Regional Livable & Equitable Communities Initiative

MVAFN Meeting November 13, 2024

MIAMI VALLEY
Regional Planning Commission
Celebrating 60 Years | 1964-2024

Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network

Agenda:

10:00 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.: Welcome, introductions and overview of the ILEC and Regional Age-Friendly and Livable Communities Initiative - Leslie King; MVRPC Director Regional Environment and Economic Development

10:10 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.: Welcome and comments from Arnie Biondo; Del Mar Encore Fellow at The Dayton Foundation

10:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Updates from Age-Friendly Communities

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.: Funding for Second Year AF Action Plans and updates from The Dayton Foundation – Leslie King/Arnie Biondo

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.: Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities in Ohio and the Technical Assistance Center – Euhna Suh; OSU Technical Assistance Program Coordinator Age-Friendly Innovation Center

11:15 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.: Discussion; What resources and support would be helpful? What topics are you interested in for future meetings?- Leslie King/Arnie Biondo

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: Other Updates/Announcements and Closing - Leslie King

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/187e321220cc4ff989a134eb57cc3195

MIAMI VALLEY
Regional Planning Commission

Regional and Livability Age Friendly Community Initiative

A StoryMap Highlighting Our Miami Valley Age-Friendly Communities

Last Updated August 9th 2024
October 3, 2024

Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities of Ohio

Akron
Joined: 2019
Population: 190,347

Athens County
Joined: 2020
Population: 62,056

Bellbrook
Joined: 2020
Population: 7,328

Brookville
Joined: 2022
Population: 5,968

Centerville
Joined: 2022
Population: 24,729

Cincinnati
Joined: 2018
Population: 308,935

Cleveland
Joined: 2015
Population: 367,991

Clinton County
Joined: 2018
Population: 42,004

Columbus
Joined: 2015
Population: 906,528

Cuyahoga County
Joined: 2022
Population: 1,249,387

Dayton
Joined 2023
Population: 135,944

Delaware County
Joined: 2018
Population: 220,740

Franklin County
Joined: 2018
Population: 1,321,414

Harrison Township
(Montgomery County)
Joined: 2022
Population: 21,841

Huber Heights
Joined: 2022
Population: 43,272

Kettering
Joined: 2022
Population: 57,377

Licking County
Joined: 2023
Population: 181,359

Miami County
Joined: 2022
Population: 109,264

Oxford
Joined: 2017
Population: 22,625

Stark County
Joined: 2022
Population: 373,834

Struthers
Joined: 2021
Population: 9,917

Summit County
Joined: 2020
Population: 537,633

Vandalia
Joined 2023
Population: 14,999

Washington Township
(Montgomery County)
Joined: 2022
Population: 61,020
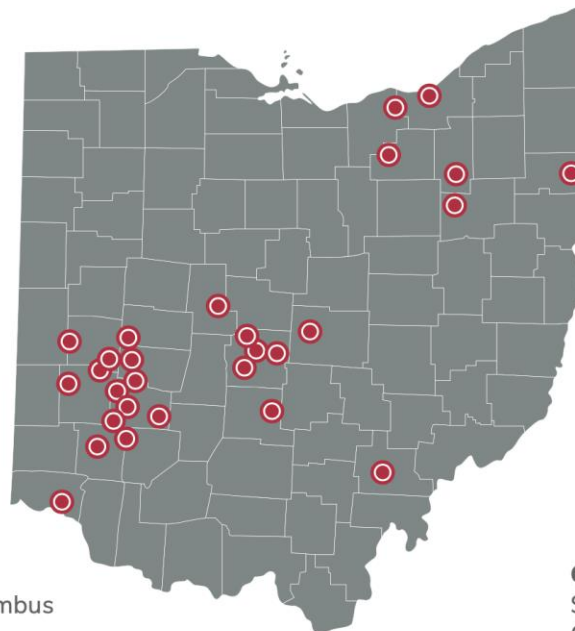
Westerville
Joined:2018
Population: 38,862

