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Adrcog
DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOOMER BOND ASSESSMENT TOOL

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Foreword

About DRCOG

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) endures today as one of the nation's oldest councils of governments. Through DRCOG, the towns, cities and counties of the metropolitan region work together to make sure the area remains a great place to live, work, play and age. They are guided by Metro Vision, the region's long-range plan for growth and development. DRCOG serves as a planning organization, technical assistance provider and forum for addressing regional issues. It also functions as a regional planning commission per Colorado state statute, serves as the metropolitan planning organization for the region, and is the federally designated Area Agency on Aging.

Population Change

The Denver region's population is experiencing unprecedented change. Twenty years from now, one in four people in the region will be 60 or older. The longer-term change to the region's age structure is being shaped by nearer-term dynamic growth in the older-than-60 population. During the next 10 years the region will experience a more than 40 percent increase in the 60-plus population. By comparison, the increase in all other age categories (younger than 60) will be just more than 10 percent. The growth in the older adult population will bring increased demands for aging services at the local and regional level and affect nearly every aspect of community life.

Boomer Bond Assessment Tool

Over the past several years, with support from AARP Colorado, Tri-County Health Department and countless professional stakeholders and citizen partners, DRCOG has developed and refined the Boomer Bond Assessment Tool. The assessment tool is a comprehensive resource local governments can use to identify local successes and challenges in supporting healthy and successful aging in their communities.

DRCOG's Boomer Bond initiative helps local governments around the region create age-friendly physical and social environments, allowing older adults to remain in their homes and communities for as long as they desire. In addition to this assessment tool, visit the Boomer Bond Resource Directory (https://drcog.org/resource-directory) to learn more about best practices in creating age-friendly communities. Whether used together or separately, these tools help communities assess current circumstances and existing resources; understand community strengths and deficiencies; identify short- and long-term priorities; and confidently implement strategies that contribute to healthy successful aging.

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Introduction

The purpose of the Boomer Bond Assessment Tool is to help local governments and partnering organizations evaluate how well the existing resources, plans, regulations, programs and community design features serve older adult residents. The Assessment Tool can best be thought of as a "conversation starter." After completing the assessment, local government staff and policy makers will have a comprehensive profile to guide decisions related to programs, policy and capital investments related to building a community that supports healthy aging. The Assessment Tool should not be not considered a final deliverable. For many local governments, the Assessment Tool might be a good step in a longer process like an update to a comprehensive plan, a rewrite of municipal code or as a part of strategic planning.

This tool is divided into sections that focus on key aspects of livable communities for people of all ages – Mobility and Access, Housing, Community Living and Support Services. AARP provides an easy-to-understand definition of a livable community, "one that is just as comfortable for an 80-year-old as an 8-year-old." The assessment questions in this tool are intended to focus on the specific needs of older adults and healthy aging communities. However, you will recognize that many of these healthy aging components also serve the needs of the entire community.

How is the Assessment Tool designed?

The Assessment Tool is designed to gain input from a diverse group of local government staff and officials and, in some cases, organizational partners. The assessment is grouped by four topic areas – Mobility and Access, Housing, Community Living and Support Services. The assessment questions cover a broad range of topics so it will be difficult for one person to have all the answers. The intent is for a designated group of individuals to complete the assessment together so that collectively their responses help provide a comprehensive view of how well a community is addressing and providing for the needs of older adults. After completing the assessment questions, discussion questions are included for each section to encourage and assist with facilitation of a conversation among assessment participants.

Description of the Assessment Sections

There are five sections in the Assessment Tool. Below is a brief description of the five sections, including the topics covered in each section's assessment questions.

- General information about the community

  The General Section is designed to be taken as a group. The questions in this section help to set the stage and prepare for conducting the assessment. This section will assist with the following: defining terminology and establishing shared understanding for the assessment process; assessing the current level of collaboration; gauging the status of policies, regulations and programs; and outlining how your group will administer the Assessment Tool.

- Mobility and Access

  Key areas of inquiry: *Design of public sidewalks, streets, and intersections; available transportation options; and driver safety*

- Housing

  Key areas of inquiry: *Availability of a variety of affordable housing options for older adults; visitability and universal design provisions; and programs and processes that support the development of housing options.*

- Community Living

  Key areas of inquiry: *Accessible gathering spaces and parks; older adult engagement in civic and volunteer opportunities, helping older adults enter or remain in the workforce; community amenities; law enforcement/public safety; and emergency preparedness for older adults.*

- Support Services

  Key areas of inquiry: *Programs to maintain quality of life; independent living or safety; preventive health care services; and home maintenance assistance.*

Role of the Discussion Questions

At the end of each section of the Assessment Tool, you will find discussion questions. The discussion questions are intended to facilitate a conversation once your group has had the opportunity to complete the assessment questions in that section. The discussion questions are a foundation for the conversation that will follow the assessment and your group may come up with additional discussion questions that address the unique aspects of your community.

Companion Toolkit

In addition to this Assessment Tool, a toolkit of best practices has been developed to help communities support healthy aging. The Boomer Bond Toolkit is a companion guide to the assessment tool and can assist communities in developing and

improving programs, policies and community designs that help build a health aging community and encourage participation of older adults in a community's daily activities.

Who should be involved in completing the Assessment Tool?

Ideally, a diverse group of department representatives within a local government should take the Assessment Tool. Below is a list of departments to include in the process. Local social service agencies and organizations who partner with local governments to deliver programs/services may also be valuable participants in the assessment process.

- ☐ Building
- ☐ Code Enforcement
- ☐ Economic Development
- ☐ Human Resources
- ☐ Human Services
- ☐ Law Enforcement / Public Safety
- ☐ Parks and Recreation
- ☐ Planning / Community Development
- ☐ Public Works

How should a community complete the assessment Tool?

The following instructions provide guidance for convening a group of local government representatives to complete the Assessment Tool. The steps describe the recommended method for administering the Assessment Tool and include ideas for alternatives if your community is unable to complete the tool as described. It is important for your community to customize the process to your community's circumstances and experience.

1. **Develop a plan for completing the Assessment Tool.** A little preparation will help develop a more effective strategy for completing the Assessment Tool and moving toward identifying potential action steps for building a healthy aging community. The following guidelines provide a framework for how you might develop a plan for completing the assessment.
   a. **Identify a team** of local government department representatives and, potentially, community organization representatives who will participate in completing the Assessment Tool and the follow-up discussions. The previous section of the Introduction provides an idea of what local government departments should be included.
   b. **Designate a facilitator** who will convene the team, coordinate meeting logistics such as finding a space to meet and providing meeting supplies, and facilitate the process of completing the Assessment Tool. The role of facilitation could be shared among a few of the participants. It is important to clarify the role so that the expectations are clear for participants.
   c. **Establish a general timeframe** for completing the Assessment Tool. The Assessment Tool is designed to allow flexibility in its administration. Ideally, there should be a limited amount of time from when team members complete the assessment questions to the conversation about their responses so that participants can recall the nature of the assessment questions. The process for completing the Assessment Tool is probably best accomplished through a series of meetings of approximately one to two hours. However, a longer session could also work.

2. **Complete the "General information about the community" section as a group.** Convene the team of representatives from local government and other organizations (as applicable) and complete the section about "General information about the community" together. It is very important that the team complete this section together in order to establish some common understandings of terms such as how you will define your "community", to share knowledge of existing resources and to agree on the process for administering the Assessment Tool before completing other sections of the Assessment Tool.

