



SARASOTA COUNTY

"Dedicated to Quality Service"

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236

phone: 941-861-5344 fax: 941-861-5987

To the Citizens of Sarasota County:

In 2015, the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners endorsed Sarasota County to become Florida's first Age-Friendly Community and join membership into the World Health Organization/ AARP *Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities*. The designation seeks to promote Sarasota County as an inclusive and accessible environment that promotes active, healthy living for people of all life stages and abilities across the life course. Over the past two years, thousands of our residents and persons throughout our government, as well as our nonprofit and business community, have joined together in a collective journey of listening, analyzing and developing specific strategies that culminate into the *Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan*.

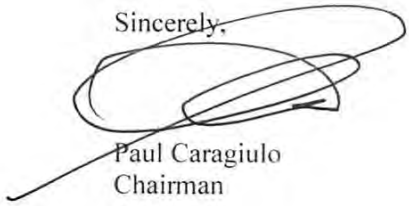
On behalf of Sarasota County Government, we wish to express gratitude to all who have contributed to the development of this plan. In particular, a special thanks to Kathy Black, a gerontologist at the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee who has spear-headed and co-led the effort to date along with Initiative Consultant Bob Carter and The Patterson Foundation, which generously funded this important effort for our community. Chuck Henry, the Sarasota County Government liaison who has worked most closely with the Age-Friendly Sarasota team, also deserves special recognition.

Much has already been accomplished on our age-friendly journey to date. The previously published Community Report identified residents' aspirations regarding important community features. Although Sarasota County is home to many notable age-friendly assets, a multi-sector approach that includes government, nonprofits, businesses, and people of all ages is embraced to become the best age-friendly community that we can be.

The Action Plan includes multi-sector strategies and other opportunities for creating age-friendly community features and practices for all Sarasota County residents. In eight core areas, the plan establishes specific goals and objectives: for making our outdoor spaces and public buildings more accessible; for improving our transportation and mobility, housing, health care and employment; and for ensuring respect, inclusion and civic participation for our residents.

The plan has been developed as a uniquely collaborative process in which everyone is truly a stakeholder for our collective age-friendly future. As a work in progress, continued efforts are encouraged. Now, we join together to become an even greater place to live, work and play throughout our lives. With great appreciation for the work that has been undertaken, and with much excitement about what it holds ahead for our great community, The County is pleased to share with you the *Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan*.

Sincerely,



Paul Caragiulo
Chairman

Table of Contents

	Page #
Introduction	
About Age-Friendly Sarasota.....	2
Domains of Livability.....	4
Guiding Principles	5
Summary of Notable Accomplishments: FOR ALL AGES.....	15
Background	
About Sarasota County	16
Community Report Summary.....	18
Summary of Important Community Features by Domain	21
Gap Analysis Summary	22
Livability Index Ratings	23
Action Plan Overview	
About the Action Plan	24
Built Environment	
Domain: Housing	28
Domain: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings.....	30
Domain: Transportation.....	32
Social Environment	
Domain: Civic Participation & Employment.....	37
Domain: Social Participation	41
Domain: Respect & Social Inclusion	43
Supports & Services	
Domain: Communication & Information.....	46
Domain: Community Support & Health Services	48
References	50
Acknowledgments	51
Appendices: Implementation of the Action Plan by Domain	53
<i>(Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Planned Actions, Participating & Potential Partners and Metrics)</i>	
Built Environment	
Housing.....	54
Outdoor Spaces & Buildings.....	56
Transportation.....	59
Social Environment	
Civic Participation & Employment.....	63
Social Participation.....	66
Respect & Social Inclusion	68
Supports & Services	
Communication & Information.....	71
Community Support & Health Services	73

About Age-Friendly Sarasota

In 2015, Sarasota County became Florida’s first community to join the World Health Organization’s (WHO) *Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities* and the AARP *Network of Age-Friendly Communities*. The age-friendly community movement represents a global effort to create supportive social and physical environments that promote active, healthy and engaged living for persons across all ages and abilities and to foster social, civic, and economic participation throughout the life course.

Age-Friendly Sarasota represents a multi-sector approach that connects people, business, nonprofit, government, and media to build a community for all ages. The initiative seeks to promote a lifelong community that bolsters intergenerational relationships and benefits people of all ages — a “Community for ALL Ages.”

“A society for all ages is multi-generational. It is not fragmented, with youths, adults and older persons going their separate ways. Rather, it is age-inclusive, with different generations recognizing — and acting upon — their commonality of interest.”

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations



PHOTO: Designation Celebration, May 6, 2015. Age-Friendly Sarasota partners: (L to R) Dennis Stover, USFSM; Debra Jacobs, The Patterson Foundation; William Clark, AARP Florida; Carolyn Mason, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners; Kathy Black, USFSM; Cory Livingston, Florida Department of Elder Affairs; Kathy Hyer, Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging, USF; and Kathleen Hall, Sarasota County Seniors Advisory Council.

Age-Friendly Sarasota is supported by The Patterson Foundation, in partnership with AARP Florida, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging at the University of South Florida, Sarasota County Government and the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee.



A Community for All Ages



World Health Organization

AARP Real Possibilities in

Florida



USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging

USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SARASOTA-MANATEE



A Community for ALL Ages



www.agefriendlysarasota.org



Domains of Livability

Age-Friendly Sarasota focuses efforts on the following eight Domains of Livability that were determined by the WHO to impact the quality of life experience of aging in community:

Domain	Description
Civic Participation & Employment	Options for paid work, entrepreneurship, post-retirement training, volunteering, valued opportunities, and the chance for residents of all ages to engage in the creation of policies relevant to their lives.
Communication & Information	Access to information about community activities and needed services via multiple formats adapted for variable vision and hearing abilities and access to computers, Internet and automated information.
Community Support & Health Services	Access to homecare services, medical care and programs that promote wellness, voluntary support, emergency planning, aging specialists and coordinated care across the continuum.
Housing	Access to a range of affordable housing options, home modification programs, home maintenance services and alternative living options to age in place.
Outdoor Spaces & Buildings	Availability of safe and accessible facilities for recreation, shopping and services; walkways; parking areas; public restrooms; and public parks.
Respect & Social Inclusion	Access to an environment that encourages reverent treatment and interactions, intergenerational activities, and involvement by residents of all ages, abilities and incomes.
Social Participation	Affordable and accessible opportunities across a range of social activities with peers and younger people, countering isolation.
Transportation	Availability of safe and affordable transportation to needed services and desired activities; specialized services; pedestrian and cycling; roadway design and signage; and travel after transitioning from driving.

Guiding Principles

Age-Friendly Sarasota is premised on the following guiding principles, representing the acronym “**FOR ALL AGES**”:

Future-Focused

Future-focused means looking beyond the present to the possibilities ahead. This long-range perspective requires us to consider the demographic projections of our extended life expectancy - and beckons us to collectively plan for a society that optimizes the “longevity dividend.”



- Sarasota County joins the WHO/AARP Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities
- Assessment of community assets and aspirations of residents 50+
- Analysis of surveys and focus group data from 1,172 residents
- Research findings shared throughout the community
- Co-creation of community blueprint for Age-Friendly Sarasota
- Initial implementation of collective age-friendly goals

Notable Accomplishments to Date

- Conducted training on age-friendly park features with staff from Sarasota County and municipalities (City of Sarasota, North Port, Longboat Key and Venice)
- Provided age-friendly and livability language for inclusion in the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan



Optimistically Optimizing Opportunities

Optimistic refers to a positive approach.

Optimizing denotes the leveraging of practices to promote potential.

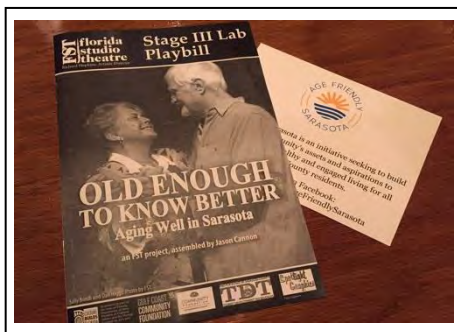
Opportunities reflect the synchronicity in which age-friendly assets can be shared.

Combined, these three attributes underscore how Age-Friendly Sarasota builds upon our community's existing assets AND the possibilities which can occur both within and across all sectors/stakeholders.



Notable Accomplishments to Date

- Created Promising Practice Brief on Sarasota County's Voluntary Resolution for Builders on Universal Design and Visitability
- Conducted two forums on housing with national author *Creating Community as We Age*
- Contributed to Florida Studio Theatre's Plays and Panels on Aging



Relevant, Participatory, Actionable Research

Relevant refers to the usefulness and applicability of the research to all eight domains and that the research represents the “authentic” voice of our community.

Participatory conveys the partnership with the community, which included the nearly 1,200 persons who participated in the surveys and focus groups as well as the dozens of persons, groups and organizations who promoted our efforts to learn.

Actionable reflects the next step, in that the findings are just the beginning and that acting upon our learnings will yield greater age-friendly impacts throughout the community.



Surveys: n = 1,127



Focus Group Participants: n = 45

Notable Accomplishments to Date

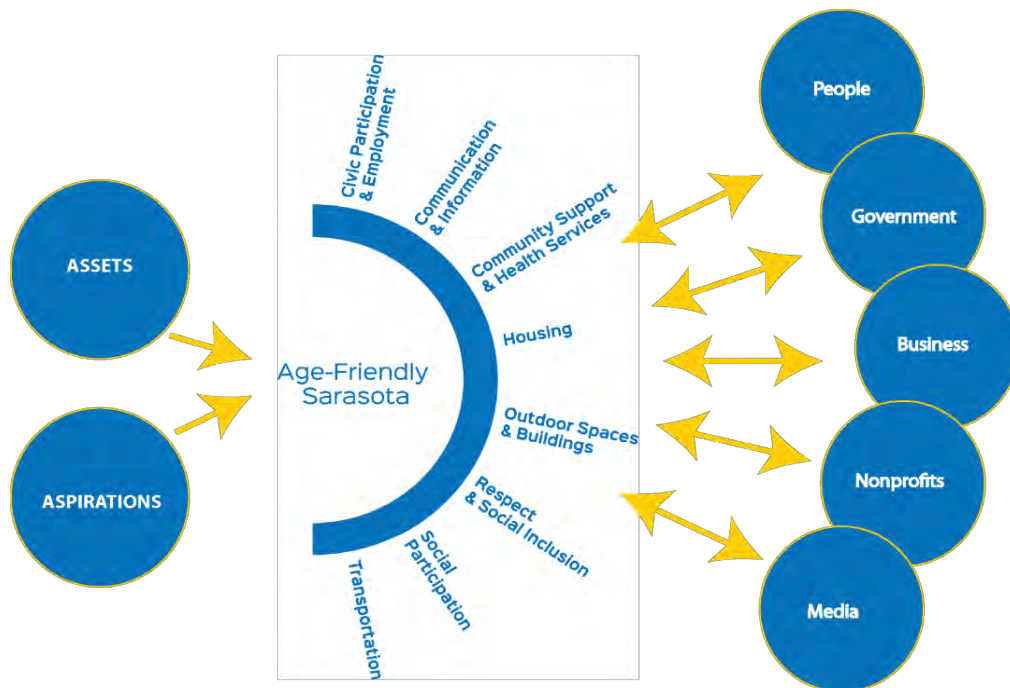
- Conducted nine focus groups and surveyed all Sarasota County zip codes (1,172 residents)
- Attended Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan forums and aligned age-friendly goals and objectives with Sarasota County's chapter-specific survey reports



Assets & Aspirations-Centered

Assets focus on our collective strengths.

Aspirations include the preferences and desires of residents regarding community features in all eight domains. Also includes relevance to multiple sectors including people, business, nonprofits, government and media.



