

DRAFT Arizona Age-Friendly Network Overview

Why

Significant increases in the number of people aged 60 years plus are present throughout the state of Arizona. This represents an opportunity if the talents and time of older adults are fully leveraged. Failure to act can create a crisis if the needs of older adults are not appropriately addressed. Transportation is a critical factor for older adults throughout the state. Developing an Arizona Age-Friendly Network will provide opportunities to better connect older adults with people of all ages by leveraging existing efforts and cultivating community capacity. Discussions with stakeholders statewide are shaping the network and are critical to coordinating a statewide effort that is responsive to local characteristics. This scope of work will evolve as additional feedback is received.

What

The Arizona Age-Friendly Network will include the following functions:

- Provide technical assistance to communities through data analysis, community outreach, and business plan development to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Connect people to information, resources, and to each other through the project's website, www.Connect60Plus.com.
- Offer trainings through the webinar series, "Feed Your Mind", and an annual conference. In the future, the conference may include opportunities for people to attend online.

Who

The statewide network will integrate and cross fertilize with foundational efforts undertaken by a number of talented partners. This includes but is not limited to potential partners such as existing nonprofit agencies, AARP Arizona, Area Agencies on Aging, Arizona Caregivers Coalition, Arizona Commission on the Arts, Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Grantmakers Forum, Communities for All Ages sites, the councils of governments, the Governor's Council on Aging, and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. National partners include Grantmakers in Aging and the Pfizer Foundation.

How

One leadership team with representatives from throughout the state will coordinate activity for the network. Local planning teams will drive the activity in each community. Pilot sites will be determined in cooperation with the councils of governments, Area Agencies on Aging, and the Communities for All Ages sites. Subregional meetings in Phoenix, Yuma, Tucson, and Prescott/Flagstaff; monthly conference calls; and an annual statewide meeting will cross fertilize learnings from one community to the next. In addition, all resources will be shared through the www.Connect60Plus.com website for use throughout the network. An evaluation will be conducted to monitor progress and to identify needed adjustments. Specific recommendations may be added to the state's Aging 2020 Plan.

When

Representatives for the local planning teams and the statewide leadership team will be identified during the summer of 2014. By the fall, an application will be submitted to Grantmakers in Aging for funding to support the network from October 2014 to July 2015. Ongoing funding will be solicited from other funders as needed. The goal is to develop the network and embed it within ongoing structures such as the councils of governments and Area Agencies on Aging in partnership with multi-disciplinary partners.

For More Information:

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