

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

The County is responsible for many safety net services: senior nutrition program, adult protective services for elder abuse, public guardian, public health, medical clinics, behavioral health, and welfare benefits. The Seniors' Agenda has brought together many of these departments to promote older adult programs and services and urge them to plan through the lens of the growing demographic. Twice a year, over 150 professionals in aging and related fields attend our Seniors' Agenda Network Summit which focuses on an age friendly domain. In addition to being a great networking opportunity, this free event includes a keynote speaker, a celebration of successes, and is an opportunity for attendees to learn of new projects being launched. The Seniors' Agenda also helped all 15 of the cities within the county join the WHO age friendly network, the first county in the US to accomplish this. We coordinate an Age Friendly Cities Collaborative to coordinate our activities with the cities and share best practices. This year we will complete the three year action plan to move the Seniors' Agenda forward. We slightly altered the domains to include: Transportation, Communication, Health, Social Participation, Employment & Finances, Dementia, Outdoor Spaces, Civic Participation & Volunteerism, and Housing.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

Santa Clara County is made of a diverse older adult population. We started by having the Center for Age-Friendly Excellence (CAFÉ) give an Age-friendly presentation to the Senior Commission in most cities. Each city has an AF taskforce with older adult members. The County's Senior Care Commissioners are active participants in the Age-friendly initiative and it is a priority in their work plan. Our Age-friendly survey reflected the ethnic diversity of 55% white, 28% Asian, 13% Hispanic, and 2% black. We had over 2,500 responses to our online and paper survey that was active from May – October 2016. CAFÉ facilitated over 40 focus groups with about 400 participants who reflected the diversity of the county. The survey was offered in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Some focus groups were done in Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. The survey responses were presented at two community conversation forums to have the community develop possible actions to address gaps and needs.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

Each City will have its own AF taskforce to implement local projects. The Seniors' Agenda will bring together representatives from all cities for a Silicon Valley AF Cities Collaborative to share best practices and work together on regional issues, i.e. transportation. Each of the domains will have yearly meetings of city/county departments connected to an AF domain. Part of our three year action plan will included conducting the "Boomer Bond Assessment Tool" with most County departments which will help identify more areas for collaboration.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

- Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

We publish an annual report for the Seniors' Agenda which shares the programs and events we've worked on. We post this report on the World Health Organization site to share our age friendly practices. We also regularly meet with representatives from every city in the county to share suggestions for activities. At our most recent meeting, we trained attendees on how to post to the WHO website.

Staff attend conferences and workshops on Age-Friendly as well as make presentations locally, nationally, and internationally including in South Korea in 2017.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The commitment from over 200 older adults, made up of both activists and professionals, from over 75 organizations for the Seniors' Agenda 2012-2015 plan of action was the inspiration to be a part of the WHO Global Network. We also have the political will of the Board of Supervisors and an expanding awareness of the growing population of older adults and need for better planning and policies to address the fact that 25% of the residents will be over 60 years of age in 2030.

6) Provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community and for which you have reprint rights. The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours:

Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send a JPEG, PDF or PNG of your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.

