

2026 Livable & Age-Friendly Communities Grant Opportunity

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

Supported by The Del Mar Healthcare Fund at The Dayton Foundation

And Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

With generous support from the Del Mar Healthcare-Dayton Fund at The Dayton Foundation, the MVRPC Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for MVRPC member organizations. Grants are available from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to support the pursuit of becoming an AARP Livable and Age-Friendly Community. The size and scope of the community will be key criteria for determining the amount awarded to each community.

AARP Livable and Age-Friendly Communities designation is a multi-year planning effort focused on recognizing and enhancing age-friendly, livable aspects of your community. This grant is intended to support new communities joining this program. Grants support **first year community needs assessments/survey to determine and direct age-friendly action plans.**

How funds are invested will be at the discretion of each community; however, grant recipients must agree to invest at least half for developing a community survey and/or accompanying listening sessions/focus groups and/or critical research, data analysis and technical assistance to create an action plan for age-friendly livable community initiatives. Funding assistance could also be used for team formation, the engagement of stakeholders and the recruitment of volunteers, supplies, etc.

2026 Proposal Eligibility Criteria, Deadlines, and Review Process

Criteria:

1. Be an MVRPC member agency and an eligible tax-exempt public agency
2. Have made the commitment to become a designated age-friendly community by enrolling in the AARP/World Health Organization (WHO) Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities
3. The governing board/council has passed a resolution committing to becoming Age-Friendly
4. A staff person is identified to lead the process of planning and implementation.
5. A Core Team/Steering Committee has been formed. (see Page 3)

Process/Deadline:

- The funding review process includes a thorough review of the merits of each proposal and
- To be fair to all applicants and to permit adequate time for the review process, any proposals received after 11:59 p.m. on the deadline will be not be considered
- Proposals must be submitted by a person authorized by the organization
- If any sections of the proposal are incomplete, a written statement must be submitted explaining the reason(s)
- A copy of the organization's most recently completed audit, including auditor's notes or a balance sheet and income statement covering the agency's most recently completed fiscal year.

| Proposal Due Date | Award Date | Completion & Final Report Due |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| May 1, 2026 | June 4, 2026 | July 1, 2027 |
| October 1, 2026 | November 5, 2026 | December 1, 2027 |

Proposal Guidelines - All proposals are due no later than 11:59 p.m. by Proposal Deadlines