Worthington
Joined: 2020
Population: 14,564

Xenia
Joined: 2022
Population: 25,463

Yellow Springs
Joined: 2019
Population: 3,750

Co-Chair
Marisa Sheldon, Columbus
and Franklin County
sheldon.127@osu.edu

Co-Chair
Susan Sigmon, Akron, Stark
County, and Stark County
ssigmon@dhad.org

Age Friendly
Miami County

Action Plan

2024 - 2027

Miami County, Ohio

The AARP Network of Age-
Friendly States and Communities

Acknowledgments

Age-Friendly Miami County (AFMC) Advisory Council:

Carol Garver
  West Milton Senior Center
Dan Suerdieck
  Miami County Department of Development
Diane Battson
  Tipp City Seniors Center
Deb Miller
  Health Partners Free Clinic
Jackson Bennett
  Miami County Department of Development
Jill Meyer
  Miami County Department of Development

Jodell Davis
  Troy Senior Citizens Center
Kathi Witte
  Troy Senior Citizens Center
Renee Thuma
  Miami County Community Action Council
Sarah Baker
  Miami County Transit Service
Sharon Brulport
  Miami County Job and Family Services
Susan Hemm
  First Place Food Pantry

Funding Partner

Contents

About Age-Friendly Miami County
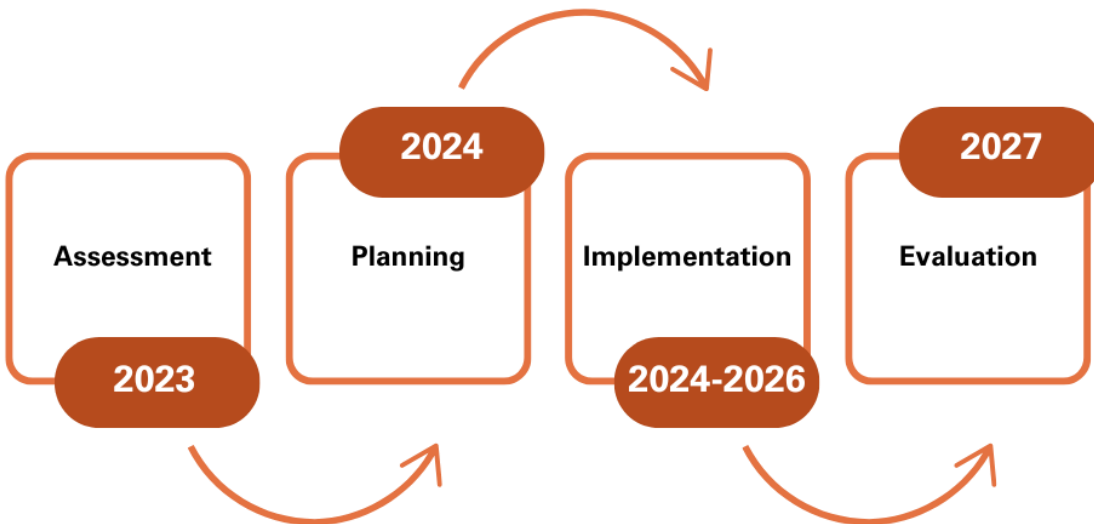
In 2022, the Miami County Department of Development launched the Age-Friendly Miami County (AFMC) initiative, a five-year initiative addressing the current and projected needs of an aging population. The four stages of the AFMC initiative are assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

The **assessment** phase resulted in a Needs Assessment Report that compiled the population trends and needs among older adults in Miami County. The Needs Assessment included reviewing public data/reports, interviews with local subject experts and service providers to older adults, and the engagement of older adults living in Miami County by survey and focus groups. Measurement Resources Company, a third-party research and consultancy firm, was contracted to conduct the assessment.

The **planning** phase took place from April 2024 through July 2024. It included establishing an AFMC Advisory Council and developing a three-year vision and 2024-2027 action plan. Measurement Resources Company was also contracted to facilitate the Council in their planning phase and draft this Action Plan report.

The **AFMC Advisory Council will champion the implementation of this 3-Year Action Plan**, and the impact it achieves will depend upon investments and support provided by various elected leaders, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, private entities, and individuals throughout the County. In 2027, progress will be **evaluated** by reviewing the goals and baselines identified in the Action Plan, and an evaluation report will be produced.

