Make Aging a Strategic Priority for Minnesota

AARP Supports Legislation to Establish a Minnesota Age-Friendly Council
(HF 1807, Lippert/SF 1786, Housley)

Establish a Minnesota Age-Friendly Council

Creating and funding a permanent, Age-Friendly Minnesota Council will help prioritize older Minnesotans across all of Minnesota. A Minnesota Age-Friendly Council will:

1. improve the lives of older Minnesotans and the communities they call home;
2. focus and coordinate the work of state agencies, local governments, communities and the private sector with the goal of building a more Age-Friendly state;
3. promote change at the community-level, with an emphasis on the structures, services and community features that support older residents such as transportation options; safe, affordable places to live; a community commitment to health and wellness; and opportunities to stay engaged and productive; and
4. continue the work of the Governor’s Age-Friendly Council established by Executive Order in 2019.

Why Do We Need a Minnesota Age-Friendly Council?

- Minnesota is rapidly aging, with our 65+ population now larger than our school age population for the first time. State agencies and the private sector must work with older Minnesotans and local communities to help build a state where all Minnesotans can choose how they live as they age.
- Age-Friendly communities can help us be more resilient during the next crisis. Minnesota cities and towns focused on Age-Friendly work prior to COVID-19 were well-prepared to meet the needs of aging residents during the pandemic because they had already created the infrastructure, partnerships and communications channels needed to meet the needs of older residents.

What is an Age-Friendly Community?

An Age-Friendly community is one that enables residents to thrive at every age and every life stage. Age Friendly Communities take steps to ensure the availability and quality of certain community features — commonly referred to as the “8 Domains of Livability” — which have a particular impact on the well-being of older adults. In an Age-Friendly community, the domains framework is used to organize and prioritize a community’s work to become more livable for people of all ages. Age-Friendly work typically happens at the city, county or state level, but it can also occur in places such as health systems and universities.

A Minnesota Age-Friendly Council

- Comprised of 25 members, appointed by the Governor, and representing older Minnesotans, lawmakers, business, non-profits, state agencies and members of the public with knowledge and expertise in aging and age-friendly work
- Focused on equity and engaging older adults statewide
- Independent, working across agencies and with the private sector
- Established to advance aging across Minnesota by:
  - enrolling Minnesota in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities;
  - developing a dashboard of age-friendly policies and practices across state agencies to inform state-level age-friendly work;
  - supporting the growth age-friendly communities and aging-related work across Minnesota through the establishment of a grant program, technical assistance and other resources;
  - creating a central inventory of data reports and analyses on aging for all stakeholders.