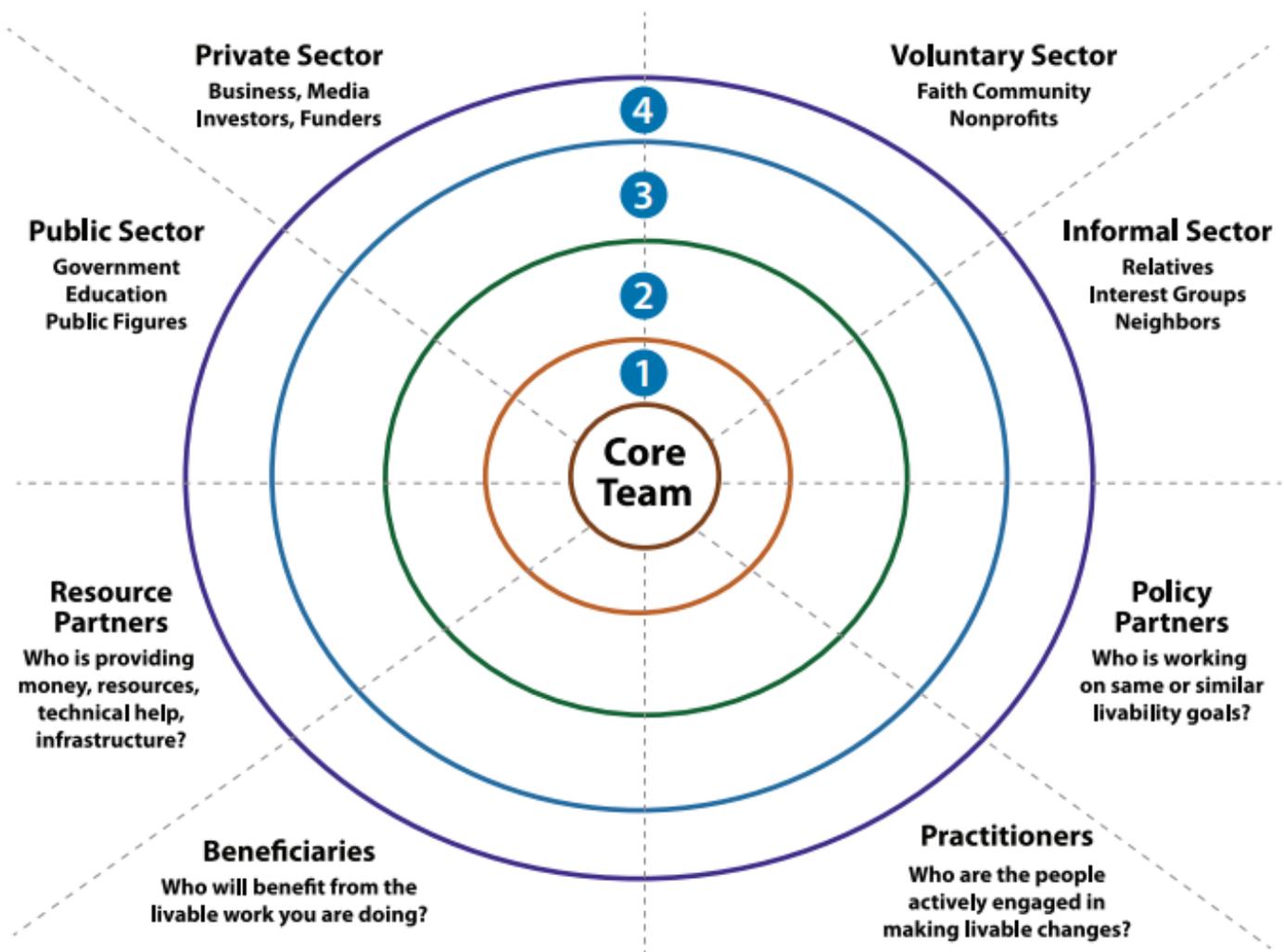
- Please send all documentation as email attachments (PDF documents preferred) to **Arnie Biondo**, abiondo@mvrpc.org. You will receive an email confirmation when your proposal has been received. If there are additional questions about your proposal, MVRPC will contact you.

Final Decision and Notification

- All proposals are reviewed by the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities and recommended to MVRPC Board for approval. Once approved, MVRPC will contact you.
- Projects are funded through The Dayton Foundation Del Mar Healthcare Fund.
- All funds will be distributed via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). If selected, you will be asked to complete a full application for funds and written EFT Authorization Form from The Dayton Foundation if the Foundation does not already have the necessary information.

Grant Project Deliverables:

- Conduct a comprehensive livability/needs assessment process to better understand community members' perceptions, behaviors and satisfaction with elements related to AARP's 8 Domains of Livability framework used by those enrolled in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. This assessment process should also explore opportunities to ease disparities and/or advance equitable outcomes for historically marginalized or disinvested populations.
- Prepare and submit a **mid-year and final report** that captures steps taken/progress and key findings from all assessment efforts, as well as details on how funds were invested.
- Establish a core team of stakeholders/volunteers who are interested in advancing age-friendly initiatives and have capacity to support progress for this program. To learn more about establishing a core team, view the graphic below and review page 10 of [Book 1: Roadmap to Livability](#).



For Additional Information Contact:

- Arnie Biondo: abiondo@mvrpc.org
Del Mar Encore Fellow, MVRPC Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities
- Fabrice Juin: fjuin@mvrpc.org
MVRPC Regional Equity Initiative Program Manager

**YEAR 1-Needs Assessment
PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Age-Friendly Initiative Project Scoping Outline

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of Local Government/ Organization | |
| Mailing Address | |
| City, State & Zip | |
| Phone Number | |
| Website | |
| Federal Tax ID | |
| Lead Staff Person & Contact | |
| Contact Title | |
| Contact Email Address | |
| Contact Phone Number | |

Please summarize of your community's interest in Age-Friendly *in no more than four sentences*:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ASSURANCES *(please check)*

- Agency is an MVRPC Member
- Agency is an eligible tax-exempt public agency
- Agency has joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities
- Governing body has passed a resolution committing to becoming Age-Friendly *(attach)*
- A staff/person has been designated as the Age-Friendly effort leader.