AFMC's Vision

Age-Friendly Miami County is a place where community members of all ages experience belonging and security. The LAFC Advisory Council stewards the progress towards an Age-Friendly Miami County by providing strategic vision based on community input, identifying doable and impactful initiatives, convening relationships between government, providers, service organizations, and funders/investors, and incorporating new council members year after year to ensure sustainability.

An Urgent Call to Action

The AFMC Needs Assessment highlights an urgent need for advancing an Age-Friendly Miami County. Projections show that the county's aging population will grow rapidly which may lead to housing shortages and increasing rates of older adults earning/receiving incomes below the cost of living.

The 65+ age group was the fastest growing in Miami County between 2010 and 2022, with its population increasing by 36% since 2010. It is estimated that at least 1 in 5 county residents will be 65+ years old in 2030.[1] At the same time, householders 65+ years in Miami County are more likely to have incomes below the actual cost of living compared to younger age groups, with the number of householders 65+ years with income below the cost of living increasing by 58.4% since 2016. The number of householders aged 65+ years with income below the cost of living has increased since 2016 at a greater rate than other age groups. Since 2019, the number of householders aged 45 to 64 with incomes below the cost of living has also risen. In the figures below, ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) is used to describe households that have income more than the federal poverty level (FPL) but are less than the basic cost of living for a county (United For ALICE). This is a problem as these folks are not eligible for many forms of public assistance, yet they still don't have adequate incomes to meet the everyday costs of living.

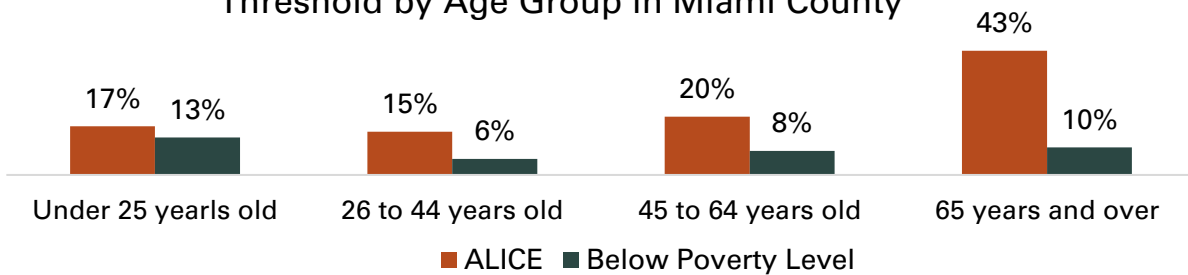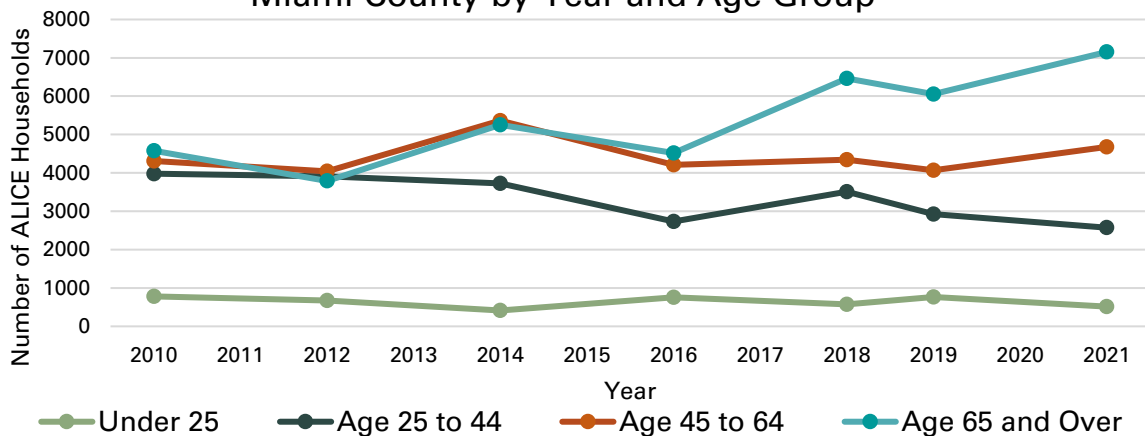Figure 1. Percentage of Householders below ALICE Threshold by Age Group in Miami County

Figure 2. Number of Households Below ALICE Threshold in Miami County by Year and Age Group

---

[1] Population projections by age and sex, 2015 to 2050, Ohio Developmental Service Agency, Office of Research (April 2018).

