

Making the Difference: Creating Age-Friendly Institutions and Community in Alameda County - Pathways to Broad, Deep, and Lasting Change - November 12, 2015

AGE-FRIENDLY HOUSING & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This small group discussion considered the following four questions:

1. The home and neighborhood in which seniors live, work and retire matter more than at many other points in their lives. Envision an age-friendly community. What would it look like?
2. How can we increase access to affordable housing for seniors?
3. How can the needs of seniors around the built environment be better represented in transportation, public health, and regional planning?
4. What kinds of systems or structures would need to be in place to move from idea to action?

The group generated the following insights and ideas:

- Envision age-friendly:
 - walkable
 - accessible services and amenities
 - gathering place - centers
 - Continuum of housing types (single family → high rise)
 - Multigenerational
 - Pet-friendly
- Access to affordable housing
 - Build more (scattered)
 - Refurbish existing vacant structures
 - Maintain older housing stock support (aging in place)
 - Tax incentives and other policies
 - Shift culture - open to new configurations
- Systems and structures
 - Task forces
 - Political mobilization
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - Accountability
 - Older Adult Participation
- Transportation, public health, planning
 - Include in county and city general plans
 - Panel review of systems, services and strategic plans - how are needs being met?
 - Community outreach - “place matters” principles