The application must be submitted only as an e-mail attachment to abiondo@mvrpc.org.
I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information presented in connection with this application is accurate. *(either or both signatures acceptable)*

| | |
|--|------|
| | |
| City Manager / Administrator Signature | Date |
| | |
| Mayor/Commission/Board Chair Signature | Date |

YEAR 1-Needs Assessment Age-Friendly Initiative Project Scoping Outline

PART 2: PROJECT SUMMARY

Please summarize your project proposal, including brief, but specific responses to the following: providing a 3-4 sentence paragraph per question

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Name of Community | |
| Anticipated Budget | |

Collaboration amongst community partners and organizations is encouraged, and with eligible MVRPC members. Tell us more about how you will partner with other communities, organizations and public agencies.

It is important engage and establish a core team and/or stakeholder group early. As of now, who are your team/group members? How will you involve these and other residents and community stakeholders in the Age-Friendly effort?

What are the current strengths of your community as related to age-friendliness?

Estimate the areas where your community might be more age-friendly? *(please list)*

What process(es) for surveying and/or community input will you use to ensure that a representative sampling of all populations is included in the needs assessment effort?

*******OPTIONAL*******

Please provide a budget if known to help ensure funding meets project needs. *While OPTIONAL*, details will enhance the grant proposal evaluation. If expenses exceed revenues, please explain how difference will be offset with additional funding. If you need assistance, please contact MVRPC.

| Age-Friendly Initiative Project Scoping Outline | |
|--|---------------|
| PART 3: PROJECT BUDGET | |
| REVENUE | BUDGET |
| DMH-Dayton Fund – The Dayton Foundation | |
| Other Grants | |
| Other (include any in-kind support) | |
| | |
| Total Revenue | |
| EXPENSES (line-by-line breakdown) | BUDGET |
| e.g. Contractor/Consultant | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Total Expenses | |
| REVENUE LESS EXPENSES | |

Accompanying one-page narrative welcome *if* additional explanation is needed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

