



**AARP  
COMMUNITY  
CHALLENGE**

Grants to make communities livable for people of all ages  
[aarp.org/CommunityChallenge](http://aarp.org/CommunityChallenge)

## ATTACHMENT C: EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY FUNDED COMMUNITY CHALLENGE PROJECTS BY CATEGORY

**Increase civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects** that bring residents into the work of government with the goal of better functionality and to improve relationships between residents and local government.

Civic Engagement	<b>Seattle, WA</b> <b>City of Seattle</b>	The city used the grant to help host a hackathon called “A City for All” in September 2017 to coincide with the National Day for Civic Hacking. Participants broke into teams to develop ideas for using data to improve Seattle’s outdoor spaces, address the social isolation that can come with age and increase transportation accessibility. One prize winner focused on improving the pedestrian experience by creating an app that maps the city’s sounds, smells, tree canopy, points of interest and other street-level information. With the hackathon, the city was able to promote both intergenerational and interdepartmental engagement.
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**Create vibrant public places** in the community through permanent or temporary solutions that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.

Public Places	<b>Avoca, IA</b> <b>Avoca Public Library</b>	The AARP Community Challenge grant funded the city’s new “music park” outside of the public library. The location’s oversized, weather-proof instruments require neither training nor talent to play. During the summer, Avoca closes its main street for a weekly farmers market. The instruments provide a stay and play area that encourages people to spend time outdoors and enjoy the downtown.
Public Places	<b>Baton Rouge, LA</b> <b>Center for Planning Excellence</b>	Roughly 30 percent of the population in this low-income neighborhood is age 50 or older. While improvements to Longfellow Park are planned, the absence of crosswalks, lighting and last-mile connectivity are barriers to safe access, separating the nearby neighborhoods from both the park and other amenities. AARP funding helped provide missing links by adding ADA-accessible high-visibility crosswalks, relevant signage and lighting at key intersections near the park.
Public Places	<b>Boston, MA</b> <b>City of Boston</b>	Age-friendly benches were installed in each of the main street districts to help engage older residents and enhance local economic activity. This project helped build a framework for a sustainable city-wide bench program that addresses longer-term issues of installation and maintenance.

Public Places	<b>Camden, SC</b> <b>City of Camden</b>	Bereft of any welcoming amenities, a 120-foot-long alleyway in downtown Camden received a major face-lift. Passersby were encouraged to pop in during the “alley activation project” and make a stained-glass globe that hangs alongside new shade canopies and LED string lights.
Public Places	<b>Jackson, MS</b> <b>City of Jackson</b>	The City of Jackson used Open Streets design practices to engage residents of the downtown community by activating new public spaces for people of all ages to interact with each other. Designing a parklet with a large mural backdrop and ground mural for safe crossing enhanced public safety by improving pedestrian accessibility.
Public Places	<b>Manchester, NH</b> <b>Manchester Connects</b>	There has been strong community support for developing more recreational space along the Merrimack River. AARP funding helped furnish Arms Park with tables, chairs, umbrellas, planters and community message boards to create a gathering and event space at the park, the city’s primary access point to the river.
Public Places	<b>Oconomowoc, WI</b> <b>City of Oconomowoc</b>	The funds were used to turn an alleyway into a corridor to connect the Main Street with a nearby lake, giving pedestrians safer access to recreational opportunities.
Public Places	<b>Saco, ME</b> <b>Age Friendly Saco</b>	Although Saco has two public beaches, residents who use wheelchairs, canes or walkers cannot access the shoreline due to the lack of a stable surface on which they can safely travel. The Bayview public beach took an initial step toward accommodating them with its recent construction of accessible public restrooms. An AARP grant covered the cost of three ADA-compliant beach mats, which provide a nonslip, semi-rigid roll-out walking surface. The mats take individuals directly from the handicapped parking spaces to the high-water mark on the beach.

## More public places projects

<b>Boise, ID</b> <b>Idaho Smart Growth</b>	Constructed a pop-up plaza to demonstrate the benefits of public gathering places.
<b>Charlotte, NC</b> <b>City of Charlotte</b>	The grant funded two porch swings at bus stops along Belmont Avenue, the community’s primary bus route, where many older adults rely heavily on public transit.
<b>Columbia, SC</b> <b>City of Columbia</b>	The grant funded seating along Main Street, which attracts a residents and hosts events that draw people from the surrounding region.
<b>Detroit, MI</b> <b>Eden Gardens Block Club</b>	This grant helped to create a multigenerational community-built playground in an area currently without any safe, nearby play resources.
<b>Gulfport, MS</b> <b>City of Gulfport</b>	The grant was used to create a “Bark Park” on an acre of property at the new Brickyard Bayou Park, located in a part of the city that was devastated during Hurricane Katrina and is being redeveloped as a multi-use park.

**Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options** in the community through permanent or temporary solutions to increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, and access to public and private transit.

