

Alameda County,
Where Aging Is All About Living.

Vision Statement: In Alameda County, older adults are valued, respected, and engaged in a community that is committed to healthy aging, inclusion, well-being and safety. Older adults, family caregivers, and seniors with disabilities have access to a comprehensive system of services, supports and opportunities that foster aging with dignity, a high quality of life and personal fulfillment.

Goals 1: Engage older adults, community partners and *cities* in planning for and developing a community framework for older adults:

- Promote and Facilitate a County-wide initiative regarding the possibility of becoming a World Health Organization (WHO) designated Age-Friendly County. WHO designated communities incorporate age-friendly design in the following domains: Outdoor Spaces & Building, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect & Social Inclusion, Civic Participation & Employment, Communication & Information, and Community Support & Health Services.¹
- Allocating a Project Management or Staff resource to assist in WHO activities

Goal 2: Throughout Alameda County Departments, develop a coordinated approach to designing, delivering and measuring effectiveness of *programs* for older adults:

- Expand and *organize* the number of Departments across the County working to develop common age-friendly programs, goals and approaches
- Establish a Leadership Team to monitor progress and results of the County-Wide Plan for Seniors
- **Develop a unified report that includes data on the number of seniors and services provided across County Departments, including services provided through community partners**
- Develop an “Embracing Aging” training curriculum for county employees and **make it available for community partners**

Goal 3: Working with community partners, address the growing need of services for older adults by supporting a comprehensive network of providers to provide long-term services and supports (LTSS) that engage older adults and seniors with disabilities in community settings:

- Invest in and *leverage* an infrastructure of community based providers that will meet the needs of the aging and disabled population

¹ WHO Age Friendly communities engage in a four step process: 1) establish a mechanism for involving older adults; 2) conduct a baseline assessment; 3) develop a three year plan; 4) identify measures

- Through the Area Agency on Aging, fund, deliver and monitor a wide array community and home based services for seniors (see appendix X for a detailed description of services)
- Support advocacy efforts on a local, state and federal level
- Provide capacity building support for senior service providers
- Support the Alameda County Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), which includes a core partnership between the Area Agency on Aging, Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL), and the Center for Independent Living (CIL) as a platform by which community partners can work toward access to a seamless system of LTSS for older adults and people with disabilities

Goal 4: Enhance the health, safety and well-being of older adults by offering coordinated services that promote health and wellness, with an emphasis on prevention and early access to **behavioral** health services.

- Measure A: allocate **additional** resources in order to expand senior injury prevention programs and respond to elder nutrition insecurity
- Expand home based visits through Public Health Nursing
- **Determine “hotspot” areas of County where high utilizers of services reside in order to offer targeted interventions**
- Expand the availability of Behavioral Health Services
- Increase awareness of behavioral health and **dementia** issues with older adults

Goal 5: Enhance programming to **create safe communities** for seniors by preventing and responding to neglect and abuse of older and dependent adults.

- Increase awareness of elder neglect and abuse through a media campaign
- Increase the rate of response to calls to Adult Protective Services
- Coordinate a county-wide response to elder abuse by expanding partnerships with legal and law enforcement partners.
- Increase the capacity of Ombudsman to respond to abuse claims in long-term care facilities

Goal 6: Enhance and increase support for housing and augment the sustainability of housing programs.

- Increase the number of housing units available and affordable for older adults
- Improve the habitability of existing units to allow for safe and healthy aging in place
- Work with cities and community groups to support regulations that protect older occupants from displacement
- Explore alternative housing options including shared housing programs