

MAKING AUSTIN AGE-FRIENDLY

A Report Prepared for Mayor Steve Adler
and Austin City Council Members

History

2010 Census

- Austin had the nation's fastest-growing population of people between 55 and 64, and the second fastest-growing population of people 65 and over

Mayor's Task Force on Aging (2012-13)

- 23 members plus a 15-member Advisory Council
- Report: "Embracing an Age-diverse Austin"

Task Force Recommendations

Goals for the City of Austin

- **Focus on Age-inclusive Policies:**
 - Integrate Age-inclusive Policies as Criteria for City Decision Making
 - Join AARP/World Health Organization Age-Friendly Communities Initiative
- **Focus on Affordable Housing:**
 - Research and Analyze the Impact of Property Tax Deferrals/Caps and Utility Cost Subsidies on Seniors and Recommend Appropriate Action
 - Prioritize Affordable Housing Funding for Seniors
 - Expedite Permitting Process For Secondary Apartments
- **Focus on Integrating Older Adults into Civic Life:**
 - Fund Neighborhood Programs for Senior Assistance
 - Create an Interagency Committee to Optimize Facilities for Senior Engagement
 - Create Intergenerational Opportunities for Seniors

Task Force Recommendations

Vehicle for
Implementation

Create a City
Commission
for Seniors

Result: COA Commission on Seniors

COA Commission on Seniors

Mission Statement

The Commission shall:

1. Advise City Council on issues related to the senior population in the Austin area
2. Evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices that create a positive impact and reduce the burden on seniors
3. Determine the needs of seniors in the Austin community, and advise City Council regarding these needs
4. Promote the contributions of seniors to the cultural, economic, and historical value of Austin



COA Commission on Seniors

Recent Accomplishments

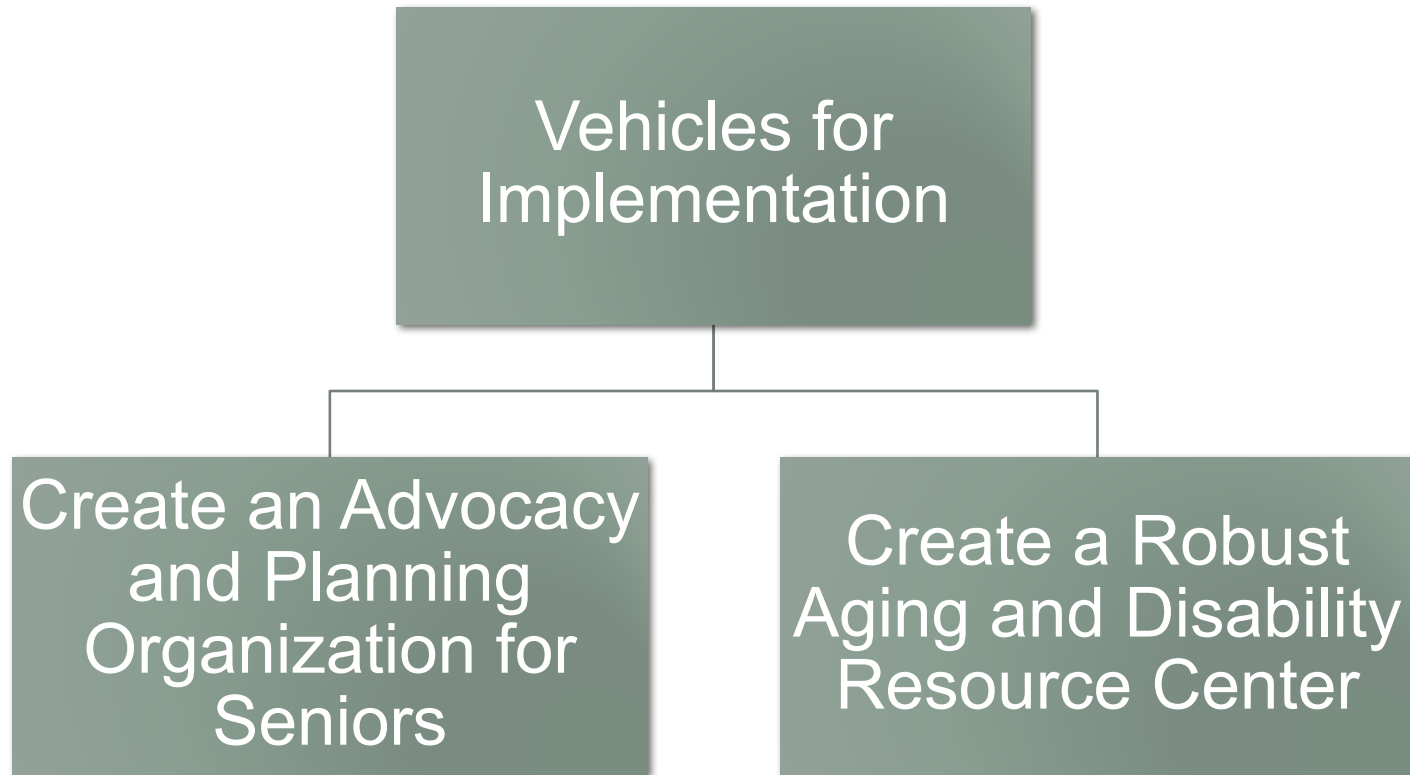
- Supported ending homelessness for veterans, more than 45% of whom are over 55 years of age
- Reviewed the tax swap proposal for AISD and supported conclusions by city staff that it would negatively impact Austin's seniors
- Advocated to City Council on behalf of older adults for improvements to sidewalks, street signage, traffic signals and lighting, program funding and expanding social service contracts
- Formed workgroups that included community stakeholders to build Age-friendly Austin Plan and work toward implementation
- Hosted numerous presentations, including cooperative housing ideas for older adults, mobility, comprehensive wrap-around service models for low-income seniors, etc.