Transportation	<b>Charleston, SC</b> <b>Charleston Moves</b>	The West Ashley Greenway is a former rail line that has been converted into a bicycle and pedestrian trail that connects businesses, parks, schools, municipal facilities and neighborhoods. AARP provided funds for upgrading select intersections with artistic crosswalks. The goals were to slow down automotive traffic and draw attention to the safety needs of pedestrians and cyclists. With the increasing numbers of retirees and families in the neighborhood interested in nonmotorized transportation, improving the greenway has become a vital need.
Transportation	<b>Christiansted, VI</b> <b>Virgin Islands Trail Alliance and Partners &amp; St. Croix Foundation for Community Development</b>	To enhance physical activity and social engagement, VI Trail Alliance and Partners used this grant to install a permanent bike lane, with benches and bike racks that extends around Historical Christiansted Town.
Transportation	<b>Kansas City, MO</b> <b>BetterBlockKC</b>	As part of the city's broader Complete Streets efforts, this grant funded the installation of an enhanced crosswalk, parking, protected bike lanes and floating bus stops to promote safety and more pedestrian activity along Oak Street.
Transportation	<b>Miami, FL</b> <b>Urban Health Partnerships &amp; the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative</b>	Residents of Miami's Little Havana neighborhood use public transit three times more often than the general population in Miami-Dade County. Multiple bus routes and two free trolley routes serve the area. However, because of constraints in the right-of-way, there are few benches where riders, particularly older adults, can sit while waiting. AARP funded the purchase of 12 benches, which were installed through a pilot project with the city of Miami.
Transportation	<b>West Sacramento, CA</b> <b>City of West Sacramento</b>	Feedback from older residents in West Sacramento has targeted transportation as a key concern. However, it can be a challenge for city buses to meet all of the community's needs. Although ride-sharing apps are becoming more available, some older people aren't comfortable using the technology. AARP funding enabled older residents to receive training and a free trial use of two transit programs: the on-demand, ride-sharing car service Via, with a wheelchair-accessible van available, and the Jump bikes rental program, which provides dockless, electric-assist bicycles.

## More transportation projects

<b>Chino Valley, AZ</b> <b>Yavapai Regional Transit Inc.</b>	The grant was used to install a much-needed ADA-compliant pad and walkway at a transit station.
<b>Hamlin, WV</b> <b>Lincoln County Friends of the Arts</b>	The grant helped improve transportation mobility by funding the creation of artistic crosswalks in areas served by the regional bus service.
<b>Honolulu, HI</b> <b>Bikeshare Hawaii</b>	The grant funded a workshop, social rides and free bikeshare access in order to build confidence and familiarity among older adults with a mobility option that promotes healthy lifestyles.
<b>Orange County, NC</b> <b>Orange County Department on Aging</b>	Working in cooperation with the county's public transportation department, the grant improved bus ridership in the more rural parts of northern Orange County where few stops have adequate shelters, benches or even flat areas for waiting passengers.

**Support the availability of a range of housing** in the community through permanent or temporary solutions that increase accessible and affordable housing options.

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Atlanta, GA</b> <b>MicroLife Institute</b>	The AARP grant was used to create a documentary and lecture series about accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and the obstacles communities and homeowners face in creating these secondary housing units that exist within or adjacent to a primary residence.
<b>Housing</b>	<b>Chicago, IL</b> <b>Metropolitan Mayors Caucus</b>	Grant funds were used for a demonstration of accessory dwelling units and for the development of model code language throughout the metropolitan area to increase awareness about and the production of this housing type.
<b>Housing</b>	<b>Lexington, KY</b> <b>City of Lexington Aging and Disability Services</b>	Funds helped create a manual for homeowners and builders about planning for and constructing Accessory Dwelling Units.
<b>Housing</b>	<b>Philadelphia, PA</b> <b>City of Philadelphia, Office of Community Empowerment &amp; Opportunity</b>	The AARP grant helped support the eviction prevention landlord-tenant mediation program that utilizes mediation, financial assistance, information, and referrals to reach mutually agreeable solutions in landlord-tenant disputes, reduce eviction and displacement, and foster vibrant, inclusive communities for residents of all income levels.
<b>Housing</b>	<b>Santa Cruz, CA</b> <b>Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay</b>	AARP Community Challenge grant funds supported the Habitat for Humanity "My House My Home" program that helps build aging-friendly accessory dwelling units, typically as an attachment to existing houses. Older homeowners can reside in an accessible-home on their own property and earn rental income from either the new unit or the original house.

## More housing projects

<b>Eugene, OR</b> <b>SquareOne Villages</b>	The funds were used for construction materials to complete an ADA-compliant tiny home in Emerald Village Eugene, an affordable housing community of 22 tiny houses
<b>Bethel, ME</b> <b>Bethel Area</b> <b>Age-Friendly</b>	The grant was used to construct a display and tool kit featuring accessories that make homes safer and help prevent falls.

**Demonstrate the tangible value of “Smart Cities”** in the community by developing and implementing innovative programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding, and using data and engage in decision-making to increase quality of life for all.

<b>Smart Cities</b>	<b>West Sacramento, CA</b> <b>City of West Sacramento</b>	The city provided targeted fire safety education to a group of older adult households that are at heightened risk and offered an in-home consultation and free smoke alarms and installation.
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**Other innovative projects** to improve the community.

<b>Other</b>	<b>Philadelphia, PA</b> <b>Southeast Asian</b> <b>Mutual Assistance</b> <b>Associations</b> <b>Coalition</b>	A community-based elders program serves Asian emigrants and refugees age 60 or older. Nearly all are low-income and not fluent in English. AARP funds helped furnish and enhance the Elders Story Cafe, a weekly intergenerational gathering in Mifflin Square Park, the neighborhood's green space. The project helps keep residents' personal stories and histories alive, involves them in outdoor activities, and increases the intergenerational use of the park.
<b>Other</b>	<b>Wichita, KS</b> <b>City of Wichita</b>	To combat the “digital divide” and social isolation, the city developed a hotspot lending program using 60 hotspot devices that allow individuals to connect wirelessly to the Internet. Residents have the ability to check out a device at their Neighborhood Resource Center and use it at home for a certain number of days.