

Funding Opportunities for Multigenerational Planning

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Many funding opportunities exist to help transform communities into more child and age friendly places. From federal grants to coordinating with Local Area Offices on Aging, there are a variety of ways to finance multigenerational planning initiatives in your community.

Federal Sources of Funding

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities is a federal program that provides funds for initiatives that can help make cities and towns more child and age friendly. This interagency partnership between the **Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Transportation** provides funding opportunities to help strengthen communities and improve the overall quality of life by making places more sustainable, vibrant, healthy, walkable, and livable. Since its inception in 2009, the partnership has awarded over **\$3.5 billion** to more than **700 communities**. These grants leverage private investments and stimulate collaborations between local partners and community stakeholders.

The partnership supports projects and policies that feature six Livability Principles, which are to:

1. Provide more transportation choices
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing
3. Enhance economic competitiveness
4. Support existing communities
5. Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment
6. Value communities and neighborhoods.

Through this initiative, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority was awarded \$1.09 billion to develop a transit-oriented development, which included 450 apartments with 90 affordable units, access to the subway, retail, a public plaza, and a middle school. This development supports parents, children, and elders by co-locating housing to services and public transit.

The partnership awarded Redmond, WA, a suburb outside of Seattle, \$990,000 to develop one of the country's first bus transit-oriented developments. The grant leveraged the support of community partners—King County Department

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of Transportation contributed \$1.3 million, King County Housing Authority issued \$21.5 million worth of tax-exempt bonds, the City of Redmond waived \$1.7 million in development fees, and Fannie Mae provided \$13.5 million in equity investment. In walking distance to grocery stores, restaurants, retail, and an employment center, this development has 308 housing units that are affordable for households that earn 60 percent of area median income. 30 of these units are wheelchair accessible. The TOD offers an on-site childcare facility for both residents and park-and-ride commuters. This development fosters an environment that promotes the independence of children and elders through accessible, affordable design and service integration. [Learn more about the Partnership for Sustainable Communities.](#)

Center for Disease Control Healthy Communities Program helps prevent chronic disease by reducing health risk factors and working to attain health equity through positive interventions at schools, work sites, health care facilities, and other community locations. The CDC collaborates with local and state health departments, national organizations, and community leaders to encourage improvements in community health. The Healthy Communities Program funds a variety of initiatives that range from organizing community gardens, increasing family fitness opportunities, improving nutrition and physical activity policies and practices at child care centers, creating healthier school lunch options, and tobacco cessation programs. [Learn more about CDC's Healthy Communities Program.](#)

CDC's Community Transformation Grant Program can help fund projects that help make communities more livable for individuals across the lifecycle by enabling awardees to implement programs that support health and wellness initiatives. CDC Community Transformation Grants support community-level programs that help improve the health of Americans. In 2012, the CDC awarded **\$70 million** to 40 communities, directly impacting 9.2 million individuals. Community Transformation Grants can fund multigenerational planning initiatives by improving the health and well being of children and elders. Money has been used to increase access to physical activity and healthy foods. Grants have been used to improve sidewalks and street lighting making streets safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission in Massachusetts was awarded a \$1,993,442 Community Transformation Grant to implement a range of initiatives to promote health and wellness in low-income neighborhoods. The Commission's Scene in Springfield program will be used to start a community-wide nutrition education program, increase the availability of fresh produce, facilitate physical activity programming, and educate the community about opportunities for biking and walking throughout the city.

The District of Columbia Department of Health was awarded \$1,759,249 to improve health and well being of the medically underserved and disabled communities through environmental and infrastructure improvements.

The Chicago Public School (CPS) system was awarded \$4,398,118 to implement Healthy CPS, a program focused on improving the health and wellness of students, parents, and staff by tobacco-reduction programs, school-based gardens, increasing space for physical activity, and nutrition programs.

Community Transformation Grants can enable communities facing an obesity epidemic and an aging Baby Boomer population to implement positive health interventions. [Learn more about CDC Community Transformation Grants.](#)

The Older Americans Act (OAA) and The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) can help fund multigenerational initiatives. Congress passed the OAA in 1965 to provide grants to states in an effort to help improve services and programs for the elderly. Through nutrition programs providing home delivered meals to providing employment opportunities for seniors, the OAA has had a positive impact on the lives of older adults and those who care for them. Reauthorized in 2006, the OAA provides grants to fund multigenerational and civic engagement activities. In the 2012 fiscal year, **\$1.9 billion** in federal funding was allocated to support Older American Act programs. The NFCSP provides support services like caregiving training and counseling for grandparents raising children and caregivers helping seniors. [Learn more about The Older Americans Act and The National Family Caregiver Support Program.](#)

Providing more opportunities for physical activity by designing roads that are accessible and safe for pedestrians and bicyclists is an integral feature of age and child friendly communities. Encouraging opportunities for outdoor physical activity can sustain healthy childhood development and aging.

