroughs, cities, counties and states seeking to enroll in the AARP age-friendly network are required to submit a membership application.

In addition, the community must provide a letter of commitment signed by the jurisdiction’s highest elected official (e.g. a governor, mayor, county executive).

Communities with council or commission forms of government typically pass a resolution in support of membership in the network.



▲ An enrollment certificate is issued once a community’s application has been reviewed and accepted by AARP.

### There is no fee to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

- Find membership details and an online application: [AARP.org/AgeFriendly](https://www.aarp.org/agefriendly)
- Interested communities can contact their AARP State office: [AARP.org/States](https://www.aarp.org/states)
- See the list of enrolled communities: [AARP.org/AgeFriendly-Member-List](https://www.aarp.org/agefriendly-member-list)

\* State enrollment in the network does not confer automatic membership on that state’s local communities.



## What Makes a Community “Age-Friendly”?

The most livable communities are those that enable residents to thrive at every age and every life stage — in other words, they are age-friendly.

However, the availability and quality of certain community features — commonly referred to as the “**8 Domains of Livability**” — do have a particular impact on the well-being of older adults. The domains framework can be used to organize and prioritize a community’s work to become more livable for older residents as well as people of all ages.

While many members of the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** tackle all eight domains at once, others choose to focus on fewer or combined domains.

### 1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

People need public places to gather — indoors and out. Green spaces, seating and accessible buildings (elevators, zero-step entrances, staircases with railings) can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages.



### 2. Transportation

Driving shouldn’t be the only way to get around. Pedestrians need sidewalks and safe, crossable streets. Dedicated bicycle lanes benefit nondrivers and drivers alike. Public transit options can range from the large-scale (trains, buses, light rail) to the small (taxis, shuttles or ride share services).



### 3. Housing

AARP surveys consistently find that the vast majority of older adults want to reside in their current home or community for as long as possible. Doing so is possible if a home is designed or modified for aging in place, or if a community has housing options that are suitable for differing incomes, ages and life stages.



### 4. Social Participation

Regardless of a person’s age, loneliness is often as debilitating a health condition as having a chronic illness or disease. Sadness and isolation can be combated by having opportunities to socialize and the availability of accessible, affordable and fun social activities.



### 5. Respect and Social Inclusion

Everyone wants to feel valued. Intergenerational gatherings and activities are a great way for young and older people to learn from one another, honor what each has to offer and, at the same time, feel good about themselves.



### 6. Work and Civic Engagement

Why does work need to be an all or nothing experience? An age-friendly community encourages older people to be actively engaged in community life and has opportunities for residents to work for pay or volunteer their skills.



### 7. Communication and Information

We now communicate in ways few could have imagined a decade ago. Age-friendly communities recognize that information needs to be shared through a variety of methods since not everyone is tech-savvy — and not everyone has a smartphone or home-based access to the internet.



### 8. Community and Health Services

At some point, every person of every age gets hurt, becomes ill or simply needs some help. While it’s important that assistance and care be available nearby, it’s essential that residents are able to access and afford the services required.





## The Age-Friendly Process and Program Cycle

Members of the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** commit to an assessment process and cycle of continuous improvement,\* the steps of which typically require the member community to:

1. Establish a way — such as through a commission, advisory panel or focus groups — to include older residents in all stages of the age-friendly planning and implementation process
2. Conduct a community needs assessment (AARP can provide survey examples, templates and an online tool in English and Spanish)
3. Develop an action and evaluation plan based on the assessment results
4. Submit the plan for review by AARP
5. Implement and work toward the goals of the plan
6. Share solutions, successes and best practices with AARP
7. Assess the plan's impact and submit progress reports
8. *Repeat!*

\* Community-level members plan work on a 3-year cycle; state-level members operate on a 4-year cycle.

