

DEVELOPING AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

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SOUTHWEST PLANNING & SERVICE AREA




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MINNESOTA DEMOGRAPHICS

Regional 65+ Population

- 2020	965,266
- 2025	1,131,261
- 2030	1,262,142

Source: <https://faceagingmn.org/minnesota-population-aging-map/>

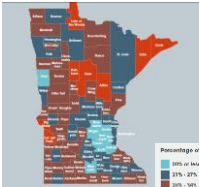


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PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

2020




2030



Percentage of adult aged 65+:

- 65% or less
- 21% - 25%
- 26% - 30%
- 31% or more

Source: <https://faceagingmn.org/minnesota-population-aging-map/>



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AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Age-Friendly Communities promote healthy and successful aging across the lifespan.

In determining if a community is age friendly there are 8 domains of livability:

- 1 Housing
- 2 Outdoor spaces & buildings
- 3 Transportation
- 4 Communication & Information
- 5 Civic participation & employment
- 6 Respect & social inclusion
- 7 Health services & community supports
- 8 Social participation





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OUR PROGRAM IS FUNDED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

By partnering with us, each community receives a \$10,000 grant to complete an Age Friendly project in their community

Each community also receives \$1,000 to celebrate their Age Friendly project of choice



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SINCE 2017, WE HAVE FACILITATED AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN NINETEEN COMMUNITIES

- Communities ranged in population from 162 to 4100
- With one exception, all communities have had populations of less than 3,000
- We have been intentional about rotating locations.
- At least one community in each of the 18 counties of Southwest Initiative Fund catchment area will be served by the end of our 2024 – 2025 grant round.



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PROCESS OF AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PROJECT

- Committee Phase
- Assessment Phase
- Planning Phase
- Implementation Phase
- Monitoring Phase



Assessment Phase Source: survey is based on the WHO (World Health Organization) Global Age-Friendly Cities project.



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AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Porter and Kerkhoven Awarded \$10,000 Age-Friendly Community Grants





MNRFAAA will be assisting two communities with developing their age-friendly assets and desired needs through community-wide surveys and focus groups. Data from the surveys and focus groups will be used by the communities to identify and implement initiatives that will result in new and/or enhanced assets. The new and/or enhanced assets will have positive impacts on the community's age-friendliness and quality of life for all ages.

The Board of Directors selected the city of Porter (Plymouth County) and the city of Kerkhoven (Scott County) through a competitive application process. Each community will receive \$10,000 to implement one of the identified initiatives.

Kick-off meetings will be held at the Porter Community Hall on July 28 at 9:30 a.m. and at the Kerkhoven Farmers Market on August 1 at 2:30 p.m.



These projects will receive grants from the Southwest Initiative Foundation.



John Symon, City of Porter, Becky Hayes, Porter City, Michelle Kuck, Community Member, Anne Egan, Kerkhoven, MNRFAAA Program Director



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- Example of introduction letter, written in Chuuksese:
- The Southwest Initiative Foundation and the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging e fini kich ar ropwe anisi ach ei community, sipwe nonomw-eoch.
- Irr mei tongeni nifang ngeni kich ukkun \$10,000 ren met si mojen non Milan epwe eochuno ren ach sipwe nonomw eoch. Ai tongur ngeni kemi ami oupwe amasowa en echo taropwe. Iwe, ika ouwa wes me amosowa auwa wanong ren ewe bank ika non Bergen.
- Ika ouwa amasowa kan ruuwacho taropwe, ina epwe mak itomw non ewe utien omw kopwe wineni \$50 gift card omw kopwe kamo non an Bergen ewe sitowa.




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AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY:

- is good for people of all ages
- creates places where we want to live, work, and play
- is a place where we can find a job, launch a business and enjoy leisure time regardless of our age
- has appealing advantages that enhance the quality of life of residents, the economic prospects of businesses, and benefits local governments.



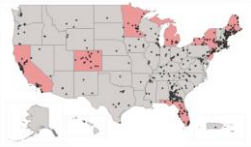

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Project versus Community

Minnesota is a state member of the network | Joined 2022

- Alexandria: Joined 2016
- Brooklyn Park: Joined 2020
- Duluth: Joined 2021
- Hennepin County: Joined 2019
- Lake County: Joined 2021
- Maple Grove: Joined 2016
- Minneapolis: Joined 2015
- Northfield: Joined 2016
- Oakdale: Joined 2021
- Olmsted County: Joined 2020
- Orono: Joined 2022
- Rose Island: Joined 2022
- Princeton: Joined 2020
- St. Cloud: Joined 2020
- Wabasha: Joined 2023
- West St. Paul: Joined 2022
- Wyoming: Joined 2021





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Why would you want to be a MN Age-Friendly Community?

- Access to the network of over 800 communities across the nation who are learning and sharing their successes
- Research and technical assistance from AARP and other experts working nationally and within the state to support communities
- A proven framework and process to explore and implement improvements to the physical and social environment
- Not exclusive or preferential, but access to information about funding and other opportunities promoted throughout the network
- Alignment with priorities advanced by Area Agencies on Aging and the Governor's Council on an Age Friendly Minnesota



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How to become an MN Age Friendly Community:

- Form a small committee of residents, city/council staff and/or partner organizations. Develop and implement a strategy for the mayor, city council or county board to support and sign-off on the initiative.
- Submit the application which includes a brief form and a letter of commitment by the mayor, city council or county board.
- Conduct a community assessment (survey of residents) and gather additional data such as Census, county public health and other sources. Create an "assessment report" for the community and stakeholders. Essentially, the assessment and report establish what residents say they want but don't have.
- Create an action plan based on the assessment
- Implement the action plan, conduct an evaluation, decide whether to begin a new 5-year cycle.




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WHO IS READY TO BECOME AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY?

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING





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RESOURCES:

- Senior LinkAge Line
<https://mn.gov/senior-linkage-line/>
- MinnesotaHelp.info
<https://www.minnesotahelp.info/>
- Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging
<https://mraaa.org/>
- Age Friendly Minnesota
<https://mn.gov/dhs/age-friendly-mn/>
- AARP Age Friendly Communities
<http://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/>





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QUESTIONS?

Providing advocacy, information, resources, and assistance so that older adults can maintain the lifestyle of their choice.
www.MNFAAA.org



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THANK YOU

Kris Hohensee & Betty Christensen

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