3. **Select and complete one of the four topic–specific sections of the Assessment Tool.** The four main sections of the Assessment Tool (Mobility and Access, Housing, Community Living and Support Services) have the same general structure. Each of the sections has two parts – assessment questions and discussion questions. The assessment questions are about existing conditions, policies and programs in the community. The discussion questions are designed to assist the group with starting a conversation about the responses to the assessment questions and to identify new strategies for moving forward. The following steps describe how to complete the four topic-specific sections of the Assessment Tool.

a. **Team members read and record responses to the assessment questions.** Once the group has completed the "General information about the community" together, participants will read and answer the assessment questions in the next section of the assessment tool. Each team member should review the assessment questions individually and record responses before reviewing answers to the assessment questions as a group. Team members may need to consult existing regulations and policies and current program information to adequately answer assessment questions.

b. **The team reviews the responses to the assessment questions.** Once each team member has a chance to read and respond to the assessment questions in one section, the group can go over responses together. This process will benefit from good group facilitation to ensure that all team members have the opportunity to share their responses to the assessment questions while moving the process forward in a timely manner. An alternative to reviewing responses to the assessment questions as a group is to have the facilitator compile everyone's responses and deliver the collection of responses to group members.

c. **The team discusses the outcomes of the assessment.** The goal of the discussion is to identify gaps and barriers to building a healthy aging community and generate strategies for addressing the gaps and barriers. The discussion questions that follow the assessment questions in each section can be used to help encourage discussion among team members. The discussion questions should help communities to identify resources, brainstorm potential partners and prioritize policy, projects and programs in order to move forward with actions.

4. <u>**Repeat step 3 for the remaining topic-specific sections of the Assessment Tool**</u>.

What happens after communities complete the Assessment Tool?

The Assessment Tool is not a scorecard or grading process. The results of the Assessment Tool help describe where the community lies on a broad spectrum of moving toward a healthy aging community. By completing the Assessment Tool and having the recommended follow-up discussion, a community will be able to identify policies, projects or programs that the community would like to explore further.

The Boomer Bond Toolkit is a companion document to the Assessment Tool. The Toolkit will provide team members information about best practices, model programs and examples from communities around the country and in Colorado. The information in the Toolkit can be a starting point for enhancing existing and developing new policies, projects and programs.

General information about the community

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General Information about the Community

This section is designed to be completed as a group. The purpose of this section is to create common definitions to use throughout the Assessment Tool, gather information about the current level of collaboration in your community, assess the status of policy, regulations and programs and define the process that the group will follow for completing the Assessment Tool.

Define the process for completing the Assessment Tool (questions 1-5)

The Introduction section of the Assessment Tool provides some guidance for how to administer the Assessment Tool. Each community and local government organization is unique so it is important to design a process for completing the Assessment Tool that works for your group. The following questions will help facilitate a discussion prior to starting the Assessment Tool to define your process for completing the Assessment Tool. After walking through these questions, it is important to agree upon the process so that all participants understand what is expected of his or her participation.

1. **What is the proposed timeframe for completing the process?**

2. **Who will convene participants and facilitate the process?**

3. **How will participants answer the assessment questions? As a group? Individually, with a reconvening to follow to share results?**

4. **How often will the group meet to complete the Assessment Tool?**

5. **How will you report the results of the assessment process and follow-up discussion with others in your community?**

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Common definitions or descriptions (questions 6-8)

As a group, please discuss the following terms for use during the assessment process and agree on definitions or descriptions that all participants will use while completing the Assessment Tool.

6. **Define your COMMUNITY for the purpose of this tool. This is the definition that should be kept in mind throughout this assessment.   Frequently, "community" will be a local government's jurisdiction; however, you can define community using other geographic descriptors.**

7. **For planning purposes, how does your community define OLDER ADULT?**   This is the definition that should be kept in mind throughout this assessment. As the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), DRCOG defines older adult as anyone 60 years and over. For more information about the AAA, please visit their website at http://www.drcog.org/index.cfm?page=agingservices

8. **Has your community identified areas where older adults LIVE, VISIT and WORK in your community?** You will reference this information on some of the questions.

    → **If YES ,** describe these areas below and/or indicate them on a map.

    → **If NO,** consult the toolkit for suggestions on how to identify areas where older adults live, visit and work.

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Current level of collaboration within local government departments and between local governments to help older adults "age-in-place" (questions 9-10)

Please complete the following questions about local government collaboration and discuss the results as a group. Participants can share their knowledge of current collaborations within the local government and between local governments. After completing the following two questions, the group will have a better understanding of your community's current level of collaborations before completing the Assessment Tool.

Please note that there will be additional questions and opportunities to share knowledge about other collaborations later in the Assessment Tool.

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

9. **Are any of the departments <u>within</u> your organization or local government currently collaborating on the following topics for older adults? Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.**

	Type of Collaboration Between Departments or Divisions					
Topics	Internal Discussion	Having regularly scheduled meetings	Creating common organization goals	Developing programs for community residents	Developing policy changes	Not currently collaborating
Mobility and Access (walkable neighborhoods, transportation options, driver safety for older adults)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Housing (available, affordable and visitable housing options for older adults)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community Living (gathering spaces and parks, older adult engagement in civic and volunteer opportunities, helping older adults enter or remain in the workforce, community amenities, security, emergency preparedness for older adults)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Support Services (programs to maintain quality of life, independent living or safety; preventive health care services, home maintenance assistance for older adults)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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10. Is your <u>local government</u> currently collaborating with <u>other local government(s)</u> on the following topics for older adults? Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.

	Type of Collaboration Between Local Governments					
Topics	Having regularly scheduled meetings	Joint Ventures	Developing policy changes	Collaborating on funding opportunities	Not currently collaborating	Other type of collaboration (describe in notes)
Mobility and Access (walkable neighborhoods, transportation options, driver safety for older adults)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Housing (available, affordable and visitable housing options for older adults)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community Living (gathering spaces and parks, older adult engagement in civic and volunteer opportunities, helping older adults enter or remain in the workforce, community amenities, safety and security, emergency preparedness for older adults)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Support Services (programs to maintain quality of life, independent living or safety; preventive health care services, home maintenance assistance for older adults)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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Status on comprehensive plan, codes and programs related to addressing the needs of older adults (questions 11-12)

The following two questions will provide your group with some common knowledge about updates to the comprehensive plan, codes and programs. The information will help participants as they complete the Assessment Tool and engage in the discussion about strategies to move forward at the end of the assessment process.

11. When was the last time your community <u>reviewed</u> your Comprehensive Plan, codes/ordinances, and programs to assess their effectiveness in meeting the needs of older adults?

	Less than 1 year ago	1-5 years ago	6-10 years ago	More than 10 years ago
Building code	☐	☐	☐	☐
Zoning ordinance	☐	☐	☐	☐
Comprehensive plan	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs	☐	☐	☐	☐

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
12. Does your community have policies in your comprehensive plan to support a healthy, active, aging population?	☐	☐	☐

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Notes – Please note any comments or information on local initiatives.

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MOBILITY AND ACCESS

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Mobility and Access

Addressing mobility and access is an essential component to building a healthy community for all ages. Older adults experience unique mobility challenges that can profoundly affect their ability to actively engage in the community.

This set of questions is designed to stimulate thinking about mobility options and access issues in your community. The questions will cover sidewalk systems, streets and intersections, transportation, development patterns and driver safety.

At the end of this section, you will find discussion questions to encourage and facilitate discussion across various local government departments and sectors of your community. Based on the responses to the questions and the discussion that will follow, your community has the opportunity to take new strides to address mobility options and access issues in your neighborhoods.

Public Sidewalk System (questions 13-16)

13. How well do the <u>existing</u> public sidewalks along streets in the areas where older adults live and visit (as identified in Question 3 in the previous section) incorporate the following elements?

EXISTING Public Sidewalk Elements	A LOT of improvement needed	MODERATE improvement needed	A LITTLE improvement needed	Fully accommodated
Continuous sidewalk system providing access to essential services for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Minimum sidewalk width of five feet	☐	☐	☐	☐
ADA ramps at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visual and physical cues for pedestrians and drivers at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level landings where driveways intersect public sidewalks to retain a level path for pedestrians	☐	☐	☐	☐
Minimal tripping hazards from uneven surface or protruding objects	☐	☐	☐	☐
Signage to direct pedestrians	☐	☐	☐	☐
Buffer between sidewalk and street (e.g. planting strips, on-street parking, bike lanes)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adequate pedestrian-scale lighting along sidewalks	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

14. Do the community's standards for <u>new</u> public sidewalks include design requirements that meet the needs of older adults? See example design elements below.

NEW Public Sidewalk Elements	Required	Encouraged	Being considered	Not Addressed	Don't Know	Not applicable (not allowed in community)
Minimum sidewalk width of five feet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
ADA ramps at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visual and physical cues for pedestrians and drivers at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level landings where driveways intersect public sidewalks to retain a level path for pedestrians	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Signage to direct pedestrians	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Buffer between sidewalk and street (e.g. planting strips, on-street parking, bike lanes)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adequate pedestrian-scale lighting along sidewalks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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15. Does your community's code address maintenance provisions for public sidewalks and, if yes, are these codes enforced?