## AARP Livable Communities Resources

- Learn about AARP's livability and age-friendly work: [AARP.org/Livable](http://AARP.org/Livable)
- Find network-related information and materials: [AARP.org/AgeFriendly](http://AARP.org/AgeFriendly)
- Download or order free publications: [AARP.org/LivableLibrary](http://AARP.org/LivableLibrary)
- Read about our "quick-action" grant program: [AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](http://AARP.org/CommunityChallenge)
- Follow us on Twitter: [@AARPLivable](https://twitter.com/AARPLivable)
- Like us on Facebook: [@AARPLivableCommunities](https://facebook.com/AARPLivableCommunities)
- Calculate your community's livability score: [AARP.org/LivabilityIndex](http://AARP.org/LivabilityIndex)

Stay informed! Subscribe to the free, weekly, award-winning  
**AARP Livable Communities e-Newsletter:** [AARP.org/LivableSubscribe](http://AARP.org/LivableSubscribe)

## In a livable community, people of all ages can ...



Go for a walk



Cross the streets



Ride a bike



Get around without a car



Live safely and comfortably



Work or volunteer



Enjoy public places



Socialize



Spend time outdoors



Be entertained



Go shopping



Buy healthy food



Find the services they need



... and make their city, town or neighborhood a lifelong home.

[AARP.org/Livable](http://AARP.org/Livable)



▲ The handout pictured here is available in five languages — English, Chinese, French, Korean and Spanish — as a free, printable download. Visit [AARP.org/Livable-Poster](http://AARP.org/Livable-Poster).



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Learn how your town, village, township, borough,  
city, county or state can join the  
**AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.**  
**[AARP.org/AgeFriendly](http://AARP.org/AgeFriendly)**



State of Florida



San Rafael, California



Vicksburg, Mississippi



State of Colorado



U.S. Virgin Islands



Ithaca and Tompkins County, New York



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

See the complete list of enrolled communities: [AARP.org/AgeFriendly-Member-List](http://AARP.org/AgeFriendly-Member-List)

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To locate and connect with your **AARP State Office**,  
visit [AARP.org/States](http://AARP.org/States) or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277)

Email **AARP Livable Communities**: [Livable@AARP.org](mailto:Livable@AARP.org)



AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that empowers people to choose how they live as they age.

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SUMMARY REPORT

MARCH 2016

# Better Together: A Comparative Analysis of Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities

Natalie Turner and Lydia Morken

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**AARP**

Real Possibilities

**International  
Affairs**



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# Better Together: A Comparative Analysis of Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities

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AS MORE COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD COMMIT TO BECOMING AGE-FRIENDLY AND DEMENTIA FRIENDLY,\* THERE IS INCREASING INTEREST IN HOW THE TWO TYPES OF INITIATIVES WORK TOGETHER, AND COMPLEMENT RATHER THAN COMPETE. THIS REPORT COMPARES THE TWO APPROACHES AND FINDS THAT WHILE AGE-FRIENDLY MAY INADVERTENTLY NEGLECT THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA, IT CAN OFFER A MEANS FOR IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND REACH OF DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY ACTIONS. A DETAILED COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS AND INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES OFFER FURTHER INSIGHT INTO HOW THE TWO MIGHT BE INTEGRATED.

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## INTRODUCTION

Our aging population has been called “the challenge of success.”<sup>1</sup> Profound advances in public health and medicine have added years to our lives. In 1900 only 4.1 percent of the U.S. population was 65 years or older; in 2010 that figure was 13 percent. In thirty-three countries worldwide the share of the population age 65 plus is 15 percent or greater.<sup>2</sup>

Aging brings many positive changes, including wisdom, perspective, and knowledge. Older people also contribute greatly to communities as caregivers, consumers, volunteers, and employers. However, as the number of older adults has risen, more people are living with various types of age-related illness and disability, including dementia.

