Planning for Aging in Place: Stimulating a Market and Government Response

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Presentation to Urban Affairs Association
San Francisco, CA
April 4, 2013

Planning Across Generations
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Funding provided by the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture
Challenges

• Rising **senior population** – especially in rural and suburban communities
• **Built environment** does not facilitate aging in place
• **Service delivery lags** in rural, suburban and poorer places
• **Invisibility of demand** – to government and to market providers
• **What role does planning play?**
Research Questions

• Level and range of service delivery (health, housing, transportation, social services, workforce services, civic engagement)
• Role of built environment
• Role of planning
• Relative role of government provision (and state and federal aid) and a market response
• Potential trade off between needs of seniors and needs of children
Data and Model

• 2010 Maturing of America Survey
  – Conducted by ICMA for National Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging, APA, NLC, NACO, Partners for Liveable Communities. Funded by MetLife
  – 1,414 cities and counties across the US
  – Link to Census and American Community Survey data
• Measured 41 services for seniors
• Measured 7 planning actions for aging in place
• Measured elder participation in the planning process and inter-generational programming
Suburbs and rural face greatest need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Metro Core</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 65+ years old</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth in 65+</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>years old</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-family homes</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate 65+ years old</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate under 18</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>years old</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number respondents</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rural and suburbs lag in service delivery for seniors

Source: N= 1,414 local governments, 2010 Maturing of America survey.

Numbers in parentheses indicate number of survey questions in each category.
Rural areas and suburbs are planning for an aging population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government has in place:</th>
<th>Zoning requirements that support “complete street” design</th>
<th>Building codes that incorporate universal design in new construction</th>
<th>Zoning requirements that support aging in place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro Core</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: N= 1,414 local governments, 2010 Maturing of America survey.
Theoretical Framework for Multigenerational Planning
The link between design and services

Model Design

- Ran three multi-level restricted MLE models
  - Service delivery in the market (0-41 services)
  - Services funded or provided by government (0-41 services)
  - Planning (0-14 planning actions)
    - 7 planning functions (2 points if plan in place, 1 point if under development, 0 if not)

- Controlled for:
  - Public engagement (elders in planning process, intergenerational programming)
  - Need (population based and poverty based measures, trade off between children and elders)
  - Built environment (density, single family, mobile homes)
  - Capacity (per capita income, govt exp, state and federal aid)
  - Metro status
Results: Planning and participation increase service delivery levels

Planning for elders
(strategic plan, comp. plan, zoning & building codes)

Elder participation in planning

Inter-generational programs

Government

Non-profit

For-profit

+ leads to more services available

Results controlled for population, poverty, metro status, government finance and council manager government.
Results: Planning is influenced by metro status and built environment

Results controlled for population, poverty, metro status, government finance and council manager government.
Conclusion

• **Planning matters** – for both a government and a market response

• **Elder participation matters**

• **Limited evidence of tradeoff** between needs of elders and needs of children (in municipal model)

• **Capacity constraints not as strong as feared**
  – Rural and suburbs do more after controlling for population size
  – Federal aid not limiting (but state aid does increase county response)