AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

















# Having invested so much to get people to live *longer*, we've barely given any thought to how we can live *better*.

~Joe Coughlin, MIT Age Lab









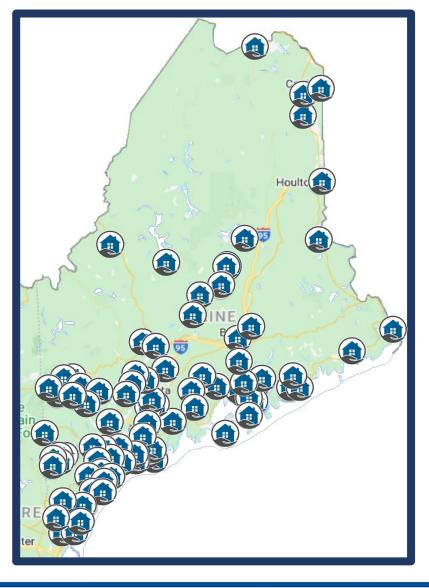












- 85 Members of the AARP NAFSC
- 25+ Similar Communities
- 96% small towns or rural areas
- 48% active for 5+ years
- 2:3 are volunteer-led













### Benefits for the Municipality



Handy Neighbor Household Chore Program is a collaboration of Bethel Age-Friendly Community Initiative and NorthStar Youth Mentoring

- Neighbor Helping Neighbor Trusted Friends
- The "longevity dividend"
- Organizing structure
- Breaks down silos
- Volunteer leadership opportunities
- Intergenerational cohesion
- Public recognition













## Lifelong Maine Advisory Group



Judy Anderson Aroostook Area Agency on Aging



Ardis Brown Danforth Livable Communities



Jane Danforth Age-Friendly Millinocket



Nancy Davis AF Comm Initiative (Bethel area)



Candy Eaton Age-Friendly Sullivan



Kathryn Harnish Age-Friendly Houlton



**Lisa Joyce** Age-Friendly South Portland



**Donna Palmer** Living Well in North Yarmouth



Jean Saunders Age-Friendly Saco



Anne Schroth AF Coastal Comm (Blue Hill Pen. & Deer Isle)









#### Age-Friendly Process

Plan



energize the team and gain community buy-in

#### Engage

- Establish a core team
- Collaborate with municipal and community partners
- Develop a common vision

## • Complete an assessment

- Identify community strengths
- Write an Action Plan and share with the community

**Age-Friendly** Community **Environments** 

#### Celebrate

- Publicity, publicity, publicity
- Celebrate accomplishments with the community and partners

#### Act

• Develop and implement programs and activities to make change













#### WHO Structure



Traffic Calming Wayne

Window Inserts Jackman





Sand Buckets Berwick



#### Areas of Change

- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Communication & Information
- Civic Engagement &
  - Employment
- Community Support & Health Services
- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Respect and Social Inclusion