MAINTENANCE PROVISIONS for Public Sidewalks	ADDRESSED IN CODE?			ENFORCED?			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES Proactively enforced	YES Complaint-based enforcement	NO	DON'T KNOW
Structural problems resulting in cracking, uneven surfaces, protrusion of tree roots.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Debris	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snow and ice removal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pedestrian clear zone (no physical obtrusions)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
☐	☐	☐

16. Does your community engage older adults in assessing walkability opportunities and challenges in their neighborhoods?

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Public Streets and Intersections (questions 17- 19)

17. How well do the <u>existing</u> streets and intersections in your community include design features making streets easier and safer to cross for older adults?

EXISTING Street and Intersection Design Elements	A LOT of improvement needed	MODERATE improvement needed	A LITTLE improvement needed	Fully accommodated
Adequate time at pedestrian walk signals for pedestrians who may walk more slowly	☐	☐	☐	☐
Countdown timers at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐
Push-to-walk buttons	☐	☐	☐	☐
Highly visible and well-marked pedestrian crossings	☐	☐	☐	☐
Design solutions to address long crosswalk distances (e.g. bump-outs or curb extensions at intersections, pedestrian refuge islands to shorten crossing distances)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Easy to read roadway signage	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

18. Do the community's standards for <u>new</u> street and intersection design include design requirements that meet the needs of older adults?

NEW Street and Intersection Design Requirements	Required	Encouraged	Being considered	Not Addressed	Don't Know	Not applicable (not allowed in community)
Adequate time at pedestrian walk signals for pedestrians who may walk more slowly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Countdown timers at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visual and physical cues for pedestrians and drivers at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Push-to-walk buttons	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Highly visible and well-marked pedestrian crossings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Design solutions to address long crosswalk distances (e.g. bump-outs or curb extensions at intersections, pedestrian refuge islands to shorten crossing distances)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Easy to read roadway signage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

19. Do the community's standards for <u>new</u> development on private commercial property include design requirements that meet the needs of older adults?

Commercial Design Requirements for New Development	Required	Encouraged	Being considered	Not Addressed	Don't Know	Not applicable (not allowed in community)
Accessible, direct pedestrian routes **from the public sidewalk** to the front door of businesses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accessible, direct pedestrian routes **from parking areas** to the front door of businesses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Highly visible and well-marked pedestrian crossings where pedestrians must cross vehicular traffic lanes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
ADA ramps at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visual and physical cues for pedestrians and drivers at intersections	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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Mobility Services (questions 20-25)

20. Does your community have an organized structure for special transportation providers to coordinate and collaborate?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Local coordinating council	☐	☐	☐
Mobility management organization	☐	☐	☐
Other _____ (Please specify)	☐	☐	☐

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
21. Has your community conducted an inventory of transportation services for older adults? ➜ **If yes,** did the inventory address the following?	☐	☐	☐
Types of service (e.g. fixed route, call-and-ride, taxi voucher, curb-to-curb, arm-in-arm)	☐	☐	☐
Service area and destinations	☐	☐	☐
Route information	☐	☐	☐
Days/Times of service	☐	☐	☐
Eligibility requirements	☐	☐	☐
Cost information	☐	☐	☐
Additional services provided (please indicate below the additional services addressed) _____	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

22. What types of transportation services currently exist in your community that accommodate the needs of older adults?

Transportation Services	Directly provide program/service?		NO	DON'T KNOW
	YES (check one or both)			
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides		
Public bus	☐	☐	☐	☐
Light rail	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fixed-route shuttle service	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paratransit	☐	☐	☐	☐
Call-and-ride	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteer driver program	☐	☐	☐	☐
Services provided as a part of a program (e.g. Senior Center trips, senior housing shuttle service)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Taxi voucher program	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

23. Do the existing bus stops and transit stations in your community include design features that encourage use by older adults? See the example design features listed below.

EXISTING Bus Stops and Transit Stations Design Features	A LOT of improvement needed	MODERATE improvement needed	A LITTLE improvement needed	Fully accommodated
Accessible paved surface	☐	☐	☐	☐
Benches or seating areas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shade structures	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rain shelters	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maps	☐	☐	☐	☐
Schedules	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wayfinding signage	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adequate lighting for safety	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

24. Please indicate if the following resources for SENIOR DRIVING are available and publicized in your community.

	Directly provide program/service?				Promote/Publicize program?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity promotes	Other organization(s) promotes		
AAA Programs (e.g., Roadwise RX, CarFit clinic, Refresher Course, Senior Driving Expo)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Driver Safety Program (provided by AARP)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
On-line courses such as I Drive Safely® (driver education)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Self-regulation strategies for older adults (e.g., avoiding nighttime driving or difficult traffic conditions, using familiar routes)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
☐	☐	☐

25. Does your community offer incentives or in other ways encourage informal family and friend networks to assist older adults with their travel needs?

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Collaboration <u>Within</u> your Local Government or Organization (question 26)

26. **Are any of the departments <u>within</u> your local government or organization currently collaborating on the following mobility and access topics? Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.**

Topics	Type of Collaboration Between Departments or Divisions					
	Internal Discussion	Having regularly scheduled meetings	Creating common organization goals	Developing programs for community residents	Developing policy changes	Not currently collaborating
Public Sidewalk System that provides good connectivity and accessibility for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public Streets and Intersections that are easy to navigate and safe to cross for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Private Property Improvements that encourage design features that meet the needs of older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Transportation Options that serve the needs of older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resources for Senior Drivers and their friends and family	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Collaboration <u>Between</u> Local Government and Other Organizations (question 27)

27. **Are any of the departments in your <u>local government</u> currently collaborating with other organizations in your community on the following mobility and access topics? Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.**

	Regular meetings	Joint ventures (such as developing programs or policies)	Collaborating on funding opportunities	<u>Not</u> currently collaborating other organizations
Public Sidewalk System that provides good connectivity and accessibility for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public Streets and Intersections that are easy to navigate and safe to cross for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Private property improvements that encourage design features that meet the needs of older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Transportation options that serve the needs of older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resources for senior drivers and their friends and family	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Notes – Please note any comments or information on local initiatives.

Discussion Questions

The following questions are to help facilitate a discussion about what you learned from completing the assessment questions for this section. The discussion questions are intended to be used as a guide to help encourage a conversation about how your group might pursue working to build a healthy aging community. The discussion questions should help communities identify resources, brainstorm potential partners and prioritize policy, projects and programs in order to move forward with actions. Use the questions as you see appropriate to stimulate discussion.

D1. Based on your answers to the questions related to the public sidewalk system and public streets and intersections (Questions 13-19), please answer the following questions.

    a. What are the <u>gaps and barriers</u> that you noticed in meeting the needs of older adult pedestrians?

    b. What opportunities and resources exist to address these <u>gaps and barriers</u>?

    c. What groups and local government partners should be involved in developing strategies and solutions to address these gaps and barriers?

    d. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating on this issue? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

    e. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

    f. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

    g. What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

h. Are there longer-term strategies that may benefit from foundational steps in the short-term?

i. What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D2. What strategies does your community employ to retrofit streets in neighborhoods and commercials areas where current design standards are not being met?

a. Does your community employ different strategies for arterials, collectors and local streets? If yes, what are some of the distinctions in the different strategies?

D3. What programs does your community have to assist private property owners in retrofitting existing development to meet new design standards?

D4. Describe areas in your community that are difficult to walk through due to frequent conflicts between pedestrians and wheeled sports (cyclists, skateboarders, and roller bladers)?

D5. Is your community considering adopting the new policies for street and intersection design like the revised Manual on Universal Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) or a Complete Streets Policy? If yes, what is the timeline for this adoption process? If no, what are some of the barriers to adopting these types of policies?

