



AGENDA
City of Archdale
Plan Archdale Commission Meeting
February 3, 2026 - 6:00 pm
Archdale City Hall

1. Call To Order, Welcome, And Register Of Attendance
2. Approval Of The Minutes For The December 2, 2025 Plan Archdale Commission Meeting

Documents:

[PAC MINUTES DEC 2 2025.PDF](#)

3. Plan Archdale Discussion

- Discussion of Plan Archdale Implementation Updates and Priorities (Vagn Hansen)
- Vision Zero Update (Jason Miller)

4. AARP Community Challenge Grant

Discuss the 2026 AARP Community Challenge Grant application and requirements. Find out more information here: <HTTPS://WWW.AARP.ORG/LIVABLE-COMMUNITIES/COMMUNITY-CHALLENGE/>

Documents:

[ATTACHMENTB-PROJECTEXAMPLES2026COMMUNITYCHALLENGE-010726.PDF](#)
[FAQS-2026AARPCOMMUNITYCHALLENGE-010726.PDF](#)
[ANNOUNCEMENT-2026-AARPCOMMUNITYCHALLENGE-010726.PDF](#)

5. Additional Items

6. Adjournment

Please call Matthew at 434-7333 if you will be unable to attend the meeting.

Plan Archdale Committee - Meeting Minutes

6:00pm @ Archdale City Hall

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Members Present: Chairwoman: Casandra Griffin, Vice Chairman: Steve Myers;
Members: Dara Matthews; Angie Eads, Eric Sumner

Others Present: Matthew Wells, Planning Administrator; Jason Miller, Planning Director; Vagn Hansen, Benchmark Planning; Matthew Talbott, Planning Officer

Members Absent: Lorie McCroskey, Hannah Davis, Helen Sikes, Alvin Battle, Matthew Christian, City Manager

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE:

Casandra Griffin welcomed everyone and brought the meeting into session.

Approval Of The Minutes For The September 9, 2025 Plan Archdale Commission Meeting

Casandra Griffin called for approval of the minutes. All members approved

Plan Archdale Update- Vagn Hansen

The current plan was adopted in 2020, Vagn Hansen noted that the five-year mark is an appropriate time to formally review the plan and confirm whether its direction still aligns with the community priorities. He recommended that the committee suggest this to City Council.

Potential strategies related to Housing, Transportation, Engagement, Economic Development (including civic event venue feasibility) were presented

We collectively agreed that progress in some areas appears slow, and it is possible that priorities may have shifted. Vagn Hansen suggested encouraging Council to adopt a dedicated budget to advance the three major recommendations: Downtown Public Space, Archdale Commerce Park, North Main Street Diet

Cassandra Griffin expressed concern that the committee feels like it is “spinning its wheels” and not making progress quickly. Vagn Hansen suggested narrowing the list of initiatives to clarify focus. The committee agreed but emphasized the importance of City Council’s input to ensure efforts align with Council’s priorities and resources.

Jason Miller noted that additional clarity may come during the first quarter 2026 budget retreat.

Cassandra Griffin also recommended exploring potential overlaps or collaboration with the Parks Department. Vagn Hansen raised the question of whether the future Creekside Park development could effectively function as Archdale's "downtown," suggesting it may be worth revisiting this concept.

Updates from Jason Miller:

The City is exploring Vision Zero, a program aimed at reducing pedestrian-related casualties. Jason Miller explained that this connects to the broader conversation around speed limits. Implementation would include officer training and potentially replacing speed limit signs or lowering limits—particularly in subdivisions. Steve Myers suggested inviting the Police Chief to a future meeting to discuss speed concerns.

The AARP Community Challenge was introduced as an opportunity for a placemaking project. Jason Miller suggested looking at the website to research past grantees and bring project ideas to the next meeting. An application will be due in March, so discussion and idea gathering will begin in the upcoming session.

Jason Miller will send an email to gather thoughts and recommendations on priority action items.

Additional Items

Jason Miller noted there are two vacancies that we need to fill, applications have been posted.

The next meeting is set for February 3, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Casandra Griffin thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.



**AARP
COMMUNITY
CHALLENGE**

Grants to make communities livable for people of all ages
aarp.org/CommunityChallenge

ATTACHMENT B: EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY-FUNDED AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE PROJECTS BY CATEGORY

To learn more about each grantee and their project click on the organization name to visit the longer project description, photos, videos, and more on the [Livable Communities Map](#)

FLAGSHIP GRANT CATEGORIES

PUBLIC PLACES (i.e., parks, open spaces, community amenities)

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	Public Places	<p>Long Beach, CA (2024) Placemaking US</p>	<p>This project built a community comal — or traditional griddle — to activate a public place and engage older Meso-American women to revive the weekly tradition of tortilla making. This initiative helped to transform the space for residents of the community and fostered intergenerational connections.</p>
	Public Places	<p>Avoca, IA (2018) Avoca Public Library</p>	<p>Avoca's Main Street already had green space and places to sit, but Avoca Public Library organizers wanted to give residents a reason to spend time downtown. To invite people in and advance the town's creative placemaking plans, they installed oversized, weather-proof musical instruments outside the library. Since the instruments don't require any training or talent to play, they are popular with residents of all ages. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Public Places	<p>Boston, MA (2019) City of Boston</p>	<p>To encourage walking, Boston installed benches in Main Street neighborhood districts. Older adults tested the benches and worked with the City to identify locations for them. The benches contribute to vibrant public spaces near businesses and merchants say they appreciate the increased foot traffic. Project organizers say the installations helped develop a city-wide framework for a sustainable bench program. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Public Places	<p>Camden, SC (2017) City of Camden</p>	<p>Camden's Main Street program transformed the city's Broad Street alley into a vibrant thoroughway for shoppers and diners. The City invited residents of all ages to the space to create stained glass-like globes out of tissue paper. By hanging the completed art pieces and adding string lights and shade canopies, the City created a decorative, open ceiling to the alley. They later added benches and planters. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Public Places	<p>Jackson, MS (2019) City of Jackson</p>	<p>To recast public spaces for people rather than vehicle traffic, the City of Jackson launched an Open Streets initiative. First, the City installed a parklet -- a small park that fits in the footprint of a parking space. To demarcate the space, project organizers painted vibrant blue dots along the street, identifying it as a place to gather. Additionally, the City purchased picnic tables and flexible furniture accessible to older adults. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Public Places	<p>Houston, TX (2023) Lao American Association of Houston</p>	<p>This project turned vacant land into a community garden with eight raised beds. It focused on growing vegetables common in Southeast Asian cuisine that are hard to find in supermarkets and grocery stores in Houston.</p>
	Public Places	<p>Anadarko, OK (2019) Delaware Nation of Oklahoma</p>	<p>Anadarko is a food desert, meaning residents have limited access to fresh, healthy food options. Grant funds were used to install raised garden beds and seating, features that are helpful to people of all ages. The garden serves as an anchor to unite the community and enable them to have a healthier diet. Educational signage with health facts and plant information is located throughout the garden. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Public Places	<p>Cut Bank, MT (2022) City of Cut Bank</p>	<p>To draw visitors to an underused dog park, this project added a walking path to the space. Additionally, the City installed ADA-compliant benches and two shade structures to give people an accessible place to sit and rest. <i>Read the article.</i></p>
	Public Places	<p>Southport, NC (2021) John N Smith Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Inc.</p>	<p>As the only African American cemetery in the region, the John N Smith Cemetery Restoration and Preservation group created an outdoor museum. The museum teaches residents about the discrimination that Black members of that community have faced, as well as contributions made to the community. Project organizers installed interpretive signage, as well as benches and a display board. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>

TRANSPORTATION (i.e., walkability, bikeability, transit access)

