AARP’s Livable Communities grant program, the Community Challenge, was launched in 2017 and has since awarded $9.3 million through over 800 grants to nonprofits and municipalities across all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The program’s focus on concrete improvements and community engagement using a quick-action timeline helps grantees fast-track ideas and build support for promising solutions.

Since the program’s inception, 276 grants have been delivered in 162 different member cities or counties of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The grants provide direct support to age-friendly members by helping to:

- Achieve objectives in age-friendly plans of action
- Build awareness and momentum for the age-friendly process
- Strengthen volunteer and community engagement efforts

Have a great project idea for your community? APPLY FOR A 2022 GRANT TODAY!

Eligible applications for the 2022 grant program will be accepted from:

January 25 - March 22, 2022 at 5:00 pm ET

To learn more and apply: AARP.org/CommunityChallenge
Examples of Community Challenge Projects in Age-Friendly Communities

**Public Places**

**Boston, Massachusetts:**
The City of Boston installed age-friendly benches in each of the Main Street districts to engage older residents and help develop a framework for a sustainable citywide bench program.

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:**
The Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging installed a temporary, community-driven art installation at the Beechview Healthy Living Center, opening a public space in a senior center for people of all ages.

**Columbia, South Carolina:**
The City of Columbia used grant funds to create a furnished, temporary parklet that allowed for suitable social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Chattanooga, Tennessee:**
The City of Chattanooga’s Department of Youth and Family Development created a support team to teach older adults how to use interactive technology to stay connected to friends, family and services during the coronavirus pandemic.

**Fort Collins, Colorado:**
The Partnership for Age-Friendly Communities used the grant to coordinate among six distinct transportation entities to provide a full-day transit training for new riders.

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota:**
The City of Sioux Falls Health Department created protected bicycle lanes by using a quick-build infrastructure kit so an on-street bike route could be safely used by cyclists of all ages.

**Seattle, Washington:**
The City of Seattle held a hackathon called “A City for All” to coincide with the National Day for Civic Hacking. The event helped participants learn about age-friendly initiatives and generate solutions.

**West Sacramento, California:**
The City of West Sacramento provided targeted fire safety education to a cohort of older adult households at heightened risk by conducting free in-home consultations and installing smoke alarms.

**Lexington, Kentucky:**
The City of Lexington Aging and Disability Services used grant funds to host community engagement sessions and development of an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) manual to encourage the construction of ADUs so caregivers and family members can live in close proximity of an adult in need of in-home support.

**Bethel, Maine:**
Bethel Area Age-Friendly used grant funds to construct a display and kit featuring tools and household accessories that can make a home safer and help prevent falls.

**Atlanta, Georgia:**
The Lifecycle Building Center, using 90 percent reclaimed materials, constructed accessible garden beds and Little Free Pantries to support older adults in largely refugee and marginalized communities experiencing food insecurity.

**Buffalo, New York:**
LISC Western New York created a map of cultural landmarks, natural areas, transportation hubs, and other essential neighborhood anchors in three historically African-American neighborhoods to enhance social engagement.

**Honolulu, Hawaii:**
Age-Friendly Honolulu and the Hawaii Pacific University used grant funds for a public awareness campaign to educate businesses and other organizations about how to better serve older adults.

**Puyallup, Washington:**
The Puyallup Main Street Association, in partnership with Puyallup Area Aging in Community Committee, used the grant funds to create an “Elder-Friendly Business” program that designates area businesses as age-friendly based on criteria including customer service, access and discounts.