Action Plan

2024-2027

The remaining pages of this 3-year action plan detail the AFMC Advisory Council's goals in three Strategic Focus Areas: Housing, Transportation, and Social Inclusion and Connectivity. The Action Plan identifies strengths to leverage, barriers to address, goals, success measures, next steps, the needs being addressed, the council member(s) championing each goal, and a timeline for completion.

As we move forward, it will be critical to remind ourselves, and our community, that being "age-friendly" does not exclusively benefit older adults but yields many benefits for all Miami County citizens and guests alike.

AFMC's 3-Year Strategic Vision

As part of the planning process, the AFMC Advisory Council developed a shared vision of Miami County in 2027. Addressing needs identified through the Needs Assessment, this shared vision describes the change in Miami County that the Council desires to achieve over the next three years. The AFMC Action Plan guides progress toward this 3-Year Strategic Vision.

> By 2027, more community members will experience a sense of belonging by being well-connected to affordable transportation options, having access to a variety of social/entertainment activities with their peers, feeling welcomed at community events and entertainment spaces that foster intergenerational friendship, and having public spaces and businesses accessible to all abilities.

> Additionally, older adults feel more secure when they have easy access to up-to-date information related to available social services, have a trusted referral system for home and other services, have someone in their community that they can go to for help, and have affordable, desirable housing options, including multigenerational housing opportunities.

3-Year Strategic Focus Areas and Goals

With Miami County's 2027 vision in mind, the AFMC Advisory Council identified three areas of action to prioritize: Housing, Transportation, and Social Inclusion and Connectivity. Through a facilitated prioritization process with Measurement Resources Company, the AFMC Advisory Council also set goals that leveraged the county's strengths and were determined to have the most significant possible impact while being feasible to achieve over the 3-year implementation period. No order of importance is associated with how the focus areas and goals are listed in this document.

Transportation
Goal 1: In partnership with County Transit, win an ODOT Mobility Manager grant.
Goal 2: Increase older adults' accessibility to up-to-date information about transportation options.

Housing
Goal 3: Increase the number of housing options/plans in the county that meet the social and accessibility needs of older adults.
Goal 4: Establish AFMC Advisory Council as a trusted and effective advocate for affordable and multigenerational housing projects.

Social Inclusion and Connectivity
Goal 5: Develop and pilot an 'age-friendly seal of approval' for home maintenance and entertainment businesses, community events, and other professional services.
Goal 6: Increase aging adults' access to local senior centers.

Transportation

Eleven percent of Miami County's Community Survey respondents aged 65+, and 12% of 55- to 64-year-olds who rely on their car for transportation reported they are unlikely to be able to afford a $500 emergency car repair expense. This, along with an increasing population that is outliving their ability to drive safely, indicates a need for greater access to alternative transportation options. As we approach 2030, there is an opportunity for Miami County to build out the county's transportation infrastructure before the demand for accessible and public transportation too heavily outweighs the county's capacity.

