



**AARP
COMMUNITY
CHALLENGE**

Grants to make communities livable for people of all ages
aarp.org/CommunityChallenge

ATTACHMENT C: EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY-FUNDED AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE PROJECTS BY CATEGORY

To learn more about each grantee and their project click on the organization name to visit the longer project description, photos, videos, and more on the [Livable Communities Map](#)

FLAGSHIP GRANT CATEGORIES

CREATING VIBRANT PUBLIC PLACES that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities for residents (especially those 50-plus).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---|---|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Public Places | Long Beach, CA (2024) Placemaking US | This project built a community comal — or traditional griddle — to activate a public place and engage older Meso-American women to revive the weekly tradition of tortilla making. This initiative helped to transform the space for residents of the community and fostered intergenerational connections. |
| | Public Places | Avoca, IA (2018) Avoca Public Library | Avoca's Main Street already had green space and places to sit, but Avoca Public Library organizers wanted to give residents a reason to spend time downtown. To invite people in and advance the town's creative placemaking plans, they installed oversized, weather-proof musical instruments outside the library. Since the instruments don't require any training or talent to play, they are popular with residents of all ages. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Public Places | Boston, MA (2019) City of Boston | To encourage walking, Boston installed benches in Main Street neighborhood districts. Older adults tested the benches and worked with the City to identify locations for them. The benches contribute to vibrant public spaces near businesses and merchants say they appreciate the increased foot traffic. Project organizers say the installations helped develop a city-wide framework for a sustainable bench program. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Public Places | Camden, SC (2017) City of Camden | Camden's Main Street program transformed the city's Broad Street alley into a vibrant thoroughway for shoppers and diners. The City invited residents of all ages to the space to create stained glass-like globes out of tissue paper. By hanging the completed art pieces and adding string lights and shade canopies, the City created a decorative, open ceiling to the alley. They later added benches and planters. <i>Watch the video.</i> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|---|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Public Places | Jackson, MS (2019) City of Jackson | To recast public spaces for people rather than vehicle traffic, the City of Jackson launched an Open Streets initiative. First, the City installed a parklet -- a small park that fits in the footprint of a parking space. To demarcate the space, project organizers painted vibrant blue dots along the street, identifying it as a place to gather. Additionally, the City purchased picnic tables and flexible furniture accessible to older adults. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Public Places | Houston, TX (2023) Lao American Association of Houston | This project turned vacant land into a community garden with eight raised beds. It focused on growing vegetables common in Southeast Asian cuisine that are hard to find in supermarkets and grocery stores in Houston. |
| | Public Places | Anadarko, OK (2019) Delaware Nation of Oklahoma | Anadarko is a food desert, meaning residents have limited access to fresh, healthy food options. Grant funds were used to install raised garden beds and seating, features that are helpful to people of all ages. The garden serves as an anchor to unite the community and enable them to have a healthier diet. Educational signage with health facts and plant information is located throughout the garden. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Public Places | Cut Bank, MT (2022) City of Cut Bank | To draw visitors to an underused dog park, this project added a walking path to the space. Additionally, the City installed ADA-compliant benches and two shade structures to give people an accessible place to sit and rest. <i>Read the article.</i> |
| | Public Places | Southport, NC (2021) John N Smith Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Inc. | As the only African American cemetery in the region, the John N Smith Cemetery Restoration and Preservation group created an outdoor museum. The museum teaches residents about the discrimination that Black members of that community have faced, as well as contributions made to the community. Project organizers installed interpretive signage, as well as benches and a display board. <i>Watch the video.</i> |