Notable Accomplishments to Date

- Collaborated with AARP and Uber on ride-sharing forum



A Community for ALL Ages



www.agefriendlysarasota.org





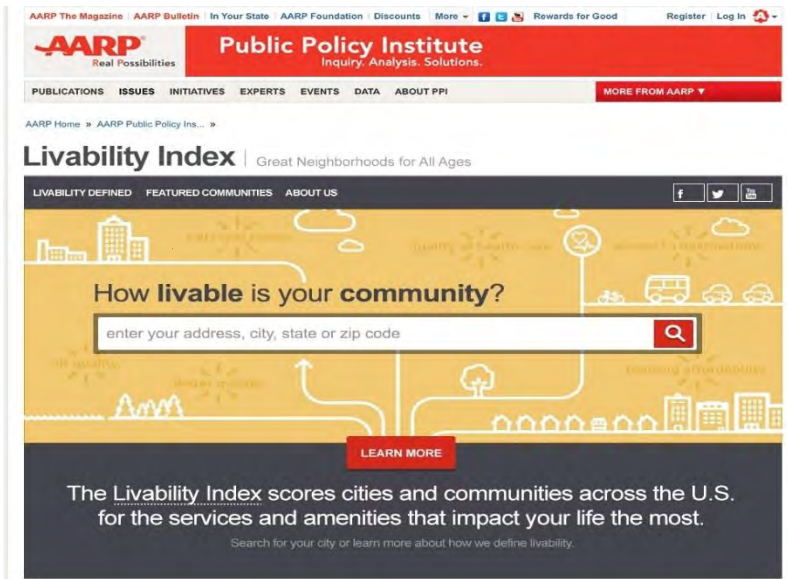
Livable Community Tenets

Livable community tenets refer to creating public surroundings that are safe and secure, have affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options and offer supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence, allow residents to age in place, and foster residents' full engagement in community life (AARP Public Policy Institute, 2012).



Notable Accomplishments to Date

- Hosted national architect of the AARP Livability Index for public forum and conducted training with planners and neighborhood leaders throughout county and municipalities
- Collaborating with Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's plans on pedestrian/driver safety



Longevity & Well-Being Throughout the Life Course

Longevity and well-being throughout the life course is illustrated by “Active Aging” or “the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age” (WHO, 2002, p. 12) across preventive, restorative and palliative care and needs. The heterogeneity of older adults can be supported and enabled to actively age through recognizing differential abilities and capacities, understanding diverse needs and preferences, accepting individual choices and lifestyles, protecting the most vulnerable and encouraging participation and inclusion in all aspects of community life (WHO, 2007).



Notable Accomplishments to Date



A Community for ALL Ages



www.agefriendlysarasota.org



- Aligned with the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County's goals
- Collaborating with Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Sarasota Memorial Health Care System on Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative



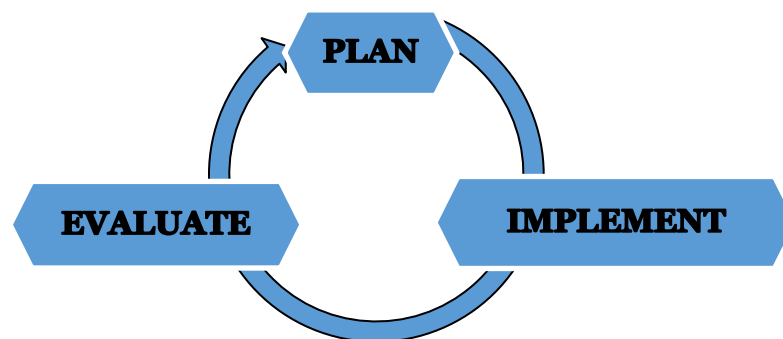
Accountable in Capturing Progress

Accountability in capturing progress includes tracking process, outputs and outcomes.

Planning answers “*what do we want?*” and begins by first identifying the aspirations of our residents, building upon existing assets and then co-creating a blueprint of age-friendly efforts that is inclusive of all stakeholders — including people (residents in the community), businesses, nonprofits, government and media.

Implementation refers to “*what will we do?*” and calls for enacting age-friendly activities determined during the planning efforts.

Evaluation refers to the “*so what?*” and requires that we assess our efforts and provide objective feedback about what changes we have accomplished.



Notable Accomplishments to Date*



A Community for ALL Ages



www.agefriendlysarasota.org



- Reach: 3,693/ Meetings: 220/ Presentations: 160/ Facebook: 1,066/ Twitter followers:480
- Website visits: 27,500+/ Radio: 3/ TV: 9/ Newspaper: 25/ Magazine: 5/ Blog Posts: 68/ Newsletters: 24

* Note: May 6, 2015 – May 31, 2017

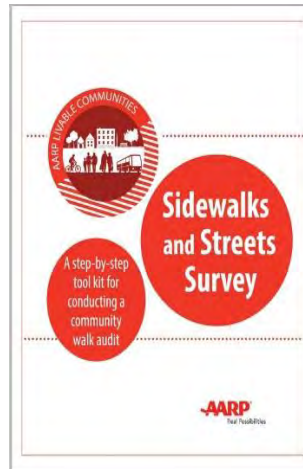


Grassroots Engagement Across the Community

Grassroots engagement across the community invites all residents to prepare for their own individual longevity vis-à-vis personal actions including active participation in health and other behaviors such as considerations about the fitness of their home as they age, the walkability of their neighborhoods, and the livability of their communities.

The AARP Home Fit Guide

Information and Tips for a Comfortable, Safe, and Livable Home



Notable Accomplishments to Date

- Aligned efforts with Neighborhood Association Challenge



A Community for ALL Ages



www.agefriendlysarasota.org



- Liaise with Community Health Action Teams in Englewood, Laurel/Osprey/Venice/Nokomis (LOVN), North Port and Newtown



Engaging ALL Generations

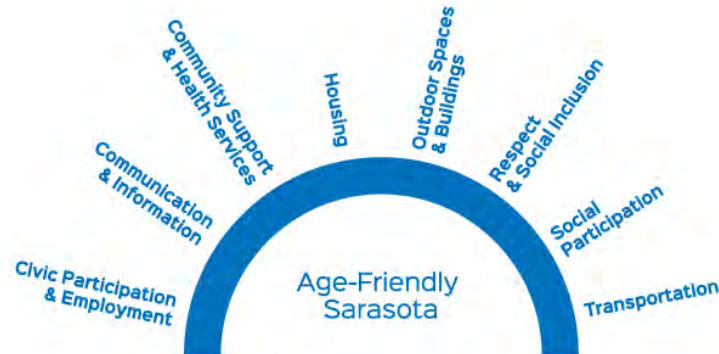
Engaging all generations builds upon our “age-advantaged” demographics and refers to intentionally promoting programs, policies and practices that increase cooperation, interaction and exchange between people of different generations and enable people of all ages to share their talents and resources and support each other in relationships that benefit both individuals and their communities (Generations United, 2016).



Notable Accomplishments to Date

- Created Promising Practice Brief on Florida Studio Theatre’s Documentary Theater to enhance dialogue among people of all ages

Promising Practice Brief: Theatre Arts to Counter Ageism and Enhance Public Discourse on Aging



Sustainable...in that the Community Embraces Age-Friendly Efforts

Sustainable – in that the community embraces age-friendly efforts – begins with learning and ends with “embedding” and further promoting principles of age-friendliness by domain in personal behavior and in business, governmental and organizational programs, policies and services via mission and vision statements as well as operational practices.



Notable Accomplishments to Date

- Age-Friendly Community Activities Section of the Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Guide

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Sarasota County parks, recreation and natural resources are age-friendly!

Sarasota County is Florida's first World Health Organization Age-Friendly community. An age-friendly community supports active, healthy and engaged living for persons throughout all life stages and abilities, and fosters civic, economic and social participation throughout life.

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources is pleased to offer the following amenities, activities and programs:

Beach access mat

The Legacy Trail and Venetian Waterway Park

At more than 10 miles in length, The Legacy Trail is a popular paved multi-use trail that connects to the Venetian Waterway Park (VWP) at the historic Venice Train Depot. Trail users can continue south on the VWP mainland trail approximately five miles to Shamrock Park and Nature Center or cross the Intracoastal Waterway to the VWP island-side trail and travel south to Caspersen Beach Park.

Other paved trails within parks

- Arlington Park, 2650 Waldemere St., Sarasota
- Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood
- Lime Lake Park, 2020 N. Lime Ave., Sarasota
- Nathan Benderson Park, 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota
- Potter Park, 8587 Potter Park Drive, Sarasota
- Rothenbach Park, 8650 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota
- Shamrock Park, 3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice
- Siesta Beach, 948 Beach Road, Siesta Key
- Urfer Family Park, 4012 Honore Ave., Sarasota

Community gardens in parks

Community gardens provide a place for individuals to grow vegetables, fruits and herbs. Gardeners can improve their families' health and nutrition while reducing food costs. Community gardens also benefit the neighborhoods where they are located by utilizing open space and promoting a sense of community pride.

Summary of Notable Accomplishments: FOR ALL AGES (May 2015 – April 2017)

Future-Focused

- Conducted training on age-friendly park features with staff from Sarasota County and municipalities (City of Sarasota, North Port, Longboat Key and Venice)
- Provided age-friendly and livability language for inclusion in the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan

Optimistically Optimizing Opportunities

- Created Promising Practice Brief on Sarasota County's Voluntary Resolution for Builders on Universal Design and Visitability
- Conducted two forums on housing with national author *Creating Community as We Age*
- Contributed to Florida Studio Theatre's Plays and Panel on Aging

Relevant, Participatory, Actionable Research

- Conducted nine focus groups and surveyed all Sarasota County zip codes (1,172 residents)
- Attended Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan forums and aligned age-friendly goals and objectives with Sarasota County's chapter-specific survey reports

Asset & Aspirations-Centered

- Collaborated with AARP and Uber on ride-sharing forum

Livable Community Tenets

- Hosted national architect of the AARP Livability Index for public forum and conducted training with planners and neighborhood leaders throughout county and municipalities
- Collaborating with Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's plans on pedestrian/driver safety

Longevity & Well-Being Throughout the Life Course

- Aligned with the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County's goals
- Collaborating with Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Sarasota Memorial Health Care System on Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative

Accountable in Capturing Progress

- Reach: 3,693/ Meetings: 220/ Presentations: 160/ Facebook: 1,066/ Twitter followers:480
- Website visits: 27,500+/ Radio: 3/ TV: 9/ Newspaper: 25/ Magazine:5/ Blog Posts: 68/ Newsletters: 24

Grassroots Engagement Across the Community

- Aligned efforts with Neighborhood Association Challenge
- Liaise with Community Health Action Teams in Englewood, Laurel/Osprey/Venice/ Nokomis (LOVN), North Port and Newtown

Engaging ALL Generations

- Created Promising Practice Brief on Florida Studio Theatre's Documentary Theater to enhance dialogue among people of all ages

Sustainable...in that the Community Embraces Age-Friendly Efforts

- Created Age-Friendly Community Activities Section of the Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources/ Aligned Sarasota County Efforts across Departments

About Sarasota County

Sarasota County anchors the middle of Florida's western coast, approximately 60 miles south of Tampa Bay. It includes the cities of Sarasota, Venice and North Port and the Town of Longboat Key. The county is home to approximately 390,000 permanent residents and more than 476,000 during the winter months (Sarasota County, 2017). The community encompasses 725 square miles of land and is surrounded by 37 miles of open shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico. Endowed with inspiring natural beauty, an appealing climate and world-class arts and culture, this coastal paradise has superior schools, significant medical research and education facilities, high educational attainment and a regional workforce of more than 350,000.