In 2015, the number of people living with dementia worldwide had grown to 46.8 million.<sup>3</sup> That figure will double by 2030 and triple by 2050.<sup>4</sup> Most governments around the world are alarmingly unprepared.<sup>5</sup> Seventy-one percent of the growth will occur in low- to moderate-income countries,<sup>6</sup> where there are even fewer resources to support people living with the condition.<sup>7</sup>

Two major responses to this new reality worldwide have been age-friendly and dementia friendly communities. These efforts aim to create places that recognize older adults and people with dementia as valued members of the community, and enable them to stay active and independent for as long as possible. Older adults in the United

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\* This report hyphenates age-friendly but not dementia friendly, in keeping with punctuation used by the AARP/WHO Age-friendly Cities and Communities and Dementia Friendly America initiatives.



States overwhelmingly want to remain in their own homes and communities as they age.<sup>8</sup> Both of these strategies support that aspiration. They also recognize the leading role that communities can play in improving the quality of life for residents of all ages.

### AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities program is the farthest-reaching of its type in scope and geography. Launched in 2006 it now encompasses close to 300 communities in 33 countries. AARP's Network of Age Friendly Communities is the WHO network's only US affiliate and is rapidly expanding. It currently has over 77 member communities that cover more than 41 million US residents.

The program is rooted in an *active aging* philosophy, which "allows people to realize their potential for physical, social, and mental well-being throughout the life course and to participate in society, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when they need it."<sup>9</sup> It aims to maximize the contribution of older people in communities, and improve quality of life for all people as they age.

No single comprehensive definition of an age-friendly city exists, but WHO's commonly cited definition is a place that "encourages active ageing by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. In practical terms, an age-friendly city adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities."<sup>10</sup>

### DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Globally, dementia friendly communities have taken hold more recently, although substantial efforts have been under way in some countries, such as Japan and Scotland, for over a decade. The movement is now well established in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, and

Belgium, with places such as India and Singapore also beginning to act.

The Dementia Friendly America (DFA) initiative was launched in the United States in 2015 based on ACT on Alzheimer's, a model initiative from the state of Minnesota. DFA is a national cross-sector effort to help communities better understand, embrace and support residents living with dementia.

The definition of a dementia friendly community varies across initiatives, but common to all is an emphasis on the social dimensions of dementia over the medical. Alzheimer's Disease International states that dementia friendly communities, "not only seek to preserve the safety and wellbeing of those living with dementia, [but] also empower all members of the community to celebrate the capabilities of persons with dementia, and view them as valuable and vital members of the towns, cities, villages and countries in which they reside."<sup>11</sup>

*For the purpose of illustration, this report compares the AARP/WHO age-friendly and DFA dementia friendly communities initiatives, which have the furthest reach in the United States.*

### KEY FINDINGS

It is often said that, "a dementia friendly community is age-friendly, but an age-friendly community is not necessarily dementia friendly." In fact, neither one wholly encompasses the other. Age-friendly alone may overlook some of the specific needs of people living with dementia, while dementia friendly communities don't consider the broader spectrum of needs among older adults as a whole.

*Age-friendly and dementia friendly share some fundamental objectives.* First, both aim to help older adults remain independent and in the community as long as possible by creating a supportive enabling environment. Additionally, they engage with broad coalitions of stakeholders, including older people, to strengthen community supports and increase inclusion for the benefit of people of all ages.

*Age-friendly avoids identifying people solely through a disability or 'disease-specific' lens and instead*



takes a whole person view of older individuals. This contrasts with the negative stereotype of aging strictly as a period of decline and loss. Dementia friendly is more targeted and ‘disease specific,’ though proponents point out that dementia is a unique and urgent issue that has not yet received enough recognition or attention within the disability, mental health or aging realms.