DELIVERING A RANGE OF TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY OPTIONS for residents (especially those 50-plus) that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, and access to public and private transit.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Transportation | Bethlehem, NH (2023) Tri-Town Bicycle | Bike route maps can be hard to read while cycling. The maps for bike routes around Bethlehem, a small town adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest, were redesigned with larger fonts, graphics and brighter colors. In addition, the maps were updated to identify bike-friendly businesses and cycling amenities. Free copies of the paper maps are provided to visitors and residents. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Transportation | Bismarck, Lincoln, and Mandan, ND (2022) Bis-Man Transit Board | The Bis-Man Transit Board provides free fixed route transit service to those 65 or older but riding public transit for the first time can be intimidating. Several videos teach local residents about the transit system were produced and used during transit workshops to explain trip planning, understanding timetables, paying for the trip, transferring buses, requesting a stop and the benefits of public transportation. |
| | Transportation | Long Beach, CA (2023) City of Long Beach Healthy Aging Center | The lack of transportation can be a barrier to accessing medical appointments, social services, shopping and other resources. By providing more than 1,000 free taxi rides, the Healthy Aging Center helped older adults access needed services and provided opportunities for more independent living. <i>Watch the video.</i> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Transportation | Statewide, MI (2021) League of Michigan Bicyclists | <p>As part of its mission to make biking safer, the League of Michigan Bicyclists set out to test a new style of lane separators meant to protect cyclists from vehicle traffic. The League did a demonstration project, setting up hundreds of wave delineators. They also used narrow traffic cones to separate bike lanes from the roadway. During the pop-up, project organizers collected feedback from people of all ages using the protected lanes.</p> |
| | Transportation | Miami, FL (2018) Urban Health Partnerships & the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative | <p>Residents of Miami's Little Havana neighborhood wanted to improve the transit experience for the area's older adults. Urban Health Partnerships installed a dozen single and double-seat benches under shade trees near high-ridership bus and trolley stops. Organizers say the new benches provide a welcome place to rest as they walk through the community or wait for transit. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> |
| | Transportation | St. Louis, MO (2017) Citizens for Modern Transit | <p>To support upgrades to the North Hanley light rail station, Citizens for Modern Transit held a pop-up festival. St. Louis County Department of Planning invited attendees to use plastic bricks to build a model of amenities they hoped to see. Feedback gathered during the event informed permanent changes. Today, visitors to the site will find new seating and shade structures, as well as murals painted on the pavement. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> |
| | Transportation | Whitesburg, KY (2021) Appalshop, Inc | <p>The Tanglewood Trail is a three-mile, lighted path that travels through Whitesburg's downtown. To make the trail more useable for people of all ages, Appalshop laid new blacktop to create even, at-grade pavement and installed benches at regular intervals to give people a place to rest. The path connects local businesses and allows residents to navigate downtown on foot. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> |
| | Transportation | West Sacramento, CA (2018) City of West Sacramento | <p>The City of West Sacramento wanted to improve older adults' ability to move independently around the community. The City identified barriers that kept residents from embracing new transportation services. Then they set out to make older adults aware of local rideshare and bikeshare offerings. To help older adults understand their options, the City held one-on-one, as well as group training sessions. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> |

SUPPORTING A RANGE OF HOUSING OPTIONS for residents (especially people 50-plus and their families) that increase the availability of accessible and affordable choices.

| | | | |
|-------|---------|---|--|
| ----- | Housing | Pensacola, FL (2022) Council on Aging of West Florida | <p>Two "tiny houses" were constructed. While both house a low-income older adult, one was initially used as a model home to educate the community about the ways tiny houses can help alleviate the city's severe housing shortage. <i>Read the article.</i></p> |
|-------|---------|---|--|

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|--|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Housing | Cleveland, OH (2022) Union Miles Development Corporation | This project provided home repair services to older residents in the Union-Miles neighborhood to help them to live safely in their homes. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Housing | Louisville, KY (2021) Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services | After the City of Louisville updated its zoning code to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs), Planning Design Services set out to inform homeowners. They collected stories, fielded a community-wide survey and held listening sessions. Then, they created a public service announcement, social media ad campaign and how-to guide/list of resources to guide homeowners through the process of constructing an ADU. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Housing | Medford, OR (2021) Rogue Retreat | Wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic compounded a growing homelessness crisis in Medford. Part of a statewide initiative to expand emergency shelter, Rogue Retreat worked to convert the 47-room Redwood Inn into transitional housing. This project made accessibility upgrades to a single-room-occupancy unit on the property. Rogue Retreat hired an architect to design features including a zero-step entranceway, ADA-compliant handrails in the unit's bathroom and accessible features for the kitchenette, providing shelter for unhoused individuals of all ages and abilities. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Housing | Nampa, ID (2024) LEAP Housing | This project renovated an affordable housing community for older adults, keeping rents affordable and allowing residents to age in place. Renovations maintained common areas and upgraded building systems, such as plumbing, electrical and fire protection. |
| | Housing | Washington, DC (2022) Manna | To advance homeownership and reduce the number of cost-burdened older adult households, this project provided homebuyer education, housing counseling and financial literacy programs to low- and middle-income BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) residents. |
| | Housing | Memphis, TN (2024) Community Legal Center | This project provided free personal will and estate planning services to older adults unable to afford private attorneys. The goal was to ensure participants' homes and assets are passed down to the intended recipients. |
| | Housing | Philadelphia, PA (2019) City of Philadelphia, Office of Community Empowerment & Opportunity | An eviction prevention pilot program enabled tenants and landlords to resolve disputes before they escalated to formal eviction filings. The City of Philadelphia's two-month program provided mediation, financial assistance, information and referrals to help landlords and tenants reach mutually agreeable, out-of-court solutions. The City worked with partner agencies to train 10 mediators in landlord-tenant law. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Housing | Atlanta, GA (2022) Atlanta Beltline Partnership | Resource coordinators were hired to inform longtime residents about the organization's Legacy Resident Retention Program, which provides financial assistance to cover property-tax increases. <i>Watch the video.</i> |

