

**Quick Reference on Initiatives and Toolkits**  
**Promoting Communities Designed For All Ages**  
Compiled by Generations United, July 2008

**Overview**

**Initiatives**

**Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging, sponsored by US Environmental Protection Agency**, is aimed at raising awareness across the nation about healthy synergies that can be achieved by communities combining Smart Growth and Active Aging concepts. Awards will be presented to communities that demonstrate the best and most inclusive overall approach to implementing smart growth and active aging at the neighborhood, tribe, municipality, county, and/or regional levels. The U.S. EPA's Aging Initiative is spearheading this multi-agency effort developed in partnership with: The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, The National Council on Aging's Center for Healthy Aging, The National Blueprint Office, Active for Life.

**Communities for All Ages, created by the Temple University Center for Intergenerational Learning**, is a national, multi-site initiative that brings together diverse local organizations, policy makers and residents of all ages to address issues of concern to all generations. The national CFAA Network offers training and technical assistance and uses the Viable Futures Toolkit.

**Creating Aging-Friendly Communities, created by Community Strengths and UC Berkeley's Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services**, is an online resource that provides practical insights, models and tools for helping individuals and organizations make their communities more livable and aging-friendly. This resource offers technical assistance, online discussion, and expert panel presentations.

**Toolkits**

**A Blueprint for Action: Developing a Livable Community for All Ages, developed by Partners for Livable Communities and National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**, is a guide aimed at providing local leaders and practitioners with tools and resources to create livable communities for all ages while focusing on the issues affecting older adults. This publication includes numerous tools, including best practices, checklists and resources to create aging friendly communities as well as offers technical assistance.

**Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide, developed by the World Health Organization**, is a toolkit aimed at assisting cities in evaluating themselves from the perspective of older adults in order to become more age friendly. This guide provides age-friendly city checklists on various topics that were developed from focus groups of older adults, caregivers and service providers.

**Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide, developed by AARP**, encourages people of all ages to take a new look at the community or neighborhood in which they live. This guide is based in large part on focus groups regarding the perceptions and availability of features that make a community livable as well as includes self-assessment surveys. AARP offers additional resources for livable communities, particularly in areas of housing and transportation.

**Viable Futures Toolkit: Sustainable Communities for All Ages, developed by JustPartners Inc.**, is a toolkit that offers guidance and technical assistance to planners, policymakers, service providers, and funders for creating solutions that address the needs of older and younger generations and their communities. This toolkit blends environmental and intergenerational concerns to help communities address pressures on human and natural resources and highlights how single solutions can solve multiple problems.

## ***Details on Toolkits and Initiatives: Primary Goals, Target Audience, Community Needs Addressed***

### **Initiatives**

#### **Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging**

##### Primary Goals:

- Assist cities/communities in becoming increasingly age-friendly;
- Create a healthier community for individuals of all ages;
- Improve health and well-being of the environment;
- Present awards that demonstrate the best and most inclusive approach to implementing smart growth and active aging at the neighborhood, tribe, municipality, county, and/or regional levels;
- Raise awareness about healthy synergies by combining Smart Growth and Active Aging.

Target Audience: Area Agencies on Aging; city/county managers; community planners; economic development leaders; elected officials and policy makers at local, state and federal levels.

Primary Community Needs Addressed: community and economic development; community support and health services; creating vibrant places to live, work and play, environment, housing, individual and family wellness; planning an age-friendly community, planning for smart growth; transportation.

For more information: <http://epa.gov/aging/bhc/index.htm>

#### **Communities for All Ages**

##### Primary Goals:

- Improve the lives of children/ youth, families and older adults by building the capacity of communities to address critical issues from a multi-generational, cross-sector perspective;
- Increase collaboration among organizations serving diverse populations and residents of all ages;
- Increase interaction and interdependence across ages and cultures.

Target Audience: administrators, advocates and practitioners in the human service network (particularly aging and children/youth); community, family and national foundations; United Ways, community planners, environmental groups, elected officials and policy makers at the local, state and federal levels; and community residents of all ages.

Primary community issues addressed Include: building strong social networks, individual and family wellness, lifelong education and civic engagement, affordable and accessible housing, transportation, safety, wise use of natural resources, and cultural diversity.