A Community for ALL Ages



www.agefriendlysarasota.org

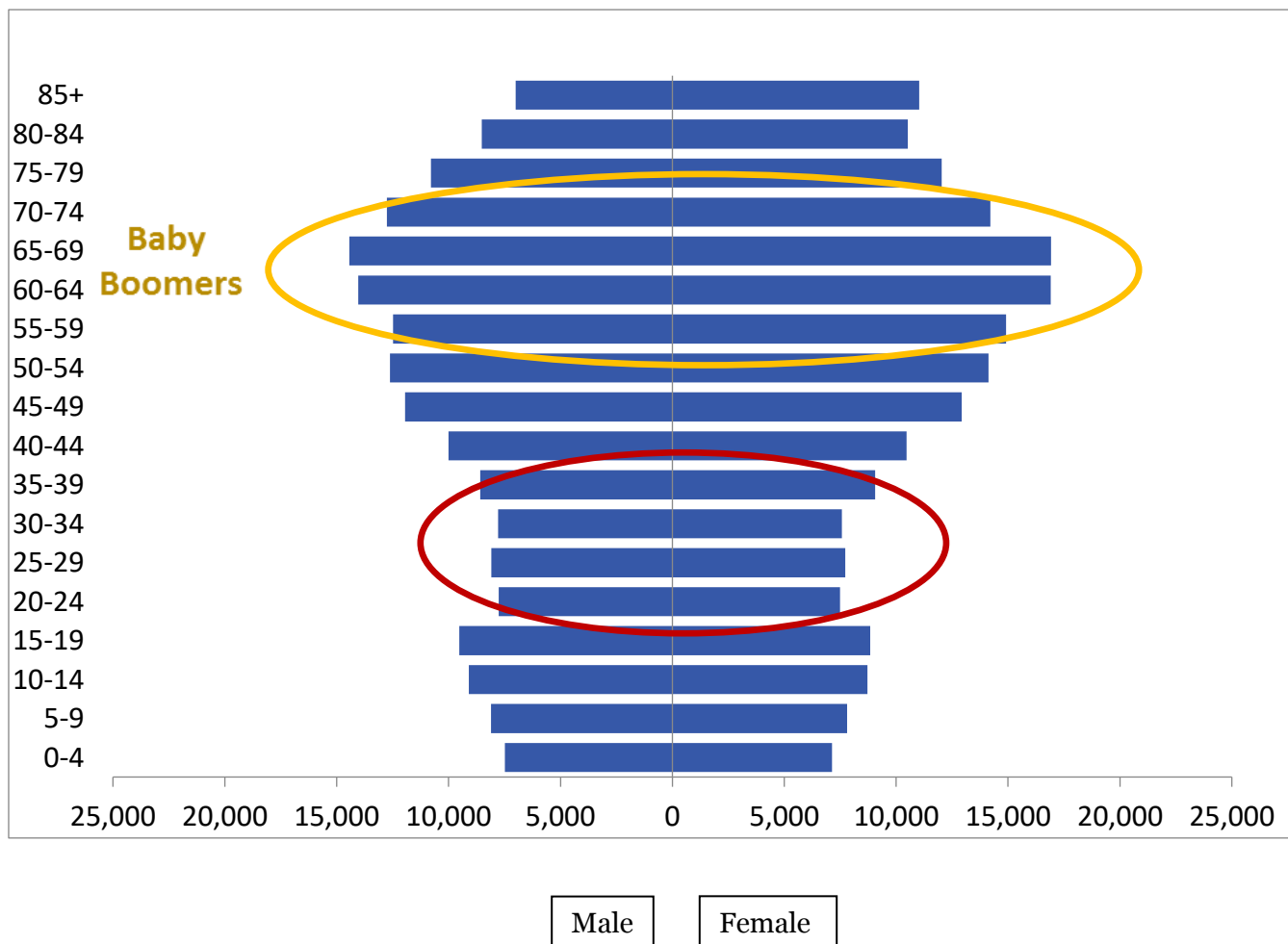




Sarasota County was established in 1921 and adopted a Home Rule Charter in 1971. Sarasota County is a full-service county typical of charter counties in Florida. The county operates typical infrastructure programs, transportation and facilities. A countywide transit operation, with interconnecting routes in a neighboring county, is also a county responsibility. A full range of community and human services is provided to residents — parks, recreation, human services, health-related services, planning, zoning, permitting and environmental resource management.

Sarasota County has received several notable recognitions including “America’s Best Beach” (Siesta Beach) by Dr. Beach, “Best Sports-Friendly Vacation Destination” by the Sports Events Media Group, and one of the top “Best Places to Retire” by Livability.com. Additionally, Sarasota County is Florida’s first WHO age-friendly community.

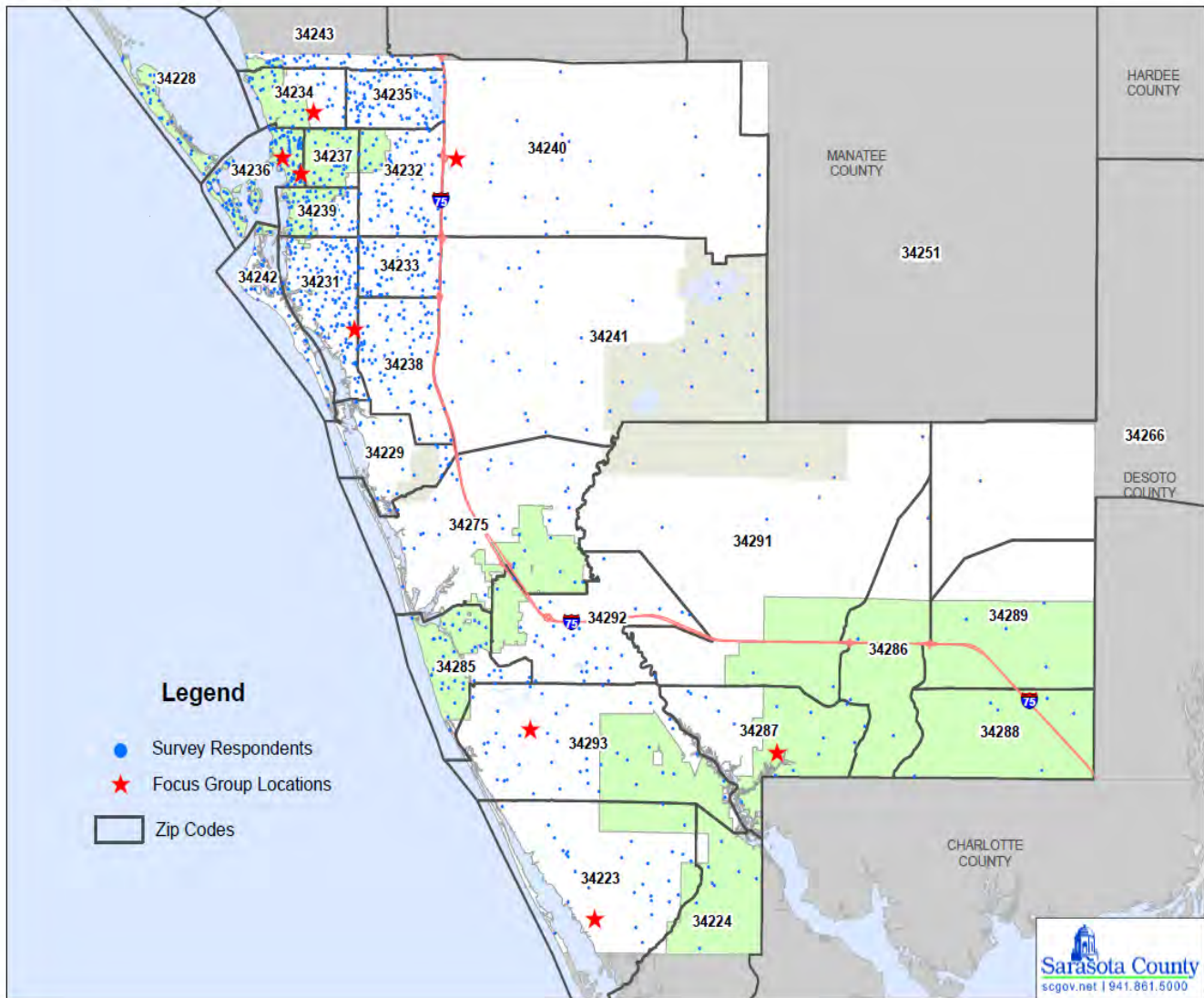
Demographically, Sarasota County is home to one of Florida’s largest proportions of older adults, with more than a third (34%) aged 65 and older (Florida Department of Elder Affairs, 2016). Among the older age groups, persons aged 80 and older represent 11% of all residents. Combined, Baby Boomers (persons born between 1946 and 1964) and non-Boomer Elders comprise more than half (54%) of Sarasota County’s population. Sarasota County’s demographics represent an “inverted” population pyramid due to a smaller proportion of younger generations as illustrated below:



Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR), Bulletin 169, June 2014 (2010 Sarasota County population); U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2012 1-year estimates (2012 U.S. population).

Community Report Summary

The Age-Friendly Sarasota Community Report was based on a comprehensive study that was undertaken to assess the assets and aspirations of Sarasota county residents aged 50-plus vis-à-vis the eight domains of community life (Black, 2016). Survey and focus groups were conducted with 1,172 Sarasota County residents aged 50 and older between May 6, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Findings were grouped by the following age cohorts: Boomers (aged 50-69 at the time of the survey), and Non-Boomer Elders (aged 70 and older). As noted in the following map, survey and focus group participants were representative of all zip codes throughout Sarasota County.



NOTE: Map created courtesy of Tamara Schells, GISP & Demographer, Sarasota County Planning and Development Services.

Among the survey findings, respondents reported the following about aging in their home and community:

- The majority of residents (more than nine out of ten) report that Sarasota County is a “good” to “excellent” place to age and that it is important to “age in their community.”
- The majority of residents (more than nine out of ten) report their neighborhood as “walkable” and that they have friendly relations with multiple neighbors.

- Most residents (more than half) report they are unlikely to move to a different home, though Boomers report greater intention to relocate compared to non-Boomer elders.
- A home to help live independently, a different-sized home to better meet needs, personal safety and health factors top the list of reasons impacting decisions to move according to residents, though variability exists between the age groups.

Among the community features most preferred by Sarasota County respondents:

- The top important features reported across six of the eight domains by more than nine out of ten of all residents included sidewalks in good condition; well-lit, safe streets and intersections; accurate and widely publicized information about social activities; respectful and helpful hospital and clinical staff; well-maintained hospitals and healthcare facilities; and easy-to-find information.
- The most important community features differed by age groups in two domains: **Housing** with Boomers reporting well maintained homes as more important compared to the availability of trustworthy contractors noted by non-Boomer elders, and **Civic Participation & Employment** with Boomers expressing greater importance on a range of volunteer activities compared to information about local volunteer opportunities cited by the non-Boomer elders.
- **Respect & Social Inclusion, Community Support & Health Services** and **Transportation** were identified as the most appreciated age-friendly community features according to all respondents.

Focus group data revealed the following thematic findings by domain:

Domain	Sarasota County residents report:
Outdoor Spaces & Buildings	many desirable outdoor spaces and appreciate the amenities of public areas as well; however, increased accessibility would better meet the desires of people with varying stages of abilities.

Housing	multiple supports and barriers to aging in place including personal, economic, and building/design concerns along with alternative living options.
Transportation	a wide variety of issues including the importance of and transitioning from driving, features that impact older drivers and pedestrians, alternative modes of transportation and more, as well as varied experiences and perspectives about the accessibility and reliability of public transportation across the county.
Civic Participation	a wide variety of civic participation opportunities along with a myriad of factors that both support and impede efforts to volunteer and engage in civic matters.
Employment	available employment opportunities along with impediments to working. Though many retired residents are not currently seeking employment, others express concerns about joining the workforce.
Social Participation	a wide variety of activities across an eclectic range of areas and interests, though efforts to support participation and accessibility are desired.
Respect & Social Inclusion	varied experiences pertaining to respectful interactions among persons, groups and sectors throughout the community.
Community Support & Health Services	varied experiences including both good medical services with some limitations and helpful supports that assist aging at home, though greater efforts to age in place would be beneficial.
Communication & Information	the importance of obtaining information on a range of interests via a variety of sources and mediums with many considerations to better communicate information.

Summary of Important Community Features by Domain

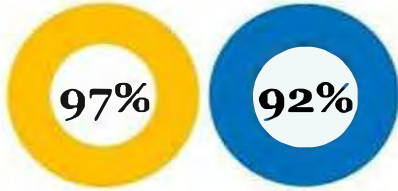
Top Important Item by Community Feature/ Domain

Built Environment/ Infrastructure

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings



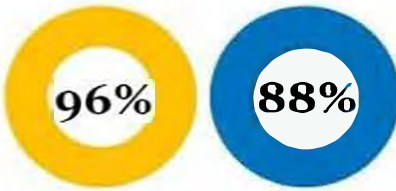
Sidewalks in good condition



Housing



Well-maintained homes and properties

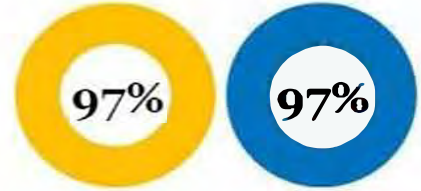


Trustworthy contractors

Transportation



Well-lit, safe streets and intersections



Social Environment/ Social Capital

Civic Participation/ Employment



A range of volunteer activities



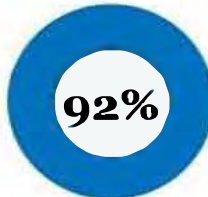
Information on available local volunteer opportunities



Social Participation



Accurate and widely publicized information about social activities



Respect & Social Inclusion



Respectful, helpful hospital and clinical staff



Community & Health Services/ Access

Community Support & Health Services



Well-maintained hospitals and healthcare facilities



Communication & Information



Easy-to-find information



Gap Analysis Summary

Sarasota County residents identified **Transportation**, **Communication & Information** and **Community Support & Health Services** as the top three gaps among community features. The “gap” rating was determined by comparing ratings of “Importance” vs. “Presence” of community features and the table indicates the percentage difference in ratings by age groups.