D6. If your community <u>has conducted</u> a transportation inventory, what have you learned about the gaps and barriers in transportation services for older adults? If your community <u>has not conducted</u> a transportation inventory, what did you learn about the gaps and barriers in transportation for older adults (transportation services, senior driving) from taking this assessment?

a. What opportunities and resources exist to address these gaps and barriers?

b. What groups and local government partners should be involved in developing strategies and solutions to address these gaps and barriers?

c. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating on this issue? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

d. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

e. What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

f. If your community does not currently provide funding for older adult transportation, is it something you may consider in the future?

g. What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D7. **After completing the assessment, what are some of your impressions and thoughts that have not been discussed?**

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HOUSING

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Housing

To facilitate aging-in-place, it's important to have a range of housing types at different price points so that when the need arises, older adults can move to a more appropriate home nearby without having to leave behind their neighbors, doctors, or house of worship (AARP, Public Policy Institute, Insight on the Issues, 28, March 2010).

This set of questions is designed to stimulate thinking about housing options in your community. The questions will cover housing availability and affordability, the development process, incentives and programs for housing development, and visitability and universal design.

The section also includes discussion questions to facilitate a discussion about how your community will move forward with addressing housing needs for older adults.

Currently Available Housing Options and Affordability (question 28)

28. For each <u>Independent</u> and <u>Supported</u> living housing option below, please indicate whether it is allowed, available (if allowed), and affordable (allowed and available).

Independent Living	ALLOWED?			AVAILABLE?			AFFORDABLE? ★		
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Accessible multi-family homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accessory dwelling units ("Mother-in-law units")	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cohousing communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Age-restricted/targeted active adult communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Single story homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multi-generational housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other innovative housing options (describe)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

★ Use your community's definition of affordable or any other agreed upon definition. AARP defines affordable housing as that which costs no more than 30% of a person's income.

Supported Living	ALLOWED?			AVAILABLE?			AFFORDABLE? – facilities have a certain percentage of subsidized rooms or units		
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Assisted living facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Continuing care retirement communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Nursing homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Group homes for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Age-restricted independent living with supportive services (such as transportation or meals)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal care boarding homes (see glossary)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other innovative options (describe)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Development Process for Housing Options (question 29)

29. For each of the housing options allowed, indicate the process for development. Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.

	Building permit only	Administrative land use approval	Land use approval with public hearing	Neighborhood meeting	Don't Know	Other process (describe in NOTES)
Independent Living						
Accessible multi-family homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accessory dwelling units ("Mother-in-law units")	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cohousing communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Age-restricted/targeted active adult communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Single story homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multi-generational housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other innovative housing options	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supported Living						
Assisted living facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Continuing care retirement communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Nursing homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Group homes for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Age-restricted independent living with supportive services (such as transportation or dining room with meals)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal care boarding homes (see glossary)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other innovative housing options	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Incentives for Development of Housing Options (question 30)

30. For each housing option allowed, indicate any incentives available for the development of housing options for older adults. Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.

Independent Living	Density or Height bonus	Reduced parking requirements	Expedited review of land use or building permit	Waiving of fees	No incentives provided at this time	Don't Know	Other incentives (describe in NOTES)
Accessible multi-family homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accessory dwelling units ("Mother-in-law units")	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cohousing communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Age-restricted/targeted active adult communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Single story homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multi-generational housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other innovative housing options	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supported Living							
Assisted living facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Continuing care retirement communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Nursing homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Group homes for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Age-restricted independent living with supportive services (such as transportation or dining room with meals)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal card boarding homes (see glossary)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other innovative housing options	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Mixed-use Districts (question 31)

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY				
Included as a strategy in our comprehensive plan	New zoning regulations being considered	Mixed-use allowed per the zoning code	Mixed-use development(s) are under construction	Mixed-use developments are already built

31. To what extent has your community planned for mixed-use districts where older adults can live and access services in the same area?

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Universal Design Provisions (question 32)

32. How does your community's code address universal design provisions in <u>new construction</u> and <u>renovation</u> of each of the following types of housing?

Universal design	Required	Encouraged	Being considered	Not Addressed	Don't Know	Not applicable
New Construction						
Single-family homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Group homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multi-family housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Renovation						
Single-family homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Group homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multi-family housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Visitability Provisions (question 33)

33. How does your community's code address visitability provisions in <u>new construction</u> and <u>renovation</u> of each of the following types of housing?

Visitability Provisions	Required	Encouraged	Being considered	Not Addressed	Don't Know	Not applicable
New Construction						
Single-family homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Group homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multi-family housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Renovation						
Single-family homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Group homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multi-family housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Programs that Support the Development of Housing Options for Older Adults (questions 34-35)

34. Does your community provide the following programs or initiatives that can support the development of housing options for older adults?   If the program is provided, is it promoted/publicized?

Programs that Support the Development of Housing Options for Older Adults	Directly provide the program/service?				Promote/Publicize program?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity promotes	Other organization(s) promotes		
Local Housing Authority	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Partnerships with HOUSING AUTHORITY to create new affordable and mixed-income housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Partnerships with NON-PROFIT HOUSING DEVELOPERS to create new affordable and mixed-income housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Incentives for BUILDING accessible homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Incentives for REMODELING to an accessible home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Financial assistance for home modifications	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs to increase home accessibility	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs that reduce utility costs for older adults such as weatherization, solar, efficient water fixtures.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

35. Does your community provide the following specialists or resources that can support the development of housing options for older adults?   If the specialist or resource is provided, is it promoted/publicized?

Specialists and other Resources that Support the Development of Housing Options for Older Adults	Directly provide the program/service?				Promote/Publicize program?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity promotes	Other organization(s) promotes		
Certified Aging-in-place specialists (see glossary)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Certified Senior advisors (see glossary)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Certified environmental access consultant (see glossary)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Directory of agencies/qualified individuals that specialize in affordable, reliable repairs for older residents	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Educational Toolkit to Building Permit Applicants on visitability/universal design options	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Collaboration <u>Within</u> your Local Government or Organization (question 36)

36. Are any of the departments <u>within</u> your local government or organization currently collaborating on the following housing topics? Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.

Topics	Type of Collaboration Between Departments or Divisions					
	Internal Discussion	Having regularly scheduled meetings	Creating common organization goals	Developing programs for community residents	Developing policy changes	Not currently collaborating
Housing options for older adults who can live independently (INDEPENDENT LIVING housing options)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Housing options for older adults that require some assistance in the activities of daily living (SUPPORTED LIVING housing options)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Administrative process to develop independent and/or supported living housing options	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Incentives to develop independent and/or supported living housing options	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visitability and Universal Design Provisions in New Construction	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visitability and Universal Design Provisions in Renovation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Collaboration <u>Between</u> Local Government and Other Organizations (question 37)

37. Are any of the departments in your <u>local government</u> currently collaborating with other organizations in your community on the following housing topics? Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.

	Regular meetings	Joint ventures (such as developing programs or policies)	Collaborating on funding opportunities	<u>Not</u> currently collaborating other organizations
Housing options for older adults who can live independently (INDEPENDENT LIVING housing options)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Housing options for older adults that require some assistance in the activities of daily living (SUPPORTED LIVING housing options)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Administrative process to develop independent and/or supported living housing options	☐	☐	☐	☐
Incentives to develop independent and/or supported living housing options	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visitability and Universal Design Provisions in New Construction	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visitability and Universal Design Provisions in Renovation	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Notes – Please note any comments or information on local initiatives.

Discussion Questions

The following questions are to help facilitate a discussion about what you learned from completing the assessment questions for this section. The discussion questions are intended to be used as a guide to help encourage a conversation about how your group might pursue working to build a healthy aging community. The discussion questions should help communities identify resources, brainstorm potential partners and prioritize policy, projects and programs in order to move forward with actions. Use the questions as you see appropriate to stimulate discussion.

