



Michigan Chapter, American Planning Association

RESOLUTION

A Resolution to Support an Age-Friendly Michigan Designation

WHEREAS, In Michigan, the population of people aged 65+ currently represents 17% of the population and is expected to grow significantly, surpassing those under the age of 18 by 2025.

WHEREAS, research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age;

WHEREAS, 21% of adults age 65 and older do not drive, and more than half of these non-drivers do not leave home on a given day, in part because they lack transportation options; and

WHEREAS, reduced mobility for older non-drivers leads to 15% fewer trips to the doctor, 59% fewer shopping trips and visits to restaurants, and 65% fewer trips for social, family, and religious activities; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is an affiliate to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Age-Friendly Cities program and has developed the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities to encourage and promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older Americans; and

WHEREAS, active aging is a life-long process, whereby an Age-Friendly community is not just "elder-friendly, but also intended to be friendly for all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the WHO and AARP have noted that "making cities and communities Age-Friendly is one of the most effective policy approaches for responding to demographic aging," and

WHEREAS, the WHO has developed eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life for people of all ages:

1. **Outdoor spaces and buildings** – accessibility to and availability of clean, safe community centers, parks and other recreational facilities;
2. **Transportation** – safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation, “complete streets” types of initiatives, hospitable built environments;
3. **Housing** - wide range of housing options for older residents, aging in place and other home modification programs, housing that is accessible to transportation and community health services;
4. **Social participation** – access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for older residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers, and younger people;
5. **Respect and social inclusion** – programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity, programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue, programs to combat loneliness and isolation among older residents;
6. **Civic participation and employment** – promotion of paid work and volunteer opportunities for older residents; opportunities for older residents to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives;
7. **Communication and information** – promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far; and
8. **Community support and health services** – access to homecare services, clinics, programs to promote active aging (physical exercise and healthy habits); and

WHEREAS, AARP recognizes that counties, cities, villages and townships have different needs, resources, and varying capacities to utilize their resources to facilitate active aging;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Association of Planning, A Chapter of the American Planning Association, representing more than 4,000 professional planners, elected municipal leaders, and appointed planning and zoning officials, does hereby join AARP-Michigan to apply to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities to earn the designation as an Age-Friendly State.

Michigan Association of Planning Board of Directors’ Meeting

September 20, 2018

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Board Director Sarah Lucas, and supported by Board Director Kelly Freeman, to approve the resolution of support for the AARP-Michigan Age-Friendly Michigan initiative.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.