2026 Livable & Age-Friendly Communities Grant Opportunity

ACTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

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 Fund at The Dayton Foundation, the MVRPC Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for MVRPC member Age-Friendly Communities. Grants are available from $5,000 to $10,000 to support age-friendly the Action Planning process and projects identified in Age-Friendly Community's Action Plan that address community needs assessment results.

Grant Opportunity – Action Planning/Action Plan Implementation Projects

This grant opportunity addresses the AARP Age-Friendly Cycle identified as "**Year 2-Action Planning**" OR "**Years 3-5-Action Plan Implementation**". Cohort agencies of the Miami Valley Age Friendly Network are encouraged to *propose funding for either* "Year"—Action planning process itself; or, implementation of specific improvements, undertakings or projects indicated in their Action Plans.

Abbreviated, AARP describes these parts of becoming Age-Friendly as follows:

> **"Step 3: Develop an action and evaluation plan based on the assessment results**
>
> "Communities formulate an action and evaluation plan based on the assessment results… The plan should detail goals and strategies for identified needs. It should also include methods for tracking progress and measuring the success of the implemented initiatives."
>
> **"Step 4: Implement and work toward the goals of the plan**
>
> "…[C]ommunities begin implementing their age-friendly action plan. This involves working towards the goals outlined in the plan, collaborating with relevant partners, and adjusting strategies as necessary to ensure maximum effectiveness."

2026 Proposal Eligibility Criteria, Deadlines, and Review Process

Criteria:

- Be an MVRPC member agency and an eligible tax-exempt public agency
- Designated age-friendly community by the AARP.
- Completed Needs Assessment/Public input process with documented results *(attach)*.
- *IF APPLYING FOR PLANNING FUNDS*: Agency has identified a process and budget for creating its Action Plan.

Additional Criteria for an Agency with an Action Plan:

- Action Plan is complete and uploaded to AARP website
- Request ties specifically or logically indirectly to results of needs assessment.
- Project is identified in applicant's Action Plan
- Previous grant-funded project reports are up-to-date and filed with MVRPC

- Proposed project clearly addresses one or more Age-Friendly domains.
- Staff, department, partner identified as leader of the project/program

Process/Deadline:
- 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.

Project Deliverables:

- Prepare and submit a mid-year and final report that captures progress toward completion of the Action planning effort; *or*, progress toward completion of the funded project, as well as details on how funds were invested; how residents have been impacted; resident feedback/reactions; or, numbers of people benefitting from the funded project.

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

ACTION PLANNING/PROJECT or PROGRAM
PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Tell us if you are applying for funds to **draft** your Action Plan, **OR**, if this is for an Action Plan **goal implementation**.

Draft Action Plan

Action Plan Program or Project= Implementation

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ASSURANCES *(please check)*

Agency is a MVRPC Member and
Agency is enrolled as an AARP Age-Friendly Community
Agency is an eligible tax-exempt public agency
Agency is an active member of the Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network
Action Plan is uploaded to AARP website
If applicable, previous grant reports are up-to-date and filed with MVRPC, or attached.
Agency has an assigned staff, department or partner to head this project/program

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

Age-Friendly Initiative Program/Project Scoping Outline

PART 2: PROJECT SUMMARY

Name of Community	
Anticipated Budget	

Please summarize your proposal, including brief, but specific responses to the following:

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

How is the Age-Friendly Core Team/Steering Committee involved in the selection or implementation of this project?

Which results from your needs assessment process are specifically or indirectly addressed by this project?
Which of the 8 Age-Friendly Domains are addressed by this project?

Specifically, which part of the Action Plan identifies this project as one of the implementation steps or goals?