D8. **Has your community conducted a housing needs assessment focused on older adults in your community? If yes, what were the findings (i.e. scope, results and timeframe) of the assessment?**

D9. **Based on your answers to the question related to housing options for older adults (Question 28), what are the <u>gaps and barriers</u> that you noticed in meeting the housing needs of older adults in your community?**

    a. What opportunities and resources exist to address these gaps and barriers?

    b. What groups and local government partners should be involved in developing strategies and solutions to address these gaps and barriers?

    c. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating to address the housing needs of older adults? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

    d. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

    e. What are some of the strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

f. What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

g. If your community does not currently provide funding for older adult housing, is it something you may consider in the future?

h. What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D10. Based on your answers to the question related to the current process for developing housing for older adults in your community (Question 29), what were your impressions about the development process?

a. What barriers exist when developing housing options for older adults in your community?

b. What opportunities and resources exist to address these barriers?

c. What groups and local government partners should be involved in developing strategies and solutions to address these barriers?

d. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating on this issue? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

e. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

f. What local successes has your community experienced related to the process of developing housing for older adults in your community?

g. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

        i.   What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

        j.   What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D11. When was the last time your community reviewed the programs and initiatives in your community to assess the effectiveness in meeting the housing needs of older adults? Are you considering an evaluation of local programs in the near future?

D12. How could mixed-use districts benefit your community? And how specifically could they benefit older adults in your community?

    a. What barriers do you see in implementing mixed-use districts in your community?

    b. What opportunities and resources exist to address these barriers?

    c. What groups and local government partners should be involved in developing strategies and solutions to address these barriers?

    d. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating on this issue? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

    e. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

    f. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

g. What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

h. What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D13. What barriers do you see in implementing visitability and universal design in housing for older adults in your community?

a. What opportunities and resources exist to address these barriers?

b. What groups and local government partners should be involved in developing strategies and solutions to address these barriers?

c. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating on this issue? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

d. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

e. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

f. What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

g. What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D14. After completing the assessment, what are some of your impressions and thoughts that have not been discussed?

COMMUNITY LIVING

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Community Living

Individuals who engage in the civic and social life of their communities are happier and healthier (AARP, beyond 50.05, page 74). Older adults who regularly engage in community activities experience better physical and mental health benefits. Communities can promote engagement by providing a variety of opportunities for social interactions in a safe and secure environment (Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide, AARP, 2005).

Results from the 2010 Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA™) conducted by the National Research Center, for the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), showed that older adults want to be engaged in the community, but some reported at least a minor problem with finding productive, volunteer or other meaningful activities to do, or with feeling like their voice was heard in the community.

This section covers a number of topics related to providing a variety of opportunities for social interactions in a safe and secure environment including • community engagement strategies • design of community spaces • volunteering opportunities • workforce and business • recreation • education • and safety and security.

As in in the previous sections, discussion questions are included to encourage and facilitate discussion among a diverse group of assessment participants. The assessment and discussion should lead your group to some action steps to continue to improve the quality of life of older adults in your community.

Private and Public Community Space Design (questions 38-39)

38. How does your community's code address design features for Gathering Spaces, Community Spaces and Facilities to increase the use by older adults and to promote social interactions among all generations?

Design Features for Gathering Spaces, Community Spaces, and Facilities	Required	Encouraged	Being considered	Not Addressed	Don't Know	Not applicable
Accessibility to all areas of the community space	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pedestrian connections from public transit	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pedestrian connections from adjacent properties and nearby neighborhoods	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bicycle parking facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Benches and seating areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shade structures	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adequate lighting to enhance safety	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Restrooms	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public art	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Connection to local history and culture	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visually interesting design features	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adequate open area for community events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wayfinding signage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

39. Do your community's Public Parks, Trails, and Open Space Planning efforts (for both new facilities and the redesign of existing facilities) consider:

Public Parks, Trails, and Open Space Planning efforts consider:	Required	Encouraged	Being considered	Not Addressed	Don't Know	Not applicable
Accessibility to some or all park features	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing emergency call boxes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pedestrian connection from public transit	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wayfinding maps and signage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adequate lighting for enhanced safety	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hard surface paths and trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Benches	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Restrooms	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Drinking water availability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shaded areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fitness opportunities for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Community Engagement (questions 40-41)

40. How does your community engage older adults?

Does your community….	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
a. – Have a mechanism to engage retired professionals in civic activities? → **If yes,** briefly describe how these individuals are recruited and involved in civic activities.	☐	☐	☐
b. Convene focus groups, task forces, or public forums to gather input from older adults? → **If yes,** provide one or more examples.	☐	☐	☐
c. Have a standing, representative group of older adults to advise your jurisdiction of the concerns of the community's older population? (e.g. Senior commission)	☐	☐	☐
d. Specifically reach out to older adults in order to engage and educate them on community planning issues?	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

41. What specific strategies does your community use to enable all older adults to participate in town/city/community meetings and civic events?

	Required	Encouraged	Being considered	Not Addressed	Don't Know	Not applicable
Facilities in which these types of meetings and events are held meet ADA requirements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Service animals are permitted	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large print materials are provided to those who need them	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Assistive listening devices are provided to those who need them	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sign language interpretation is provided to those who need it	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Foreign language interpretation is provided to those who need it						
Microphones are used routinely, even in small rooms	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participants are given the opportunity to request accommodations ahead of time (e.g., foreign language or sign language interpreter, large print, assistive hearing devices, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Transportation provided to meeting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reserved Seating	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Older Adults as Volunteers (questions 42-43)

42. **Does your community offer the following services to help create opportunities and make it easy for older adults to volunteer?**

	Offer?			
	YES (check one or both)		**NO**	**DON'T KNOW**
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides		
HOTLINE or other communication system to help connect volunteers to service opportunities in their community	☐	☐	☐	☐
Specific incentives to encourage older adult volunteerism (credits, stipends, vouchers, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities for older adults to volunteer to provide support <u>to other older adults</u> with cooking, driving, light housework, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs that engage older adults as volunteers in community activities (e.g., foster grandparent programs, Meals on Wheels, etc.) Feel free to list some of the programs here, and in the "Notes" section.	☐	☐	☐	☐

	YES	**NO**	**DON'T KNOW**
43. **Is there a point person in your <u>local government</u> who fosters older adult engagement as volunteers in community activities?**	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Workforce and Businesses (questions 44-46)

44.   Listed below are some personnel arrangements/options that can help older adults <u>remain</u> in the workforce. To the best of your knowledge which of the following are available to older adults in your community?

	Available?		NO	DON'T KNOW
	YES (check one or both)			
	Local govt entity offers this arrangement/ option	Other organization(s) offers this arrangement/ option		
Part-time employment	☐	☐	☐	☐
Flexible work schedule (e.g., flextime which grants employees some control over the timing of the workday and/or compressed work schedules, which permit employees to work longer days but shorter weeks)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Job sharing	☐	☐	☐	☐
Changing jobs within a company	☐	☐	☐	☐
Telework (working from home or teleworking center, closer to home than their normal workplace).	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snowbird programs (allows employees to shuttle between two locations seasonally)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Deferred retirement option plans	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hiring former employees as contractors	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

45. **Does your community offer the following services to help older adults re-enter the workforce, start a business, learn how to use new technologies, etc.**

	Offer?			
	YES (check one or both)		**NO**	**DON'T KNOW**
	Local govt entity offers this arrangement/option	Other organization(s) offers this arrangement/option		
One-on-one career counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐
Education and training for new job skills	☐	☐	☐	☐
Assistance with resume development	☐	☐	☐	☐
Networking opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Job leads and follow-up	☐	☐	☐	☐

46. **Which of the following does your community have to encourage and promote businesses to be "elder-friendly" for customers?**

	Directly Provide program/service?				Promote/Publicize Program?			
	YES (check one or both)		**NO**	**DON'T KNOW**	**YES**		**NO**	**DON'T KNOW**
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity promotes	Other organization(s) promotes		
Program that **recognizes and/or certifies** elder-friendly businesses and institutions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Provide businesses with information on how their business could be more elder-friendly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Recreational, Educational, and Computer Resources (question 47)

47. Are the following resources available to older adults in the community?

	Offer?			
	YES (check one or both)		**NO**	**DON'T**
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides		**KNOW**
A senior center, recreational center or other community gathering place for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Educational programs for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library	☐	☐	☐	☐
→ If yes, are there programs at the library for older adults?	☐	☐	☐	☐
→ If yes, are there computers at the library, which are accessible to older adults?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to computers and the internet at a local center open to the public other than the library	☐	☐	☐	☐
→ If yes, is there someone to assist older adult users at this site?	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Safety and Security (questions 48-60)