Top Overall Gaps	Boomers (ages 50–69; n = 638)	Non-Boomer Elders (ages 70+; n = 489)	Domain
Affordable homecare providers	-67%	-51%	Community Support & Health Services
Adequate transportation for evening travel needs	-65%	-55%	Transportation
Adequate transportation to entertainment events	-65%	-49%	Transportation
Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it	-62%	-52%	Civic Participation / Transportation
Clearly displayed printed community information with large lettering	-60%	-53%	Communication & Information
An automated community information source that is easy to understand like a toll-free telephone number	-59%	-59%	Communication & Information
Adequate transportation to obtain health care	-59%	-47%	Community Support & Health Services / Transportation
Well-maintained public restrooms that are accessible to people of different physical abilities	-57%	-50%	Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
Community information that is delivered in person to people who may not be able to leave their homes	-57%	-50%	Communication & Information
Access to community information in one central source	-56%	-49%	Communication & Information
Feeling your voice is heard in the community	-55%	-43%	Respect & Social Inclusion
Well-maintained and safe low-income housing	-54%	-34%	Housing

Livability Index Ratings

The Livability Index is a tool to “rate” communities on aspects of community life aligned with the WHO “domains of livability” (AARP, 2015). Baseline ratings of all zip-coded areas (including areas shared with surrounding counties) were conducted in 2015. More information

Zip-Code	Liv Index	Housing	Neighborhood	Transportation	Environment	Health	Engagement	Opportunity
34223	50	57	43	52	65	52	65	19
34229	51	40	41	57	57	55	71	22
34230	57	49	53	66	66	66	68	34
34231	56	52	51	62	64	65	71	28
34232	56	46	52	59	66	65	70	33
34233	55	48	48	56	70	65	72	27
34234	58	56	55	65	63	66	71	31
34235	56	49	48	59	69	65	70	28
34236	59	56	62	73	58	66	73	22
34237	59	56	57	67	64	66	68	35
34238	52	52	40	53	66	65	70	16
34239	57	49	53	66	66	66	68	34
34240	51	46	43	49	67	59	64	29
34241	51	39	40	45	68	65	69	31
34242	53	42	44	57	72	65	72	17
34272	50	49	41	50	61	58	70	21
34274	50	49	41	50	61	58	70	21
34275	50	49	41	50	61	58	70	21
34276	57	49	53	66	66	66	68	34
34277	57	49	53	66	66	66	68	34
34278	57	49	53	66	66	66	68	34
34284	51	51	42	57	65	55	67	22
34285	47	46	46	48	53	47	55	37
34286	53	46	52	66	57	52	66	30
34287	49	53	41	53	64	45	67	23
34288	50	44	30	45	67	52	68	42
34289	50	44	31	45	66	52	68	41
34290	49	53	41	53	64	45	67	23
34291	50	43	40	49	64	48	67	36
34292	50	53	38	47	68	58	71	15
34293	51	51	42	57	65	55	67	22
34295	48	54	40	47	55	54	58	26

about the index can be found at: <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>.

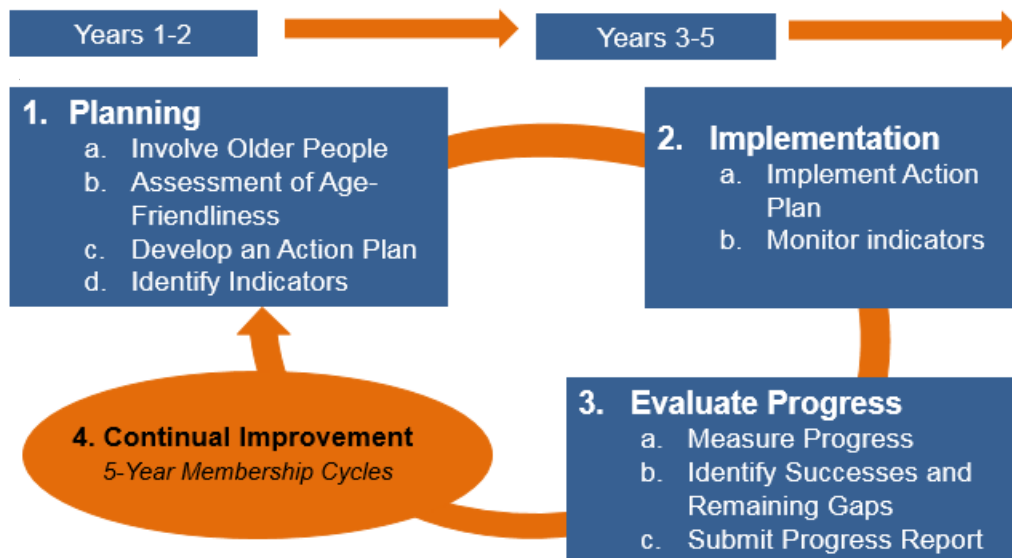
Action Plan Overview

This section describes how and why the Action Plan was developed, our overall vision statement, how to read the plan, and what to expect next from Age-Friendly Sarasota. It also presents a “Call to Action” for the entire Sarasota County community.

How & Why the Plan was Developed

The creation of an Age-Friendly Action Plan is a **requirement of joining the WHO/AARP Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**. The Action Plan is **created to identify age-friendly goals and objectives** based on the Planning Phase (May 2015 – May 2017) and aims to incorporate actions throughout Sarasota County that are currently underway or will be implemented in the subsequent Implementation Phase (June 2017 – May 2020). The Action Plan **represents a synthesis of research findings based on the input of nearly 1,200 Sarasota County residents aged 50-plus** who participated in either focus groups or survey research in 2015 and expressed their perspectives and preferences regarding important community features by domain. The findings were shared throughout the community via **123 local presentations and 160 meetings with stakeholders across all eight domains** – housing, transportation, outdoor spaces & buildings, civic participation & employment, social participation, respect & social inclusion, community support & health services, communication & information – and across the following five sectors: people, business, nonprofit, government and media.

Cycle of WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities©

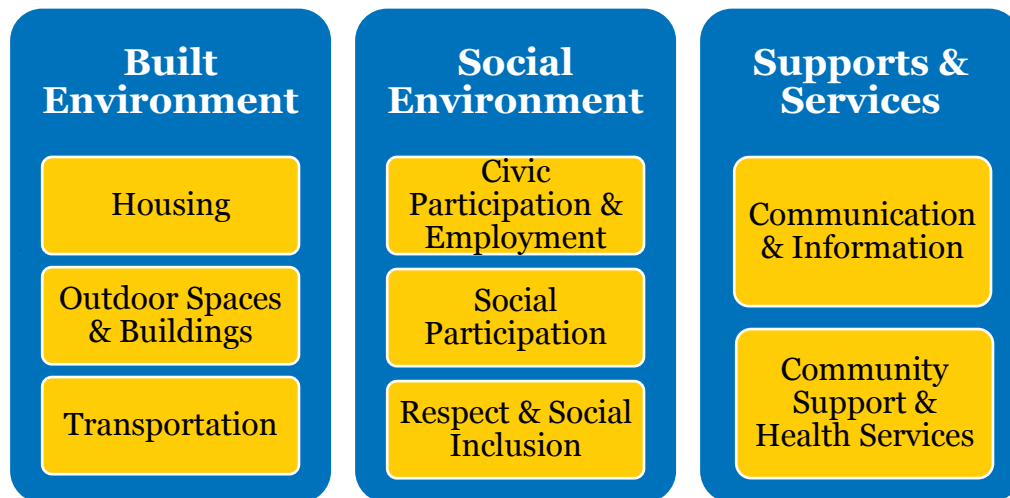


Vision Statement

Age-Friendly Sarasota seeks to advance supportive social and physical environments that promote active, healthy and engaged living for persons across all ages and abilities in order to foster social, civic, and economic participation throughout the life course. Age-Friendly Sarasota represents a multi-sector approach that connects people, business, nonprofit, government, and media to promote a lifelong community that bolsters intergenerational relationships and benefits people of all ages — a “Community for ALL Ages.”

How to Read the Action Plan

The Action Plan **presents the eight domains of livability according to the following clusters:** Built Environment, Social Environment and Supports & Services.



The double-sided domain pages are designed to succinctly identify relevant **background, importance** and age-friendly **goals, objectives** and **strategies**. On the reverse side, there is an overview of **multi-sector considerations** for action (i.e., people, business, nonprofits, government and media). Multi-sector involvement has been identified as a criterion of success for age-friendly communities (Grantmakers in Aging, 2013; Frameworks Institute, 2015). Among the multi-sector possibilities noted, attention to feasible “no-cost” and “low-cost” ideas were prioritized. The domain pages note sector considerations by the following symbols:



Call to Action

Sarasota County’s aging demographics are not new and, consequently, many age-friendly efforts have long been underway throughout the county. Therefore, enhancing and expanding practices represent the next step (2.0) of age-friendliness for such an “advanced” community. Specifically, several domains such as civic participation (we are already home to dozens of organizations with hundreds of – and in some cases more than 1,000 – volunteers aged Boomer and older) and social activities (the community is nearly replete with a wide range of opportunities). We should therefore **be poised to do more, continue to innovate** and leave the comfort of silos to **foster cross-sector collaboration** in our respective or intersecting domain areas. In addition, objectives and strategies aim to enhance a “**community for ALL ages**” with explicit attention to **promoting intergenerational relations and considerations** in all domains.

As individuals, we can advance an age-friendly community by **planning for our own personal longevity** and considering how we want to live, work (or volunteer) and play and by sharing what we've learned to help others in any circles in which we interact. We can also help by **incorporating simple acts of age-friendliness into our daily lives** (e.g., checking in on a neighbor). Every action counts!

People working in the government, business, nonprofit, and media sectors can consider their spheres of **influence on programs, policies and services to better meet the needs of people across all life stages and abilities**. Sustainable efforts can be achieved by **adapting an age-friendly lens and embedding age-friendly practices** throughout our community. Together we can reap the benefits in all areas of community life by better enabling people to thrive throughout their lives. We look forward to the possibilities that ensue!

Though extensive, the goals, objectives and strategies identified in this plan are neither static nor complete. That is, **age-friendly efforts are ongoing and co-created by all community stakeholders** – and that's all of us! Therefore, we look forward to your ongoing interest, ideas and actions that contribute to our collective age-friendly journey. Please contact us at info@agefriendlysarasota.org or 941-444-0243. Together, we are a "Community for ALL Ages."

What to Expect from Age-Friendly Sarasota 2017–2020

Age-Friendly Sarasota **seeks to amplify our age-friendly assets and aspirations by "Sharing" and by "Connecting" community stakeholders across all sectors to promising practices** across the globe via multiple avenues including forums, festivals, workshops and social media including websites, Facebook, Twitter and blogs. We look forward to our collective age-friendly journey!

Built Environment

Housing

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

Transportation



DOMAIN: HOUSING

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance accessible, affordable and supportive options to age in the right place.

BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE



Sarasota County residents report multiple supports and barriers to aging in place. For many of us, our current homes may be unable to meet our needs as we age. The availability of appropriate, affordable housing with a choice of styles and locations that incorporate adaptive or universal design features will be essential for many of us to continue living independently in our community. Many of us may also want to consider alternative living options such as shared and communal housing that are emerging throughout the country but are not yet widely




available in our community.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
1. Enhance awareness of and access to universal design features in new and existing housing stock	A. Increase awareness of universal design options B. Create new construction and retrofit older homes with universal design options
2. Enhance awareness of and access to safe, affordable and supportive living arrangements and options with emphasis on access to amenities and changing needs	A. Establish home repair contractors who are trustworthy, do quality work and are affordable B. Ensure well-maintained safe affordable housing options for adults of varying income levels* C. Create alternative living options including co-housing and other shared housing including intergenerational D. Increase information about livable communities and building locations vis-à-vis proximity and access to amenities E. Expand awareness of living options across the continuum of residential life and care

* Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES

	<p>Businesses can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - considering how their products and services can educate about and support universal design options and aging in place - developing home-based services with attention to changing needs and livability in and outside of the home across a range of consumer socio-economic profiles
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planning how they will personally manage in their own home - considering if they have an available room to share with older peers or younger generations - assisting others in discussing and creating living options that help their

	neighbors and friends age in the right place
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media to share information about universal design, aging in place and housing options - highlighting stories of success in innovative home arrangements
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - incentivizing builders and developers to create alternative and affordable housing vis-à-vis codes, zoning, permitting, etc. - promoting universally designed housing stock - considering ways to provide supports to augment community services that help residents age in place
	<p>Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - addressing needs and preferences on home-based clientele - considering allocation of funding of primary intervention (prevention) in addition to secondary intervention in response to needs - helping clientele plan for aging-in-place within continuum of care options - creating portal for home sharing and home assistance solutions - identifying potential for intergenerational housing opportunities or integrated pre-school/school-age interactions

DOMAIN: OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance accessibility to public spaces and buildings.

BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE


Sarasota County residents report many desirable outdoor spaces and appreciate the amenities of public areas as well; however, increased accessibility would better meet the desires of people with varying stages of abilities. We visit or encounter outdoor spaces and public buildings on a regular basis — things like parks, parking lots and shopping venues. When we experience these as safe and accessible, it encourages activities and involvement in community life. Accessibility involves removing barriers that limit opportunities for people with disabilities, including those of us who




have age-related impairments that could, for example, affect our walking and otherwise prevent us from participating in social activities or accessing organizations and businesses.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
1. Promote access to public parks, buildings and spaces for people of varying stages and abilities	<p>A. Improve physical accessibility of public buildings, parks and spaces (including streets, public transit, steps, walkways and doors)</p> <p>B. Generate adequate-sized public parking spaces for passenger access and assistive mobility needs</p> <p>C. Ensure public restrooms (especially unisex & family-sized)</p> <p>D. Create beach access for mobility impaired</p>
2. Promote senior-friendly park design and open space features (for all ages)	<p>A. Ensure the following features:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Control</u> – sense of orientation via layout and offerings 2. <u>Choice</u> – flexible space and activities 3. <u>Safety and Security</u> – attention to tripping hazards/ crime 4. <u>Accessibility</u> – from entrance to usage 5. <u>Social Support</u> – encourage interaction 6. <u>Physical Activity</u> – encourage low impact exercise 7. <u>Privacy</u> – design for tranquil spaces 8. <u>Contact with Nature</u> – use of natural elements 9. <u>Comfort</u> – visual and physical needs* 10. <u>Aesthetic and Sensory Delight</u> – includes multi-sensory stimulating landscape features

* Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES

	<p>Businesses and Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating barrier-free physical environments from point of access to building (e.g., entrances, waiting rooms) and throughout the customer/client experience (e.g., wheelchair accommodations) - providing well-maintained, adequately-sized and universally designed restrooms to meet comfort needs of people and their caregivers - providing assistance and resources that accommodate physical and sensory needs (e.g., visual and hearing assistance) - having adequate lighting at entrances and exits - having non-slip flooring throughout - having adequate parking spaces to accommodate persons using
---	--

	<p>mobility devices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting/providing areas for fitness and intergenerational activities for children, youth and all adult ages
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing helpful and courteous feedback to government, business and organizations to provide adequate accommodations that meet changing mobility and sensory needs (e.g., vision, hearing) - advocating for friends and neighbors who are experiencing limitations in outdoor activities due to environmental barriers
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media to share information about accessible physical and user-friendly environments - highlighting stories of no/low cost, helpful accommodations
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conducting age-friendly facility audit of public buildings and facilities - adopting age-friendly planning considerations for public venues, events and activities - incorporating senior-friendly design features in all outdoor spaces

DOMAIN: TRANSPORTATION

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance safe, accessible and affordable transportation and mobility options.

BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE

Sarasota County residents report a wide variety of issues pertaining to transportation and mobility including the importance of and transitioning from driving, features that impact older drivers and pedestrians, alternative modes of transportation and the importance of public transportation along with varied experiences and perspectives about the accessibility and reliability of Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) for all users and SCAT Plus service for disabled users. The condition and design of transportation-related infrastructure such as signage, traffic lights and sidewalks affects our personal mobility. Access to reliable, affordable public transit and other travel options may become increasingly important for many of us when driving becomes too stressful or challenging.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
<p>1. Promote safe multi-modal mobility (pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and non-motorized vehicles) for people of varying ages and abilities, financial means and circumstances</p>	<p>A. <u>Pedestrians</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure safe streets and intersections 2. Establish adequate and safe crossing time for pedestrians 3. Expand wayfaring signage <p>B. <u>Cyclists</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve safety of bike lanes and cyclists <p>C. <u>Aging Drivers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand easy-to-read traffic signs <p>D. <u>Other Mobility</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement alternative transportation options (e.g., golf carts) 2. Increase knowledge and affordability of mobility assists (e.g., scooters) <p>E. <u>Public Transportation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure safe, convenient public transportation stops or areas* 2. Increase transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults 3. Ensure affordable transportation 4. Improve public stops (e.g., appropriate seating, protection)

	<p>from sun and rain)</p> <p>5. Increase public transport/routes by geographic areas (e.g., Venice, Englewood, North Port)</p>
<p>2. Promote awareness of road user safety, changing abilities and transitioning from driving via prevention and intervention</p>	<p>A. Expand driver education/refresher courses</p> <p>B. Improve knowledge of changing and unsafe driving abilities for people, caregivers and providers</p> <p>C. Increase education about state laws and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) processes</p> <p>D. Develop planning supports for transition from driving</p> <p>E. Improve understanding about younger and older drivers</p>
<p>3. Promote awareness, planning and usage of innovative transportation options to meet travel needs and preferences</p>	<p>A. Improve transportation for evening and entertainment travel needs*</p> <p>B. Implement transportation for volunteering</p> <p>C. Utilize deliverable services to home</p> <p>D. Create ride-sharing options</p>

* Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES








A Community for ALL Ages



www.agefriendlysarasota.org



	<p>Businesses can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - considering bike-sharing services, particularly surrounding routes such as Legacy Trail, beaches and parks - collaborating with car dealerships, AAA, occupational therapists and AARP for CarFit Program events provided to the public or car dealership staff - identifying their role in educating public on usage, changing abilities with age, and relevant laws if interacting with persons pertaining to mobility (e.g., cars, driving, bicycling) - promoting equipment features that promote driver safety for persons with sensory (e.g., vision, hearing) and mobility issues
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offering a ride to someone needing to get to an appointment or activity - advocating for expanded public transportation services - engaging and organizing efforts for programs such as AmericaWalks.org and AARP Walkability Audit to assess neighborhood streets, intersections and sidewalks; driver behavior; signage; safety; comfort; and appeal - honestly appraising personal driving abilities and changes with aging including medication use that interfere with driving abilities - reflecting on their own attitudes towards older drivers and engaging in constructive dialogues to discuss issues pertaining to ageist beliefs and behaviors
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media to educate public on driving abilities, transportation options and benefits of walking and biking - facilitating conversations on aging and driving
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using FDOT Mobility Review Guide & Checklist to evaluate density and intensity, etc. - investigating and remedying street, sidewalk and intersection safety - educating public about Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) laws and processes - offering Safe Biking classes - considering creation of Protected Bike Lanes, Bicycle Boulevards/Greenways, Off-Road Bike Paths, Bicycle Parking and Bike Sharing - promoting awareness of Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Laws

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implementing pedestrian safety curriculum throughout school system - adapting site-appropriate sidewalk design considering high-use areas; connectivity to amenities where people live, work and play; adequate width; setback from drivers and driveways; and public maintenance - considering implementation of countdown and other accessible pedestrian signals that provide audible tones, verbal messages, vibrating surfaces and/or interactive opportunities to extend crossing time - considering the use of a streetcar system with level boarding and easy navigation for users with sensory (e.g., vision, hearing) or mobility limitations - considering the use of detectable warnings/ tactile bumps in the walkways that signal steps into the street - participating with citizens and transportation personnel to conduct walkability audits (AARP) or Vision Zero assessments - considering subsidized transportation assistance (e.g., taxi vouchers, arrangements with ride-sharing services) - aiming to create top trail location in state - promoting roundabout design and driver education on usage - considering improved density to better manage congestion and flow - considering expanded use of golf carts along with public education for safe usage
	<p>Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - engaging and organizing efforts for AmericaWalks.org - considering partnering with ride-sharing services like Uber, Lyft and See Jane Go for transportation to services and programs - considering transportation access to physical location of services - offering services via video streaming, outreach and home-based delivery and access options - collaborating with AAA, occupational therapists and AARP for CarFit Program events

Social Environment

Civic Participation & Employment

Social Participation

Respect & Social Inclusion



DOMAIN: CIVIC PARTICIPATION

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance opportunities to be civically engaged.


BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE

Sarasota County residents report a wide variety of civic participation opportunities along with a myriad of factors that both support and impede efforts to volunteer and engage in civic matters. Civic engagement includes our involvement in aspects of community life that extend beyond our day-to-day activities, such as volunteering, becoming politically active, voting or working on committees. For some, these have been lifelong involvements and, for others, our retirement years have created the time for us to become more involved.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
<p>1. Enhance availability of, awareness of, and access to meaningful volunteer and decision-making opportunities for people of varying capacities (physical and cognitive) and circumstances (e.g., home-bound, caregiving)</p>	<p>A. Improve centralized sources as “one stop” for information about volunteer and decision-making (e.g., board of directors) opportunities</p> <p>B. Embed opportunities for people to serve as “connectors” to initiate volunteer involvement (especially for newcomers, singles, recently retired, widowed, etc.)</p> <p>C. Streamline, simplify, and amend barriers to access and engage in meaningful volunteering</p> <p>D. Create transportation for volunteering if needed*</p>
<p>2. Enhance value of intergenerational volunteering</p>	<p>A. Increase awareness about intergenerational volunteering opportunities</p>

*Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES

	<p>Businesses can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - incentivizing employee volunteerism on the range of age-friendly domains and related causes including intergenerational and “micro-volunteering” activities - encouraging employees to be mentors/ share expertise across all ages - networking with community-based volunteer groups and others serving the community - contemplating “time banking” benefits for employees or customers
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working for causes that improve the quality of life for others of all ages - volunteering with organizations that align with personal values - using past skills or newfound interests to help other people or organizations - inviting others to join them in their volunteering efforts and providing transportation
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media to share information about the health benefits of volunteering - highlighting stories of both poignant and “ordinary” volunteering efforts that demonstrate the impact to all those involved
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - centralizing government-related volunteer and decision-making opportunities on a well-publicized and easily accessible list - recruiting residents for volunteering and decision-making opportunities
	<p>Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - centralizing volunteer opportunities in a well-publicized and easily accessible list - considering processes and removing barriers for volunteers such as providing transportation or remote access to participation - creating volunteer opportunities that focus on personally meaningful contributions rather than organizational needs and capacity-building - encouraging opportunities that intentionally engage across generations

DOMAIN: EMPLOYMENT

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance opportunities for economic engagement.

BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE

Sarasota County residents report employment opportunities along with impediments to working. Though many retired residents are not currently seeking employment, others express concerns about joining the workforce. Employment is particularly important for those with low and fixed incomes and others whose savings are not meeting their current needs. The ability to remain employed or find new employment not only provides economic security to the employee but also benefits employers who recognize the experience and commitment that older employees bring to the workplace.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
1. Enhance availability of, awareness of, and access to flexible and well-paying employment and job training opportunities for people of varying ages and abilities	<p>A. Increase flexible and well-paying job opportunities (especially for advanced skills)*</p> <p>B. Establish job training opportunities for new skills (especially technology), different fields of work and adaptations that foster continued employment</p> <p>C. Improve access to information about job opportunities</p>
2. Enhance value of aging and multigenerational workforce	<p>A. Expand awareness about value of older adult workforce</p> <p>B. Develop awareness about multigenerational workforce</p>

* Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES

	<p>Businesses and Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing flexible, well-paying employment opportunities - offering job training opportunities that meet changing needs (e.g., physical health/abilities, caregiving responsibilities) - recognizing range of beneficial older worker attributes - enhancing multigenerational workforce relations - providing necessary training and support for changing technology - creating opportunities for mentorship and knowledge transfer
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - informing friends and neighbors about work opportunities - supporting businesses and organizations that employ and value older workers
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media to share information about businesses that hire, train and value older workers - highlighting stories of businesses and organizations that demonstrate multigenerational relations and training - highlight innovative and entrepreneurial ideas to make money
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognizing and meeting unique needs of aging workforce in the areas of health, caregiving, etc. - providing sensitivity training to employees for improved understanding of, communication with, and accommodations for people who have health, cognitive, vision, hearing, mobility or other issues - incentivizing employees who demonstrate positive encounters with residents

DOMAIN: SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, foster engagement in social participation across a wide range of activities.





BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE

Sarasota County residents report a wide variety of activities across an eclectic range of areas and interests (i.e. fitness, recreational, lifelong learning, etc.) though efforts to support participation and accessibility are desired. We know that interacting with family and friends is an important part of positive mental health and, for many, the reason for living. Social participation involves both interacting with others and the extent to which our community makes such interaction possible. While many of us lead very active social lives, we want to be sure as a community to enhance social participation via a wide variety of activities for people of all abilities and financial circumstances.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
1. Enhance awareness of and access to leisure, recreational, cultural and educational opportunities inclusive of persons of varying ages, abilities and financial means	A. Improve accurate and widely publicized activities B. Ensure conveniently located and affordable activities* C. Increase activities specifically geared towards older adults, especially with focus on health promotion and well-being D. Embed opportunities for people to serve as “connectors” to introduce activities for single persons and newcomers E. Integrate accommodations to activities due to changing health status and caregiving responsibilities
2. Enhance inter-generational activities	A. Increase awareness of intergenerational activities

* Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES

	<p>Businesses and Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing well-publicized activities - offering affordable and conveniently located activities - considering “sliding scale” (based on ability to pay) or senior discounts - offering activities that promote health and well-being - providing “personal connectors” to welcome and orient new clientele/customers - providing activities with attention to changing abilities (e.g., physical, cognitive) - promoting intentional intergenerational activities
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inviting friends and family members to join in activities - considering neighborhood or small group “outreach” to single and widowed persons and to people new to an area or service - offering to provide transportation to activities
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media to share information about social activities - highlighting stories about activities that are associated with positive benefits
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - considering ways to introduce and connect residents to activities sponsored by government - providing and publicizing health promotion activities in relevant departments - offering/adapting activities that can be performed by people across a range of abilities (e.g., having a physical, cognitive, visual, auditory, or mobility limitation) - promote intentional intergenerational activities

DOMAIN: RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance awareness and respectful interactions to support full participation in community life.





BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE

Sarasota County residents report varied experiences pertaining to respectful interactions among persons, groups and sectors throughout the community. We know community attitudes that demonstrate respect of aging persons and recognize the important role that older adults play in society are critical factors for an age-friendly community. Age-friendly communities foster positive images of aging and intergenerational understanding to challenge negative attitudes. Because we live in a culture that has stigmatized aging, and we have all internalized these negative perceptions ourselves, we can all do better demonstrating respect and inclusion for all persons throughout our community.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
1. Promote awareness of positive aspects and contributions of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Improve awareness about value of older adult workforce /<i>E</i> B. Establish value of multigenerational workforce /<i>E</i> C. Increase intergenerational activities across settings /<i>SP & CP</i> D. Embed school-based intergenerational activities /<i>SP & CP</i> E. Expand awareness of positive aspects of aging
2. Promote awareness about changes in aging and protection against vulnerabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Expand attention on fraud prevention B. Embed respectful interactions with service staff throughout industries C. Establish home repair contractors who are trustworthy, do quality work and are affordable /<i>H</i> D. Adapt knowledge on aging to address cognitive impairment/ dementia and sensory (e.g., vision, hearing) and mobility changes /<i>CS&HS</i>
3. Promote full access to participation for people with varying stages of abilities and financial means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Increase opportunities to participate in local decision-making bodies /<i>CP</i> B. Create family restrooms in public settings /<i>OS&B</i> C. Ensure transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults /<i>T</i> D. Adapt physical access to public buildings and facilities / <i>OS&B</i> E. Expand senior discount offerings
4. Promote intergenerational interaction and dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Integrate input and feedback from aging residents about programs and services* B. Expand intergenerational activities /<i>SP & CP</i>

Strategy also noted in the following domains: E: Employment; SP: Social Participation; CP: Civic Participation; H: Housing; CS&HS: Community Support & Health Services; T: Transportation; OS&B: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES

	<p>Businesses and Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing sensitivity training to employees for improved understanding of, communication with, and accommodations for people who have health, cognitive, vision, hearing, mobility or other issues - providing greeters to offer functional assistance such as reaching items or reading menus - pricing services with attention to diverse socio-economic consumer profiles (e.g., using senior discounts or a sliding scale) - including range/diversity of “aging” in marketing - advertising/participating in media that targets older adults - offering products and services tailored to older adult profiles (e.g., creating smaller portions, providing larger print) - considering alternative shopping options such as shop by phone, online ordering and home delivery - inviting input/feedback from older consumers and clientele - improving access to and throughout buildings - having adequate, accessible bathroom facilities
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - checking on their neighbors and helping them in any way they can - inviting an aged neighbor to family events and promoting awareness of others among children.
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media to share information about no and low cost senior-friendly design features - highlighting success stories that show better ways to serve older clientele and the benefits that are relevant to all ages
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing sensitivity training to employees for improved understanding of, communication with, and accommodations for people who have health, cognitive, vision, hearing, mobility or other issues - considering ways to promote wayfinding assistance in physical structures and to promote user-friendly phones and websites - providing well-advertised decision-making opportunities - soliciting input and feedback on services, programs and policies

Supports & Services

Communication & Information

Community Support & Health Services



DOMAIN: COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance accessible, timely and pertinent information to support decision making for full participation in civic, social and economic life.





BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE

Sarasota County residents report the importance of obtaining information on a range of interests via a variety of sources and mediums with many considerations to better communicate information. Age-friendly communities make sure that information about community events or important services is both readily accessible and in formats that are appropriate for persons of all ages. Age-friendly communities recognize the diversity of needs regarding information and provide multiple sources to connect people with the information they need to best live their lives.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
1. Promote readability, ease of use and delivery of information across multiple media including television, print, phone, website and mobile applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Increase centralized access to community information B. Create automated community information sources that are easy to understand and clearly displayed with large lettering* C. Ensure community information that is delivered in person for homebound D. Incorporate feedback to ensure senior voice is heard
2. Promote availability of unbiased and relevant issues pertaining to aging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Create centralized access to information to partake in civic engagement, employment and social activities B. Increase information on resources specific to aging including legal and financial planning, housing options, health care, transitioning to retirement and end of life planning
3. Expand availability and use of affordable technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Create training to improve technology skills to access information and opportunities B. Establish free access to computers and Internet in public places such as libraries, senior centers or government buildings (Wi-Fi access) C. Increase intergenerational training opportunities

* Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES

	<p>Businesses and Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing hearing loop or sound amplification - increasing font size on printed material and zoom ability for e-based communication - providing reading assistance in personal interactions - training staff on age-related sensory (e.g., vision, hearing) changes and ways to effectively communicate in person and over the phone - automating information incorporating feedback from senior users - promoting and marketing materials via multiple formats and outreach strategies to reach diverse audiences including digital and home-based - centralizing information about civic and social participation opportunities on a well-publicized and easily accessible list - considering content particularly useful to aging persons including resources on planning across life changes and circumstances (e.g., retirement, caregiving) - promoting intentional intergenerational sharing/training on technology
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - welcoming newcomers with information about the community - providing free computer research on health, home renovation, and other issues of importance to home and community life - providing feedback to businesses and organizations on helpful communication
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media with larger-sized font - highlighting stories of successful communication with older adults
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing free access to Wi-Fi in relevant public settings - centralizing information about age-related issues and activities relevant to health promotion, social and civic engagements and employment on a well-publicized and easily accessible list

DOMAIN: COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH SERVICES

GOAL

Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance accessible and affordable health care, home care, services, supports and programs that enable wellness and active aging across changing needs including urgent, primary and long-term care and preventive, restorative and palliative levels of care.





BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE

Sarasota County residents report varied experiences including both good medical services (with some limitations) and helpful supports that assist aging at home, though greater efforts to age in place would be beneficial. Good mental and physical health contributes to quality of life and age-friendliness. We know access to community-related services that support physical or mental well-being and the availability of health promotion activities foster healthy aging and well-being throughout the lifespan. Our community-based health and social services should aim to meet our changing needs with age including caregiver support so that people can be supported throughout their lives to live as fully as possible.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
1. Promote awareness of safety, wellness, livability and healthy activities in the community and promote related accessibility (e.g., location, transportation)	A. Expand health screenings and activities B. Integrate preventive considerations in health and social services.
2. Promote care and capability specializing in aging issues	A. Increase health care specialized in aging and caregiver needs B. Expand awareness of cognitive issues/ dementia C. Improve dignified palliative and end of life care
3. Promote supports and innovative options to age in place	A. Embed resiliency for disaster planning B. Create affordable homecare providers* C. Expand home-delivered medications and groceries D. Increase faith-based and neighborhood-based systems of support E. Establish resources to help with falls at home (e.g., how to respond when helping yourself or others) F. Utilize technology that enhances aging in place G. Improve awareness of how to best manage homecare assistance

* Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

MULTI-SECTOR POSSIBILITIES

	<p>Businesses and Nonprofits can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - considering how their products and services can support health, wellness and livability - incentivizing health promotion offerings to employees - obtaining proficiencies in serving aging persons including providing sensitivity training to employees for improved understanding of, communication with, and accommodations for people who have health, cognitive, vision, hearing, mobility or other issues - promoting competent and dignified treatment across the continuum of life and care and throughout life transitions (e.g., retirement, caregiving, widowhood, end of life care) and circumstances (e.g., falls, disasters) - considering technology and innovative offerings in home-based services and outreach, delivery, etc. - demonstrating financial impacts of preventive services
	<p>Community members can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishing a neighborhood visitation program to run errands, do the shopping, etc. for home-bound neighbors - making meals for neighbors that can no longer cook - assisting friends in times of need (e.g., falls, health emergencies) - creating a “village model” comprised of neighborhood networks that enable people to feel safer and more socially connected
	<p>Media can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using communication assets and social media to share information about resources to prevent falls, how to help elderly neighbors in a disaster, and low cost and neighborhood-based ideas to support aging in community - highlighting stories of success in innovative home services and programs in the community and all sectors – business, nonprofits and government
	<p>Government can help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting organizations that provide services and supports to age in community - incentivizing neighborhoods that help residents age in their homes

References

- AARP. (2013). [Livable Communities Initiative](#).
- Black, K. (2016). [A Community for All Ages: Age-Friendly Sarasota Community Report](#). University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee.
- Black, K., & Hyer, K. (2016). [From Aging-in-Community to Age-Friendly Community: Translating Research into Practice](#). *The International Journal of Aging and Society*, 6(4).
- Bureau of Economic Business Research (BEBR), Bulletin 169, June 2014 (2010 Sarasota County population); U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2012 1-year estimates (2012 U.S. population).
- Florida Department of Elder Affairs. [2011 Florida County Profiles: Sarasota](#).
- Generations United. (2016). [Creating an Age-Advantaged Community: A Toolkit for Building Intergenerational Communities that Recognize, Engage and Support All Ages](#).
- Sarasota County. (2017). [About Sarasota County](#).
- World Health Organization. (2002). [Active Ageing: A Policy Framework](#).
- World Health Organization. (2007). [Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide](#).
- World Health Organization. (2013). [Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#).

