MetLife Foundation Partners for Livable Communities

City Leaders Institute
on AGING IN PLACE

COMMUNITY REPORT CARD

The following questions will help you to think about your community's **strengths and weaknesses** in Aging in Place and grade your community on how well it is doing in each component of agelessness.

How prepared is your community?

Core Components to an Ageless Community	Your Grade
1) Community Design and Planning	
2) Arts, Culture and Lifelong Learning	
3) Housing	
4) Workforce Development	
5) Transportation and Mobility	
6) Local Leadership	
7) Health and Wellness	
8) Civic Engagement and Volunteer Opportunities	
9) Sustainability	
10) Public Safety and Services	
11) Equity of Opportunity	

1) Community Design and Planning

__ Zoning requirements, subdivision regulations or building codes that promote/support other flexible housing options (e.g., shared housing, accessory apartments)
__ Plans to ensure all land use patterns, transportation routes and community facilities meet the needs of people of all ages
__ Well-lit public spaces
__ Public spaces that encourage diverse use
__ Zoning review and adjustment regulations to facilitate integrated use where possible
__ Amenities evenly distributed throughout the community

My Community has:

A   All or Almost All
B   Many
C   Some
D   Two or less

Grade _____

2) Arts, Culture, and Lifelong Learning

__ Quality, accessible adult education programs
__ Strategic cultural planning efforts
__ A strong library system
__ A high level of educational attainment
__ Adult education programs in the arts
__ Availability of artists' space
__ Discounts for older adults who want to take classes at local colleges/universities

My Community has:

A   All or Almost All
B   Many
C   Some
D   Two or less

Grade _____

3) Housing

__ Home maintenance/repair assistance programs
__ Modification of services for older adults, such as backyard trash collection
__ Subsidized housing facilities
__ Measures to address the impact of changes in local property taxes on citizens with fixed incomes
__ Promotes housing codes that meet the needs of an aging community
__ A supply of affordable housing options available to seniors
__ Programs for advising seniors
__ Incentives for housing with "universal design"
__ Property tax abatements in naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs)
__ Programs to review housing codes for needs of elderly
__ Programs to facilitate/raise awareness of housing alternatives like co-housing
__ Community Land Trust Partnerships
__ A low cost-of-living to income ratio

4) Workforce Development

__ Job retraining opportunities
__ Flexible job opportunities
__ Job banks for older adults
__ Bi-lingual classes for non-English speaking older adults
__ Networking resources for the unemployed
__ Outreach programs to connect retirees to opportunities for re-engagement in the workforce
__ Review and adjustment of early retirement policies where possible
__ Employers that offer flexible work solutions and telecommuting
__ Employers that offer a livable wage
__ A low unemployment rate

5) Transportation and Mobility

__ Affordable public transportation to and from senior centers, adult day services, grocery stores, faith communities and cultural events
__ Discounted taxi cab and public transportation fares for seniors
__ Dial-a-ride and door-to-door para-transit options
__ Road design tailored to the needs of older adult drivers (larger signage, left turn lanes, road markings)
__ Sidewalks and street crossings made safe and accessible (bumpouts, crosswalk countdown, island in middle of street)
__ Sidewalks linking housing and essential services for walking residents
__ Disability-friendly public transit
__ Traffic calming measures to slow traffic (speed bumps, surface changes, pedestrain zones)
__ A bike sharing program
__ Accessible driver safety education classes
__ Programs for education/awareness of transportation options
__ A regional transportation plan

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6) Local Leadership

__ Community design that promotes development and design standards that facilitate walking for a variety of trip purposes

__ Local leaders who strives to promote interaction between all generations

__ Local leaders who understand that universal design aids a specific demographic and society as a whole

__ Local government that acts as an advocate and catalyst for developing partnerships, new programs and systems to aid and engage their older adult constituents

__ Opportunities for harnessing the talent, wisdom and experience of older adults to contribute to the community at large

__ A high level of trust in local government

7) Health and Wellness

__ Accessible health care options that meet a variety of needs

__ Exercise and wellness programs tailored to specific health concerns such as heart disease

__ A high number of primary care providers per capita

__ Free or affordable preventative screenings (blood pressure, mammograms)

__ Nutrition classes for specific health/financial needs

__ Communal meals at a recreation or senior center

__ Programs for home meal delivery

__ Programs for education/support of family caregivers

__ Regular assessments according to the ACSM American Fitness Index

__ Accessible parks and other exercise venues that can be reached by several modes of mobility

__ Programs for publicizing fitness venues

__ Land use planning that incorporates access to health care

__ Intergenerational child care programs

__ A high number of community health centers per capita

__ Programs for assistance with insurance (applications/advice)

8) Civic Engagement and Volunteer Opportunities

__ Meaningful volunteer opportunities for skilled older adults

__ Intergenerational volunteer opportunities

__ Mentoring programs

__ Cultural opportunities the reflect ethnic demographic

__ Social media outlets (listservs and websites) that promote civic engagement

__ A high voter participation rate

__ Functioning neighborhood organizations

__ Open public meetings

9) Sustainability

- __ Local food sourcing
- __ LEED Certified buildings
- __ Urban community gardens
- __ Tree planting programs with benchmarks
- __ Preservation of open space
- __ A strong recycling program
- __ A high percentage of energy from clean sources
- __ Healthy air quality

My Community has:

A All or Almost All
B Many
C Some
D Two or less

Grade _____

10) Public Safety and Services

- __ Elder abuse/neglect identification and prevention programs for citizens, first responders, and law enforcement
- __ Neighborhood watch programs
- __ Specialized training for frail elderly
- __ Plans for the evacuation of older adults in the event of a natural disaster or homeland security event
- __ GIS layout or knowledge of where older adults reside for services to be provided in case of severe weather or other situations that prevent residents from leaving their home
- __ Cooperative policing
- __ Mail carrier alert systems

My Community has:

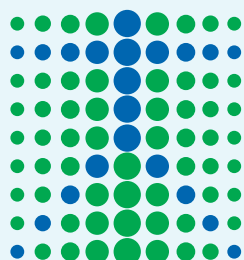A All or Almost All
B Many
C Some
D Two or less

Grade _____

11) Equity of Opportunity

- __ Comprehensive non-discrimination policies
- __ Proactive non-discrimination efforts
- __ Social services sufficient to meet the community's needs
- __ Governing bodies representative of the community demographic makeup
- __ A progressive tax structure

My Community has:

A All or Almost All
B Many
C Some
D Two or less

Grade _____

questions?

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