Presentation to Webinar

Child and Age friendly Communities: Fostering communities as if all people mattered
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WHO Global Age-friendly Cities Network
103 Cities in 18 Countries

Argentina (La Plata)
Australia (Boroondara, Canberra, Melville, Rockingham, Warrnambool)
Belgium (Brussels)
China (Qiqihaer)
Finland (Tampere)
France (Angers, Bar-le-duc, Besancon, Bey, Carquefou, Dijon, Lyon, Metz, Quatzenheim, Quimper, Rennes, Villeneuve-sur-Lot)
Ireland (Kildare, Kilkenny, Louth)
Israel (Haifa)
Japan (Akita)
Mexico (San Agustin Tlaxiaca)
Portugal (Alfandega da Fe, Alpiarca, Alter do Chao, Esposende, Fatima, Funchal, Gondomar, Grandola, Mesao Frio, Ponte de Sor, Porto, Setubal)
Russian Federation (Agidel, Baymak, Belebey, Beloretsk, Birsk, Blagoveschensk, Chishmy, Davlekanovo, Dyurtyuly, Ishimbai, Kumertau, Meleuz, Neftekamsk, Oktyabrsky, Salavat, Sibai, Sterlitamak, Tuymazy, Uchaly, Ufa)
Slovenia (Celje, Kobarid, Kostel, Ljubljana, Maribor, Ravne na Koroskem, Ruse, Velenje)
Spain (Barcelona, Bilbao, Donostia-San Sebastian, Los Santos de Maimona, Manresa, Vic, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Zaragoza)
Switzerland (Geneva)
United Kingdom (Manchester)
United States (Bowling Green, Chicago, Des Moines, Los Altos, New York, Philadelphia, Portland, Town of Los Altos Hills)
Age-friendly NYC

- The New York Academy of Medicine
- The Office of the Mayor
- The New York City Council
Based on the Perspectives of Older Adults Themselves

- Consulted with more than 2,000 older adults over three years
- 14 neighborhoods
- 5 languages
- 10 immigrant groups

And we keep going....
Government Assessment Process

• Self-assessments of City agencies
• **59 recommendations** to expand and launch new initiatives across four areas
  
  – Community & Civic Participation
  – Housing
  – Public Spaces & Transportation
  – Health & Social Services
Top 7 Strategies for Planning an Age-friendly Community
Plan for an aging population when making needed or required upgrades.
Examples from NYC

- Recreation centers replacing exercise equipment
- Taxi and other vehicle purchases
- Universal design standards
Strategy # 2

Use or modify existing resources in creative new ways.
School buses transport older adults to grocery stores and farmers’ markets during off hours.

Older adults get vouchers for taxi rides instead of using a more expensive private transportation service.
Low Cost Improvements to Pedestrian Safety

- Extend pedestrian crossing times
- Change vehicle turning rules
Safe Streets for Seniors

• Department of Transportation Solutions:
  - Transform intersections with most pedestrian injuries
    Examples: more time to cross the street, cars stop further back from crosswalk, new pedestrian islands
• First five neighborhoods: reduction in pedestrian injuries between 9% and 60%.
• Program expanded to 25 neighborhoods
Strategy # 3

Ensure that older adults know about existing opportunities and resources.
Age-friendly cultural events and schools, colleges and universities

• The Alliance for the Arts has published the *NYC ARTS Cultural Guides for Seniors*, available online and in print for each of NYC’s five boroughs.

• After surveying NYC’s 100+ colleges and universities about what they offer for older adults, created a web-based directory of opportunities & resources
Strategy # 4

Engage different professional networks in thinking about what they can do help.
Top 10 Ways Your Profession Can be Age-friendly

- Architects
- Librarians
- Cultural institutions
- Pharmacists
- Community Developers
- Lawyers
- Home improvement contractors
Strategy # 5

Help businesses better serve & attract older adults.
Using private sponsorship for the benefit of your community

Strategy # 6
New Bus Shelters Include Seating & High Contrast Signage

Cost of shelters is paid for by selling advertising on side panels
Strategy # 7

Mobilize local communities to get additional and new kinds of resources involved in making neighborhoods better for older adults.
Local Examples

- Aging Improvement Districts
- Cultural Institutions
- NYC Parks Swimming Pools
- Grocery Guides
An aging population is an opportunity, not a crisis
Older adults are experts on their own lives and needs
All sectors – public & private – must be engaged
An “age-in-everything” approach is key to planning
Both “top down” and “bottom up” strategies are needed
Addressing problems in partnership requires “win-win” solutions
Many of the changes needed are low or no cost
Pace matters – identify and publicize early wins to build momentum
Report and other materials are available at:

www.agefriendlynyc.org