Acknowledgments

The Action Plan was made possible by the contributions of many persons, groups and organizations. Foremost, the Age-Friendly Sarasota initiative was made possible by the generous support of The Patterson Foundation (TPF), with a very special thanks specifically to the entire TPF team including Debra Jacobs, President and CEO; consultants Bob Carter, Liz Bumpus, Vicky Vega, Linda Gould, Erika Kelly, Erica Barret and Rudy Bruback; team members Josephine Eisenberg, Stacy Sternberg, Nancy Henry, and Carol Lipp; and strategic communications partner MagnifyGood, including Roxanne Joffe, CEO, and Branan Jacobs, Communications Director.

A special thanks also to the partners who provided input on the Action Plan including Dr. Kathy Hyer, Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging Director; Laura Cantwell, Associate State Director of Advocacy & Outreach, and William Clark, Associate State Director, AARP Florida; and Cory Livingston, Communities for a Lifetime Director, Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

A very special thanks is also in order to Sarasota County Government partners including Chuck Henry, Health Officer, Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County; County Administrator Tom Harmer and Assistant Administrators Jonathan Evans, Steve Botelho and Mark Cunningham; and Department Management: Allen Parsons (Planning Services); Carolyn Brown (Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources); Sarabeth Kalajian (Libraries and Historical Resources); Paula Wiggins and Patrick Lui (Transportation); Sarah Blanchard (SCAT); Jane Grogg (Neighborhood Services); Donn Patchen (Communications); Lee Hayes Byron (Sustainability); and Jeff Maultsby (Economic Development).

We appreciate the age-friendly alignment with municipal officials including Tom Barwin and Marlon Brown (City of Sarasota), Ed Lavalley (Venice), Jonathan Lewis (North Port) and Dave Bullock (Longboat Key).

Finally, and most importantly, this report could not have been made possible without the contribution of Sarasota County residents aged 50 and older who participated in the former research/planning phase and all the people, groups, businesses and organizations that provided input for the plan's development efforts including the following:

- American Red Cross of Southwest Florida
- Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida
- CareerSource Suncoast
- Community Alliance of Sarasota County
- Community Alliance of Sarasota County's Stakeholders in Aging Consortium
- Cornerstone LifeCare
- Downtown Sarasota Condominium Association
- FCCI Insurance Group

- Florida Department of Children & Families in Sarasota County’s Adult Protective Services
- Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County’s Community Health Action Teams – Englewood, Laurel/Osprey/Venice/Nokomis (LOVN), Newtown, and North Port
- Florida Studio Theatre
- Friendship Centers
- Habitat for Humanity Sarasota
- Herald-Tribune Media Group
- iTNSunCoast
- Jewish Children and Family Services of the Suncoast
- Living in Community Network
- Lutheran Services Florida
- Nathan Benderson Park’s World Rowing Committee
- Pines of Sarasota
- Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy
- Sarasota Bradenton International Airport
- Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence (SCOPE)
- Sarasota County Schools
- Sarasota County Seniors Advisory Council
- Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Sarasota-Manatee Originals
- Sarasota Memorial Health Care System
- Sarasota YMCA
- Senior Housing Consortium – Aviva, Pines of Sarasota, Plymouth Harbor, Sarasota Bay Club, Sunnyside Village, The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, and Village on the Isle
- Seniors Blue Book
- Sun Coast Alliance for Lifelong Learning
- The Fuller Center for Housing
- The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee
- Tidewell Hospice
- United Way Suncoast
- United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, Inc.
- Universal Design Coalition
- University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Student Housing
- Venice Area Chamber of Commerce
- Visit Sarasota County
- Women’s Resource Center

Appendices: Implementation of Action Plan by Domain

Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Planned Actions, Participating & Potential Partners and Metrics

Housing.....54

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings56

Transportation59

Civic Participation & Employment.....63

Social Participation.....66

Respect & Social Inclusion68

Communication & Information71

Community Support & Health Services73



A Community for ALL Ages



www.agefriendlysarasota.org



Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan: Housing

Goal: Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance accessible, affordable and supportive options to age in the right place.

Objectives	Strategies	Actions/ Participating Partners 2017–2020	Metrics
1. Enhance awareness of and access to universal design features in new and existing housing stock	A. Increase awareness of universal design options B. Create new construction and retrofit older homes with universal design options	<p><u>Sarasota County Government/ Extension</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of Voluntary Resolution for Builders for Universal Design and Visitability Certification - Conduct Universal Design trainings - Approve Universal Design certification - Create Universal Design Award Recognitions <p><u>Universal Design Coalition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create demonstration home for showcasing and educating about universal design <p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AARP Home Fit Guide Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of policy - Number of trainings - Number of certifications - Number of recognitions - Establishment of demonstration home - Number of persons trained on universal design features - Number of persons receiving information - Number of persons implementing home fit changes

<p>2.Enhance awareness of and access to safe, affordable, and supportive living arrangements and options with emphasis on access to amenities and changing needs</p>	<p>A. Establish home repair contractors who are trustworthy, do quality work and are affordable</p> <p>B. Ensure well-maintained, safe, affordable housing options for adults of varying income levels*</p> <p>C. Increase alternative living options including co-housing and other shared housing including intergenerational housing</p> <p>D. Promote information about livable communities and building locations vis-à-vis proximity and access to amenities</p> <p>E. Expand awareness of living options across the continuum of residential life and care</p>	<p><u>TBD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create vetted home repair contractors <p><u>Sarasota County Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate community efforts & identify creative solutions for housing affordability <p>University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create co-living arrangements between student and assisted living facilities <p><u>Living in Community Network</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create shared housing matches <p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AARP Livability Index information - Information on Aging in the Right Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of vetted repair providers - Establishment of creative affordable housing options - Number of low income housing units for seniors - Number of students residing in assisted living - Number of alternative living units (e.g., co-housing, shared housing) - Pre-post of Livability Index by Sarasota County zip code - Number of persons receiving Aging in the Right Place information
--	---	--	--

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community.** *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include Habitat for Humanity, Realtors, Assisted Living Facilities, Builders, Contractors, Home Stores, Aging Service Providers, AARP Volunteers, The Fuller Center for Housing, Aviva, Pines of Sarasota, Plymouth Harbor, Sarasota Bay Club, Sunnyside Village, The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, and Village on the Isle.]

Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

Goal: Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance accessibility to public spaces and buildings.

Objectives	Strategies	Actions/ Participating Partners 2017–2020	Metrics
1. Promote access to public parks, buildings and spaces for people of varying stages and abilities	A. Improve physical accessibility of public buildings, parks and spaces (including streets, public transit, steps, walkways and doors)	<p>Sarasota County Government/ Board of County Commissioners</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect Legacy Trail county-wide <p>Sarasota County Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources; Sarasota County Schools</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create interlocal agreement for open space with Sarasota County schools <p>University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Age-Friendly Event Planning Tool - Deploy and evaluate Age-Friendly Audit of Public Buildings Tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of the Legacy Trail connection - Number of schools participating in interlocal agreement - Number of Age-Friendly Event forms distributed/utilized - Number of facilities audited - Number of new parking spaces - Number of public bathrooms created - Availability of mobimat at beachfronts
	B. Generate adequate-sized public parking spaces for passenger access and assistive mobility needs	<p>TBD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create ample sized parking 	
	C. Ensure public restrooms (especially unisex & family-sized)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide restrooms to accommodate persons with disability/ caregivers <p>Sarasota County Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources</p> <hr/>	
	D. Create beach access for mobility impaired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide mobility mat for beach access to all beach venues 	

<p>2.Promote senior-friendly park design and open space features (for all ages)</p>	<p>A. Ensure the following features:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Control</u> – sense of orientation via layout and offerings (e.g., legible wayfinding from access and throughout, identifying challenges to mobility) 2. <u>Choice</u> – flexible space and activities (e.g., varied vistas and seated options, classes across levels of abilities) 3. <u>Safety and Security</u> – attention to tripping hazards and crime (e.g., well-lit and emergency access, complete sidewalks) 4. <u>Accessibility</u> – from entrance to usage (e.g., sidewalks, adequate parking, proximity to transit) 5. <u>Social Support</u> – encourage interaction (e.g., conversational seating and props, venues to socialize, intergenerational interactions) 6. <u>Physical Activity</u> – encourage low impact exercise (e.g., walking paths, yoga, exercise equipment and classes) 7. <u>Privacy</u> – design for tranquil spaces (e.g., sub-areas, buffer planting) 8. <u>Contact with Nature</u> – use natural elements (e.g., greenery, flowers, wildlife, water elements, gardening) 9. <u>Comfort</u>* – visual and physical needs (e.g., adequate seating, shade, adequate and spacious restrooms, water stations) 10. <u>Aesthetic and Sensory Delight</u> – includes multi-sensory 	<p>Sarasota County Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage/ mileage marking from point “A” to “B” - Little Free Libraries - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) – keep open sight lines between gathering spots and parking spots, no hiding places - Paved trails within parks; bike sharing paths; kayak launches; accessible ramps and restrooms; Mobi-Mat - Outdoor exercise equipment; exercise classes – aerobics, Jazzercise, Tai chi, Zumba, dancing, pickleball, walking programs, softball, water exercise, yoga on the beach; Friends of Sarasota County Parks volunteer opportunities - Community Gardens; Beach University <p>Friends of Sarasota County Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct “Shade is a priority” campaign <p>Florida Department of Health in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of parks with signage - Number of free libraries - Crime rates at parks - Number of paved trails and ramps - Number of activity programs/ attendance - Number of gardens - Number of shade structures
---	---	---	--

	stimulating landscape features (e.g., use of art or water)	<p>Sarasota County</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pathways to Health walking paths <p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share and Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on Age-Friendly Park Features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of walking paths - Number of educational sessions
--	---	--	---

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community**. *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include Architects, Builders, Urban Planners, Business Owners, Neighborhood Associations, Green and Sustainability Leaders, AARP Volunteers, Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, and Visit Sarasota County.]

Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan: Transportation

Goal: Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance safe, accessible and affordable transportation and mobility options.

Objectives	Strategies	Actions/ Participating Partners 2017–2020	Metrics
-------------------	-------------------	--	----------------

<p>1. Promote safe multi-modal mobility (pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and non-motorized vehicles) for people of varying ages and abilities, financial means and circumstances</p>	<p>A. <u>Pedestrians</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure safe streets and intersections 2. Establish adequate and safe crossing time for pedestrians 3. Expand wayfaring signage <p>B. <u>Cyclists</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve safety of bike lanes and cyclists <p>C. <u>Aging Drivers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand easy-to-read traffic signs <p>D. <u>Other Mobility</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement alternative transportation options (e.g., golf carts) 2. Increase knowledge and affordability of mobility assists (e.g., scooters) <p>E. <u>Public Transportation:</u></p>	<p>Sarasota County Government/ Comprehensive Plan</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compliant with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Complete Streets Policy <p>Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote bicycle safety via educational outreach events, LED clips and bike fix stations <p>Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alignment with Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and - Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Master Plan - Conduct Road Safety Audits for top ten locations of pedestrian injury/fatalities <p>Age-Friendly Sarasota</p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AARP Walkability Audit information <p>Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cameras in buses for user safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of policy - Number of policies identified, developed and promoted that address aging road users - Number of bicycle safety educational outreach events, LED clips and bike fix stations - Compliance with LRTP and Trails Master Plan - Number of Road Safety Audits completed - Reduction of pedestrian injuries - Pre-post Connectivity Ratings - Number of walkability audits conducted - Number of free shuttles in Downtown Sarasota - Number of water shuttle services/ Ferry travelers at Bayfront
---	--	---	---

	<p>1.Ensure safe, convenient public transportation stops or areas*</p> <p>2.Increase transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults</p> <p>3.Ensure affordable transportation</p> <p>4. Improve public stops (e.g., appropriate seating, protection from sun and rain)</p> <p>5.Increase public transport/routes by geographic areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides travel training to all users - Website utilizes increased font size for older patrons - Utilize Google Trip Planner via SEECLICKFIX on Sarasota County website - Free transportation for persons aged 80 and older - Bus shelters placed at 30 locations in 2016, 16–18 to be added in 2017 (~236 total locations) - ~ 65 buses have wheelchair ramp accessibility; will obtain two more 2017 - New planned routes in Englewood and Venice based on community input and study <p><u>SCAT Plus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct Passenger Satisfaction Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of users trained - Number of riders aged 80+ - Number of bus shelters added - Number of wheelchair ramps added - Number of new routes added - Pre-post transit ranking index - Pre-post bike/walk scores - Number of responses
--	---	---	--