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| Housing | Powhatan County, VA (2021) Habitat for Humanity – Powhatan | The site of Powhatan's historic Pocahontas School sat unused for many years. Organizers saw the campus as an opportunity to provide affordable housing for local older adults. To envision possibilities for the space, Habitat hosted four community design workshops. Community members worked with an architectural firm to draw up plans to transform two school structures into apartment buildings offering one- and two-bedroom units. |
| | Fort Collins, CO (2023 and 2024) City of Fort Collins | In 2023, this project hosted DIY repair workshops for homeowners in mobile home parks. It also developed a neighborhood business guide to promote shopping locally. <i>Read the article.</i> In 2024, licensed professionals taught plumbing and power tool workshops. The trainings focused on mobile home park residents who learned DIY skills to maintain their homes. |
| | Terrytown, LA (2024) New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity | This project supported the construction of affordable housing units for older adults in a cottage community. The homes will incorporate universal design elements, feature green infrastructure and connect to a microgrid to keep the power on during severe weather. |

INCREASING DIGITAL CONNECTIONS and enhancing digital literacy skills of residents (with a focus on the needs of people 50-plus).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Digital Connections | Tishomingo, OK (2023) Southern Oklahoma Library System | This project created private spaces in the Johnston County Library that residents can use to access telemedicine services. |
| | Digital Connections | Charlotte, NC (2020) North End Community Coalition | Work-from-home protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the digital divide between those with high-speed internet access at home and those without. To bridge that rift, the North End Community Coalition began a Wi-Fi lending program. The initiative allows residents to borrow tablets and hotspot devices at no cost. The coalition also wired two local senior apartment complexes for free Wi-Fi access. |
| | Digital Connections | Jersey City, NJ (2021 and 2022) Jersey City Housing Authority | In 2021, the Jersey City Housing Authority aimed to use technology to reduce social isolation at one of its age-restricted public housing complexes. The Authority created a computer lab onsite, outfitting the space with desktop computers and a printer. To help residents use the technology, they Authority worked with partners to host one-on-one and small group digital literacy training in Spanish and English. Topics included computer and internet basics, email and digital art and design. The 2022 project provided Wi-Fi-enabled tablets to seniors in a public housing development. College students offered digital literacy training. <i>Read the article.</i> |
| | Digital Connections | International Falls, MN (2024) Koochiching County | The county engaged high school students to teach digital skills to older adult residents and veterans. A local business provided low-cost, used laptops loaded with software, which participants can keep after the training. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Digital Connections | Wichita, KS (2019) City of Wichita | Like many Americans living below the federal poverty level, many residents of Wichita had no easy way to access the internet. The City of Wichita launched the Wichita Hot Spot initiative. Older adults living in low-income areas can now check out a mobile connectivity device from a Neighborhood Resource Center and use it at home for up to two weeks. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Digital Connections | Orlando, FL (2021) City of Orlando | In the neighborhoods surrounding Prince Hall Park and Willows Park, a large percentage of residents lack reliable access to high-speed internet. The City of Orlando installed wheelchair accessible, solar powered tables and shade structures -- each outfitted with charging stations and Wi-Fi hotspots. The tables can sustain hurricane-strength gusts, allowing residents to access emergency information during disasters. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Digital Connections | South Charleston, WV (2024) Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries | This project distributed solar-powered chargers and emergency preparedness packs to older adults. The organization also offered internet skills training to help residents access disaster relief resources online. |
| | Digital Connections | Eugene, OR (2024) Whiteaker Community Council | This project provided residents with satellite internet access and backup power systems for use during natural disasters. The project also implemented an early warning system for the community. |
| | Digital Connections | San Francisco, CA (2022) San Francisco Tech Council | Four neighborhood-based pop-up events were coordinated to offer free, individualized tech support in Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and English to older adults in underserved communities in San Francisco. At the pop-up events, volunteers identified technical needs and provided advice and assistance to people who had basic questions about their devices or apps, particularly on their phones, tablets or laptops. <i>Watch the video.</i> |