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Transportation	<p>Bethlehem, NH (2023) Tri-Town Bicycle</p>	<p>Bike route maps can be hard to read while cycling. The maps for bike routes around Bethlehem, a small town adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest, were redesigned with larger fonts, graphics and brighter colors. In addition, the maps were updated to identify bike-friendly businesses and cycling amenities. Free copies of the paper maps are provided to visitors and residents. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Transportation	<p>Bismarck, Lincoln, and Mandan, ND (2022) Bis-Man Transit Board</p>	<p>The Bis-Man Transit Board provides free fixed route transit service to those 65 or older but riding public transit for the first time can be intimidating. Several videos teach local residents about the transit system were produced and used during transit workshops to explain trip planning, understanding timetables, paying for the trip, transferring buses, requesting a stop and the benefits of public transportation.</p>

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS ----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Transportation	<p>Long Beach, CA (2023) City of Long Beach Healthy Aging Center</p>	<p>The lack of transportation can be a barrier to accessing medical appointments, social services, shopping and other resources. By providing more than 1,000 free taxi rides, the Healthy Aging Center helped older adults access needed services and provided opportunities for more independent living. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Transportation	<p>Statewide, MI (2021) League of Michigan Bicyclists</p>	<p>As part of its mission to make biking safer, the League of Michigan Bicyclists set out to test a new style of lane separators meant to protect cyclists from vehicle traffic. The League did a demonstration project, setting up hundreds of wave delineators. They also used narrow traffic cones to separate bike lanes from the roadway. During the pop-up, project organizers collected feedback from people of all ages using the protected lanes.</p>
	Transportation	<p>Miami, FL (2018) Urban Health Partnerships & the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative</p>	<p>Residents of Miami's Little Havana neighborhood wanted to improve the transit experience for the area's older adults. Urban Health Partnerships installed a dozen single and double-seat benches under shade trees near high-ridership bus and trolley stops. Organizers say the new benches provide a welcome place to rest as they walk through the community or wait for transit. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Transportation	<p>St. Louis, MO (2017) Citizens for Modern Transit</p>	<p>To support upgrades to the North Hanley light rail station, Citizens for Modern Transit held a pop-up festival. St. Louis County Department of Planning invited attendees to use plastic bricks to build a model of amenities they hoped to see. Feedback gathered during the event informed permanent changes. Today, visitors to the site will find new seating and shade structures, as well as murals painted on the pavement. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Transportation	<p>Whitesburg, KY (2021) Appalshop, Inc</p>	<p>The Tanglewood Trail is a three-mile, lighted path that travels through Whitesburg's downtown. To make the trail more useable for people of all ages, Appalshop laid new blacktop to create even, at-grade pavement and installed benches at regular intervals to give people a place to rest. The path connects local businesses and allows residents to navigate downtown on foot. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Transportation	<p>West Sacramento, CA (2018) City of West Sacramento</p>	<p>The City of West Sacramento wanted to improve older adults' ability to move independently around the community. The City identified barriers that kept residents from embracing new transportation services. Then they set out to make older adults aware of local rideshare and bikeshare offerings. To help older adults understand their options, the City held one-on-one, as well as group training sessions. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>

Housing	Philadelphia, PA (2019) City of Philadelphia, Office of Community Empowerment & Opportunity	<p>An eviction prevention pilot program enabled tenants and landlords to resolve disputes before they escalated to formal eviction filings. The City of Philadelphia's two-month program provided mediation, financial assistance, information and referrals to help landlords and tenants reach mutually agreeable, out-of-court solutions. The City worked with partner agencies to train 10 mediators in landlord-tenant law. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Atlanta, GA (2022) Atlanta Beltline Partnership	<p>Resource coordinators were hired to inform longtime residents about the organization's Legacy Resident Retention Program, which provides financial assistance to cover property-tax increases. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
Housing	Powhatan County, VA (2021) Habitat for Humanity – Powhatan	<p>The site of Powhatan's historic Pocahontas School sat unused for many years. Organizers saw the campus as an opportunity to provide affordable housing for local older adults. To envision possibilities for the space, Habitat hosted four community design workshops. Community members worked with an architectural firm to draw up plans to transform two school structures into apartment buildings offering one- and two-bedroom units.</p>
Housing	Fort Collins, CO (2023 and 2024) City of Fort Collins	<p>In 2023, this project hosted DIY repair workshops for homeowners in mobile home parks. It also developed a neighborhood business guide to promote shopping locally. <i>Read the article.</i></p> <p>In 2024, licensed professionals taught plumbing and power tool workshops. The trainings focused on mobile home park residents who learned DIY skills to maintain their homes.</p>
Housing	Terrytown, LA (2024) New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity	<p>This project supported the construction of affordable housing units for older adults in a cottage community. The homes will incorporate universal design elements, feature green infrastructure and connect to a microgrid to keep the power on during severe weather.</p>

DIGITAL CONNECTIONS and digital literacy

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Digital Connections	Tishomingo, OK (2023) Southern Oklahoma Library System	<p>This project created private spaces in the Johnston County Library that residents can use to access telemedicine services.</p>
	Digital Connections	Charlotte, NC (2020) North End Community Coalition	<p>Work-from-home protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the digital divide between those with high-speed internet access at home and those without. To bridge that rift, the North End Community Coalition began a Wi-Fi lending program. The initiative allows residents to borrow tablets and hotspot devices at no cost. The coalition also wired two local senior apartment complexes for free Wi-Fi access.</p>

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Digital Connections	<p>Jersey City, NJ (2021 and 2022) Jersey City Housing Authority</p>	<p>In 2021, the Jersey City Housing Authority aimed to use technology to reduce social isolation at one of its age-restricted public housing complexes. The Authority created a computer lab onsite, outfitting the space with desktop computers and a printer. To help residents use the technology, the Authority worked with partners to host one-on-one and small group digital literacy training in Spanish and English. Topics included computer and internet basics, email and digital art and design.</p> <p>The 2022 project provided Wi-Fi-enabled tablets to seniors in a public housing development. College students offered digital literacy training. <i>Read the article.</i></p>
	Digital Connections	<p>International Falls, MN (2024) Koochiching County</p>	<p>The county engaged high school students to teach digital skills to older adult residents and veterans. A local business provided low-cost, used laptops loaded with software, which participants can keep after the training.</p>
	Digital Connections	<p>Wichita, KS (2019) City of Wichita</p>	<p>Like many Americans living below the federal poverty level, many residents of Wichita had no easy way to access the internet. The City of Wichita launched the Wichita Hot Spot initiative. Older adults living in low-income areas can now check out a mobile connectivity device from a Neighborhood Resource Center and use it at home for up to two weeks. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Digital Connections	<p>Orlando, FL (2021) City of Orlando</p>	<p>In the neighborhoods surrounding Prince Hall Park and Willows Park, a large percentage of residents lack reliable access to high-speed internet. The City of Orlando installed wheelchair accessible, solar powered tables and shade structures -- each outfitted with charging stations and Wi-Fi hotspots. The tables can sustain hurricane-strength gusts, allowing residents to access emergency information during disasters. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Digital Connections	<p>South Charleston, WV (2024) Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries</p>	<p>This project distributed solar-powered chargers and emergency preparedness packs to older adults. The organization also offered internet skills training to help residents access disaster relief resources online.</p>
	Digital Connections	<p>Eugene, OR (2024) Whiteaker Community Council</p>	<p>This project provided residents with satellite internet access and backup power systems for use during natural disasters. The project also implemented an early warning system for the community.</p>
	Digital Connections	<p>San Francisco, CA (2022) San Francisco Tech Council</p>	<p>Four neighborhood-based pop-up events were coordinated to offer free, individualized tech support in Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and English to older adults in underserved communities in San Francisco. At the pop-up events, volunteers identified technical needs and provided advice and assistance to people who had basic questions about their devices or apps, particularly on their phones, tablets or laptops. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>