Safe Routes to School programs encourage children to walk and bike to school by improving safety and accessibility as well as reducing traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. [Learn more about Safe Routes to School.](#)

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act provides over **\$105 billion** in funding for transportation programs in 2013 and 2014. The Transportation Alternatives provision of this act provides a variety of alternative transportation projects from recreational trail programs to roadway design and construction projects. [Learn more about MAP-21: Transportation Alternatives.](#)

USDA Rural Development Grants provide funds for a variety of economic development, infrastructure, public facilities, and service projects in rural communities. In 2013, USDA Rural Development will administer **\$38 billion** in loans and grants through various programs from housing assistance to Broadband initiatives. **Community Facility Grants** are just one example of USDA Rural Development funding that can support multigenerational planning efforts in your community. The grants provide funds for essential community facilities like childcare centers. [Learn more about USDA Rural Development Grants.](#)

The Affordable Care Act can help initiate multigenerational planning efforts in your community. The Act requires nonprofit hospitals to provide community benefits beyond medical services. These community benefits include economic development, improving food security, housing rehabilitation, workforce development, and transforming vacant lots into green space. [Learn more about funding opportunities in the Affordable Care Act.](#)

Philanthropic Sources of Funding

Partners for Livable Communities can support multigenerational planning interventions in your community through initiatives that promote quality of life, economic development, and social equity. Partners is a non-profit leadership organization that promotes livable communities through technical assistance, identifying best practices, coalition-building, resource sharing, workshops, and training. Partners supports a variety of community and economic development initiatives to improve overall quality of life in America's cities and towns. Partners' ***Aging in Place Initiative: Developing Livable Communities for All Ages*** helps communities implement policies and programs that allow older adults to comfortably age in their homes and neighborhoods. Collaborating with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the International City and County Management Association, the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties and with funding support from the MetLife Foundation and AARP, this initiative has helped communities retrofit services and infrastructure as well as develop strategic plans to support aging in place. Partners also supports communities through their technical assistance program, which provides training, consultation, and problem solving strategies to move plans into action. [Learn more about Partners for Livable Communities.](#)

Grantmakers in Aging (GIA) is a membership organization comprised of philanthropies dedicated to improving the experience of aging. GIA supports a variety of initiatives that help make communities inclusive and accessible for everyone.

In partnership with the Pfizer Foundation, GIA has awarded five communities a total of **\$750,000** to aid in the effort to create age-friendly places through their Community AGEnDa program. The goal of ***Community AGEnDa*** is to improve America for all ages and help communities become great places to grow up and grow old. GIA will use **\$550,000** to support age-friendly initiatives across the country. Age-Friendly initiatives sponsored by this program have included:

- Addressing transportation challenges and improving neighborhood walkability for seniors in Atlanta.
- Exploring zoning, policy, and development incentives that could create an age-friendly Lifetime Community District in Bloomington, IN.
- Working with a large employer to hire more older adults in Miami-Dade County.

The ***EngAGEment Initiative*** is another project sponsored by Grantmakers in Aging. Local teams of philanthropic leaders examine how to expand funding for the aging population in their communities. This initiative encourages grantmakers to view older adults as an asset. As a result of the EngAGEment Initiative, more than **\$5,380,552** in funding from aging has been granted from over 22 member foundations. [Learn more about Grantmakers in Aging.](#)

The **Annie E. Casey Foundation** is a charitable organization dedicated to helping disadvantaged and at risk children. Each year the Foundation awards **\$122 million** in grants to states, cities, and neighborhoods for initiatives that support its mission, “to foster public policies, human services, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.” In order to improve outcomes for at-risk children, the Foundation advocates for a two-generation approach, which emphasizes helping both kids and parents succeed; “We know that kids do well when their families do well and families do better when they live in supportive neighborhoods and communities. We are committed to changing the environment in these neighborhoods so families can connect to economic opportunity, social networks, and trustworthy services and supports.” [Learn more about the Annie E. Casey Foundation.](#)

The **Brookdale Foundation Group** awards grants to organizations and initiatives that support their mission to enhance the quality of life of America's elderly. Recent grants include **\$395,000** awarded to food banks, pantries, and community organizations in New York City and **\$2.5 million** awarded to Naples Community Hospital in Naples, Florida to create the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging. Collaborating with AARP, the foundation's Relatives as Parents Programs provides technical assistance and support to grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting. [Learn more about the Brookdale Foundation Group.](#)

Multigenerational planning can also help local governments facing budget constraints save money. Joint use cuts costs for municipalities while creating more opportunities for physical activity, promoting intergenerational interaction, and strengthening families in poverty. Joint use is a collaboration between two entities, usually a school and a city, where spaces and resources are shared. Joint use maximizes the use of under-utilized community assets like school buildings, athletic fields, parks, and libraries. Through facility and program sharing, joint use helps communities meet the needs of children and elders. [Learn more about joint use.](#)

By linking the needs of children and elders through a multi-generational approach, planners can help build communities that are inclusive and accessible for everyone. These funding streams provide planners with opportunities to help make communities more child and age friendly.