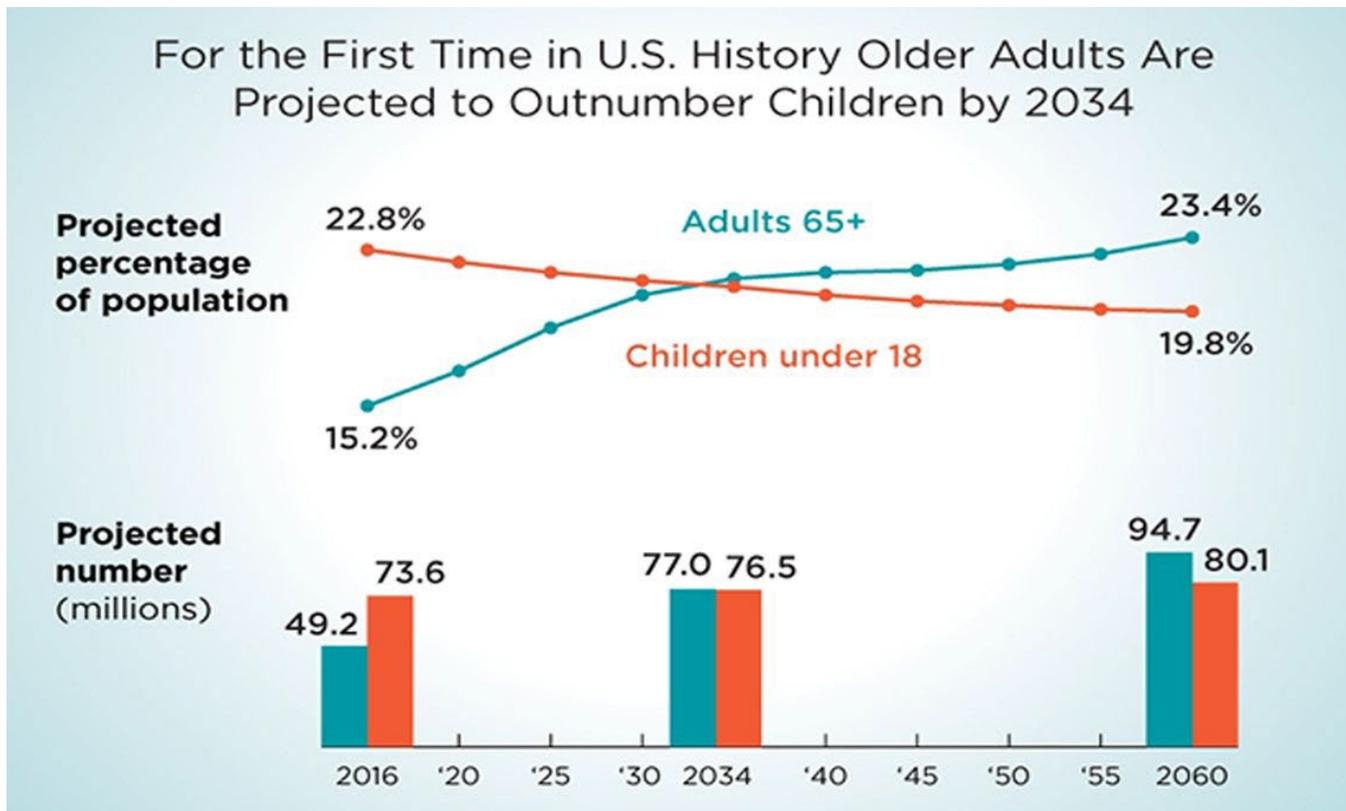


CHART FROM THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Fact: The population of the United States is rapidly aging. Per AARP:

- By 2030, one of five people in the U.S. will be 65 or older
- By 2034, for the first time in history, the number of adults older than 65 will be greater than the number of children under 18.

Fact: The Miami Valley region has experienced this age demographic shift sooner than others. By 2020, older adults have outnumbered younger, and experts predict this will intensify for at least the next two decades (statistics derived from Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research, 2018).

Our communities need to prepare for the rapid aging of the US population, with more attention focused on addressing environmental, economic, and social factors that influence the health and well-being of older adults.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (NAFSC)

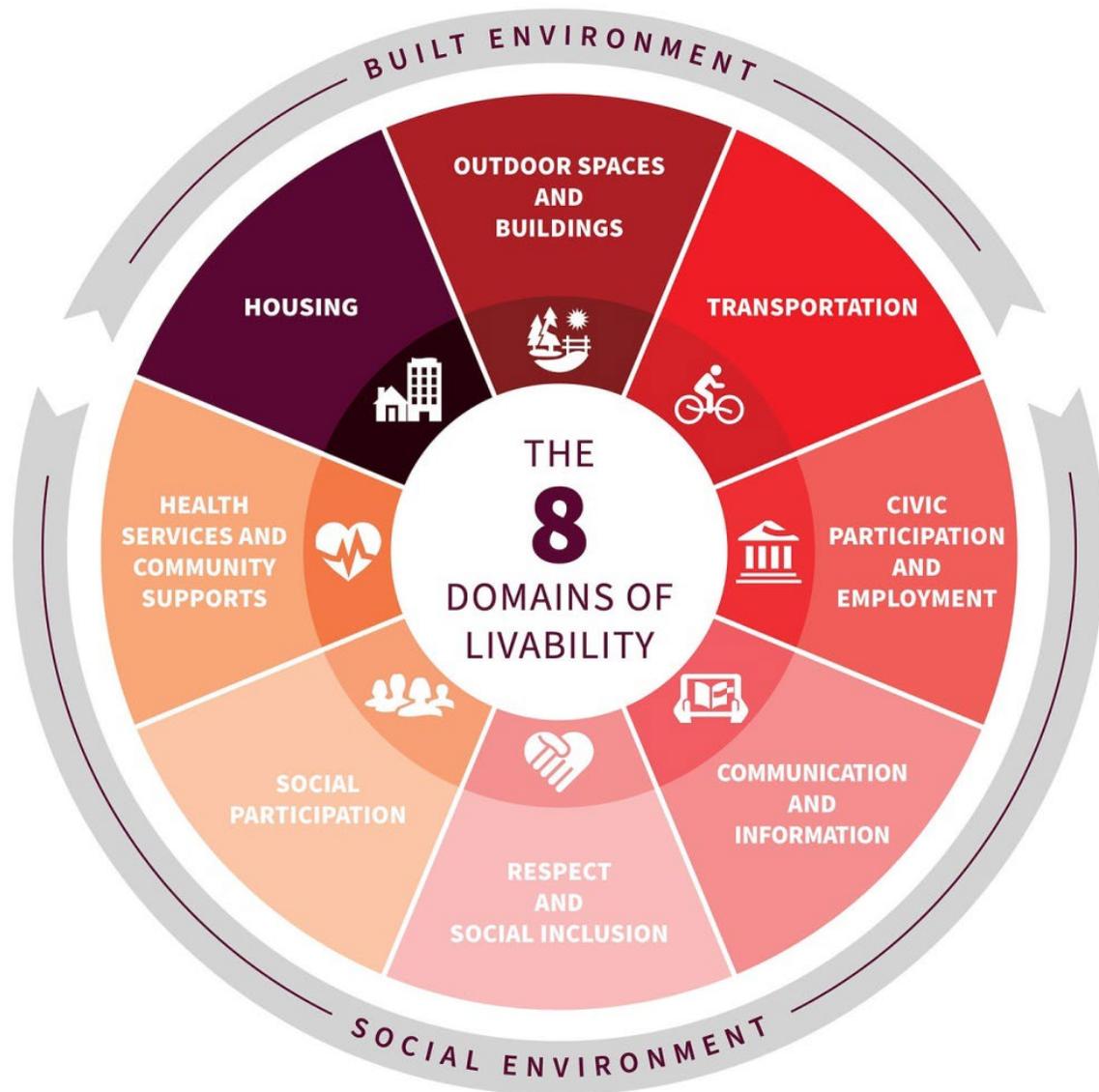
AARP is the US affiliate of the World Health Organization's global network for age-friendly cities and communities. The [Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities](#) (NAFSC) helps cities, towns, and states prepare for the rapid aging of the U.S. population. It is not politically motivated or affiliated.

