

BETTER AGING CIVIC INDEX

Checklist

ENGAGED RESIDENTS

Older adults play an active role in shaping decisions and civic affairs.

- ✓ Leadership of older adults is encouraged and their input is valued.
- ✓ Older adults are recognized for their contributions and strengths rather than their weaknesses.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The community actively cultivates and supports older adult leaders from diverse backgrounds and with diverse perspectives.

- ✓ Governments and institutions encourage and support older adult leaders of diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to race or ethnicity, income or socioeconomic status, language or country of origin, LGBTQ status, gender, physical or cognitive disability, and age sub-group.
- ✓ Communities offer many leadership opportunities for older adults, including positions on boards, commissions, and other community positions.

COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONS

There is regular collaboration among age-friendly organizations in the government, business, nonprofit and other sectors, as well as structures in place that facilitate such collaboration.

- ✓ Programs, policies, and practices around aging include collaboration from government, business, nonprofit, and other sectors.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

The community recognizes and celebrates the diversity among older adults and strives for equity in services, support, and engagement.

- ✓ Services and opportunities are provided equitably to all older adults and take into account differences in identity, background, physical ability, and socioeconomic status.
- ✓ Local governments and organizations consider how identity or economic circumstances intersect with age to create barriers to participation or engagement.

AUTHENTIC COMMUNICATION

The community has credible civic-minded sources of information presented in a way that older residents can use.

- ✓ Communities use various communication strategies to reach older adults, such as print, television, and targeted community events.
- ✓ Local governments and organizations make a concerted effort to reach older adults at risk of social isolation.
- ✓ Information is presented in ways that meets older residents' needs (e.g. larger text, different languages, culturally appropriate presentation).

CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT

Involvement by older residents in every aspect of civic affairs is part of the local culture-an expectation, not an afterthought.

- ✓ Engagement of older adults is more than presenting information or having people respond to a survey. Instead, communities listen to, and learn from, older residents in ongoing conversations and leverage those insights to shape the way programs are designed, administered, and executed.
- ✓ Local governments and organizations make an extra effort to ensure that older adults from traditionally underrepresented groups are engaged and part of decision-making. Whenever possible, older adults that are most affected by problems are engaged in crafting solutions.

SHARED VISION AND VALUES

Older adults are viewed as valuable members of the community and contribute to the community's shared vision and values.

- ✓ Older adults contribute to and are included in the community's shared vision.

