AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

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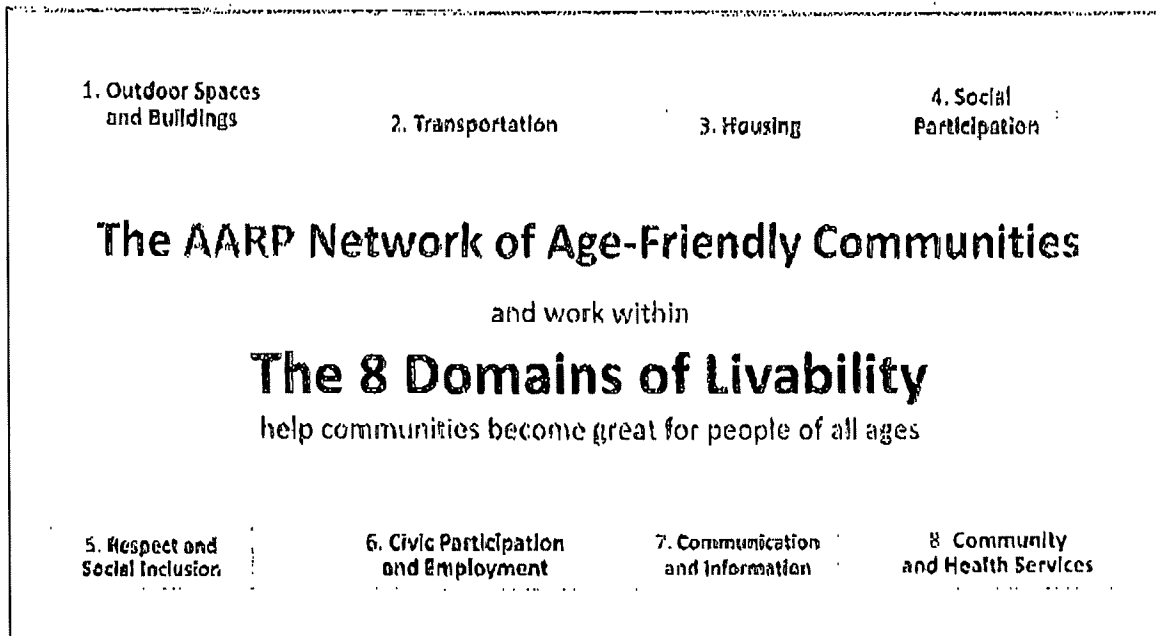# The 8 Domains of Livability: An Introduction

Cities, town and communities of all sizes can use this framework to become more livable for older adults and people of all ages

AARP Livable Communities (/livable-communities/)

The availability and quality of certain community features impact the well-being of older adults. Developed by the World Health Organization

(http://www.who.int/ageing/projects/age-friendly-cities-communities/en/), the 8 Domains of Livabilty (https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2015/8-domains-of-livability-resources.html) framework is used by many of the towns, cities and counties in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities (/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/) to organize and prioritize their work to become more livable for both older residents and people of all ages. While many communities tackle all eight domains at once, others choose to focus on select domains. The following images (available in a five-page PDF here) (/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/images-2016/8%20Domains-5-pages.pdf) provide a handy introduction to the eight domains concept. You can also download an English-Spanish version of the chart (/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/images-2016/English-Spanish.pdf). Links to additional resources are listed at the bottom of this page.

1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings   2. Transportation   3. Housing   4. Social Participation

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

and work within

The 8 Domains of Livability

help communities become great for people of all ages

5. Respect and Social Inclusion   6. Civic Participation and Employment   7. Communication and Information   8 Community and Health Services

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

People need places to gather — indoors and out. Parks, sidewalks, safe streets, outdoor seating and accessible buildings (think elevators, stairs with railing, etc.) can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages.

Transportation

Driving shouldn't be the only way to get around. Public transit options can be as expansive as a train system or as targeted as a taxi service that provides non-drivers with rides to and from a doctor's office.

Housing

Most older adults want to age in place. Doing so is possible if homes are appropriately designed or modified — and if a community includes affordable housing options for varying life stages.

Social Participation

Regardless of one's age, loneliness negatively affects a person's health and sense of wellbeing. Isolation can be combatted by the availability of accessible, affordable and fun social activities.

Respect and Social Inclusion
Intergenerational activities are a great way for young and old to learn from one another, honor what each has to offer and, at the same time, feel good about themselves.

Civic Participation and Employment
An age-friendly community provides ways older people can, if they choose to, work for pay, volunteer their skills and be actively engaged in community life.

Communication and Information
Age-friendly communities recognize that not everyone has a smartphone or Internet access and that information needs to be disseminated through a variety of means

Community and Health Services
At some point, everyone gets hurt, becomes ill or simply needs a bit of help. While it's important that care be available nearby, it's essential that residents are able to access and afford the services required.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM GETTY IMAGES AND ALAMY

Images and captions excerpted from the "Age-Friendly Report: Inspiring Communities," aarp.org/livability-examples