DISASTER RESILIENCE (i.e., disaster preparedness and mitigation)

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Community Resilience	<p>Lajas and San Juan, PR (2022) Surcando La Historia and Ponce Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.</p>	<p>The continued availability of power, drinking water and communication outlets in Lajas is ensured through improved technology. This includes a generator, battery backup system, radio communication system, and a water storage and distribution system, which came in handy during Hurricane Fiona.</p> <p>Emergency supplies — including a water tank, cots and first aid kits — were purchased to benefit San Juan’s Tortugo community/barrio. The Community Resilience Center serves as a shelter and community dining facility for local older adults during emergencies.</p>
	Community Resilience	<p>Glasgow, KY (2023) Barren County Fiscal Court</p>	<p>This project funded the purchase of 15 portable generators for qualifying residents with healthcare needs, including older adults, to use during power outages.</p>
----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Community Resilience	<p>Gulfport, MS (2017 and 2019) City of Gulfport</p>	<p>After Hurricane Katrina nearly leveled the Bayou View West neighborhood in 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency bought out the remaining residents and handed the property over to the city. Today, the 40-acre tract is known as Brickyard Bayou Park. This project created the city's first dog park at the site. Known as the Bark Park, the space acts as a buffer -- if the area floods again, homes won't be at risk. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> <p>In 2019, as part of revitalization efforts following flooding from Hurricane Katrina, the City of Gulfport set out to give cyclists and pedestrians a place to shelter from the weather and sun. They installed a 20-square-foot safe-weather pavilion and benches along a new bike trail in Brickyard Bayou Park. The trail connects park visitors to amenities, including an outdoor classroom, dog park and community garden.</p>
	Community Resilience	<p>Oahu, HI (2022 and 2024) Hui o Hauula</p>	<p>In 2022, the community resilience project turned an overgrown, 5-acre property into a community recreation area with walking trails, garden benches and a colorful Community Resilience mural to share the neighborhood’s vision of resilience. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> <p>In 2024, this project invited older adults to participate in emergency preparedness training on how to create an emergency plan and secure connection to the internet.</p>

CAPACITY-BUILDING MICROGRANT CATEGORIES

NOTE: The projects listed below are projects that AARP has funded previously that align with the grant categories.

WALK AUDITS: Conduct walkability assessments with support from [America Walks](#) and the [AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit](#).

----- MICROGRANTS -----	Walk Audits	Bristol RI (2024) Town of Bristol Parks and Recreation	The town will prepare for the opening of a new senior and community center by conducting sidewalk audits downtown. They will also hold workshops to recruit volunteers and connect residents with town leaders.
	Walk Audits	Chicago, IL (2023) Good City Group	This project conducted walk audits in a busy commercial district and staged a community workshop to identify potential locations for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. Particular attention was given to an intersection where a new Metra commuter rail station is being built.
	Walk Audits	Los Angeles, CA (2024) Keiro Services	In this project, volunteers will participate in three walk audits in Little Tokyo's commercial district. Participants will identify potential improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks. The audits will increase safety for older adults living nearby.
	Walk Audits	Houston, TX (2023) Citizens' Transportation Coalition	This project conducted walk audits along Washington Avenue, a busy commercial district surrounded by residential homes. There were two training sessions and a final in-person community meeting. <i>Watch the video.</i>

BIKE AUDITS: Conduct bikeability assessments with support from [League of American Bicyclists](#) and the [AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit](#).

----- MICROGRANTS -----	Bike Audits	Anchorage, AK (2024) Chugach Mountain Bike Riders	Ten older adult riders conducted bike audits on the trails at and around the community's most popular park. Three audits identified work needed to accommodate tricycles and other adaptive cycles. The other two audits identified safe connections on busy access routes.
	Bike Audits	Raleigh, NC (2024) Oaks and Spokes	This project introduced annual bike audits in several Raleigh neighborhoods where many older adults live. The organization recruited adults age 50 and older to help gather data, plan the audits and advocate for safer biking conditions. <i>Watch the video.</i>
	Bike Audits	Arlington Heights, IL (2024) Northwest Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	This project invited older adults to participate in bike audits along a multi-use path to identify safety and accessibility concerns, ensuring the path is welcoming to residents of all ages. The bike audits also identified possible locations for bike lanes, with the goal of connecting the north side of town to two grocery stores on the south side.

Bike Audits	<p>Richmond, TX (2024) Fit Houston</p>	<p>A series of bicycle and tricycle audits evaluated travel routes between local senior centers. Meant to support the rollout of adult tricycle lending libraries, the audits addressed safety concerns along a system of roads and park trails.</p>
-------------	--	--

HOMEFIT® GUIDE MODIFICATIONS: Promote safe, accessible homes through education and/or simple modifications with support from [RL Mace Universal Design Institute](#) and the [AARP HomeFit® Guide](#).

----- MICROGRANTS -----	HomeFit Guide Modifications	<p>Pinellas Park, FL (2024) Pinellas Park Fire Department</p>	<p>This project installed grab bars in the homes of residents age 50 or older. These residents have frequently used the local EMS response system and are considered at high risk of falling. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	HomeFit Guide Modifications	<p>Gary, IN (2024) Families Anchored in Total Harmony Inc</p>	<p>This project provided rug rippers and copies of the AARP HomeFit Guide to people with chronic medical conditions who participate in the All Food is Medicine meal distribution service. The organization held weekly sessions to review the guide.</p>
	HomeFit Guide Modifications	<p>Columbus, OH (2024) LifeCare Alliance</p>	<p>This project provided bathroom modifications to older tenants living with arthritis, making their rental homes age-friendly. Modifications include adding tub-mount grab bars, shower seats and toilet safety frames.</p>
	HomeFit Guide Modifications	<p>Portland, OR (2024) ReFIT – Remodeling for Independence Together</p>	<p>This project educated older adults about home modifications during outreach events at Portland-area senior centers, with a focus on residents who speak little or no English. ReFIT also installed grab bars in homes.</p>

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING: Implement training programs with support from [SBP](#) and the [AARP Disaster Resilience Tool Kit](#)

--- MICROGRANTS ---	Disaster Preparedness Training	<p>New Orleans, LA (2025) Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training</p>	<p>This project conducted two disaster preparedness trainings to raise awareness and prepare for future emergencies. Participants received emergency kits and were encouraged to share information with others. Disaster checklists were translated into Vietnamese and Spanish.</p>
---------------------	--------------------------------	---	--

--- MICROGRANTS ---	Disaster Preparedness Training	Manning, IA (2025) City of Manning	This project advanced disaster preparedness by creating a disaster response kit for the community, enabling volunteers to assist safely and effectively. Community-wide trainings helped individuals prepare along with checklists and personal kits. The trainings distributed the kits and informed residents about new initiatives.
	Disaster Preparedness Training	Minneapolis, MN (2025) Progressive Pathways	This project conducted six training sessions at various locations to prepare residents for serious storms and flooding. Informational magnets, checklists, and supplies were distributed. Somali interpretation was provided for sessions and materials.

DEMONSTRATION GRANT CATEGORIES

NOTE: The projects listed below are projects that AARP has funded previously that align with the grant opportunities. Some of the projects were funded before a given Demonstration Grant category was made available, but are meant to serve as inspiration for 2026 applications.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY: Improve the safety of streets and sidewalks; funding support from Toyota Motor North America.