"A sense of personal safety and security is fundamental to a livable community…Deterioration of the physical environment [can send] a signal that a place is no longer maintained or controlled by those who live or work there. People also fear signs of deterioration, such as trash on the ground, graffiti, or deferred maintenance, because they know that criminals are attracted to neighborhoods that appear to be deteriorating." (Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide, AARP, 2005)

Unkempt Property – *The following questions pertain to code; questions regarding programs to assist homeowners with property maintenance are found in Support Services.*

	YES → go to Question 49	NO → go to Question 50	DON'T KNOW → go to Question 50
48. Does your community's code address areas with overgrown vegetation that would make pedestrian areas feel unsafe?	☐	☐	☐

	YES		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Complaint –Based	Proactive assessment		
49. Does your community enforce this code?	☐	☐	☐	☐

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
50. Are there frequent complaints about specific properties showing signs of neglect and not properly maintained in your community?	☐	☐	☐
51. Does your community have a way for residents to report these sorts of problems?	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Special Safety Needs of Older Adults

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
52. Does your public safety department assess the safety needs of older adults? → **If yes, how do they assess the needs? (Write your ideas in the space below.)**	☐	☐	☐

	None	LESS than half	ABOUT HALF	MORE than half	ALL	DON'T KNOW
53. How many **UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS** are currently trained to detect and report elder abuse and neglect?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
54. How many **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS** are currently trained to detect and report elder abuse and neglect?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

55. For each type of staff position below, please indicate whether it is <u>currently staffed</u> in your local government, and if staffed, whether the staff is/are <u>trained to address the special needs</u> and concerns of your community's older adults.

Position	POSITION CURRENTLY STAFFED				CURRENT STAFF TRAINED TO ADDRESS OLDER ADULT CONCERNS		
	YES	NO (check one)		DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
		Position does not exist	Position exists, but not filled				
Law Enforcement - Senior Liaison Officer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Victim Advocate/Victim Witness Unit Staff	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Someone who provides Emergency Communication to reach isolated residents	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

56. **Does your community provide the following safety trainings or programs to older adults to help them maintain quality of life and personal safety? If the program is provided, is it promoted/publicized?**

	Directly provide the program/service?				Promote/Publicize Program?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity promotes	Other organization(s) promotes		
Safety								
Trainings for older adults related to: • Physical safety	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
• Environmental safety (see glossary)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
• Pedestrian safety	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
• Relational safety (e.g. elder abuse prevention)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
• Avoiding consumer fraud	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs to inform older adults how to report consumer fraud and scams	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to training for older adults related to fall prevention	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Home safety assessments	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resources to assist older adults in making their homes safer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

57. **In your community, collaboration between <u>social service agencies</u> and <u>law enforcement</u> to detect and coordinate prevention of elder abuse and neglect, including financial exploitation, is best described as (CHOOSE THE ONE BEST ANSWER):**

☐ None — There is no interaction between social service agencies and law enforcement

☐ Networking — Aware of organization, loosely defined roles, little communication, and all decisions made independently

☐ Cooperation — Provide information to each other, somewhat defined roles, formal communication, all decisions are made independently

☐ Coordination — Share information and resources (e.g. funds, staff, volunteers, expertise, space, etc.), defined roles, frequent communication, some shared decision-making

☐ Coalition — Share ideas, share resource (e.g. funds, staff, volunteers, expertise, space, etc.), frequent and prioritized communication, all members have a vote in decision-making

☐ Collaboration — Members belong to system, frequent communication is characterized by mutual trust, consensus is reached on all decisions

Neighborhood Watch

	None	LESS than half	ABOUT HALF	MORE than half	ALL	DON'T KNOW
58. **Thinking about the neighborhoods in which older adults live, how many of them have a Neighborhood Watch program?**	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Emergency Preparedness

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
59. Does your local government work with senior housing developments to create evacuation plans in the event of an emergency?	☐	☐	☐
60. Does your local government obtain input from the local **AREA AGENCY ON AGING** and other agencies and organizations serving older adults to develop and update its preparedness plan?	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Collaboration <u>Within</u> your Local Government or Organization (question 61)

61. Are any of the departments <u>within</u> your local government or organization currently collaborating on the following topics for older adults? Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.

Topics	Type of Collaboration Between Departments or Divisions					
	Internal Discussion	Having regularly scheduled meetings	Creating common organization goals	Developing programs for community residents	Developing policy changes	Not currently collaborating
Designing Gathering Spaces, Community Spaces and Facilities on private property to promote use by older adults and encourage interactions among all generations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning Public Parks, Trails, and Open Space to promote use by older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteer opportunities for older adults, and assistance with connecting older adults to opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing strategies to help older workers remain or re-enter the workforce	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Promoting and encouraging businesses to be elder-friendly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to resources such as a recreation or senior center, library, computers, or educational programs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Safety and security – Unkempt property, addressing special safety needs older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Collaboration <u>Between</u> Your Local Government and other Organizations in Your Community (question 62)

62. Are any of the departments in your <u>local government</u> currently collaborating with other organizations in your community on the following community living topics? Please check ALL responses that apply; you may have multiple responses for each topic.

	Regular meetings	Joint ventures (such as developing programs or policies)	Collaborating on funding opportunities	<u>Not</u> currently collaborating other organizations
Designing Gathering Spaces, Community Spaces and Facilities on private property to promote use by older adults and encourage interactions among all generations	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning Public Parks, Trails, and Open Space to promote use by older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteer opportunities for older adults, and assistance with connecting older adults to opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing strategies to help older workers remain or re-enter the workforce	☐	☐	☐	☐
Promoting and encouraging businesses to be elder-friendly	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to resources such as a recreation or senior center, library, computers, or educational programs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Safety and security – Unkempt property, addressing special safety needs older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Notes – Please add your own comments or information on local initiatives.

Discussion Questions

The following questions are to help facilitate a discussion about what you learned from completing the assessment questions for this section. The discussion questions are intended to be used as a guide to help encourage a conversation about how your group might pursue working to build a healthy aging community. The discussion questions should help communities identify resources, brainstorm potential partners and prioritize policy, projects and programs in order to move forward with actions. Use the questions as you see appropriate to stimulate discussion.

D15. **What privately-owned community spaces or public parks in your community do older adults visit? What features or factors make it a place that attracts older adults?**

D16. **Has your community conducted an assessment of community spaces and parks to look at park visitation by older adults? If so, what was the scope and results of the assessment?**

D17. **Based on your answers to the questions related to community space design and park planning (Questions 38 and 39), please answer the following questions.**

   a. What are the gaps and barriers that you noticed in designing community spaces in your community that are more friendly to older adults?

   b. What opportunities and resources exist to address these gaps and barriers?

   c. What groups and local government partners should be involved in developing strategies and solutions to address these gaps and barriers?

   d. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating to improve the design of community space for older adults? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

   e. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

f. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

g. What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

h. Are there longer-term strategies that may benefit from foundational steps in the short-term?

i. What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D18. Based on your answers to the questions related to community engagement and volunteering for older adults (Questions 40-43), please answer the following questions.

a. What ways could your community <u>improve</u> the way that you engage older adults?

b. What opportunities and resources exist to make improvements?

c. What are some of the challenges to engaging older adults in volunteering and community participation activities?

d. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

e. What groups and partners should be involved in developing strategies and new programs?

f. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating on this topic? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

j. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

g. What timeframes are realistic for implementing these strategies and solutions that you have identified?

k. What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D19. What opportunities exist in your community for shared use agreements between community partners for use of space or facilities? How could these shared use agreements be an opportunity to promote intergenerational connections (e.g. schools providing space for older adult programs)?

D20. Based on your answers to the questions related to workforce and business practices for older adults (Questions 44-46), please answer the following questions

a. What ways could your community <u>improve</u> the way that you support older adults in the workforce and in commerce?

b. What opportunities and resources exist to make improvements?

c. What groups and partners should be involved in developing strategies and new programs?

d. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating on this topic? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

e. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

f. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

    g. What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

    h. Are there longer-term strategies that may benefit from foundational steps in the short-term?