Purple Ladle Program Limestone

Community Garden Sullivan





Tech Handy Helper, Intergenerational fun, and Bike Rides Saco













## Lifelong Communities Fellows Program

#### Matching Experienced Lifelong Community Leaders with Communities starting their journey or launching a new program













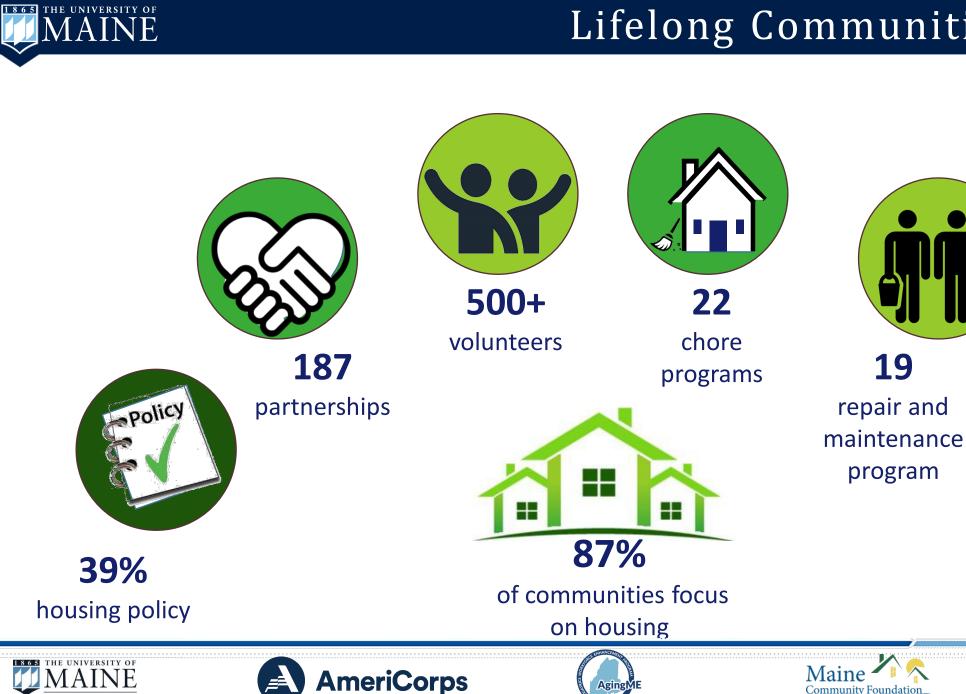
#### **Community Impact**

Fellow: I feel respected for my knowledge and honored to have the opportunity to share with (host community). We have become friends and colleagues. We learn from each other and keep our sense of humor about this work.



#### Lifelong Communities, Housing

**Community Foundation** 



Center on Aging

AgingME



## Lifelong Communities, Food Security





THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

1865







Maine

#### Lifelong Communities, Transportation

Community Foundation

## **Transportation**

THE UNIVERSITY OF

Center on Aging



Aging

## Lifelong Communities, Building Stronger

## **Dementia Inclusion**



- 4-month project
- 13 dementia inclusive fellows
- 37 participating communities
  - Walking groups, wayfaring and historic signs
  - Community garden elevated beds
  - Information kiosks, social media campaigns
  - Memory kits, books, puzzles
  - First responder dementia inclusive training
  - Community conversations

**New Partners**: Libraries, Museums, First Responders, Historical Societies, Veteran's Administration, Parks, Land Trusts, and more!

















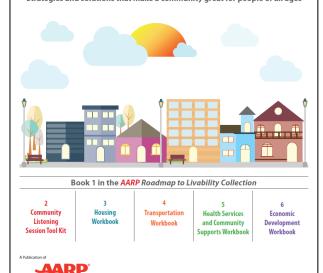
#### LIFELONG MAINE: AN INTRODUCTION



Dirigo, our state motto which means "I lead," certainly holds true when it comes to Maine's Lifelong Communities movement, which has become a national exemplar.

Nearly 100 towns, cities, counties, regions, and the State of Maine have embraced the importance of shaping great places for people to age by joining the <u>AREP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities</u>. In 2022, the University of Maine joined the University of New England as a fully endorsed member of the <u>Age-Friendly University (AEU) Global Network</u>, making Maine a leader nationally and internationally in the <u>age-friendly</u> movement.

Across Maine, grassroots Lifelong Communities, formal members of the AARP Network, and others following a similar path, are leveraging local assets to build community capacity addressing challenges such as accessible spaces, access to technology, food security, home repair, transportation, and social connections. ROADMAP TO TO LIVABILITY Strategies and solutions that make a community great for people of all ages





Information about and for Age-Friendly, Lifelong Communities

#### LifelongMaine.org

#### AARP Livable Library

Available online at AARP.org/LivabilityRoadmap

#### Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging







Real Possibilitie







#### Picture this.....

Maine Communities are thriving Older adults remain active live in security, enjoy good health, and continue to participate fully in society

People of all ages work together To make the **community** a **vibrant**, welcoming, and **safe place** to **everyone**.

> Photo by Elise Klysa FRAME, 2021









## For further information

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