Older adults facing transportation insecurity who participated in the AFMC Needs Assessment reported a need for more affordable transportation options that are more accessible and offer more flexible scheduling. Participants reported a desire to use public transportation for:

- Grocery trips
- Health care appointments
- Social activities
- Accessing senior centers
- Visiting family

3-Year Strategic Goals and Next Action Steps

Goal 1: In partnership with Miami County Transit, win an ODOT Mobility Manager grant.	
Success Measure(s): • The Office of Transportation submits a Letter of Intent and Application according to the 2025 cycle deadlines. • The job description for a Mobility Manager includes at least 40% FTE dedicated to older adult-related services.	
Supporting Forces to Leverage: • Miami County Transit Service policy and funding expertise on the AFMC Advisory Council. • Working relationship with Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission	**Restraining Forces to Address:** • Need for Commissioners' support/ permission to apply • Best candidates for Mobility Manager may be splitting time with their current job/ responsibilities
Champion: Sarah Baker, Miami County Transit Service	

Next Action Steps	By When?
Draft a message of support to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners	December 2024
Clarify elements of the Mobility Manager job description that could support the goal	December 2024
Collaborate with Miami County Transit Service to identify best fit candidates for mobility manager role	February 2025

Goal 2: Increase older adults' accessibility to up-to-date information about transportation options.

Success Measure(s):
- Increased awareness among 40+ year-olds of public transportation options throughout the county so that people know about transit options before they are in need/crisis.
- Up-to-date transit information is accessible in places older adults prefer, including homebound community members.
- Established regular schedule of public transit "show and tell" reaching places where older adults convene in all regions of the county, in particular senior centers, retirement communities, churches, etc.
- Increase in ridership of 55+ year-olds.
- Increased comfort/sense of ease riding public transit among 55+ year-olds.
- Increased transportation options to senior centers for less mobile/homebound individuals.

Supporting Forces to Leverage:	Restraining Forces to Address:
- Miami County Transit Service policy and funding expertise on the AFMC Advisory Council - Opportunity to collaborate with other agencies/industries focused on transportation need, i.e., health care, workforce, disability services - Some awareness/educational services to older adults already in place - Senior centers have good sense of where community members are getting their information	- Limited local match dollars available to apply for more state/federal funds - Need for identifying additional nonprofit and private funding streams - Limited interest from private sector to support public transportation - Transportation options often limited to private car or public transit

Champion(s): Sarah Baker, Miami County Transit Service in collaboration with Senior Centers

Next Action Steps	By When?
Identify what types of information to share	March 2025
Identify the best ways to format the information and where to share it	March 2025
Develop communication/outreach plan (including goals) to share the information sources	June 2025
Identify resources needed to implement the communication/outreach plan	August 2025
Obtain resources needed to implement the communication/outreach plan	December 2025
Start implementation of communication plan	January 2026

Housing

The AFMC Needs Assessment highlights a need for lower rental rates for one- and two-bedroom apartments. Older adults and housing experts in Miami County have reported that the rising increases in rent are unsustainable for older adults on fixed incomes. Older adults looking for one or two-bedroom apartments are competing with young families who are being forced to rent apartments due to the high costs of buying a home. This competition is driving up the housing costs for both groups. In addition, some older adults who participated in the AFMC Needs Assessment found the region's nursing homes too expensive (with some having poorer reputations).

According to the Miami Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA), most of its housing vouchers are used by single, older adults renting one-bedroom apartments. In an interview, an MMHA representative reported that it is becoming increasingly challenging to find apartments/landlords for older adults to use U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) vouchers on, and the waitlist for older adults needing one bedroom is growing.

There is also a need to increase funding for and access to ageing-in-place services. Social service providers identified a need for providing (to older adults) cleaning supplies and cleaning services, hotel vouchers for when older adults' homes are condemned, utility cost assistance, and cell phone cost assistance/training. According to focus group participants, older adults' children are moving outside the county for work or college. This has left older adults lacking family support for simple home repairs, overall home upkeep, and transportation.

3-Year Strategic Goals and Next Action Steps

Goal 3: Increase the number of housing options/plans in the county that meet the social and accessibility needs of older adults.	
Success Measure(s): • Increased awareness and understanding of alternative housing options among decision makers. • Increased access to affordable housing for older adults and younger adults. • Increased capacity for aging in place and access to affordable/quality home maintenance services.	
Supporting Forces to Leverage: • Miami County Needs Assessment-Housing Needs Implementation Group • The county and the city of Troy are in the process of developing their comprehensive plans, which could be an opportunity to include AFMC's input	**Restraining Forces to Address:** • Market-rate housing drives market prices • Support for public housing and multi-unit housing developments are variable
Champion(s): Renee Thuma, Community Action Agency; Dan Suerdieck, Department of Development	

Next Action Steps	By When?
Meet with Andria Perkins of Miami County MMHA to discuss the current state of public housing and identify the next steps for improvement	December 2024
Research and compile a list of housing and aging-in-place models/initiatives (like Nesterly), including information sources and key elements of the models	March 2025

Goal 4: Establish AFMC Advisory Council as a trusted and effective advocate for affordable and multigenerational housing projects.