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE through investments that improve disaster management, preparedness and mitigation (with a focus on the needs of people 50-plus).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Community Resilience | Lajas and San Juan, PR (2022) Surcando La Historia and Ponce Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. | The continued availability of power, drinking water and communication outlets in Lajas is ensured through improved technology. This includes a generator, battery backup system, radio communication system, and a water storage and distribution system, which came in handy during Hurricane Fiona. Emergency supplies — including a water tank, cots and first aid kits — were purchased to benefit San Juan's Tortugo community/barrio. The Community Resilience Center serves as a shelter and community dining facility for local older adults during emergencies. |
| | Community Resilience | Glasgow, KY (2023) Barren County Fiscal Court | This project funded the purchase of 15 portable generators for qualifying residents with healthcare needs, including older adults, to use during power outages. |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- | Community Resilience | <p>Gulfport, MS (2017 and 2019) City of Gulfport</p> <p>After Hurricane Katrina nearly leveled the Bayou View West neighborhood in 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency bought out the remaining residents and handed the property over to the city. Today, the 40-acre tract is known as Brickyard Bayou Park. This project created the city's first dog park at the site. Known as the Bark Park, the space acts as a buffer -- if the area floods again, homes won't be at risk. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> <p>In 2019, as part of revitalization efforts following flooding from Hurricane Katrina, the City of Gulfport set out to give cyclists and pedestrians a place to shelter from the weather and sun. They installed a 20-square-foot safe-weather pavilion and benches along a new bike trail in Brickyard Bayou Park. The trail connects park visitors to amenities, including an outdoor classroom, dog park and community garden.</p> |
| | Community Resilience | <p>Oahu, HI (2022 and 2024) Hui o Hauula</p> <p>In 2022, the community resilience project turned an overgrown, 5-acre property into a community recreation area with walking trails, garden benches and a colorful Community Resilience mural to share the neighborhood's vision of resilience. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> <p>In 2024, this project invited older adults to participate in emergency preparedness training on how to create an emergency plan and secure connection to the internet.</p> |

CAPACITY-BUILDING MICROGRANT CATEGORIES

NOTE: The projects listed below are projects that AARP has funded previously that align with the grant categories.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING – Implement disaster preparedness training program and resources for residents (especially those age 50-plus), with support from [SBP](#) and using the [AARP Disaster Resilience Tool Kit](#)

NOTE: The Disaster Preparedness Training related projects listed below were funded before a Capacity-Building Microgrant category was made available. They are meant to serve as inspiration for 2025 applications.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| ----- MICROGRANTS ----- | Disaster Preparedness Training | <p>Portland, OR (2023) East Portland Resilience Coalition with ROSE Community Development</p> <p>The project staged Live Well Cafe pop-up events in two East Portland neighborhoods, which brought together older adults, people with disabilities and other residents to discuss emergency preparedness, mutual aid and other important issues for community resilience.</p> |
| | Disaster Preparedness Training | <p>Sparks, NV (2024) City of Sparks</p> <p>The city provided emergency preparedness go-kits for older residents. Presentations in English and Spanish addressed escape routes, medication lists, emergency phone apps and essential items to include in personal preparedness kits.</p> |
| | Disaster Preparedness Training | <p>Ossipee, NH (2024) Ossipee Concerned Citizens</p> <p>This project provided older residents with emergency preparedness demonstrations and backpacks filled with emergency essentials. The community has experienced an increase in ice storms, severe flooding and blizzards, requiring emergency evacuations.</p> |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Disaster Preparedness Training | Portland, OR (2022) Lloyd EcoDistrict | Older adults in the Lloyd neighborhood were taught emergency preparedness skills and connected with neighbors to create emergency preparedness plans. |
|--------------------------------|---|---|

WALK AUDITS – Implement walk audits to enhance safety and walkability in communities (especially for people age 50-plus) with support from [America Walks](#) and using the [AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit](#).

