

Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

The City of Vaughan is taking steps to create a more age-friendly community, where all residents can be active and engaged members of society at every stage of life.

Age-friendly communities support aging with dignity, respect and independence, and promote the inclusion of older adults in all areas of community life. Age-friendly cities are designed to meet the needs of all residents. As part of its *Global Age-friendly Cities Project*, the World Health Organization (WHO) identifies eight key areas of community life in which communities can become more age-friendly.

Descriptions of the WHO "Age-Friendly Dimensions", shared below, are based on Ontario's *Creating A More Inclusive Ontario: Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide for Municipalities and Community Organizations*.

Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings



When people view a neighbourhood as safe and accessible, it encourages participation in outdoor activities and engagement with the community. Accessibility involves removing barriers that limit opportunities for people with disabilities, including older adults with age-related limitations and/or disabilities.

Transportation



The condition and design of transportation-related infrastructure, such as signage, traffic lights and sidewalks, affect personal mobility. Access to reliable, affordable public transit becomes increasingly important when driving becomes stressful or challenging, or when driving is no longer available as an option.

Housing



The availability of a range of appropriate, affordable, accessible and supportive housing options that incorporate flexibility through adaptive features, style and location choices, are essential for age-friendly communities.

Respect and Social Inclusion



Community attitudes, such as a general feeling of respect and recognizing the role that older adults and people with disabilities play in our society, are critical factors for establishing an inclusive and age-friendly community.

Civic Participation and Employment



Civic engagement includes the desire to be involved in aspects of community life that extend beyond day-to-day activities, such as volunteering, becoming politically active, voting or working on committees. The ability to continue working or find new employment provides economic security for older adults, as well as people of all ages and abilities. This includes having access to accessible environments, including accessible workplaces.

Communication and Information



Age-friendly communities provide information about community events or important services that is both readily accessible and in formats that are appropriate for older adults and people with disabilities. An age-friendly community recognizes the diversity of its population and promotes initiatives to reach as many people as possible.

Community Support and Health Services



Access to and awareness of community support services and mental and physical health programs contribute to quality of life and age-friendliness.

Social Participation



Social participation involves the level of interaction that older adults and people with disabilities have with other members of their community and the extent that the community itself makes this interaction and inclusion possible.