



The 8 Domains of Livability

Age Friendly Seattle focuses on eight domains of livability that cities can address to better serve the needs of older people. Defined by the World Health Organization, the domains were adopted by the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. The City of Seattle joined the network in 2016, committing to a five-year process of planning and implementing improvements. The Mayor and Council formalized this commitment in March 2017 with unanimous passage of Resolution 31739.

The Age Friendly Seattle vision for each domain is printed on the reverse side. For more information, visit our website or e-mail agefriendly@seattle.gov.

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Age Friendly Seattle Vision & Actions

Transportation

Community mobility is essential to optimal aging. Age Friendly Seattle supports safe, reliable, and easy-to-use travel options—including accessible and affordable public transit, rideshare, walking, and biking—to get people of all ages where they need to go. Actions:

- Encourage use of the Street Design Toolkit for Age-Friendly Neighborhoods.
- Develop innovative, person-centered transportation solutions.
- Address transportation affordability and accessibility for older adults.
- Enhance travel training for older adults to increase transit ridership and improve first-mile/last-mile connections.
- Enhance pedestrian amenities in neighborhoods with large numbers of older adults.

Housing

Older adults want to age in place—stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible—and benefit from living in affordable, age-friendly housing. Age Friendly Seattle supports diverse housing options that allow older adults of all incomes to live in clean, safe, comfortable, and well-maintained housing; design that encourages *visitability* for all ages and abilities; and availability of a strong network of home-based services in age-friendly neighborhoods. Actions:

- Coordinate with housing stakeholders to assess the housing needs of older adults and develop action strategies.
- Implement strategies to help older adults facing financial challenges to hold on to their homes.
- Explore innovative housing models, including dementia-friendly housing, cooperative housing, home sharing, and partnerships among senior living communities, colleges, and universities.
- Promote visitability and independence through home modifications for people with disabilities.

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

People need public places to gather—indoors and out. Age Friendly Seattle supports parks and other green spaces, safe streets, sidewalks, outdoor seating, and accessible buildings that can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Actions:

- Adopt Universal Design principles in land use and housing policies.
- Ensure age-friendly components in neighborhood and/or subarea plans.

Social Participation

Social participation and physical activity are essential for both quality of life and longevity. Age Friendly Seattle supports learning, fitness, social, cultural, and spiritual activities for older adults as well as intergenerational activities that are accessible, affordable, safe, and fun. Actions:

- Identify gaps in serving the social participation needs of older adults at risk of social isolation and develop strategies to reach out to them.
- Provide more opportunities for older adults and adults with disabilities to engage in the life of their community.

Respect & Social Inclusion

Everyone wants to feel valued. Age Friendly Seattle celebrates and draws upon the wisdom and experience of older adults, encourages intergenerational and multicultural understanding, and works to

eliminate ageism and ensure consistent levels of high-quality service for all ages. Actions:

- Ensure that every City of Seattle employee understands the impacts of age, disability, and dementia/cognitive development, and the City's "no wrong door" service for information and assistance, so they can respond to and meet needs effectively.
- Strengthen support for LGBTQ elders in Seattle.
- Increase community understanding of dementia, its effects, and ways to be supportive.

Civic Participation & Employment

Whether working for pay or volunteering time and talent, many older adults find value in contributing to their communities. Age Friendly Seattle supports services for mature jobseekers who need or want to work, promotes age-friendly business practices, and encourages older adults to share their skills to address community needs. Actions:

- Provide tools to help businesses and employers become more age-, disability-, and dementia-friendly.
- Enhance the opportunities to mobilize the wisdom and experience of older adults, including people with disabilities and/or dementia, and provide opportunities for adults age 50+ and adults with disabilities to live with passion and purpose.
- Develop partnerships to support employment of older adults who are looking for work.
- Support development of new programming for individuals age 50+, including people with dementia.

Community & Health Services

All people should have access to affordable health care and community services that help them live comfortably and with dignity. Age Friendly Seattle supports coordination and promotion of services to help meet the needs of older adults and caregivers. Actions:

- Develop strategies to reach more older adults who lack access to services.
- Continue awarding small grants for creative age-friendly/healthy aging projects through the HSD Innovation Fund.
- Coordinate outreach to older adults among neighborhood organizations.
- Increase public awareness of elder abuse and self-neglect, and enhance safety.
- Increase long-term services and supports, including caregiver support.

Communication & Information

Older adults receive information in a variety of ways, and no one way reaches every person. Age Friendly Seattle promotes accessible print and digital communications, and community partnerships that increase access to information that older adults need for optimal aging. Actions:

- Ensure that all City employees who plan events or meetings, or have contact with the public are adequately trained to meet the communication needs of individuals with disabilities. See also trainings under Respect & Social Inclusion, above.
- Adopt and adhere to a Minimum Accessibility Standard for City communications.
- Determine assisted listening needs for all City meeting rooms and gathering places.

Making Seattle a Great Place to Grow Up and Grow Old

www.seattle.gov/agefriendly