



MVRPC
SERVICES

Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities

Creating programs and systems that support a community where people of all ages, races, incomes and abilities can thrive.

Purpose

The Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities at the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) will convene critical partners from all private and public sectors and be the central point of coordination for a long-term, multi-faceted effort to address nine domains proven to enhance livability and equity in communities. There will be an intentional focus on equity, launching programs and transforming systems that create a community where people of all ages, races, incomes and abilities can thrive.

The Institute will coordinate research and assemble data; lead a robust community engagement process resulting in a high-level strategic plan which identifies assets, needs, resources and potential actions for each domain; secure grants and alternative funding; leverage the Region's resources for collective impact; and create the opportunities for communities and organizations to implement an ever evolving range of aligned strategies and demonstration projects to advance livable & equitable communities throughout the Region.

Framework

The framework for the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities will be built around the eight domains for Livable Communities outlined by the World Health Organization/AARP and will add a ninth domain critical to our Region, Education.

The Built Environment / Outdoor Spaces & Buildings: People need public places to gather — indoors and out. Green spaces, safe streets, sidewalks, outdoor seating and accessible buildings (think elevators, stairs with railings, etc.) can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

Transportation: Driving shouldn't be the only way to get around. Public transit, coordinated mobility and human service transportation systems, integrated freight and logistics systems, walkability, and bike-friendliness contribute to livable, equitable and lively communities for all.

Housing: Communities need to include affordable and desirable housing options for varying life stages, varying abilities, and varying bank accounts.

Social Participation: Regardless of a person's age or ability, loneliness is often as debilitating a health condition as having a chronic illness or disease. Sadness and isolation can be combatted by the availability of accessible, affordable and fun social activities.



Framework continued

Respect and Social Inclusion: Inclusive, accessible opportunities for active living are essential for all ages. Communities that embrace intergenerational interactions and learning foster cultures of mutual respect and value of contributions.

Civic Participation & Employment: All individuals should have the opportunity to work for pay, volunteer their expertise and engage in civic life in a way that is meaningful to them and a benefit to their community.

Communication: Expansion of access to technology and dissemination of information through a wide variety of traditional and digital means ensures that all members of the community are informed of matters that impact them.

Community Support and Health Services: Access to quality, affordable health services and wrap-around community support systems are vital to quality of life.

Education: A commitment to learning, beginning at an early age and continuing through all stages, is essential to developing a strong workforce and ensuring the long-term economic viability of our Region.

Structure

The launch of the Institute will be a partnership between MVRPC, The Dayton Foundation, the Del Mar Healthcare Fund of The Dayton Foundation, AARP/WHO, Learn to Earn Dayton and local business, healthcare, non-profit and higher education institutions.

MVRPC is the ideal home for the Institute, as the agency serves as the regional planning commission for for Montgomery, Miami, Greene, Preble & Darke Counties, plus a portion of Northern Warren County. It is governed by a 78-member board of directors representing counties, cities, townships and villages in the Region, plus associate members including universities, Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, Dayton Metro Library, park districts, utility providers and other planning and development entities.

Their work, combined with that of their members, touches all domains of Livable/Age Friendly Communities, and MVRPC has been working on the issue of equity for years, including creating the Miami Valley Equity Regional Profile with the Kirwan Institute at Ohio State University.

The Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities will have a profound impact on the Greater Miami Valley Region, providing a workable framework for numerous community initiatives, ranging from economic development to transportation to education. It also creates the opportunity for substantive partnerships between public and private entities, resulting in an equitable, attractive, engaging, supportive and sustainable community for people of all ages, races, incomes and abilities.