*DFA is more prescriptive both in actions and in terms of stakeholders who must be engaged than the AARP/WHO initiative. The advantage of the AARP/WHO approach is a broad framework within which communities can identify their own priorities based on local contexts and needs. However, it does mean that the specific needs of people living with dementia may not be addressed. Age-friendly strategies can benefit older adults or disabled individuals more generally, but dementia-friendly actions and design features address a very particular set of needs.*

*The dementia-specific lens provided by DFA ensures that people living with dementia and their caregivers are central to the process. Caregivers in particular play a vital, weighty role for people living with dementia and are **explicitly** considered in nearly every DFA sector. Caregivers are less visible within the AARP/WHO approach overall.*

*Dementia friendly emphasizes breaking down stigma and the need for communities to actively accept and value people with dementia. Awareness-raising programs such as Dementia Friends,<sup>12</sup> along with training for public facing businesses and services, are a core feature of its recommendations. While the Age-friendly domains address respect and social inclusion of older adults, communities undertaking that work are not specifically required to address the stigma associated with dementia.*

*The Age-friendly framework follows a specific timetable that builds in time for gaining political commitment. The DFA approach is more flexible and could potentially be applied more quickly. However, the Age-friendly requirement to engage local government and secure the written commitment of lead elected officials helps to*

embed the work within a community’s broader institutions. This can facilitate age-friendly actions being incorporated into local and regional plans and policies, unleashing resources not always available to smaller and grassroots efforts.

For more information on key similarities and differences, see Sections 2 and 3 of the full report, which provide detailed analyses of the processes, frameworks and approaches.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Communities new to both initiatives should attempt to integrate the two from the outset.

Coordination can save time and money, reducing duplication and confusion. For example, developing age-friendly and dementia friendly businesses initiatives simultaneously saves getting businesses on board with one and later figuring out how to incorporate the other. The AARP/WHO domains and DFA sectors are a useful way to approach mapping one onto the other (see Table 3 in full report). The initiatives may also benefit from coordinated communications. Streamlined messages that don’t require audiences to keep track of and understand multiple lines of work are more effective when seeking institutional and community buy-in.

Key steps:

- Ensure that people with dementia and their caregivers are included in all steps of the process, including community assessment, planning and implementation.
- Engage dementia-specific stakeholders such as Alzheimer’s, younger onset or caregiver groups, and the non-traditional partners found in the DFA sector recommendations, such as financial institutions and communities of faith, which are critical to addressing the various dimensions of life with dementia.
- Use the tables in Section 2 in the full report to consider the 10 DFA sector-specific recommendations against each of the eight AARP/WHO domains of livability when developing



the age-friendly action plan – creating full integration across the domains.

- Alternatively, develop a dementia friendly initiative as a domain in addition to the existing eight Age-friendly domains of livability, with leads and engagement from dementia-specific stakeholder groups overseeing the work.

**2. Existing Age-friendly communities should review their plans to ensure they incorporate the needs of people with dementia and their caregivers.**

Use the DFA sector-specific recommendations against the eight domains of livability (see Table 2 in the full report) already being addressed in the community. If a community cannot undertake a wide-ranging review, for example due to low resources, initiating a dementia awareness-raising program can be a good place to start. This can help garner support for a wider effort down the road. Implementation teams should also widen their reach to include people with dementia, their caregivers and other key dementia-specific stakeholders.

**3. Existing dementia friendly communities should leverage their work to initiate a broader conversation and commitment to the needs of all residents as they age.**

Age-friendliness is designed to be a broader, higher-level concept. It is about systems and

communities. Dementia friendliness is largely about training, education, awareness, and dismantling stigma. Existing dementia friendly efforts can be used as a strong platform from which to engage local political leadership and to begin a community conversation about an aging society and the needs of residents as they age. Partnering with AARP and other stakeholders in the field will lay a foundation for this work.

**CASE STUDY EXCERPT:  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, USA**

Though still in early stages, Boston's efforts to become an age- and dementia friendly city are well under way. The City created two full-time positions within the Mayor's office – one to direct Age-Friendly Boston and the other to lead the Mayor's Alzheimer's Initiative. Their work is formally coordinated, with some elements that overlap and others that are more independent.

