



# AGE-FRIENDLY

Franklin County & North Quabbin

## **An Introduction to Age-Friendly Communities**

WHY : Demographic Context

WHAT: Age-Friendly Communities Movement

HOW: Next Steps and Community Participation



# The Demographic Context

Unprecedented Trends

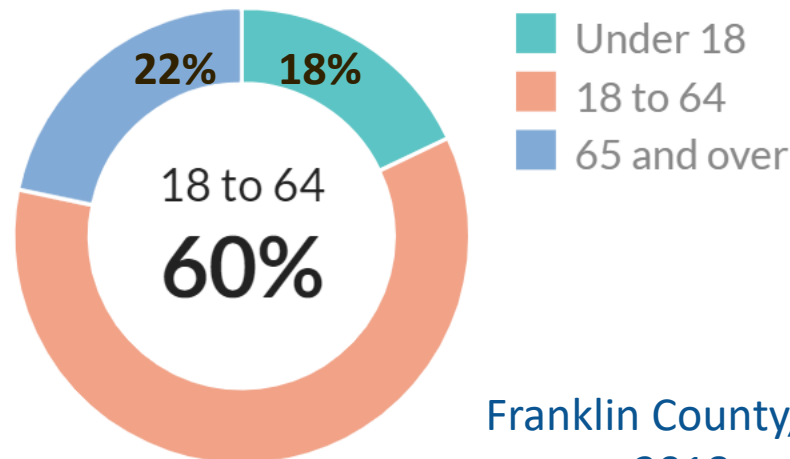


Unprecedented Demographic Makeup



Opportunities and Challenges

Population by age category



Franklin County, MA  
2018



# Age-Friendly Communities Movement



- Movement initiated by WHO over a decade ago
- Administered in the USA by AARP
- Targets long term, policy and systems level change
- 4 Phases over 3 to 5 years:

**Enrollment**

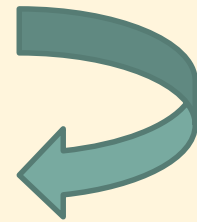


**Assessment**

**Implementation**



**Planning**



# The 8 Domains of Livability



Adapted from: Suzanne Garon, University of Sherbrooke

*"We believe that communities should provide safe, walkable streets; age-friendly housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in community life."*

# Integrating Dementia Friendly Work

- Dementia friendly communities are informed, safe and respectful to people living with dementia and their care partners.
- The network of dementia-friendly communities is run by Dementia Friendly America (DFA)
- DFA has partnered with AARP to encourage integrating age-friendly and dementia friendly initiatives.



# Age-Friendly Neighbors



- Across the US: Around 565 communities + Six States and One Territory
- Massachusetts was the 2<sup>nd</sup> state in the nation to join the network
- Within MA: Around 80 communities across the commonwealth have received the Age-Friendly designation
- Franklin Co. and N. Quabbin: Only Deerfield (2019) and Sunderland (2021) had joined the network before our project.



# Examples of Age-Friendly Achievements

## Age-Friendly Berkshires:

- Dalton Senior Center Outdoor Exercise Park
- Job Fair for 50+ residents



## Age-Friendly Brookline:

- Established a home sharing advisory service to promote better use of existing housing to meet the needs of seniors.
- 111 local businesses have been certified as Age-Friendly

# Community Participation

*LifePath is serving as the backbone organization overseeing the project. However, this process requires community participation at every phase in order to be representative and inclusive of those we want to serve.*

## Project Roles:

1. Steering Committee(s): Overall direction and coordination of the project
2. Work Groups: Short term teams to advise on conducting needs assessment and creating action plan
3. Advisory Council: Reaching out to community elders to include their voices and insights at every stage of the project.
4. Municipal Select Boards: Issuing official letters of commitment supporting the initiative and requesting enrollment into the Age-Friendly Communities Network





# Moving Forward

## Project activities:

- Engaging community stakeholders : *Local officials – Nonprofits – COAs – Village Neighbors – Healthcare professionals – Interfaith community – Mental health professionals – Interested residents.*
- Recruited 10 regional stakeholders to form the project's steering committee

## Current Steps:

- Presenting to COAs/Select Boards to request Commitment Letters
  - 9 new area towns have joined the network, several others are on the way
- Offering age- and dementia-friendly workshops to the community
  - So far 5 programs organized with over 140 total attendants
- Planning for and launching the community needs assessment during fall 2021



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**THANK  
YOU!**

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