Success Measure(s):
- Everyday community members and policy/planning decision-makers agree the AFMC Advisory Council is a trusted source for affordable and multigenerational housing projects, particularly regarding the social and physical needs of older adults.
- All housing-related decision-makers have access to information about older adults' housing needs, actionable models/strategies to meet needs, and the negative impacts on all community members if housing for older adults is not made more accessible.
- Increase the number of zoning codes throughout the county which address accessibility and affordability of housing.
- AFMC Advisory Council members clearly understand the housing industry/government processes related to housing.

Supporting Forces to Leverage:	**Restraining Forces to Address:**
- Miami County Needs Assessment-Housing Needs Implementation Group - The county and the city of Troy are in the process of developing their comprehensive plans, which could be an opportunity to include AFMC's input	- Market-rate housing drives market prices - Support for public housing and multi-unit housing developments are variable

Champion(s): Renee Thuma, Miami County Community Action Agency; Bill Lutz, The New Path; and Dan Suerdieck, Miami County Department of Development

Next Action Steps	By When?
Identify and meet with city/county development offices to learn about their processes and potential for partnership	March 2025
Meet with the Needs Assessment-Housing Needs Implementation Group to learn about their work and potential for partnership	March 2025

Social Inclusion and Connectivity

Overall, older adults living in Miami County positively perceive Miami County. 85% of the AFMC Community Survey respondents reported feeling welcomed at community events, and 80% agreed they have been able to work towards their personal goals while living in Miami County. Seeking a higher quality of life and quieter environment, some participants moved to Miami County, from Dayton, to retire. Other participants reported having stayed in Miami County because it was a safe place to raise their children.

While older adults have positive perceptions of Miami County, survey results did identify an opportunity to improve residents' sense of support and respect among community members. 12% of survey respondents disagreed that neighbors support each other, and 13% disagreed that people respect each other in the county. Only 69% of the respondents agreed they had someone in the community they could go to when they needed help, leaving 21% unsure and 10% reporting a lack of a support system.

Older adults living in Miami County and local social service providers identified the below needs related to getting older adults connected and engaged:

- Older adults who cannot drive or have mobility limitations are less likely to have access to or be engaged by senior centers and the YMCA's activity offerings.
- Need for greater access to aging-in-place supports for home maintenance and for maintaining health.
- There is a need for more multi-generational restaurants and amenities that encourage interaction. There is a perception that new businesses in the county are geared towards young adults only.
- There is a need for more adult daycare and more significant support for primary caregivers (family/spouses) caring for older adults with disabilities and/or debilitating conditions like dementia. Adult daycare centers closed due to COVID-19, and centers have not reopened in their place.

In addition, grandparents who are primary guardians to their grandchildren are experiencing high levels of need and barriers to support. These families identified a great need for respite options, community navigators, and overall childcare support that can provide trauma-informed and special needs care to children. They reported facing:

- High levels of social isolation from their friends and neighbors since becoming guardians.
- Great difficulty navigating school systems, I.E.P. plan development, and communications with teachers/support staff.
- Having to return to work after retiring.
- Great difficulty navigating foster care services, child services, and child mental and physical health services.
- Great difficulty finding childcare.
- Difficulty finding before- and after-school programming and summer programming.

3-Year Strategic Goals and Next Action Steps

Goal 5: Develop and pilot an 'age-friendly seal of approval' for home maintenance and entertainment businesses, community events, and other professional services.