Task Force Recommendations

Community Goals

- **Focus on Healthy Living:**
 - Create a Care Transitions Coalition
 - Create Alliance to Better Integrate Aging and Mental Health Services
 - Develop a Health Outreach Program in Low-income Neighborhoods
 - Expand Food Availability to Older Adults
- **Focus on Independence:**
 - Expand Caregiver U
 - Expand Home-based Supportive Services
 - Expand Home Modification and Repair Services
 - Create a Central Dispatch for All Transportation Services
- **Focus on an Informed Community:**
 - Create a Website and/or Phone Number That Serves As a Central Clearinghouse for Information about Senior Services and Activities
 - Develop a Public Awareness Campaign for a Variety of Issues, e.g., Caregiver Assistance, Locating Senior Service Providers and Elder Abuse

Task Force Recommendations



Result: AustinUP



*Raising the profile of our senior population
and preparing the next generation for the future of aging*

Learning

- Expand learning opportunities for older adults
- Train a new generation of thought leaders to explore and “normalize” innovative ideas about aging
- Promote and help facilitate academic research

Livability

- Create and promote a region that is not only age-friendly, but age-*progressive*

Aging Innovation

- Expand Austin’s role in the “longevity marketplace”
- Develop support infrastructure to help bring new ideas to market...faster

