

The 8 Domains of Livability

The availability and quality of these community features impact the well-being of older adults — and help make communities more livable for people of all ages.

1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social Participation
5. Respect and Social Inclusion
6. Work and Civic Engagement
7. Communication and Information
8. Community and Health Services



1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings



People need public places to gather — indoors and out. Green spaces, seating and accessible buildings (elevators, zero-step entrances, staircases with railings) can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages.

2. Transportation



Driving shouldn't be the only way to get around. Pedestrians need sidewalks and safe, crossable streets. Dedicated bicycle lanes benefit nondrivers and drivers alike. Public transit options can range from the large-scale (trains, buses, light rail) to the small (taxis, shuttles or ride share services).

An AARP funded bus shelter in Chino Valley, Arizona | Photo courtesy Yavapai Regional Transit

3. Housing



AARP surveys consistently find that the vast majority of older adults want to reside in their current home or community for as long as possible. Doing so *is* possible if a home is designed or modified for aging in place, or if a community has housing options that are suitable for differing incomes, ages and life stages.

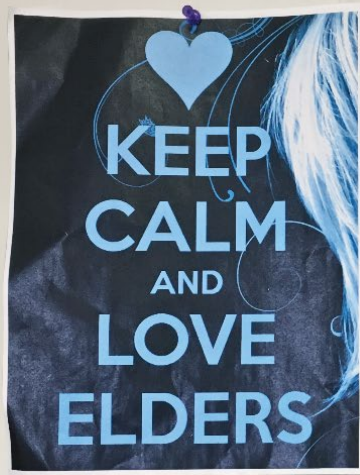
Photo from Getty Images via AARP Brand

4. Social Participation



Regardless of a person's age, loneliness is often as debilitating a health condition as having a chronic illness or disease. Sadness and isolation can be combated by having opportunities to socialize and the availability of accessible, affordable and fun social activities.

5. Respect and Social Inclusion



Everyone wants to feel valued. Intergenerational gatherings and activities are a great way for young and older people to learn from one another, honor what each has to offer and, at the same time, feel good about themselves.

6. Work and Civic Engagement



Why does work need to be an all or nothing experience? An age-friendly community encourages older people to be actively engaged in community life and has opportunities for residents to work for pay or volunteer their skills.

A volunteer working the phones for AARP Arizona | Photo by Steve Clark for AARP

7. Communication and Information

We now communicate in ways few could have imagined a decade ago. Age-friendly communities recognize that information needs to be shared through a variety of methods since not everyone is tech-savvy, and not everyone has a smartphone or home-based access to the internet.



A community bulletin board | Photo by Melissa Stanton, AARP Livable Communities

8. Community and Health Services



At some point, every person of every age gets hurt, becomes ill or simply needs some help. While it's important that assistance and care be available nearby, it's essential that residents are able to access and afford the services required.



Learn more about **AARP Livable Communities**

- [*AARP.org/Livable*](https://www.aarp.org/Livable)

Check out the member list for the

AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

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