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--|---|
| MICROGRANTS | Walk Audits | Bristol RI (2024) Town of Bristol Parks and Recreation | The town will prepare for the opening of a new senior and community center by conducting sidewalk audits downtown. They will also hold workshops to recruit volunteers and connect residents with town leaders. |
| | Walk Audits | Chicago, IL (2023) Good City Group | This project conducted walk audits in a busy commercial district and staged a community workshop to identify potential locations for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. Particular attention was given to an intersection where a new Metra commuter rail station is being built. |
| | Walk Audits | Los Angeles, CA (2024) Keiro Services | In this project, volunteers will participate in three walk audits in Little Tokyo's commercial district. Participants will identify potential improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks. The audits will increase safety for older adults living nearby. |
| | Walk Audits | Houston, TX (2023) Citizens Transportation Coalition | This project conducted walk audits along Washington Avenue, a busy commercial district surrounded by residential homes. There were two training sessions and a final in-person community meeting. <i>Watch the video.</i> |

BIKE AUDITS – Implement bike audits to enhance safety and bikeability in communities (especially for people age 50-plus), with support from [League of American Bicyclists](#) and using the [AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit](#).

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---|---|
| MICROGRANTS | Bike Audits | Anchorage, AK (2024) Chugach Mountain Bike Riders | Ten older adult riders conducted bike audits on the trails at and around the community's most popular park. Three audits identified work needed to accommodate tricycles and other adaptive cycles. The other two audits identified safe connections on busy access routes. |
|-------------|-------------|---|---|

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| ----- MICROGRANTS ----- | Bike Audits | Raleigh, NC (2024) Oaks and Spokes | This project introduced annual bike audits in several Raleigh neighborhoods where many older adults live. The organization recruited adults age 50 and older to help gather data, plan the audits and advocate for safer biking conditions. |
| | Bike Audits | Arlington Heights, IL (2024) Northwest Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | This project invited older adults to participate in bike audits along a multi-use path to identify safety and accessibility concerns, ensuring the path is welcoming to residents of all ages. The bike audits also identified possible locations for bike lanes, with the goal of connecting the north side of town to two grocery stores on the south side. |
| | Bike Audits | Richmond, TX (2024) Fit Houston | A series of bicycle and tricycle audits evaluated travel routes between local senior centers. Meant to support the rollout of adult tricycle lending libraries, the audits addressed safety concerns along a system of roads and park trails. |

HOMEFIT® GUIDE MODIFICATIONS – Implement education, simple home modifications and accessible safety solutions to create and maintain “lifelong homes” (especially for people age 50-plus), with support from [RL Mace Universal Design Institute](#) and using the [AARP HomeFit® Guide](#).

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| ----- MICROGRANTS ----- | HomeFit Guide Modifications | Pinellas Park FL (2024) Pinellas Park Fire Department | This project installed grab bars in the homes of residents age 50 or older. These residents have frequently used the local EMS response system and are considered at high risk of falling. |
| | HomeFit Guide Modifications | Gary, IN (2024) Families Anchored in Total Harmony Inc | This project provided rug rippers and copies of the AARP HomeFit Guide to people with chronic medical conditions who participate in the All Food is Medicine meal distribution service. The organization held weekly sessions to review the guide. |
| | HomeFit Guide Modifications | Columbus, OH (2024) LifeCare Alliance | This project provided bathroom modifications to older tenants living with arthritis, making their rental homes age-friendly. Modifications include adding tub-mount grab bars, shower seats and toilet safety frames. |
| | HomeFit Guide Modifications | Portland, OR (2024) ReFIT – Remodeling for Independence Together | This project educated older adults about home modifications during outreach events at Portland-area senior centers, with a focus on residents who speak little or no English. ReFIT also installed grab bars in homes. |

DEMONSTRATION GRANT CATEGORIES

NOTE: The projects listed below are projects that AARP has funded previously that align with the grant opportunities. Some of the projects were funded before a given Demonstration Grant category was made available, but are meant to serve as inspiration for 2025 applications.