--- DEMONSTRATION ---	Pedestrian Safety	Tallahassee, FL (2023) Knight Creative Communities Institute	The Crosswalks to Classrooms installed three colorful crosswalks adjacent to an elementary school and a senior living community. The effort led Leon County to install additional raised crosswalks at other locations identified by KCCI and the community. The Crosswalks to Classrooms project was recognized by the National Association of Counties in June 2024 for its achievements and dedication to pedestrian safety. <i>Watch the video.</i>
	Pedestrian Safety	Milton, DE (2022) Town of Milton	Over 130 volunteers of all ages participated in the set-up, taping, painting, and clean-up of eleven crosswalks over ten paint days. A whale, octopus, lighthouses, robots, bubbles, hop-scotch, black-eyed susans, and chrysanthemums all make appearances on the mid-block crosswalks. To be able to paint the street, which is also a state highway, the Delaware Department of Transportation entered into a right-of-way use agreement with the Town.
	Pedestrian Safety	Wayne, ME (2021) Aging at Home Wayne	Wayne is a small town however, its population triples during the summer tourist season. The inflow of tourists brings with it more cars on the road, often traveling at faster speeds. To make the village's main street safer for both pedestrians and motorists, Aging at Home Wayne installed a crossing signal system. The signal system consists of a pedestrian crossing sign consisting of flashing beacons on both sides of the crosswalk.

----- DEMONSTRATION -----	Pedestrian Safety	Greensboro, NC (2025) City of Greensboro Planning Department	A new high-visibility crosswalk with a flashing beacon was installed at a busy intersection. This project aimed to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity for all ages and abilities.
	Pedestrian Safety	Charleston, SC (2018) Charleston Moves	The West Ashley Greenway in Charleston is an eight-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail, which is popular with walkers, runners and cyclists. However, the greenway crosses several busy streets, leading to accidents between vehicles and pedestrians. To fix this, a team of volunteers created three artistic crosswalk murals and installed signage, designed to calm traffic. <i>Watch the video.</i>
	Pedestrian Safety	Indianapolis, IN (2025) Chatham Arch Neighborhood Association	This project enhanced pedestrian safety at the 10th Street intersections with Park Avenue and Broadway in Chatham Arch. Older residents helped paint murals and install flex posts, creating safer crossings.

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET: Increase broadband access and adoption; funding support from Microsoft.

----- DEMONSTRATION GRANTS -----	High-Speed Internet	Buckhannon, WV (2025) Upshur County Public Library	This project provided digital literacy training, broadband access, and equipment to older adults. Upshur County Public Library expanded at-home broadband and offered digital skills courses.
	High-Speed Internet	North Augusta, SC (2024) City of North Augusta	This project installed satellite internet at municipal centers to improve access to telehealth appointments, online learning and social opportunities. High-speed internet access supports community events, workshops, emergency coordination and daily communication with residents.
	High-Speed Internet	Waukegan, IL (2024) Connect Lake County	This project helped low-income older adults obtain an affordable internet subscription. Additionally, participants received a free laptop or tablet, along with digital literacy training.
	High-Speed Internet	Philadelphia, PA (2025) Philly Community Wireless	This project installed free Wi-Fi at Somerset Villas, a Spanish-speaking senior residence. It also organized programming events in Spanish and English to expand residents' digital literacy skills.

High-Speed Internet	Aliceville, AL (2024) Aliceville Public Library	The project resulted in new computers, upgraded software and faster internet service at the library's computer lab. The library also offered technology classes geared toward older adults.
	Cleveland, OH (2025) Famicos	This project helped hundreds older adult residents in age-restricted apartments sign up for affordable internet service and also provided basic computer skills training.

HOUSING DESIGN COMPETITIONS: Promote understanding and implementation of housing policies that support a variety of community needs using the [AARP Housing Design Competition Tool Kit](#).

--DEMONSTRATION Housing Design	Houston, TX (2021) City of Houston Planning and Development Department	The City of Houston allows construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs)-- small housing units built on the property of a single-family home. The Planning Department hoped to encourage more ADUs, so it hosted workshops and held a design competition, which provided content for the ADU/HOU how-to design guide , a ADU/HOU website and a set of plan documents for an ADU , published online so residents can access them for free.
	City of Tucson, AZ (2023) City of Tucson Planning and Development Services Department	This project developed a design competition to promote accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and create a model plan catalog featuring ADUs that support a variety of needs, including for older adults and multigenerational families. <i>Visit the Casita Model Plan Competition website. Watch the video.</i>
	Lexington, KY (2018) City of Lexington Division of Aging and Disability Services	An anticipated change in Lexington's zoning laws to permit accessory dwelling units inspired the creation of a Homeowner's Guide to Accessory Dwelling Units. To build interest in ADUs, the University of Kentucky School of Design hosted a design competition. Cash prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place winners from each group. <i>Visit the Lexington ADU website. Read an article.</i>
	Lewisville, TX (2024) City of Lewisville	The city hosted a design competition to encourage construction of accessory dwelling units and increase age-friendly and affordable housing options. The project included outreach efforts in English and Spanish, as well as Hakha Chin for migrants from Myanmar. <i>Visit the Backyard Cottage Design Competition website.</i>
	Fresno, CA (2024) USGBC Central California	This design competition invited professionals and students to explore adaptive reuse options for an existing empty office space. The contestants explored how to reuse empty commercial spaces to combat the housing crisis. <i>Visit the Design Competition website.</i>



Grants to make communities livable for people of all ages
aarp.org/CommunityChallenge

Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM?

Dates	Key Activity
January 7, 2026	Application period opens
January 27, 2026 2:00 p.m. ET / 11:00 a.m. PT	Public Q&A Webinar for applicants (<i>not required; will be recorded</i>) REGISTER HERE
March 4, 2026 5:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. PT	Application deadline APPLY HERE
Mid-May 2026	Notification of selected and non-selected applicants via email
Mid-June 2026	Deadline for selected applicants to submit signed grant agreements and complete eSupplier registration
June 24, 2026 (tentative)	Public announcement of grantees and project start date
December 15, 2026	Project completion deadline
December 31, 2026	Deadline to submit After-Action Report

2. HOW STRICT IS THE DECEMBER 15, 2026 PROJECT COMPLETION DEADLINE?

The AARP Community Challenge is designed to support “quick-action” projects, so meeting the December 15 deadline is strongly encouraged. While we understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, applicants should plan to complete their projects by mid-December – especially for outdoor initiatives that could be impacted by winter weather.

If your proposed project is part of a larger initiative, consider whether the broader timeline aligns with the grant's requirements. Projects requiring extensive approvals or permits may face delays that jeopardize the deadline. In such cases, applicants may wish to consider applying in a future cycle.

3. I LIVE IN A SMALL COMMUNITY. IS THE AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM JUST FOR BIG CITIES?

Not at all. The AARP Community Challenge is open to communities of all sizes, with a strong commitment to supporting rural areas. In fact:

- 40% of funded projects have gone to rural communities
- 20% have supported suburban communities
- Grants have been awarded to towns with populations under 100 residents

4. WHAT TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

The AARP Community Challenge is open to the following types of organizations:

- **501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations** (*Recognized by the IRS*)
- **Government entities**
- **Other organizations** considered on a case-by-case basis

Note: AARP cannot provide funds to for-profit companies or individuals.

5. HOW DO I APPLY?

All applications must be submitted online at [AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](https://www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge) by March 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. PT.

Applications submitted via email or mail will not be accepted.

6. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FLAGSHIP GRANTS?

- **Overview:** Flagship Grants continue the successful AARP Community Challenge program launched in 2017. These grants offer broad opportunities for communities to apply for funding across several categories and encourage creative solutions.
- **Eligible Project Categories:** Eligible projects should benefit residents – especially those age 50 and older – in one of the following categories:
 - Creating vibrant **public places** (i.e., parks, open spaces, community amenities)
 - Expanding **transportation** and mobility options (i.e., walkability, bikeability, transit)

access)

- Increasing **housing** options (i.e., accessible and affordable choices)
- Enhancing **digital connections** and digital literacy
- Strengthening **disaster resilience** (i.e., disaster preparedness and mitigation)

See examples of Flagship Grant projects in Attachment B.

7. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CAPACITY-BUILDING MICROGRANTS?

- **Overview:** These \$2,500 microgrants come with added support, including webinars, cohort learning, up to two hours of coaching from national nonprofit organizations, and AARP resources.
- **Categories:** Eligible projects should benefit residents – especially those age 50 and older – in the following categories:
 - **Walk Audits:** Conduct walkability assessments with support from [America Walks](#) and the [AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit](#).
 - **Bike Audits:** Conduct bikeability assessments with support from [League of American Bicyclists](#) and the [AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit](#).
 - **HomeFit® Guide Modifications:** Promote safe, accessible homes through education and/or simple modifications with support from [RL Mace Universal Design Institute](#) and the [AARP HomeFit® Guide](#).
 - **Disaster Preparedness Training:** Implement training programs with support from [SBP](#) and the [AARP Disaster Resilience Tool Kit](#).

See examples of Capacity-Building Microgrant projects in Attachment B.

8. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DEMONSTRATION GRANTS?

- **Overview:** These grants support projects that can be replicated in other communities.
- **Categories:** Eligible projects should benefit residents – especially those age 50 and older – in the following categories:
 - **Pedestrian Safety:** Improve the safety of streets and sidewalks; funding support from Toyota Motor North America.
 - **High-Speed Internet:** Increase broadband access and adoption; funding support from Microsoft.
 - **Housing Design Competitions:** Promote understanding and implementation of

housing policies that support a variety of community needs using the [AARP Housing Design Competition Tool Kit](#).

See examples of Demonstration Grant projects in Attachment B.

9. WHAT IS YOUR TYPICAL GRANT SIZE? HOW DO THE FUNDING AMOUNTS VARY ACROSS DIFFERENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES?

Flagship Grants range from a few hundred dollars for short-term activities to \$15,000 for larger initiatives. Since 2017, the average grant has been between \$10,000-12,000. AARP reserves the right to award compelling projects at any amount.

Capacity-Building Microgrants are awarded at \$2,500 and come with added support, including webinars, cohort learning, up to two hours of coaching from national nonprofit organizations, and AARP publications.

Demonstration Grants typically range from \$10,000-\$20,000, and will not exceed \$25,000.

See examples of Flagship, Demonstration, and Capacity-Building Microgrant projects in Attachment B.

10. HOW CAN I TELL IF MY PROJECT SHOULD BE A FLAGSHIP GRANT, A CAPACITY-BUILDING MICROGRANT OR A DEMONSTRATION GRANT?

Flagship Grants remain an open call for innovation across five categories, offering flexibility for creative and community-driven ideas.

Capacity-Building Microgrants are available in four specific categories, have a fixed budget of \$2,500, and include structured support resources. If your project does not require these additional resources or needs a larger budget, consider applying under the appropriate Flagship Grant category.

Demonstration Grants are available in three specific categories and are designed to replicate successful past projects in new communities. If your project aligns with a proven model AARP seeks to scale, this may be the right fit.

11. DO PROJECT CATEGORIES CHANGE YEAR BY YEAR?

Yes. Project categories and sub-categories may vary annually based on:

- Evolving community needs
- AARP Livable Communities publications
- Strategic priorities within AARP's Livable Communities work

12. MAY I SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION?

Yes. Organizations may:

- Submit multiple applications across different grant opportunities (Flagship Grant, Demonstration Grant, Capacity-Building Microgrant)
- Submit more than one application within the same grant opportunity

Example: Your organization could apply for an ADA-accessible park improvement under the Flagship Grant and also submit a second application for a \$2,500 bike audit under the Capacity-Building Microgrant category.

13. HOW CAN I SAVE OR PRINT A COPY OF MY APPLICATION? HOW DO I DELETE AN APPLICATION?

To save or print your application:

1. Go to “My Account”.
2. Click on “My Applications” in the left-hand menu.
3. Locate the application you want to print.
4. Click “Print” on the far-right side.
5. From there, you can download, email, or print a PDF copy.

To delete an application:

- Follow steps 1-3 above.
- If the application is Complete, click “Withdraw”.
- If the application is Incomplete, click “Remove”.

14. HOW DO I CONFIRM MY APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED SUCCESSFULLY? CAN I UPDATE OR RESUBMIT AN APPLICATION?

Once your application is submitted, a confirmation email will be sent to the application contact’s email address.

Didn’t receive a confirmation?

- Check your spam or junk folder.
- The email will come from noreply@secure-platform.com.
- Double-check that your email address in OpenWater is correct.

- It's also possible the application wasn't submitted.

To check your application status:

1. Go to "My Account".
2. Click "My Applications".
3. View your applications under the "Incomplete" or "Complete" tabs.

To edit your application (before the deadline: March 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. PT):

- Follow steps 1-3 above.
- Click "Edit" next to the application you wish to update.

Note: You will not receive a new confirmation email for edits.

15. WHY IS MY APPLICATION LISTED AS INCOMPLETE?

If you click directly on "Flagship Grant Application," "Demonstration Grant Application," or "Capacity-Building Microgrant Application," the system automatically creates a new, blank application.

To avoid this:

- Log in using "My Account" in the upper-left corner of the application website.

You can view and manage your applications under My Account > My Applications, where Incomplete and Complete applications are listed separately.

Reminder: All required questions must be completed before submission. If you attempt to submit an incomplete application, the system will return you to the unanswered question(s).

16. WHAT IF I AM HAVING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LOGIN OR THE ONLINE APPLICATION?

If you experience technical issues, you have several support options:

- **Email Support:** Reach out to CommunityChallenge@AARP.org with any questions.
- **Live Support (during the final days of the application period):**
 - Log in to your account.
 - Look for the "REQUEST SUPPORT" blue button in the bottom-right corner of the application login screen.

- Click the button to submit a help ticket to the platform’s tech support team.
- **Direct Technical Support Email (final days only):** You may also email aarp-support@getopenwater.com for assistance.

17. I'M HAVING TROUBLE CREATING AN ACCOUNT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION. THERE IS NO “REGISTER” BUTTON TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If the "Register" button is not visible, it may be due to a firewall blocking content from loading properly. Try one of the following:

- Use a different internet connection or browser
- Access the site from a smartphone
- Once registered, log in using the left-hand login panel.

18. WHEN AND HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED IF OUR APPLICATION WAS SUCCESSFUL?

All applicants – both selected and not selected – will be notified via email in mid-May using the email address provided during the application process.

Important for selected applicants: You must sign a legally binding grant agreement and complete AARP’s eSupplier registration by June 10, 2026. Instructions for completing these tasks will be provided after selection. Failure to meet this deadline may result in disqualification or delayed funding.

19. DOES THE PROJECT HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN A COMMUNITY THAT BELONGS TO THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY STATES AND COMMUNITIES (NAFSC)?

No. While many grants have been awarded to communities in the [AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#), your community does not need to be a member to apply.

Projects are eligible so long as they meet other criteria. See the Eligibility section for more details.

20. DO I NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF AARP TO APPLY FOR A GRANT?

No. AARP membership is not required to apply for a grant.

Many AARP members are affiliated with organizations that have successfully received grants, but individuals are not eligible to receive funding.

See the Eligibility section for more details.

21. MY ORGANIZATION RECEIVED AN AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT

PREVIOUSLY. ARE WE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AGAIN?

Yes, absolutely. Organizations that meet the 2026 eligibility criteria are welcome to apply again.

22. MY ORGANIZATION APPLIED AND DID NOT RECEIVE A GRANT PREVIOUSLY. ARE WE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AGAIN?