Boston will knit the two initiatives together under a single Age-friendly Boston Action Plan, with dementia as part of its age-friendly vision, an approach which supports the coordination of the work and the messaging about it.

Age-friendly Boston has a seat at the table for major efforts in areas like housing and transportation and going forward this protocol will extend to dementia as well.

*More information on this case study and others can be found in the full report.*

For a more detailed comparative analysis, with tables and full case studies, please go to [aarp.org/livable](http://aarp.org/livable) to download the full version of this report



# Resources

## AGE-FRIENDLY

AARP Age-Friendly and Livable Communities Resources

<http://www.aarp.org/livable>

<http://www.aarpinternational.org/age-friendly-communities>

WHO Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide

[http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/age\\_friendly\\_cities\\_guide/en/](http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/age_friendly_cities_guide/en/)

WHO Active Ageing: A Policy Framework

[http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active\\_ageing/en/](http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active_ageing/en/)

WHO Age-Friendly online platform

[www.agefriendlyworld.org](http://www.agefriendlyworld.org)

WHO Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities

[http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Age\\_friendly\\_cities\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Age_friendly_cities_checklist.pdf)

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Dementia Friendly America

<http://www.dfamerica.org/>

Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs): New domains and global examples

Alzheimer's Disease International. (2015)

<https://www.alz.co.uk/adi/pdf/dementia-friendly-communities.pdf>

Dementia-Friendly Communities Local Government Toolkit

Alzheimer Society of British Columbia (September 2015)

<http://www.alzheimer.ca/~media/Files/bc/Municipal%20Toolkit/DFCToolkitvJAN2016>

Creating Dementia Friendly Communities: A Toolkit Alzheimer's Australia (2014)

[https://act.fightdementia.org.au/sites/default/files/Community\\_toolkit.pdf](https://act.fightdementia.org.au/sites/default/files/Community_toolkit.pdf)



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- 2 "Data: Population ages 65 and above (% of total)." World Bank. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.65UP.TO.ZS>
- 3 Alzheimer's Disease International. 2015. *World Alzheimer Report 2015: The global impact of dementia - An analysis of prevalence, incidence, cost, and trends*. <http://www.alz.co.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/world-alzheimer-report-2015-executive-summary-english.pdf>
- 4 Ibid
- 5 Alzheimer's Disease International. 2013. *Policy brief for heads of government: The global impact of dementia 2013-2050*. <http://www.alz.co.uk/research/GloballImpactDementia2013.pdf>.
- 6 Ibid
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- 8 Harrell, R., Lynott, J., Guzman, S., Lampkin, C. 2014. "What is Livable? Community Preferences of Older Adults." AARP Public Policy Institute. [http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public\\_policy\\_institute/liv\\_com/2014/what-is-livable-report-AARP-ppi-liv-com.pdf](http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/liv_com/2014/what-is-livable-report-AARP-ppi-liv-com.pdf).
- 9 World Health Organization. 2002. *Active ageing: A policy framework*. A contribution of WHO to the Second United Nations World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain. [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/WHO\\_NM\\_H\\_NPH\\_02.8.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/WHO_NM_H_NPH_02.8.pdf)
- 10 World Health Organization. 2007. *Global age-friendly cities: A guide*. WHO Press: Geneva, Switzerland. [http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global\\_age\\_friendly\\_cities\\_Guide\\_English.pdf](http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf)
- 11 Alzheimer's Disease International. 2015. *Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs): New domains and global examples*. <https://www.alz.co.uk/adi/pdf/dementia-friendly-communities.pdf>.
- 12 Dementia Friends is an international movement to raise awareness and educate the public about dementia. Any person can become a Dementia Friend by completing a short training, spreading the word, and taking small actions in the community that make a big difference to people with dementia.

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601 E Street, NW  
Washington DC 20049  
202.434.3840 T  
202.434.6480 F

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