ENHANCING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY by creating safer streets and sidewalks (with a focus on people age 50-plus) with funding support from Toyota Motor North America.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| DEMONSTRATION GRANT CATEGORIES | Pedestrian Safety | <p>Tallahassee, FL (2023) Knight Creative Communities Institute</p> | <p>The Crosswalks to Classrooms installed three colorful crosswalks adjacent to an elementary school and a senior living community. The effort led Leon County to install additional raised crosswalks at other locations identified by KCCI and the community. The Crosswalks to Classrooms project was recognized by the National Association of Counties in June 2024 for its achievements and dedication to pedestrian safety. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> |
| | Pedestrian Safety | <p>Milton, DE (2022) Town of Milton</p> | <p>Over 130 volunteers of all ages participated in the set-up, taping, painting, and clean-up of eleven crosswalks over ten paint days. A whale, octopus, lighthouses, robots, bubbles, hop-scotch, black-eyed susans, and chrysanthemums all make appearances on the mid-block crosswalks. To be able to paint the street, which is also a state highway, the Delaware Department of Transportation entered into a right-of-way use agreement with the Town.</p> |
| | Pedestrian Safety | <p>Wayne, ME (2021) Aging at Home Wayne</p> | <p>Wayne is a small town however, its population triples during the summer tourist season. The inflow of tourists brings with it more cars on the road, often traveling at faster speeds. To make the village's main street safer for both pedestrians and motorists, Aging at Home Wayne installed a crossing signal system. The signal system consists of a pedestrian crossing sign consisting of flashing beacons on both sides of the crosswalk.</p> |
| | Pedestrian Safety | <p>Phoenix, AZ (2017) Chicas Por La Causa Inc.</p> | <p>Chicas Por La Causa sought to install a crosswalk near a busy, six-lane intersection in the Maryvale neighborhood. Staff and community members collected pedestrian data to demonstrate a need for traffic calming measures to ensure safety. That allowed them to argue their case to City officials, who ultimately decided to install two flashing beacons at intersections, which help make people crossing the street more visible to drivers.</p> |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| DEMONSTRATION GRANTS | Pedestrian Safety | Charleston, SC (2018) Charleston Moves | <p>The West Ashley Greenway in Charleston is an eight-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail, which is popular with walkers, runners and cyclists. However, the greenway crosses several busy streets, leading to accidents between vehicles and pedestrians. To fix this, a team of volunteers created three artistic crosswalk murals and installed signage, designed to calm traffic. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> |
| | Pedestrian Safety | West Sacramento, CA (2017) City of West Sacramento | <p>Residents of a senior apartment complex expressed concern that the intersection connecting them to West Sacramento's City Hall, senior center, library and transit center was difficult to cross. The City of West Sacramento installed countdown timers, pedestrian-controlled crosswalk buttons and talking signals. Since the upgrades, the City reports no older adults have been struck by cars at the intersection.</p> |

EXPANDING HIGH-SPEED INTERNET (BROADBAND) ACCESS AND ADOPTION (with a focus on people age 50-plus) with funding support from Microsoft.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| DEMONSTRATION GRANTS | High-Speed Internet | Chicago, IL (2020) North Lawndale Employment Network | <p>To bridge the digital divide, the North Lawndale Employment Network installed a Wi-Fi tower on the roof of its new building. Providing free internet is an important step toward increased livability in North Lawndale -- the neighborhood ranks among the bottom three in Chicago for broadband access. In addition, 45 percent of households live below the federal poverty limit and many lack internet access at home.</p> |
| | High-Speed Internet | North Augusta, SC (2024) City of North Augusta | <p>This project installed satellite internet at municipal centers to improve access to telehealth appointments, online learning and social opportunities. High-speed internet access supports community events, workshops, emergency coordination and daily communication with residents.</p> |
| | High-Speed Internet | Waukegan, IL (2024) Connect Lake County | <p>This project helped low-income older adults obtain an affordable internet subscription. Additionally, participants received a free laptop or tablet, along with digital literacy training.</p> |
| | High-Speed Internet | Philadelphia, PA (2023) Philly Community Wireless | <p>The project equipped two senior high-rise apartments with a Wi-Fi network. The signals reach a nearby playground and other outdoor areas.</p> |
| | High-Speed Internet | Aliceville, AL (2024) Aliceville Public Library | <p>The project resulted in new computers, upgraded software and faster internet service at the library's computer lab. The library also offered technology classes geared toward older adults.</p> |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| High-Speed Internet | New York, NY (2023) Homeward NYC | This project provided free, in-unit Wi-Fi access in affordable housing apartments for low-income and formerly homeless older adults. |
|---------------------|---|--|

RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES that have been divided by infrastructure (with a focus on people age 50-plus), as highlighted in AARP's award-winning [Before the Highway](#) article series.

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| DEMONSTRATION GRANTS | Reconnecting Communities | Anchorage, AK (2024) NeighborWorks Alaska | This initiative aims to bring together the Fairview neighborhood, which a highway split in two 60 years ago, resulting in decades of disinvestment and adverse safety and health impacts. NeighborWorks hosted placemaking events encouraging residents of all ages to re-envision and revitalize the corridor. |
| | Reconnecting Communities | St. Paul, MN (2024) Asian American Business Resilience Network | This project created a virtual reality production depicting life in the Rondo neighborhood before, during and after a 1960s Interstate highway project split the community in two. Organizers asked older residents to contribute their stories. |
| | Reconnecting Communities | Rochester, NY (2021) Hinge Neighbors | In the 1950s, construction of U.S. Interstate 490 split Rochester's 16th Ward in two. In recent years, the City of Rochester removed the highway. Hinge Neighbors hoped to bridge the gap between neighbors. The organization closed the Scio Street Bridge to vehicle traffic and created a pop-up gathering space. Project organizers added tables, benches and planters. Kiosks displayed neighborhood information, both before and after the highway. <i>Watch the video.</i> |
| | Reconnecting Communities | Philadelphia, PA (2022) Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation | To help reconnect Chinatown neighborhoods divided by the creation of the Vine Street Expressway, the organization held a pop-up event to reimagine the public space and sought older residents' input. |

IMPLEMENTING HOUSING DESIGN COMPETITIONS that increase community understanding and encourage implementation of policies that enable greater choice in housing (with a focus on people age 50-plus), using the [AARP Housing Design Competition Tool Kit](#).

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Housing Design | Houston, TX (2021) City of Houston Planning and Development Department | The City of Houston allows construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs)-- small housing units built on the property of a single-family home. The Planning Department hoped to encourage more ADUs, so it hosted workshops and held a design competition, which provided content for the ADU/HOU how-to design guide , a ADU/HOU website and a set of plan documents for an ADU , published online so residents can access them for free. |
|----------------|---|---|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--|---|
| -----DEMONSTRATION GRANTS ----- | Housing Design | <p>City of Tucson, AZ (2023) City of Tucson Planning and Development Services Department</p> | <p>This project developed a design competition to promote accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and create a model plan catalog featuring ADUs that support a variety of needs, including for older adults and multigenerational families. Visit the Casita Model Plan Competition website. Watch the video.</p> |
| | Housing Design | <p>Lexington, KY (2018) City of Lexington Division of Aging and Disability Services</p> | <p>An anticipated change in Lexington's zoning laws to permit accessory dwelling units inspired the creation of a Homeowner's Guide to Accessory Dwelling Units. To build interest in ADUs, the University of Kentucky School of Design hosted a design competition. Cash prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place winners from each group. Visit the Lexington ADU website. Read an article.</p> |
| | Housing Design | <p>Lewisville, TX (2024) City of Lewisville</p> | <p>The city hosted a design competition to encourage construction of accessory dwelling units and increase age-friendly and affordable housing options. The project included outreach efforts in English and Spanish, as well as Hakha Chin for migrants from Myanmar. Visit the Backyard Cottage Design Competition website.</p> |
| | Housing Design | <p>Fresno, CA (2024) USGBC Central California</p> | <p>This design competition invited professionals and students to explore adaptive reuse options for an existing empty office space. The contestants explored how to reuse empty commercial spaces to combat the housing crisis. Visit the Design Competition website.</p> |