Yes. Organizations that were not selected in previous years are encouraged to apply again. Many past applicants have successfully received grants after reapplying.

Tip: Review the project examples in **Attachment B** and throughout the AARP Community Challenge website to strengthen your application.

23. WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL YOU NOT FUND?

The following types of projects are **NOT** eligible for funding under any grant category (Flagship Grant, Demonstration Grant, Capacity-Building Microgrant):

- Partisan, political, or election-related activities
- Planning activities, assessments, or surveys without tangible community engagement
- Studies with no follow-up action
- Publication of books or reports
- Acquisition of land or buildings
- Purchase of vehicles or mechanical equipment (e.g., cars, trucks, buses, snow mobiles, snow grooming machines, tractors)
- Sponsorships of other organizations' events or activities
- Research and development for nonprofit or for-profit ventures
- Promotion of for-profit entities or their products/services

24. WHERE CAN I FIND EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS STANDOUT PROJECTS?

You can explore examples of previously funded projects in several places:

- **Attachment B:** Includes a curated list of past projects to help inspire your application. While these examples are helpful, AARP also encourages innovative and original ideas.
- **AARP Livable Communities Map:** This [interactive map](#) features project descriptions, photos, and videos. You can search by category, location, and more.
- **AARP Community Challenge Website:** Visit [AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](https://www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge) to view:
 - Videos of past projects
 - Category-specific highlights
 - Descriptions of funded activities

25. IF MY APPLICATION IS NOT SELECTED, CAN I RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON WHY IT WAS NOT FUNDED?

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications, AARP is unable to provide individual feedback.

In 2025, AARP received nearly 3,500 applications, of which 383 were funded, totaling \$4.2 million in grants. Many strong proposals could not be funded due to limited resources.

26. CAN WE APPLY WITH ANOTHER ORGANIZATION?

Yes. Collaborative applications are welcome.

- On the “Organization Name” line, list the primary applicant followed by “in collaboration with” and the name of the collaborating organization.
- Only the primary applicant’s contact information is required.
- The primary applicant will be legally responsible for the grant’s terms and conditions and will receive the funding.

27. CAN AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANTS BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OR CONSULTANT FEES?

Generally, AARP Community Challenge grants do not fund indirect costs such as salaries, administrative overhead, or consultant fees. The majority of funds should go directly toward project implementation.

Eligible but limited:

- Incentives, stipends, gift cards, and honorariums are allowed but considered administrative costs.
- AARP will not fund significant portions of administrative overhead, staff time, or consultant services (e.g., project planners, graphic designers, landscape designers, surveyors) unless these costs represent a small portion (0-15%) of the total request.

Exceptions: If your application clearly demonstrates that such services are part of a broader, tangible project that engages residents, a larger percentage of consultant or facilitator costs may be considered.

28. CAN AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE FUNDS BE USED TO SUPPORT ONGOING PROGRAMS?

Generally, AARP Community Challenge grants do not fund ongoing programming. However, they may support tangible, short-term enhancements that benefit an existing program.

For example: While the grant would not typically cover staff salaries or trainings for an ongoing community gardening program, it could fund improvements such as:

- Upgraded walking paths for accessibility
- Ergonomic tools or lightweight hoses
- Raised garden beds, benches, tables, or shade structures
- Water spigots or solar water pumps

Additionally, funds may be used to support temporary demonstrations, civic engagement opportunities, or pop-up events that complement an existing program.

29. CAN AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE FUNDS BE USED TO PAY CONTRACTORS TO COMPLETE THE WORK?

Yes. AARP recognizes that local governments and nonprofits may not always have the internal expertise or capacity to fully execute projects – especially those involving physical infrastructure.

Grant funds may be used to pay contractors, including:

- Construction or general contractors
- Artists commissioned for public art
- Installation professionals
- Ride-sharing companies (for transportation-related initiatives)

While volunteer involvement is strongly encouraged – and may count as in-kind or matching support – contractor services are eligible when necessary for successful project delivery.

30. WHAT ARE YOUR SCORING CRITERIA?

All eligible applications – across Flagship Grant, Demonstration Grant, and Capacity-Building Microgrant categories – are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **IMPACT (60 points):** The project demonstrates strong potential to create meaningful change by addressing community-identified needs aligned with Livable Communities priorities – particularly those of people age 50 and older. It shows a clear ability to overcome barriers and effectively accelerate, expand, or sustain efforts that make the community more livable.
- **EXECUTION (30 points):** The applicant demonstrates the capacity to complete the project on time and within budget, effectively engage residents and stakeholders, and leverage volunteers – particularly those age 50 and older – in implementation.

- **INNOVATION (10 points):** The project incorporates creative approaches, unique designs, or engagement strategies that enhance its impact on residents – especially those age 50 and older.

AARP also evaluates each project’s alignment with its mission to serve the needs of people age 50 and older.

31. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY “LIVABLE COMMUNITIES”?

A livable community is one that is:

- Safe and secure
- Offers choices in housing and transportation
- Serves residents of all ages, ability levels, incomes, races, ethnicities, and backgrounds

Learn more at [What is a Livable Community?](#)

In the application, you’ll be asked to describe how your project contributes to making your community more livable for all.

32. THE APPLICATION MENTIONS MATCHING FUNDS. ARE THEY REQUIRED?

No, matching funds are not required to apply for an AARP Community Challenge grant.

However, if your project involves volunteers, you may assign a monetary value to their donated time as an in-kind contribution or matching funds. Several online resources can help estimate the value of volunteer hours.

33. THE APPLICATION MENTIONS AN ATTACHMENT. WHAT CAN IT BE? IS IT REQUIRED?

Uploading an attachment is optional for Flagship and Demonstration Grant applications. The Capacity-Building Microgrant application does not include an upload option.

Applicants may choose to upload a document to:

- Provide visuals or diagrams
- Offer a more detailed explanation of the project than the application form allows

Important notes:

- Only one document may be uploaded. If you have multiple files, please combine them into a single document.

- Accepted formats include PDF, DOCX, JPEG, and others.
- Letters of support may be included and can be addressed to: Livable Communities Programs, AARP, 601 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20049

34. HOW WILL I BE REQUIRED TO ACKNOWLEDGE AARP IN MY PROJECT?

If your application is funded, AARP will provide:

- A promotional toolkit that includes logo files, branding guidance and pre-approved acknowledgment language
- Guidance on how to incorporate AARP recognition into press releases, social media posts, and other public communications

You will also be invited to coordinate publicity efforts with your AARP State Office.

Additionally, you will be responsible for designing and securing your own signage or banners to acknowledge the AARP Community Challenge grant. AARP will supply examples and guidance to support this process. You may include signage costs in your grant request and project budget.

35. IS LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIRED?

Grantees are responsible for all grant activities performed under the AARP grant agreement. Grantees must maintain insurance coverage sufficient to cover the activities, risks, and potential omissions of the grant activities in accordance with generally accepted industry standards and as required by law. Grantees must also ensure contractors, agents, subcontractors, and providers of services maintain insurance coverage consistent with this section.

36. WHAT DOCUMENTATION MUST BE MAINTAINED DURING AND AFTER THE GRANT PERIOD?

Grantees are required to:

- Retain financial records and expense documentation in accordance with the terms of the Grant Agreement and their organization's internal policies (*AARP reserves the right to review these records but does not require them to be submitted with the After-Action Report*)
- Retain completed general release forms for any photos, videos, or stories collected during the project and submit them to AARP upon request

37. IS THE GRANT REIMBURSEABLE? WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR PAYMENT? WHEN CAN PROJECT WORK BEGIN? WHEN CAN I PURCHASE MATERIALS?

The AARP Community Challenge is not a reimbursable grant. Payment is issued after required documentation is submitted.