Success Measure(s):
- Increased number of businesses that have earned the age-friendly "seal of approval."
- Increased number of businesses that are handicapped accessible.
- Increased number of businesses/community events facilitating meaningful intergenerational relationships and learning.
- Positive impact/patronage/revenues of business that earned the seal of approval (e.g., businesses reporting people came to them due to "seal").
- Established platform/spaces where people can access the list of businesses with the "seal".

Supporting Forces to Leverage:	Restraining Forces to Address:
- Active engagement of senior center administration in community service and AFMC Advisory Council - Chamber of Commerce - Potential overlap with Better Business Bureau	- Difficulty in managing approval/recertification process - New idea, need to explore the demand

Champion(s): Susan Hemm, First Place Food Pantry; Deb Miller, Health Partners Free Clinic; and Dan Suerdieck, Miami County Department of Development

Next Action Steps	By When?
Identify and convene key stakeholders to brainstorm a list of what to include in the "seal"	December 2024
Develop/Refine the "seal" elements (e.g., name, application rubric, process, timeline)	March 2025
Test the "seal" elements with older adults at senior centers, including the demand for the service and potential marketing strategies	June 2025
Incorporate the feedback of older adults to finalize the "seal"	August 2025
Identify what resources would be needed to pilot the "seal"	November 2025
Create and submit funding proposals to fund pilot activities	January 2026

Goal 6: Increase aging adults' access to local senior centers.

Success Measure(s):
- Increased collaboration among the county's senior centers.
- Increased number of community members visiting/participating at the centers.
- Increased awareness of senior center activities, the importance of their role, and the fact that all are welcome.
- Increased attendance/engagement among all younger age groups (45-60 years) for individuals to establish social support networks early.
- Increased funding for senior centers within the county.
- Senior centers are established as a trusted source of information among older adults.
- Increased number of older adults with a social support network (someone to call when they need help) due to participation with senior centers.
- Increased access to support for widowed older adults that are adjusting to socializing/daily activities without their partner.
- Increased access to information about available social services.

Supporting Forces to Leverage:	Restraining Forces to Address:
- Four senior centers already established in the county - Active engagement of senior center administration in community service and AFMC Advisory Council	- Limited funding - Limited staff/volunteer capacity - Scheduling activities takes a lot of planning/moving pieces for the center and older adults who attend - Diversity in older adults – their interests, schedules, abilities - No official senior center in Piqua

Champion(s): Kathi Witte, Troy Senior Citizens Center; Carol Garver, West Milton Senior Center; and Diane Battson, Tipp City Seniors Center

| Next Action Steps	By When?
Hold a meeting among senior centers' administration to learn about each other's services and to assess assets, current communication strategies, programming processes, and overall structures	December 2024
Research potential funding opportunities (and/or identify funds to contract a consultant to identify funding strategies)	March 2025

Age Friendly
Miami County

Age-Friendly Innovation Center

Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County

| 2016 Assessment | 2017 Planning | 2018-2020 Implementation | 2021 Reassessment |
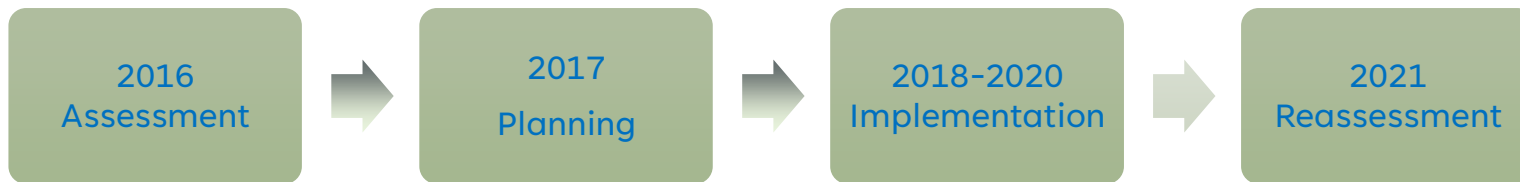
Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Age-Friendly Communities Certificate Program