AustinUP Sponsors



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AARP



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MEDIA



A GLIMMER OF HOPE
AUSTIN

Travis Froelich

Sally Van Sickle

Dr. Al Sonstein

Dr. Steven Dobberfuhl

Diana McIver

AGE-FRIENDLY AUSTIN 5-YEAR PLAN

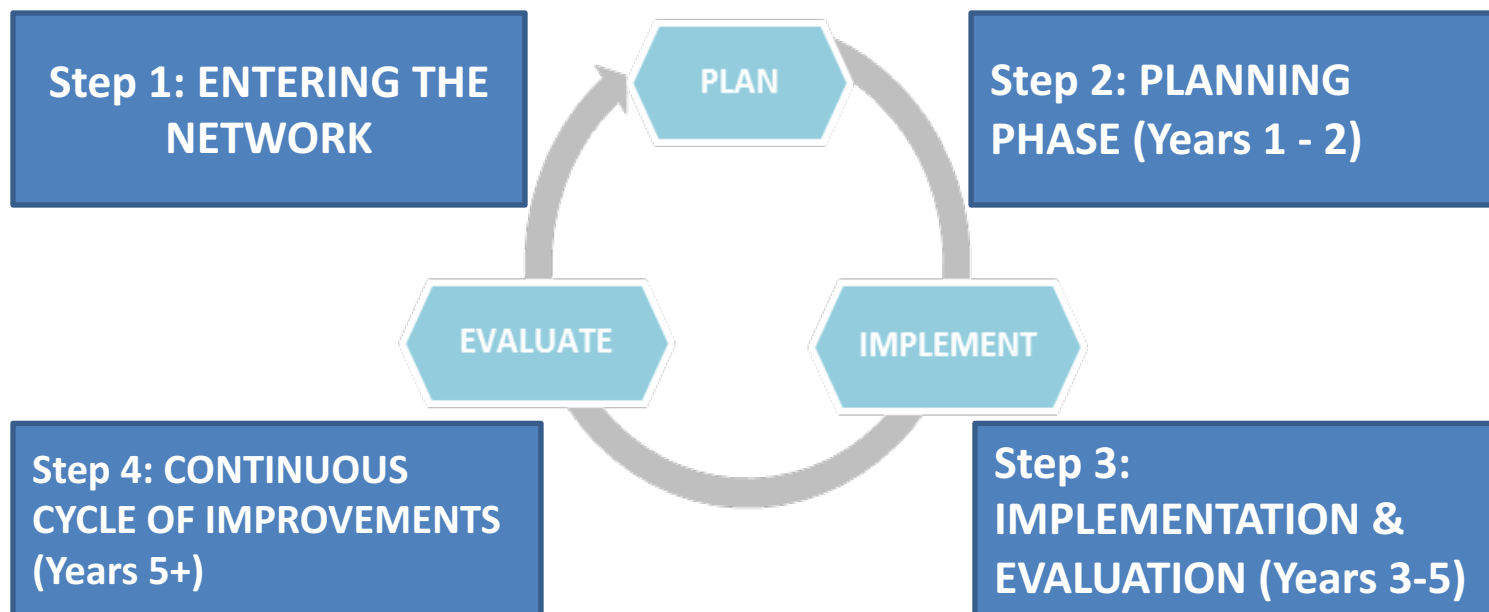


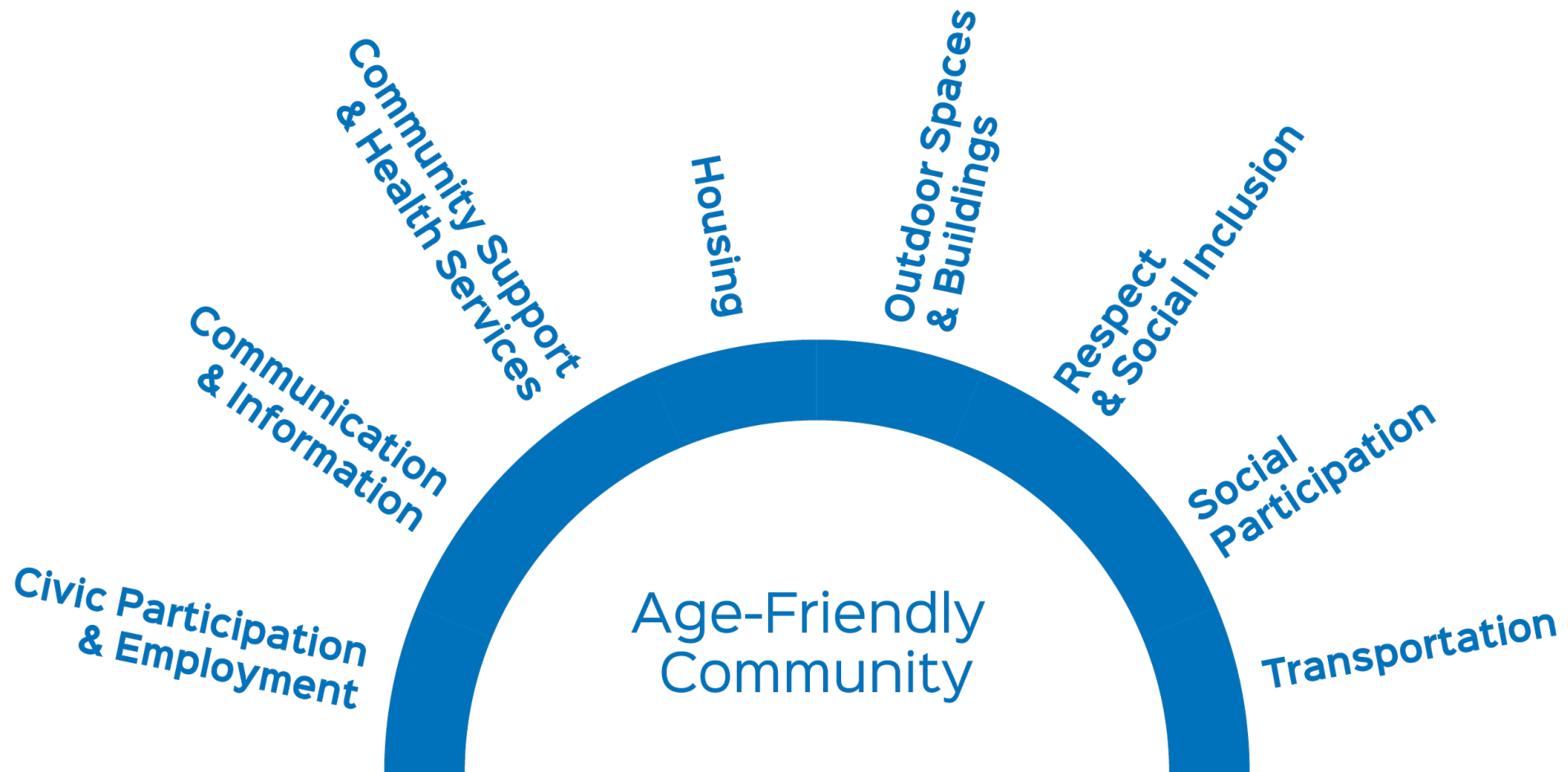
Network of Age-friendly Communities



Updated July 25, 2016

Age-friendly Process





Age-friendly Austin Plan: Process, Progress, Next Steps

AFA Planning and Process

- Workgroup initiated by COA Commission on Seniors
 - Studied plans from other cities
 - Created strategies and goals under each domain
 - Hosted public events, focus groups
 - Led outreach to other COA commissions, committees
 - Cross-checked AFA Plan with Imagine Austin Plan
 - Established first-year objectives



Early Support

- COA Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission
- COA Joint Inclusion Committee
- COA Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD)
- COA Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission
- AARP Texas
- Texas Alliance for Retired Americans
- SAIVA (South Asians' International Volunteer Association)
- Austin LGBT Elders Coalition (newly formed)



Early Progress

- Milken Institute: “Best Cities for Successful Aging”
- 55+ in ATX Job & Volunteer Fair (9/7/16)
- 2017 Aging Innovation Summit:
“Where Good Ideas Get Better with Age”
- AustinUP SXSW 2017 Panel:
“Merging Senior Care and Technology at Home”



Senior Community Next Steps

Plan

- Outline process and resources
- Set timeline and assign task leaders
- Determine measures of success

Communicate

- Engage broader community and other partners
- Create annual progress report, “The State of Aging in Austin”
- Expand Age-friendly Austin website, agefriendlyaustin.com

Prioritize

- Develop criteria to evaluate and prioritize strategies as they relate to cost, the amount of time required to initiate the strategy, community impact, complexity, etc.



Our Request of Mayor and City Council

- **Adopt the Age-friendly Austin Action Plan** and actively support, promote and work toward becoming not only age-friendly but *age-progressive* to support Austin's current and future elder citizens
- **Be our sounding board** to provide insight and feedback about what is happening in your districts
- **Be a resource** to identify additional partner organizations and potential AFA projects



Thank you!