Timeline:

- Selected organizations must submit a signed grant agreement and complete the eSupplier registration by mid-June 2026.
- Once all documents are received, AARP will issue payment. Processing may take 3-4 weeks from submission.
- AARP may authorize project work to begin after the eSupplier registration and grant agreement are submitted. However, public announcements of the grant cannot be made until June 24, 2026.

Purchases or activities completed before submitting the required documents are not eligible for reimbursement.

38. IS THE AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION AVAILABLE IN OTHER LANGUAGES?

The application platform is available only in English.

However, applications may be submitted in other languages and will be reviewed accordingly.

39. IS THE AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION ACCESSIBLE FOR THOSE WITH LIMITED SIGHT OR VISION IMPAIRMENTS?

Yes. The online application meets accessibility standards.

If you require additional assistance or accommodations, please contact:

CommunityChallenge@AARP.org.

40. ARE THERE OTHER AARP GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE?

By submitting a proposal to the AARP Community Challenge, you and your organization give AARP permission to reach out to you and others at your organization about other possible AARP funding opportunities that your proposal may be eligible for based on the AARP Community Challenge criteria. However, please note that AARP is not obligated in any way to consider your proposal for any additional AARP funding.

AARP might be contacted by other potential funders that could be interested in funding projects that were not funded through the AARP Community Challenge. The potential funders may have additional process steps and funding requirements than those of the AARP Community Challenge. If requested, AARP would like to send your contact information, organization name

and a short description of the proposal, including the community where the project would take place (“Project Information”). Please note that these projects will be subject to any potential funder’s own terms, conditions and review. Please indicate in your application whether you give permission to AARP to share your contact information and a description of your proposal. If you select “yes,” you agree on behalf of yourself and your organization to release AARP and its affiliates and their respective officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents and representatives from all liability associated with sharing the Project Information with potential funders.

41. WHAT ARE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE?

If you submit this application, you agree on behalf of yourself and your organization to release AARP and its affiliates and their respective officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents and representatives from all liability associated with submission and evaluation of your organization’s application.

By submitting an application to AARP, the applicant affirms they are an authorized representative of the potential grantee, and by and on behalf of potential grantee agrees that:

- The decisions of AARP regarding the eligibility of applicants and the validity of entries shall be final and binding.
- All submissions will be judged by AARP, whose decisions and determinations as to the administration of the award and selection of award recipients are final.
- AARP has the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, or suspend any grant award.
- All projects and applications will comply with applicable law and will not violate any third-party rights.
- Except where prohibited by law, participation in the AARP Community Challenge constitutes the Applicant’s consent to AARP’s use of the organization’s name and corporate logo, street address, city, state, zip code, county, and names, likenesses, photographs, videos, images, and statements made or provided by the Applicant’s representatives regarding the award for promotional purposes in any media without further permission, consent, payment or other consideration in perpetuity.
- Receipt of grant funding requires execution of a grant agreement with AARP and completion of eSupplier registration by June 10, 2026, and compliance with the promotional toolkits. Further,
 - Grantees will be responsible for all grant activities performed under the AARP grant agreement. Grantees must maintain insurance coverage sufficient to cover the activities, risks, and potential omissions of the grant activities in accordance with generally accepted industry standards and as required by law. Grantees must also ensure

contractors, agents, subcontractors, and providers of services maintain insurance coverage consistent with this section.

- All promotional materials (such as newsletters, press releases), events and signage related to the funded project will include a statement indicating that support was received from AARP in compliance with the AARP Community Challenge Promotional Toolkit to be provided to selected grantees.
- Grantees are required to capture photos, videos and/or stories from the project. As Grantee captures photos, videos and/or stories from the project, if an identifiable individual appears in the photos, videos and/or stories, grantee is responsible for having him/her sign the AARP General Release. (This document will be provided to grantees.) In addition, grantee agrees not to include any element in photos or videos or other materials provided to AARP that violates third party rights, such as artwork (including sculptures) and trademarks in text and logo used without permission. Grantee may be asked to send work-in-progress photos to AARP upon request. Following the grant period, grantees are required to respond to periodic requests for updates from AARP.
- The submission of the After-Action Report at the conclusion of the project is required by the deadline. Failure to submit the required report will result in the removal from the AARP website until the time of submission, and non-completion will disqualify a grantee from future AARP Community Challenge grant programs.
- AARP and its affiliated organizations, subsidiaries, agents and employees are not responsible for late, lost, illegible, incomplete, stolen, misdirected, illegitimate, or impermissible submissions or any other error whether human, mechanical or electronic.

42. I DON'T KNOW MY AARP STATE OFFICE CONTACT. WHERE CAN I FIND IT?

Visit states.aarp.org/ and click on your state.

You'll find contact information for your AARP State Office on the next page.

43. WHEN AND HOW DO I LEARN ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT CYCLE?

The AARP Community Challenge is an annual grant program.

To stay informed about future opportunities and updates from AARP Livable Communities, subscribe to the free, award-winning [Livable Communities E-Newsletter](#).

44. ARE THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS AVAILABLE IN A DOCUMENT OR ONLY ON THE "YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED" PAGE?

Yes. A PDF version of these Frequently Asked Questions is available on the [AARP Community Challenge website](#).

45. HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR THE JANUARY 27, 2026 APPLICANT Q&A WEBINAR? WILL THERE BE A RECORDING IF I CANNOT ATTEND?

You can register for the Applicant Q&A Webinar by clicking [HERE](#).

A recording of the webinar will be posted to the [AARP Community Challenge website](#) shortly after the event.

46. I DON'T SEE THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION HERE. WHO CAN I CONTACT?

If your question isn't answered here, you can:

- Submit a question via the "[Your Questions Answered](#)" page (*requires a free AARP account*)
- Email us directly at CommunityChallenge@AARP.org.



**AARP
COMMUNITY
CHALLENGE**

Grants to make communities livable for people of all ages
aarp.org/CommunityChallenge

2026 AARP Community Challenge

*A grant program to make communities **more livable** for people **of all ages** with **tangible improvements** that jump-start **long-term change***

AARP invites you to apply for **quick-action projects** that help make communities more livable for all residents – especially those age 50 and over.

- **Application Deadline:** March 4, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. PT
 - **Project Completion Deadline:** December 15, 2026
- **Submission:** Applications must be submitted online at aarp.org/CommunityChallenge

AARP LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

AARP Livable Communities supports neighborhoods, towns, cities, and counties across the country in becoming more livable for people of all ages and especially for residents age 50 and older. We believe that communities should offer:

- Safe, walkable streets
- Affordable and accessible housing and transportation options
- Access to essential services
- Opportunities for civic and community engagement

With offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP collaborates with local leaders in more than 1,000 communities that are part of the [AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#). Our vision is for a future in which all communities – urban, suburban and rural – are great places to live for people of every age.

AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Building great communities takes time, but quick actions can spark long-term progress. That's why AARP launched the Community Challenge in 2017 – to fund projects that accelerate change.

Since its inception, the AARP Community Challenge has awarded **2,100 grants totaling \$24.3 million** to projects that:

- Deliver tangible improvements to communities, such as new crosswalks, benches, bike lanes, housing designs, and public space enhancements.
- Leverage additional support from public, private, and philanthropic sources
- Help communities overcome policy barriers and implement lasting change
- Foster new collaborations and increase community engagement

AARP is now accepting applications for 2026 Community Challenge funding.

- **Public Q&A Webinar:** January 27, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET / 11:00 a.m. PT – [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Application Deadline:** March 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. PT
- **Project Completion Deadline:** December 15, 2026

Applications must be submitted online at aarp.org/CommunityChallenge. See **Attachment A** for a sample application.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

In 2026, the AARP Community Challenge will accept applications across three distinct grant opportunities, each evaluated using a consistent scoring approach (see the Scoring section below).