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

For the First Time in U.S. History Older Adults Are Projected to Outnumber Children by 2034
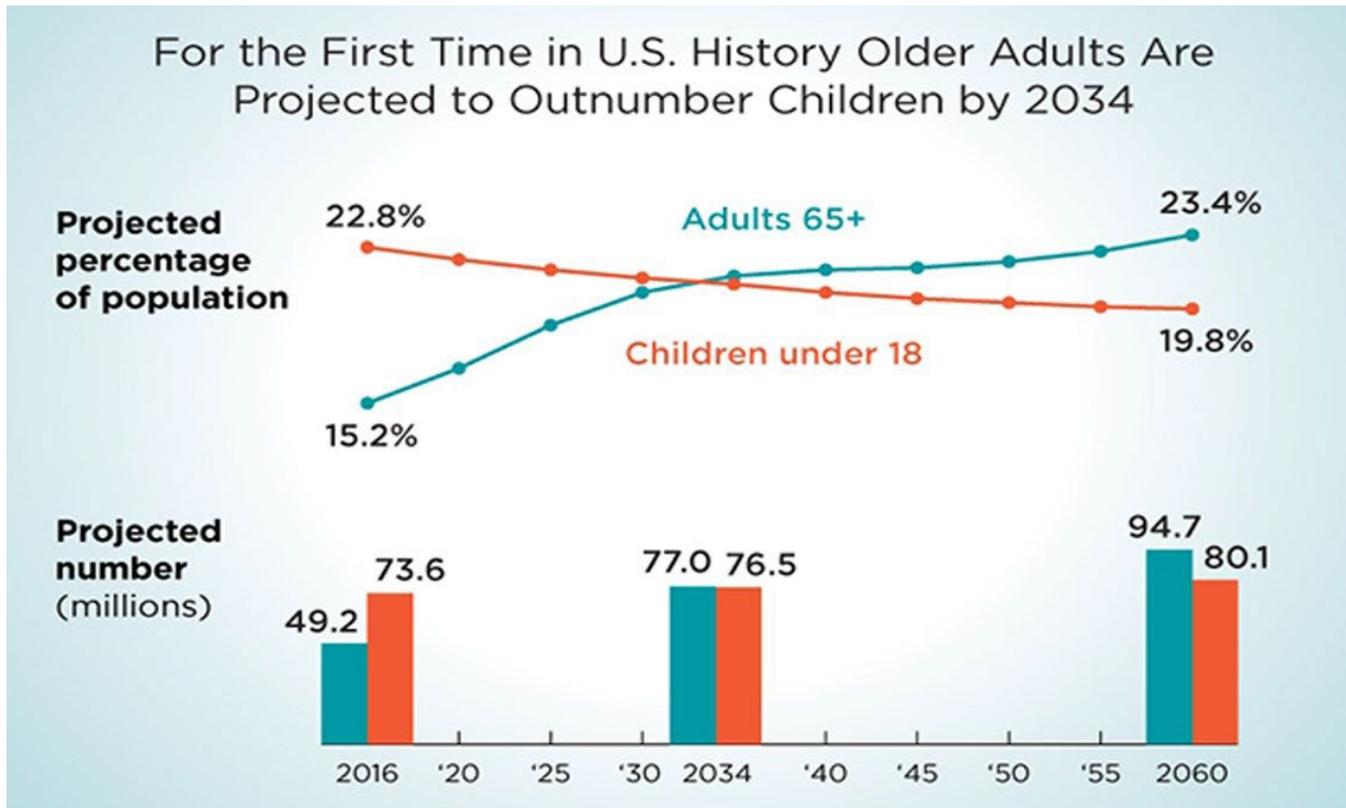
CHART FROM THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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.
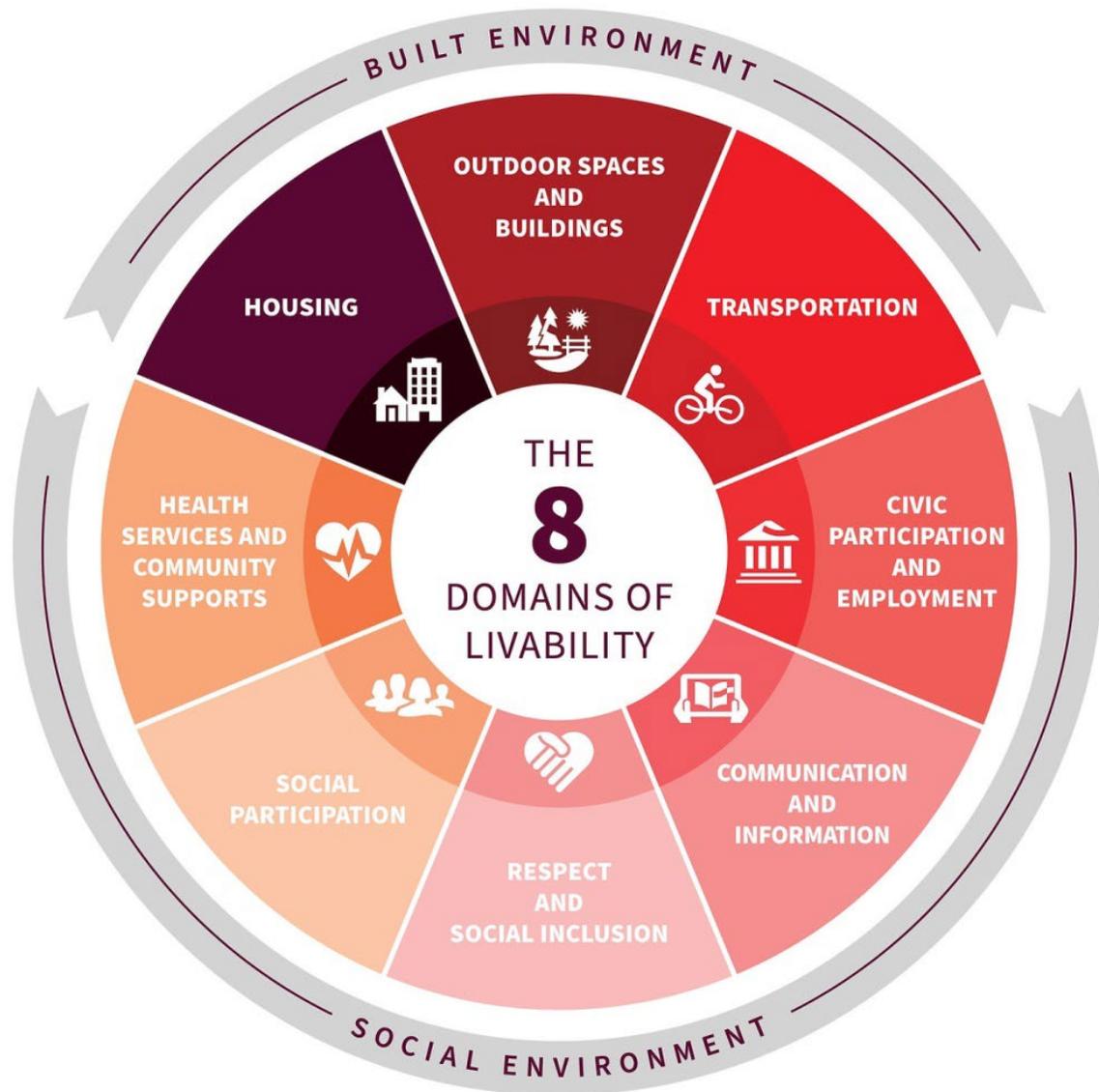
The NAFSC is a national movement of elected & community leaders who have made a *formal commitment* to actively work toward making their town, city, county or state a great place to live for people of all ages. Joining the Network isn't a certification or designation that your community IS age-friendly. 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.

THE **8** DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS
- HOUSING
- TRANSPORTATION
- CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT
- HEALTH SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS
- SOCIAL PARTICIPATION
- RESPECT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
- COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

- 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.