

July 9, 2019

Arlington Economic Development Commission:

Arlington County joined the AARP Network of Age Friendly States & Counties and assigned responsibility to the Commission on Aging for facilitating a five-year journey toward becoming a more age-friendly livable community under the criteria established by the World Health Organization and AARP.

The goal of livability work is for people of all ages to:

1. Feel safe in the community
2. Participate in community activities
3. Be treated with respect
4. Have access to safe, appropriate and affordable housing and transportation
5. Have access to recreational opportunities and health services
6. No what services and activities are available and have access to information by amines they prefer (e.g. online, in print, or in person)
7. Be active, vital contributors to the economic, civic, and social life of the community
8. Receive appropriate support if they no longer look after themselves

Our first task is to engage directly with the residents and the stakeholders to:

- Explore local issues and learn about the community's thoughts, perceptions, and desires for tackling a livability issue
- Gather feedback from hard-to-reach populations
- Learn what does and doesn't work
- Develop a resource map with information about the strengths of the community around a particular livability issue
- Hear the stories behind data collected in a survey
- Introduce the broad goals for the project and get community feedback for action steps to meet these goals

We are meeting with every County commission and advisory board, with church and organization leaders, Senior Centers, Civic Federation, and a myriad of other groups - requesting their members to complete the Age Friendly Arlington survey.

From these we will develop Goals & Objectives, Action Plans with tasks, outcomes, responsibilities, resources, and schedule for County Board review early next year and submission to AARP midyear.

As we all know, Arlington is already ranked high in many categories. Our end goal is to become the very best age-friendly, livable, mid-sized community in the country. This will involve us all...and every County Department...as time goes by.

The attached **Age Friendly Arlington** survey is the beginning.

Your input and participation will be greatly appreciated.



Lincoln C. Cummings
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Arlington Commission on Aging