    I. What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D21. **Based on your answers to the questions related to safety and security for older adults (Questions 48-60), please answer the following questions.**

    a. What ways could your community <u>better address</u> the safety needs for older adults?

    b. What opportunities and resources exist to make improvements?

    c. What groups and partners should be involved in developing strategies and new programs?

    d. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating on this topic? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

    e. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

    f. What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

    g. What timeframes are realistic for implementing the strategies and solutions that you have identified?

    h. Are there longer-term strategies that may benefit from foundational steps in the short-term?

        i.   What are some immediate next steps for pursuing the strategies and solutions?

D22. After completing the assessment, what are some of your impressions and thoughts that have not been discussed?

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SUPPORT SERVICES

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Support Services

A livable community is a caring community. Organizations and individuals offering care and support services include nonprofit agencies, faith-based groups, and service professionals. The range of service opportunities is similarly broad, from an act of kindness to one individual to an effort to right a wrong dealt to the older adult population (AARP Public Policy Institute, Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide, 2005).

The questions that follow in this section fall within three areas: level of collaboration, access to services and available services. The types of services covered include formal care, preventive health care, assistance with property maintenance and safety net services.

The discussion questions at the end of the section are intended to encourage discussion within local government and, in this section in particular, with other community organizations since many local governments are not directly involved in social service delivery. The intent is to stimulate a conversation about how to provide and deliver a broad spectrum of services for older adults and move toward implementation.

Collaboration <u>Between</u> Your Local Government and other Organizations in Your Community (question 63)

63. **In your community, partnering between <u>local government</u> and <u>organizations that provide supportive, home- and community-based services</u> to older adults is best described as (CHOOSE THE ONE BEST ANSWER):**

☐	None	There is no interaction between local government and other organizations that supportive services
☐	Networking	Aware of organization, loosely defined roles, little communication, and all decisions made independently
☐	Cooperation	Provide information to each other, somewhat defined roles, formal communication, all decisions are made independently
☐	Coordination	Share information and resources (e.g. funds, staff, volunteers, expertise, space, etc.), defined roles, frequent communication, some shared decision-making
☐	Coalition	Share ideas, share resource (e.g. funds, staff, volunteers, expertise, space, etc.), frequent and prioritized communication, all members have a vote in decision-making
☐	Collaboration	Members belong to system, frequent communication is characterized by mutual trust, consensus is reached on all decisions

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Geographic Accessibility of Services (questions 64 and 65)

	CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY				
	Currently available AND sufficient to meet most need	Currently available AND need not fully met yet	Identified for future development	Don't Know	Not applicable (not allowed in community)
64. In your community, <u>purposely clustered mixed-use services</u> (e.g. healthcare, support services, commercial and retail together) <u>in accessible locations</u> that can meet the needs of older adults are:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
65. In your community, <u>opportunities for neighbors to connect and provide assistance to one another</u> such as villages and naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs) are:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Long-term Care Facilities and Adult Day Services (question 66)

66. **For each type of facility or specialty service below, please indicate whether it is available in your community, and whether the supply is, in your opinion, adequate to meet the needs of your community's older adults.**

Facility/Specialty Service	AVAILABLE?			ADEQUATE SUPPLY?			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	MORE THAN ENOUGH to meet current demand	ENOUGH to meet current demand	NOT ENOUGH to meet current demand	DON'T KNOW
Long-term care facilities – Assisted Living	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Long-term care facilities – Skilled Nursing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult Day Services – General	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult Day Services – Dementia or Alzheimer's	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Programs or Resources that Support Older Adults' Independent Living (question 67-71)

67. **Does your community provide the following programs that can support older adults to maintain quality of life, independent living?   If the program is provided, is it promoted/publicized?**

Isolation	Directly provide the program/service?				Promote/Publicize Program?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity promotes	Other organization(s) promotes		
Programs that prevent older adults from becoming isolated (e.g., 'friendly visitor'; phone trees; programs for linguistically isolated) If yes, list programs in notes section	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs that monitor potentially isolated and/or vulnerable adults (e.g. Welfare Check; trained "gatekeepers" such as mail carriers, meter readers) If yes, list programs in notes section	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

68.   Does your community provide Meal programs or resources?   If the program is provided, is it promoted/publicized?

	Directly provide the program/service?				Promote/Publicize Program?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity promotes	Other organization(s) promotes		
Meals								
Home-delivered meals to older adults in your community	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

➔ **If yes,** approximately what percent of your community's geographic locations where older adults live are served? CHECK ONE

__ Less than 25% of areas   __25-50% of areas   __51-75% of areas   __ Greater than 75% of areas.

Opportunities for congregate meals for older adults in your community	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Transportation services to and from congregate meals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

69. **Does your community provide professional and/or organized volunteer services to directly assist older adults in their place of residence?   If the service is provided, indicate if a free or low cost option(s) is available.**

	Directly provide the service?				Free or Minimal Cost Option?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity offers	Other organization(s) offers		
Snow removal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Yard work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gutter cleaning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Seasonal home maintenance chores	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interior home care and maintenance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interior home cleaning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (describe in notes section)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Preventive Health Care and Support Services for Older Adults and their Caregivers (questions 71-72)

70.   **Does your community provide the following preventive health care and support services to directly assist older adults?   If the service is provided, indicate if a free or low cost option(s) is available.**

	Directly provide the program/service?				Free or Minimal Cost Option?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity offers	Other organization(s) offers		
SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS								
Flu shots	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Low vision screening and vision aids	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Chronic disease education/support (e.g., Diabetes, Hypertension)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mental health services accessible to older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Specialized support groups that address:								
• Grief	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
• Alzheimer's	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
• Chronic diseases (e.g., Multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, Diabetes, Cancer)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Nutrition and/or cooking education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Legal services program for older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteer programs that provide assistance to older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

71.   **Does your community provide the following support services to directly assist caregivers of older adults?   If the service is provided, indicate if a free or low cost option(s) is available.**

	Directly provide the program/service?				Free or Minimal Cost Option?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity offers	Other organization(s) offers		
SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS								
Respite Services for caregivers of older adults • Short-term: services for specific time period related to a one-time occurrence, e.g., caregiver's vacation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
• Long-term: services at regular intervals over an extended period of time, e.g., 2x/wk. for 4 months	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Support groups for **caregivers** of older adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Programs to Help Older Adults Pay for or Access Safety Net Services (question 72)

72. Does your community provide the following programs to help older adults pay for or access safety net services?

	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides		KNOW
Emergency financial assistance	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shelters	☐	☐	☐	☐
Food pantries	☐	☐	☐	☐
Energy/utility assistance	☐	☐	☐	☐
Short-term emergency case management	☐	☐	☐	☐
Medicare premium assistance	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Connecting Older Adults and their Caregivers to Services (questions 73-74)

73. **Does your local government and social service agencies/organizations utilize DRCOG's "Network of Care" website, (http://denverregion.co.networkofcare.org/aging/) as a resource to connect older adults with resources and activities?**

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Local government	☐	☐	☐
Social service agencies and/or organizations	☐	☐	☐

74. Does your community provide the following resources to connect older adults and their caregivers to services? If the resource is provided, is it promoted/publicized?

	Directly provide the program/service?				Promote/Publicize Program?			
	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW	YES (check one or both)		NO	DON'T KNOW
	Local govt entity provides	Other organization(s) provides			Local govt entity promotes	Other organization(s) promotes		
Resources specifically designated to Connect Older Adults and Caregivers with Services								
One-stop resource center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information & Assistance Hotline	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Service Directory	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information and referral service to connect older adults with home services such as snow removal, yard work, house cleaning, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

At the bottom of each screen on the computer, there will be a section where people can add their own comments or information on local initiatives.

Notes – Please note any comments or information on local initiatives.

Discussion Questions

The following questions are to help facilitate a discussion about what you learned from completing the assessment questions for this section. The discussion questions are intended to be used as a guide to help encourage a conversation about how your group might pursue working to build a healthy aging community. The discussion questions should help communities identify resources, brainstorm potential partners and prioritize policy, projects and programs in order to move forward with actions. Use the questions as you see appropriate to stimulate discussion.

D23. Has your community conducted a support services needs assessment focused on older adults in your community? If yes, what were the findings (i.e. scope, results and timeframe) of the assessment?