For more information: [www.communitiesforallages.org/About](http://www.communitiesforallages.org/About)

## **Creating Aging-Friendly Communities**

### Primary Goals:

- Assist communities in becoming increasingly age-friendly;
- Offer on-going networking and discussion opportunities for communities with a focus on aging and intergenerational planning;
- Provide ongoing expert training and development for participants;
- Provide strategies and support for community organizing and change efforts.

Target Audience: academia; administrators, advocates and practitioners in aging and community development; volunteers, community members; businesses; nonprofit organizations; associations; community foundations/funders; community planners; economic development leaders; elected officials and policy makers at local, state and federal levels.

Primary Community Needs Addressed: communication and information; planning a livable and age-friendly community, ongoing technical support.

For more information: [www.agingfriendly.org](http://www.agingfriendly.org)

## **Toolkits**

### **A Blueprint for Action: Developing a Livable Community for All Ages**

#### Primary Goals:

- Develop strategies for making communities livable for older adults through focusing on intergenerational strategies to meet their needs;
- Develop assessments, identify concerns, assist in development of a strategic plan;
- Increase organization collaboration, awareness and utilization of intergenerational approaches, interaction between service providers and residents;
- Provide tools to build collaborations within communities in order to serve all ages.

Target Audience: administrators, advocates and practitioners in aging; administrators, advocates and practitioners in children and youth; city/county managers; community planners; economic development leaders; elected officials and policy makers at local, state and federal levels.

Primary Community Needs Addressed: housing, planning and zoning, transportation, health and supportive services, culture and lifelong learning, public safety, civic engagement and volunteer opportunities.

For more information: [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org) and [www.livable.com](http://www.livable.com)

### **Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide**

#### Primary Goals:

- Assist cities/communities in becoming increasingly age-friendly;
- Increase resident interaction, empowerment, involvement, service utilization;
- Provide tools to build collaborations within communities in order to serve all ages.

Target Audience: administrators, advocates and practitioners in aging; administrators, advocates and practitioners in children and youth; elected officials and policy makers at local, state and federal levels; residents.

Primary Community Needs Addressed: building strong social networks; community support and health services; cultural diversity and respect; employment; housing; lifelong education and civic engagement; planning and zoning; transportation.

For more information:

[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)

## **Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide**

### Primary Goals:

- Assist cities/communities in becoming increasingly age-friendly;
- Help residents identify areas where they can direct their energies toward making their communities more livable for themselves and others;
- Identify methods for creating safer and better communities for residents of all ages.

Target Audience: primarily consumers; volunteers; community members.

Primary Community Needs: transportation; walkability; safety and security; shopping; housing; health services; recreation and cultural activities; and other community services.

For more information:

[www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/indliving/beyond\\_50\\_communities.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/indliving/beyond_50_communities.html)

## **Viable Futures Toolkit: Sustainable Communities for All Ages**

### Primary Goals:

- Create a healthier community for individuals of all ages through intentionally focusing on issues that affect all ages;
- Develop strategies for making communities more livable for all generations – such as, develop assessments, identify common concerns for all generations, assist in development of a strategic plan;
- Increase resident interaction, empowerment, involvement;
- Increase organization collaboration, awareness and utilization of intergenerational approaches, interaction between service providers and residents;
- Improve health and well-being of the environment;
- Provide tools to build collaborations within communities in order to serve individuals of all ages;
- Recognize capacities and limits of financial and environmental resources.

Target Audience: administrators, advocates and practitioners in aging; administrators, advocates and practitioners in children and youth; Area Agencies on Aging; city/county managers; community foundations/funders; community planners; economic development leaders; elected officials and policy makers at local, state and federal levels; school board members and school superintendents; United Ways.

Primary Community Needs: community and economic development; environment; housing; individual and family wellness; lifelong education and civic engagement; planning communities that support all age groups; planning an ecologically balanced community; resource allocation; transportation.

For more information: [www.justpartners.org](http://www.justpartners.org), [www.viablefuturestoolkit.org](http://www.viablefuturestoolkit.org)

## **Generations United**

For further information on intergenerational programs and public policies, please visit the Generations United website: [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org)