AARP Age Friendly Communities Network Event

Washington, DC

October 8, 2013
Philadelphia

- 2010 Census: 1,526,006
- 2012 Census Estimate: 1,547,607
- Experiencing growth in population since the loss of population in the 1970’s
- Over 65: 12.2%

*US Census: American Community Survey 2012*
Deputy Managing Director for Aging

– Position created in 2010 after an analysis by the Office of Policy focused on the increase in over 55 population
– Part of the Executive Team: agency/department heads such as Police, Fire, Licenses and Inspections
– Role: bring the lens of the over 55 residents to the discussion/deliberation on issues
– Bring information to and from the aging network
Mayor’s Commission on Aging

- reorganized 3/2011
- broadened participation from various sectors: housing, faith based, geriatric medicine, university research, Asian, Latino and LGBT communities
- "Honest Broker" role in various issues affecting the target population
Mission:

As a voice of Philadelphians 55 and older, the Mayor’s Commission on Aging will promote seamless access to essential support and services through education, outreach and advocacy. The Commission seeks to position Philadelphia as a national leader in creating an environment that supports and engages a vital aging population.
AARP: a key partner

- Bill Johnston Walsh, State Director, commission Chairperson
- collaborated on development of strategic plan
- collaborated on a walkability survey
- collaborated on Benefits Data Trust outreach effort to obtain SNAP benefits for underrepresented senior population
- key membership on the Senior Hunger Task Force
- Foundation funded publication of Food Resource Guide for Older Philadelphians
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

- Philadelphia County Area Agency on Aging
- independent 501(c)(3)
- no governance relationship with the city
- provides funding for programs such as long term care, congregate meals, home delivered meals to seniors in the city
- partnering by membership on the Commission and projects such as Freedom From Fire and R.E.S.P.E.C.T. project (emergency preparedness for seniors)
Age Friendly Designation
- Submitted application 12/11
- Assessment completed 2/13
- In the process of developing the plan of action to address the gaps we found
  ° transportation: access and reliability
  ° housing: access to affordable units and retrofit of row homes
  ° isolation of non-English speaking seniors
Opportunities in this process:

- collaboration with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
- engaging the broadest sectors of the city to understand the value of our senior population and being designated an age friendly city
- informing a language diverse senior population about the services and programs in place to support their aging in place
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