D24. Based on your answers to the questions related to support services for older adults and their caregivers, please answer the following questions.

    a. What are the gaps and barriers that you noticed in meeting the needs of older adults in your community? What services are missing? Are the services that are offered adequate in terms of programming and the number of people served?

    b. What opportunities and resources exist to address these gaps and barriers?

    c. What groups and local government partners should be involved in developing strategies and solutions to address these gaps and barriers?

    d. What departments within your local government are currently collaborating to address this topic? Are there opportunities to develop new collaborations?

    e. What research or information gathering is needed prior to developing strategies and solutions?

    f.   What are some strategies and solutions for addressing this issue in your community? Which of these strategies and solutions may be easier to address than others?

    g. Are there longer-term strategies that may benefit from foundational steps in the short-term?

    h. What timeframes are realistic for addressing these gaps and barriers?

    i.   What are some of the potential next steps for addressing these gaps and barriers?

D25. After completing the assessment, what are some of your impressions and thoughts that have not been discussed?

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Glossary of Terms

Accessible multi-family homes – housing with more than two dwelling units in the same structure where a portion of the dwelling units can be directly accessed by people with physical disability or mobility issues.

Accessory dwelling units – (a.k.a. mother-in-law apartment) a secondary dwelling unit within the same building as a single-family home, attached to a single-family home, or in a detached building on the same lot as a single-family home.

Active adult communities – real estate developments designed to promote an active lifestyle by including recreational and social considerations in the physical design and programming. The developments do not typically provide assistance with daily living activities (e.g. meals, medication and personal care). Active adult communities are typically age-targeted or age-restricted (see definitions below).

ADA ramps – ramps that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and associated design requirements.

Adult day services – community-based group programs of comprehensive and structured care in a protective setting that serve individuals with functional and/or cognitive impairments during day-time hours. Adult day services can serve a general population of those needing day-time support (general) or can serve specialized needs such as Alzheimer's or Dementia patients.

Age-in-place – the ability of an older adult to continue to live in his or her home safely and comfortably.

Age-restricted housing – housing developments that impose requirements about the age of the primary resident, typically 55 years or older. Age-restricted housing typically restricts residents under 19 years of age.

Age-targeted housing – housing developments that market to people 55 years or older.

Assisted living facilities – housing facilities that assist residents with daily living activities (e.g. meals, medication and personal care),coordination of care by healthcare providers outside of the facility and monitoring of resident's activities to ensure their health and safety. Assisted living facilities do not offer extensive medical care.

Bump-outs – a street design technique that extends the curb line at street intersections shortening the distance between curbs in order to reduce the length of a crosswalk.

Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) – home remodeling professionals that have been trained to help retirees and older adults age-in-place and to remain in their homes safely, independently, and comfortably, throughout the years. The National Home Builders Association administers this designation program.

Certified Environmental Access Consultant (CEAC) – a provider or contractor who is aware of the various home access solutions (e.g. home modifications and equipment) and services available to the patients they serve, their patients' particular home access needs, and everything entailed in providing those services. Accessible Home Improvement of America offers the credentialing program for Certified Environmental Access Consultant (CEAC).

Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) – a professional who has knowledge about aging and the important health, financial and social issues that affect the majority of older adults. Typically, CSAs already have expertise in a professional discipline – home care, senior housing, law, real estate, health care, clergy, insurance services and financial planning – and have chosen to supplement that existing professional knowledge with the CSA education.

Cohousing communities – residential developments that are planned, owned and managed by the residents with the goal of developing an intentional community that shares common areas and facilities and manages them collectively.

Continuing care retirement communities – a residential community with at least three levels of housing – independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing home – in the same development in order to meet the changing needs of an aging population.

Curb extensions – a traffic calming technique that extends the curb line into the vehicular travel area of a street to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians and reduce the amount of time that pedestrians are in the street.

Elder-friendly – a description often associated with businesses or communities that actively cater to the needs of older adults to encourage older adult participation in commerce and livelihood of a community.

Environmental safety – the relative public safety from environmental dangers caused by natural or human processes due to ignorance, accident, mismanagement or design.

Fixed-route – a description used with transit service to indicate a service that runs on an established path with a predetermined schedule.

Group homes – a residential home in a neighborhood where a group of residents, typically eight or fewer, live together sharing common space, facilities and supportive care to assist with activities of daily living.

Home care – services that external agencies provide within recipients' homes.

Independent living – a housing option that maximizes independence. Independent living is seen as the first step in a continuum of care housing model. Independent living facilities are aimed at older adults who need little or no assistance with activities of daily living.

Inventory – a study of the existing services or products that categorizes them by various common characteristics.

Local coordinating council – a group of community stakeholders that provide guidance and coordination to improve community transportation services.

Long-term care – a term that encompasses a variety of services including medical and non-medical care to people who have a chronic illness or disability. Long-term care helps meet health or personal needs.

Mobility management organization – an organization that focuses on customer-driven transportation services through developing community partnerships to provide information, coordinate transportation options and transportation planning.

Multi-generational housing – residential option that incorporates living space for multiple generations to live in the same home while incorporating some physical design solutions that provide privacy and comfort for all residents.

Needs assessment – a study of the gaps between existing conditions and desired outcomes.

Network of care – a highly interactive, single information Internet network offered through Denver Regional Council of Governments that consumers, community-based organizations, and local and state governments can use to access a wide variety of important information relating to available services for older adults, their families and caregivers.

NORC (naturally occurring retirement community) – a community that was not originally designed for older adults but that has a large proportion of residents who are older adults (at least 60 years old). These communities are not created to meet the needs of older adults living in their homes, but rather evolve naturally, as adult residents age in place.

Nursing home – a residential facility that provides continual skilled nursing care beyond assistance with activities for daily living.

Paratransit – a flexible transportation service that does not follow a fixed-route or defined schedule. Most transit agencies opt for a flexible system of small paratransit vehicles operating parallel to a system of larger, fixed-route buses to accommodate passengers with disabilities.

Pedestrian refuge islands – a small section of raised pavement or sidewalk placed on a street at intersections or midblock locations to separate crossing pedestrians from motor vehicles. Pedestrian refuge islands are often placed midway in a crosswalk to provide pedestrians a safe place to rest at intersections with long crosswalk distances.

Personal care boarding home – residential home that provides lodging, meal services and assistance with daily living activities.

Physical safety – related to protection of the human body from intentional or accidental risk or harm.

Relational safety – related to protection from harm caused by someone in close relationship such as spouse, family, friend, or caregiver.

Respite care – the provision of temporary relief to those who are caring for someone who might otherwise require permanent placement in a facility outside the home. Care may be provided in the home or in specialized facilities. Respite care can be shortterm (e.g. to provide care while a caregiver is on a vacation) or long-term (e.g. 2 times per week for 4 months).

Support services – home and community-based services that enable older adults to remain in their homes for as long as possible. These services include but are not limited to: access services such as transportation, case management, and information and assistance; in-home services such as personal care, chore, and homemaker assistance; and community services such as legal services, mental health services, and adult day care.

Supported living – a housing option for older adults who need daily help with one or more personal care activities such as bathing, dressing, or eating, but do not need full-time nursing care. It offers a level of care in between independent living and skilled nursing care.

Taxi voucher program – a system for passengers with limited access to transportation services to receive discounted or free transportation service through taxis.

Universal design – a spectrum of ideas to promote the design of buildings, environments and products that are usable by people of all abilities.

Victim advocacy/Victim witness unit – a unit within a law enforcement agency such as a police department that provides immediate intervention, support, information, referrals and other assistance to victims of crime, witnesses and/or their families including incidents of non-criminal, stark misfortune.

Village model – membership-based, grass-roots organizations that coordinate access to affordable services including transportation, health and wellness programs, home repairs, social and educational activities, and other day-to-day needs enabling individuals to remain connected to their community throughout the aging process.

Visitability – a movement in home construction practice to require a few specific design features to make the home easy for anyone with a mobility impairment to visit or live in. A house is visitable when it meets three basic requirements: one zero-step entrance, doors with 32 inches of clear passage space, and one bathroom on the main floor you can get into in a wheelchair.

Volunteer driver program – a system for connecting drivers with people who are in need of transportation services. Volunteer driver programs can be organized to use volunteer's personal vehicles or other vehicles.

Wayfinding signage – the consistent use of signs, maps, graphic or audible methods to convey locations or directions through an area.