AFC Course 1: Introduction to Age-Friendly Communities

Age-Friendly Office Hours

Meeting Registration

Topic   Age-Friendly Innovation Center- Office Hours

Time   You can choose to attend one or more of the following sessions.
  ☐ Apr 14, 2023 10:00 AM
  ☐ May 12, 2023 10:00 AM
  ☐ Jun 9, 2023 10:00 AM
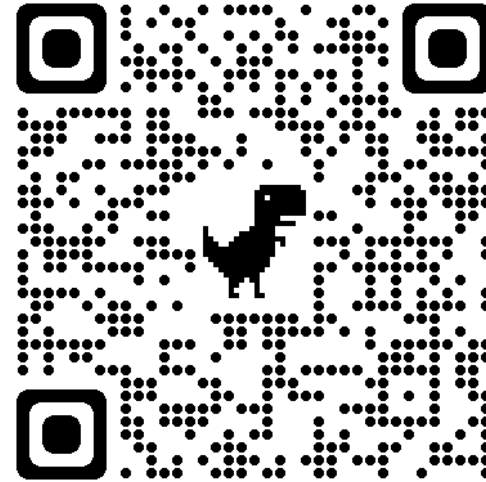 ☐ Jul 14, 2023 10:00 AM
  ☐ Aug 11, 2023 10:00 AM
  Time shows in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

First Name*
Eunha

Last Name*
Suh

What else?

Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities of Ohio

Akron
Joined: 2019
Population: 190,347

Athens County
Joined: 2020
Population: 62,056

Beavercreek
Joined: 2024
Population: 56,025

Bellbrook
Joined: 2020
Population: 7,328

Brookville
Joined: 2022
Population: 5,968

Centerville
Joined: 2022
Population: 24,729

Cincinnati
Joined: 2018
Population: 308,935

Cleveland
Joined: 2015
Population: 367,991

Clinton County
Joined: 2018
Population: 42,004

Columbus
Joined: 2015
Population: 906,528

Cuyahoga County
Joined: 2022
Population: 1,249,387

Dayton
Joined 2023
Population: 135,944

Delaware County
Joined: 2018
Population: 220,740

Franklin County
Joined: 2018
Population: 1,321,414

Harrison Township
Joined: 2022
Population: 21,841

Huber Heights
Joined: 2022
Population: 43,272

Kettering
Joined: 2022
Population: 57,377

Licking County
Joined: 2023
Population: 181,359

Lucas County
Joined: 2024
Population: 426,719

Miami County
Joined: 2022
Population: 109,264

Oxford
Joined: 2017
Population: 22,625

Portage County
Joined: 2024
Population: 161,791

Reynoldsburg
Joined: 2024
Population: 41,117

Stark County
Joined: 2022
Population: 373,834

Struthers
Joined: 2021
Population: 9,917

Summit County
Joined: 2020
Population: 537,633

Toledo
Joined: 2024
Population: 266,301

Union County
Joined: 2024
Population: 62,784
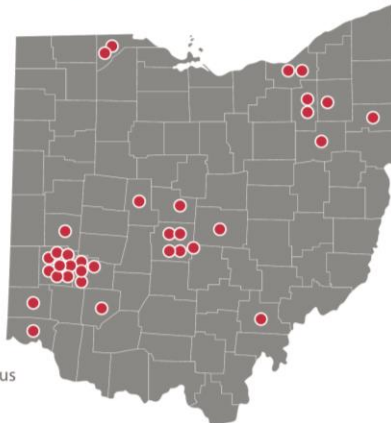
Vandalia
Joined 2023
Population: 14,999

Washington Township
Joined: 2022
Population: 61,020

Westerville
Joined:2018
Population: 38,862

Worthington
Joined: 2020
Population: 14,564

Xenia
Joined: 2022
Population: 25,463

Yellow Springs
Joined: 2019
Population: 3,750

Co-Chair
Marisa Sheldon, Columbus
and Franklin County
sheldon.127@osu.edu

Co-Chair
Susan Sigmon, Akron, Stark
County, and Summit County
ssigmon@dhad.org

Eunha Suh

Age-Friendly Innovation Center
Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County
College of Social Work, The Ohio State University
Suh.198@osu.edu

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

AGE·FRIENDLY
COLUMBUS AND
FRANKLIN COUNTY

Questions or Discussion