<p>2. Promote awareness of road user safety, changing abilities and transitioning from driving via prevention and intervention</p>	<p>A. Expand driver education/refresher courses</p> <p>B. Improve knowledge of changing and unsafe driving abilities for people, caregivers and providers</p> <p>C. Increase education about state laws and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) processes</p> <p>D. Develop planning for transition from driving</p> <p>E. Improve understanding about younger and older drivers</p>	<p><u>Safe Mobility for Life Coalition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote Car Fit Program events - Promote Find-a-Ride Database via Florida's Safe Mobility for Life Coalition - Promote "Transit is Golden" safety event with Florida's Safe Mobility for Life Coalition <p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on transportation options - Dialogue on aging, ageism and driving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of drivers aged 65+ registered - Reduction in car accidents among 65+ - Number of CarFit Program events conducted - Number of agencies participating in events - Number of calls/rides via Find-a-Ride database for Sarasota County - Number attending "Transit is Golden" event - Number of Silver Alerts issued - Number of referrals to Medical Advisory Board - Number of licenses revoked by Medical Board - Number of participants in Driver Safety Course - Number of law enforcement officers reached - Number of educational sessions on driving and issues conducted
--	---	---	--

<p>3. Promote awareness, planning and usage of innovative transportation options to meet travel needs and preferences</p>	<p>A. Improve transportation for evening and entertainment travel needs*</p> <p>B. Implement transportation for volunteering</p> <p>C. Utilize deliverable services</p> <p>D. Create ride-sharing options</p>	<p><u>iTNSuncoast (Independent Transportation Network)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase outreach and travel for evening/entertainment - Increase volunteer drivers <p><u>TBD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of home delivered services - Presence of Uber and Lyft in community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of rides and contracted sites - Number of volunteer drivers - Number of home delivered services added - Number of Lyft contracts for rides to providers
---	---	---	---

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community**. *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include Florida Department of Transportation, AAA, Occupational Therapists, Neighborhood Associations, Aging Service Providers, AARP Volunteers, Uber, and Lyft.]

Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan: Civic Participation

Goal: Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance opportunities to be civically engaged.

Objectives	Strategies	Actions/ Participating Partners 2017–2020	Metrics
-------------------	-------------------	--	----------------

<p>1. Enhance availability of, awareness of, and access to meaningful volunteer and decision-making opportunities for people of varying capacities (physical and cognitive) and circumstances (e.g., home-bound, caregiving)</p>	<p>A. Improve centralized sources as “one stop” for information about volunteer and decision-making (e.g., board of directors) opportunities</p> <p>B. Embed opportunities for people to serve as “connectors” to initiate volunteer involvement (especially for newcomers, singles, recently retired, widowed, etc.)</p> <p>C. Streamline, simplify and amend barriers to access and engage in meaningful volunteering</p> <p>D. Create transportation for volunteering if needed*</p>	<p><u>Sarasota County Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote visits/volunteers to Welcome Center - Increase participation in Civics 101 - Outreach regarding Citizen Advisory Councils - Increase volunteers via Volunteer Sarasota County <p><u>Friends of Sarasota County Parks; Friends of Sarasota County Libraries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Links to volunteering opportunities <p><u>University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Intergenerational Civic Participation research agenda between universities & communities <p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on civic participation options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of visitors /volunteers at Welcome Center - Number of “Civics 101” graduates - Number of persons participating in Councils - Number of volunteers via Sarasota County departments - Number of volunteer connections - Creation of Intergenerational Research agenda and community projects - Number of educational sessions
--	---	--	--



2. Enhance value of intergenerational volunteering	A. Increase awareness about intergenerational volunteering opportunities	<u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u> Share & Connect: - Information on intergenerational opportunities	- Number of educational sessions
--	--	--	----------------------------------

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community**. *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include Aging Service Providers, Schools, Arts Community, Volunteer Organizations, AARP Volunteers, and Experience Corps.]

Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan: Employment

Goal: Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance opportunities for economic engagement.

Objectives	Strategies	Actions/ Participating Partners 2017–2020	Metrics
1. Enhance availability of, awareness of, and access to flexible and well-paying employment and job training opportunities for people of varying ages and abilities	<p>A. Increase flexible and well-paying job opportunities (especially for advanced skills)*</p> <p>B. Establish job training opportunities for new skills (especially technology), different fields of work and adaptations that foster continued employment</p> <p>C. Improve access to information about job opportunities</p>	<p><u>Sarasota County Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase job placements via Sarasota County Government Careers <p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on older worker & employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of persons employed age 50 and older - Number of educational sessions
2. Enhance value of aging and multi-generational workforce	<p>A. Expand awareness about value of older adult workforce</p> <p>B. Develop awareness about multigenerational workforce</p>	<p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on multigenerational workforce issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of educational sessions

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community**. *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include MyStartupSuncoast.com, Chambers of Commerce within Sarasota County, Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County, Sarasota-Manatee Human Resources Association, SCORE Volunteers, AARP Volunteers, Encore Tampa Bay, CareerSource Suncoast, and FCCI Insurance Group.]

2. Enhance intergenerational activities	A. Increase awareness of intergenerational activities	<u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u> Share & Connect: - Information on intergenerational social opportunities	- Number of educational sessions
---	---	---	----------------------------------

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community**. *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include YMCA, Aging Service Providers, Arts Community, Ringling College Life Long Learning Academy, Health Care Providers, and AARP Volunteers.]

<p>2. Promote awareness about changes in aging and protection against vulnerabilities</p>	<p>A. Expand attention to fraud prevention</p> <p>B. Embed respectful interactions with service staff throughout industries</p> <p>C. Establish home repair contractors who are trustworthy, do quality work and are affordable / H</p> <p>D. Adapt awareness and knowledge of aging to address cognitive impairment/ dementia and sensory and mobility changes/ CS&HS</p>	<p><u>Sarasota County Sheriff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seniors and Law Enforcement Together activities (SALT) <hr/> <p>University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of seniors served by SALT - Number of sites and personnel trained
---	--	--	---

<p>3. Promote full access to participation for people with varying stages of abilities and financial means</p>	<p>A. Increase opportunities to participate in local decision-making bodies / CP</p> <p>B. Create family restrooms in public settings / OS&B</p> <p>C. Ensure transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults / T</p> <p>D. Adapt physical access to public buildings and facilities / OS&B</p> <p>E. Expand senior discount offerings</p>	<p>University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement & evaluate Age-Friendly Business Certification program via College of Business - Obtain Age-Friendly University designation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of program - Number of participating businesses - Creation of age-friendly university designation
<p>4. Promote intergenerational interaction and dialogue</p>	<p>A. Integrate input and feedback from aging residents about programs and services*</p> <p>B. Expand intergenerational activities</p>	<p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on intergenerational activities - Age-Friendly Festival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of educational sessions

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community**. Strategies noted in the following domains: E: Employment; SP: Social Participation; CP: Civic Participation; H: Housing; CS&HS: Community Support & Health Services; T: Transportation; OS&B: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings. *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include Educational Institutions, Elder Law Attorneys, Banks, Arts Community, Guardianship Services, Adult Protective Services, Businesses, AARP Volunteers, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, and Sarasota Originals.]



Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan: Communication & Information

Goal: Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance accessible, timely and pertinent information to support decision-making for full participation in civic, social and economic life.

Objectives	Strategies	Actions/ Participating Partners 2017–2020	Metrics
1. Promote readability, ease of use and delivery of information across multiple media including television, print, phone, website and mobile applications	A. Increase centralized access to community information B. Create automated community information sources that are easy to understand and clearly displayed with large lettering* C. Ensure community information that is delivered in person for homebound D. Incorporate feedback to ensure senior voice is heard	<u>Sarasota County Government</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update Website - Create mobile applications for information & navigation - Utilize social media to inform citizens - Increase Sarasota Access Television programs - Conduct Annual Citizen Survey to assess importance of community features/county services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of website updates - Completion of mobile applications - Number of Facebook Likes and Twitter followers - Number of Access TV productions - Ratings of citizen-identified important community features/county services

3. Expand availability and use of affordable technology	<p>A. Create training to improve technology skills to access information and opportunities</p> <p>B. Establish free access to computers and Internet in public places such as libraries, senior centers and government buildings (Wi-Fi access)</p> <p>C. Increase intergenerational training opportunities</p>	<p><u>Age-Friendly Sarasota</u></p> <p>Share & Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on technology and Boomers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of technology and aging trainings - Number of “intergenerational” technology and aging trainings
---	---	--	--

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community**. *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include Schools, Colleges and Universities, Life Long Learning Programs, Seniors Blue Book, Cornerstone LifeCare, AARP Volunteers, Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, United Way Suncoast, United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, and Women’s Resource Center]

Age-Friendly Sarasota Action Plan: Community Support & Health Services

Goal: Inclusive of persons at all life stages and abilities, enhance accessible and affordable health care, home care, services, supports and programs that enable wellness and active aging across changing needs including urgent, primary and long-term care and preventive, restorative and palliative levels of care.

Objectives	Strategies	Actions/ Participating Partners 2017–2020	Metrics
------------	------------	--	---------

<p>1. Promote awareness of safety, wellness, livability and healthy activities in the community and promote related accessibility (e.g., location, transportation)</p>	<p>A. Expand health screenings and activities</p> <p>B. Integrate preventive considerations in health and social services</p>	<p>Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County (DOH)</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify fitness activities and preventive health and wellness programs specifically geared to older adults - Priority objectives: healthcare access, healthy weight, behavioral health and substance abuse - Revamping Pathways to Health <p>Sarasota County Neighborhood Services</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentivize neighborhoods to work together to be sustainable and healthy <p>Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County's Community Health Action Teams (CHAT)</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of community-based efforts to enhance health <p>Sarasota County Human Services Advisory Committee</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify funded programs that support health across continuum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of health promotion activities - Align with DOH outcomes - Number of Walking Paths - Number of Neighborhoods participating in Challenge - Number of Neighborhood Awards - Number and types of programs that promote healthy, restorative and palliative support and services
--	---	--	--

<p>2. Promote care and capability specializing in aging issues</p>	<p>A. Increase health care specialized in aging and caregiver needs</p> <p>B. Expand awareness of cognitive issues/dementia</p> <p>C. Improve dignified palliative and end of life care</p>	<p>University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain Age-Friendly Health Care System designation to provide evidenced-based best practices for persons in acute care settings - Collaborate with Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Sarasota Memorial Health Care System on Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative <p>Jewish Children & Family Services of the Suncoast</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase caregiver support programming & outreach <p>Friendship Centers</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase caregiver support programming & outreach <p><u>TBD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote Hospice and Palliative Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of hospitals adopting designation - Number of persons/organizations trained - Number of caregivers participating in programs - Number of caregivers participating in programs - Number of persons receiving Hospice and Palliative Care
--	---	---	--

<p>3. Promote supports and innovative options to age in place</p>	<p>A. Embed resiliency for disaster planning</p> <p>B. Create affordable homecare providers*</p> <p>C. Expand home-delivered medications and groceries</p> <p>D. Increase faith-based and neighborhood-based systems of support</p> <p>E. Establish resources to help with falls at home (e.g., how to respond when helping yourself or others)</p> <p>F. Promote technology that enhances aging in place</p> <p>G. Promote awareness of how to best manage homecare assistance</p>	<p>Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elder Preparedness in neighborhoods <p><u>TBD</u></p> <p>Friendship Centers/ Pines of Sarasota</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of Falls Prevention Programming <p><u>TBD</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of neighborhood leaders participating - Number of providers offering sliding-fee home care - Number of organizations providing home-delivered medications and groceries - Number of faith-based programs supporting adults at home - Number of falls prevention programs - Reduction in number of falls
---	---	---	---

NOTE: Sectors noted as follows: **Government/ Business/ Nonprofits/ Community.** *Identified as greatest gap by Sarasota County residents aged 50-98.

[In addition to participating partners above, **Potential Partners** include Sarasota Memorial Health Care System, Doctor's Hospital, Venice Regional Bayfront Health, Tidewell Hospice, Home Health Care Agencies, AARP Volunteers, American Red Cross, Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, and Downtown Sarasota Condominium Association]