

Hwaseong Special City has conducted a comprehensive age-friendly baseline assessment of our community.

- Assessment Period: April 2025 – August 2025

- Assessment Title: "Hwaseong Special City Age-Friendly City Master Plan Research Project"
 - Conducting Organization: Hwaseong Social Welfare Foundation Policy Research Department (commissioned by Hwaseong Special City Middle-Aged and Senior Welfare Division)

- Assessment Methodology : Our baseline assessment employed a multi-method approach aligned with WHO's Age-Friendly Cities Framework, incorporating:

1. Quantitative Survey Research

- Large-scale survey of older residents (65+ years) examining living conditions, health status, economic situation, family relationships, and welfare service utilization
- Survey of middle-aged residents (40-64 years) to understand pre-aging population needs and future service demands
- Analysis of single-person elderly households to address social isolation and loneliness prevention

2. Stakeholder Consultation Process

- Focus group discussions with older adults across urban and rural areas
- Interviews with senior welfare center users, senior club members, and community leaders
- Consultation meetings with relevant government departments (15 department heads participated in final report session)

- Input from welfare professionals, healthcare providers, and community organizations

3. Infrastructure and Service Inventory

- Comprehensive mapping of existing age-friendly infrastructure across 4 townships (eup), 9 districts (myeon), and 16 administrative neighborhoods (dong)
- Assessment of 749 senior centers (gyeongdang), 4 senior welfare centers, and senior health facilities
- Review of transportation accessibility, public space safety, and housing conditions

4. Benchmarking and Best Practice Review

- Analysis of domestic and international age-friendly city models
- Review of WHO GNAFCC member cities' policies and programs
- Identification of adaptable strategies suitable for Hwaseong's unique urban-rural mixed character
- Key Findings
- Demographic Context (as of September 2025):
- Total population: 986,712 residents (excluding foreign nationals)
- Older adult population (65+): Approximately 106,000 persons (10.8% of total population)
- Middle-aged population (40-64): 382,593 persons (39.6% of total population)
- Average age: 38.9 years (youngest among Korean municipalities)
- Rapid aging trajectory: Projected to enter super-aged society (20%+ seniors) by 2030

Assessment Results across WHO's 8 Domains:

1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

- Gaps identified in barrier-free access in older neighborhoods
- Need for improved pedestrian safety and resting facilities
- Senior center infrastructure requires modernization

2. Transportation

- Public transportation coverage uneven between urban and rural areas
- Demand for more accessible bus stops and senior-friendly vehicles

3. Housing

- Rising number of elderly single-person households requiring safety modifications
- Need for aging-in-place support services

4. Social Participation

- Strong foundation with 749 senior centers and 4 welfare centers
- Opportunities to expand intergenerational programs

5. Respect and Social Inclusion

- Need to combat ageism and enhance older adult visibility in community decision-making
- Desire for more age-inclusive public campaigns

6. Civic Participation and Employment

- Growing demand for senior employment beyond basic public sector jobs
- Interest in continuous learning and skill development programs

7. Communication and Information

- Digital divide identified as barrier to accessing services
- Need for senior-friendly information delivery systems including AI assistance

8. Community Support and Health Services

- Strong base with Senior Customized Care Service, Emergency Safety Service, and AI Care Robot programs
- Gaps in integrated care coordination and dementia support services
- Demand for preventive health and wellness programs
- Strategic Priorities Identified

Based on assessment findings, we established Four Strategic Pillars:

✔ Creating a Safe and Comfortable Age-Friendly Environment

- Enhance physical infrastructure and accessibility
- Improve pedestrian safety and public space quality
- Building Integrated Health and Care System for Dignified Aging

✔ Strengthen preventive health services

- Expand technology-enabled care (AI, IoT)
- Integrate medical and welfare services
- Fostering Inclusive Society with Intergenerational Learning and Work

✔ Expand senior employment and volunteer opportunities

- Promote lifelong learning programs
- Facilitate youth-senior exchange initiatives

- Establishing Age-Friendly Governance through Communication and Trust
- ✚ Create participatory planning mechanisms with older adult representation
- Develop monitoring and evaluation framework
- Build cross-sector collaboration networks