The NAFSC is a national movement of elected & community leaders who have made a *formal commitment* to actively work toward making their town, city, county or state a great place to live for people of all ages. Joining the Network isn't a certification or designation that your community IS age-friendly. Rather it's a public commitment by local leadership to BECOME an age-friendly community. The NAFSC is a program within the larger AARP Livable Communities Initiative. It is hands on, locally determined and directed. AARP engages with elected officials, partner organizations and local leaders to guide communities through the age-friendly network's assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation process. To learn more about the process, watch [Age-Friendly Network Training](#).

Age-friendly, livable communities are places where the built and social environments are accessible to and inclusive of all residents. 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. Age-Friendly livability projects across the country have been successfully implemented in communities of all sizes and in places that are urban, suburban and rural.

Why Become an Age-Friendly Community

- Being an Age Friendly/Livable Community **benefits all ages**. Barriers are removed, projects that result are designed for diversity, and the community becomes more inclusive and cohesive. Age-friendly communities are great places to live, have a family, and grow older in.
- Engaging in the process to become an Age-Friendly Community **enhances social relationships and bonds** among all community residents. It provides opportunities for residents from different backgrounds and ages to interact and get to know each other, thus facilitating community integration. People feel included and involved.
- There are **economic benefits** to engaging older adults. Older adults and people from different backgrounds expand the labor pool and help address labor shortages. Older adults start more new businesses than young adults, helping to grow the local economy.
- There are **social benefits**. Older adults serve the community through volunteering and civic engagement. All of us are social creatures and our lives are improved by the quantity and quality of our relationships and interactions with others. Never more so than now.
- Age-Friendly communities have **healthy and connected** neighborhoods that improve the quality of life for all.
- Age-Friendly communities **have lower public and personal costs** related to illness and health care.
- Becoming an Age-Friendly community brings **opportunities for coordination and collaboration** among all 8 AARP Domains: Housing, Transportation, Communication & Information, Civic Participation & Employment, Respect & Social Inclusion, Social Participation, Outdoor Spaces & Buildings and Community Support & Health Services.



- Many private businesses and corporations, as well as the federal government look at the **AARP Livability Score** as a determinant of where to locate their businesses or programs.
- Having the official designation provides access to **technical assistance, information, resources** and invaluable **connections** to other Age-Friendly/Livable Communities: large and small, rural and urban.
- There are extensive **funding sources specifically designated for Age-Friendly/Livable Communities** on the local, state, national and even international level (Age-Friendly is a World Health Organization designation). Funds range from small Challenge Grants from AARP to larger projects for recreation, housing, health, transit, mobility, internet, etc.