➤ ***Flagship Grants***

AARP’s flagship Community Challenge grants range from a few hundred dollars for short-term activities to \$15,000 for larger initiatives. Since 2017, the average grant has been between \$10,000-12,000. AARP reserves the right to award compelling projects at any amount.

Eligible projects should benefit residents – especially those age 50 and older – in at least one of the following categories:

- Creating vibrant **public places** (i.e., parks, open spaces, community amenities)
- Expanding **transportation** and mobility options (i.e., walkability, bikeability, transit access)
- Increasing **housing** options (i.e., accessible and affordable choices)
- Enhancing **digital connections** and digital literacy
- Strengthening **disaster resilience** (i.e., disaster preparedness and mitigation)

➤ ***Capacity-Building Microgrants***

These \$2,500 microgrants come with added support, including webinars, cohort learning, up to two hours of coaching from national nonprofit organizations working with AARP to support the AARP Community Challenge program, and AARP resources.

Eligible projects should benefit residents – especially those age 50 and older – in at least one of the following categories:

- **Walk Audits:** Conduct walkability assessments with support from [America Walks](#) and the [AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit](#).
- **Bike Audits:** Conduct bikeability assessments with support from [League of American](#)

[Bicyclists](#) and the [AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit](#).

- **HomeFit® Guide Modifications:** Promote safe, accessible homes through education and/or simple modifications with support from [RL Mace Universal Design Institute](#) and the [AARP HomeFit® Guide](#).
- **Disaster Preparedness Training:** Implement training programs and/or distribute preparedness resources with support from [SBP](#) and the [AARP Disaster Resilience Tool Kit](#).

➤ **Demonstration Grants**

These grants support projects that can be replicated in other communities. Awards typically range from \$10,000-\$20,000 and will not exceed \$25,000.

Eligible projects should benefit residents – especially those age 50 and older – in at least one of the following categories:

- **Pedestrian Safety:** Improve the safety of streets and sidewalks; funding support from Toyota Motor North America.
- **High-Speed Internet:** Increase broadband access and adoption; funding support from Microsoft.
- **Housing Design Competitions:** Promote understanding and implementation of housing policies that support a variety of community needs using the [AARP Housing Design Competition Tool Kit](#).

Note: See **Attachment B** for examples of previously funded AARP Community Challenge projects.

Eligible Organizations may apply for **multiple grant opportunities** and submit **more than one application**.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the AARP Community Challenge, each project must meet the criteria outlined in the **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES** section and satisfy the following requirements related to organization type, mission focus, and project type:

- **ORGANIZATION TYPE:** The program is open to the following types of organizations:
 - **501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations** (*recognized by the IRS*)
 - **Government entities**
 - **Other organizations** considered on a case-by-case basis

Note: AARP does not fund for-profit companies or individuals.
- **MISSION FOCUS:** Projects must align with AARP’s mission to serve the needs of people age 50 and older.
- **PROJECT TYPE:** AARP Community Challenge grants support the following types of projects:

- **Permanent physical improvements** in the community
- **Temporary demonstrations** that lead to long-term change
- **New, innovative programming pilots or services**

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The following types of projects are **not eligible** for funding:

- Partisan, political, voter, or election-related activities
- Planning activities, assessments, or surveys without tangible community engagement
- Studies with no follow-up action
- Publication of books or reports
- Land or building acquisition
- Purchase of vehicles or mechanical equipment (i.e., cars, trucks, buses, snow mobiles, snow grooming machines, tractors)
- Sponsorship of other organizations' events or activities
- Research and development for nonprofit or for-profit ventures
- Promotion of for-profit entities or their products/services

SCORING

Eligible projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **IMPACT (60 points):** The project demonstrates strong potential to create meaningful change by addressing community-identified needs aligned with Livable Communities priorities – particularly those of people age 50 and older. It shows a clear ability to overcome barriers and effectively accelerate, expand, or sustain efforts that make the community more livable.
- **EXECUTION (30 points):** The applicant demonstrates the capacity to complete the project on time and within budget, effectively engage residents and stakeholders, and leverage volunteers in implementation.
- **INNOVATION (10 points):** The project incorporates creative approaches, unique designs, or engagement strategies that enhance its impact on residents – especially those age 50 and older.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for funding, applicants must:

- Meet all **eligibility requirements** outlined in the program guidelines
- Submit a **complete application** through [AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](https://www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge)
- Ensure submission is received **by March 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. PT**

Note: Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

GRANT SELECTION

Grant recipients will be selected by an AARP panel of experts in aging, community development and livable communities. Projects will be evaluated based on their potential to create immediate, meaningful change that leads to long-term impact, as well as how well they meet the established selection criteria.

GRANT SELECTION NOTIFICATION

All applicants – both selected and not selected – will be notified via email in **May 2026**.

Selected applicants must complete and return a signed grant agreement and eSupplier vendor registration to AARP by **June 10, 2026**. Failure to meet this deadline may result in disqualification or delayed funding.

2026 TIMELINE

Dates	Key Activity
January 27, 2026 2:00 p.m. ET / 11:00 a.m. PT	Public Q&A Webinar for applicants. REGISTER HERE
March 4, 2026 5:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. PT	Application deadline. APPLY HERE
Mid-May 2026	Notification of selected and non-selected applicants via email
June 10, 2026	Deadline for selected applicants to submit signed grant agreements and complete eSupplier vendor registration
June 24, 2026 (tentative)	Public announcement of grantees and project start date
December 15, 2026	Project completion deadline
December 31, 2026	Deadline to submit After-Action Report

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

An Opportunity for Other Possible AARP Funding:

By submitting a proposal to the AARP Community Challenge, you and your organization give AARP permission to reach out to you and others at your organization about other possible AARP funding opportunities that your proposal may be eligible for based on the AARP Community Challenge criteria. However, please note that AARP is not obligated in any way to consider your proposal for any additional AARP funding.

Note Regarding Other Potential Funders:

AARP might be contacted by other potential funders that could be interested in funding projects that were not funded through the AARP Community Challenge. The potential funders may have additional process steps and funding requirements than those of the AARP Community Challenge.

If requested, AARP would like to send your business contact information, organization name and a short description of the proposal, including the community where the project would take place (“Project Information”).

Please note that these projects will be subject to any potential funder’s own terms, conditions and review.

Please indicate in your application whether or not you give permission to AARP to share your “Project Information” with other potential funders. We will alert you before this “Project Information” is given to potential funders.

SUBMISSION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

If you submit this application, you agree on behalf of yourself and your organization to release AARP and its affiliates and their respective officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents and representatives from all liability associated with submission and evaluation of your organization’s application.

By submitting an application to AARP, the applicant affirms they are an authorized representative of the potential grantee, and by and on behalf of potential grantee agrees that:

- The decisions of AARP regarding the eligibility of applicants and the validity of entries shall be final and binding.
- All submissions will be judged by AARP, whose decisions and determinations as to the administration of the award and selection of award recipients are final.
- AARP has the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, or suspend any grant award.
- All projects and applications will comply with applicable law and will not violate any third-party rights.
- Except where prohibited by law, participation in the AARP Community Challenge constitutes the Applicant’s consent to AARP’s use of the organization’s name and corporate logo, street address, city, state, zip code, county, and names, likenesses, photographs, videos, images, and statements made or provided by the Applicant’s representatives regarding the award for promotional purposes in any media without further permission, consent, payment or other consideration in perpetuity.
- Receipt of grant funding requires execution of a grant agreement with AARP and completion of eSupplier registration by June 10, 2026, and compliance with the promotional toolkits. Further,

- Grantees will be responsible for all grant activities performed under the AARP grant agreement. Grantees must maintain insurance coverage sufficient to cover the activities, risks, and potential omissions of the grant activities in accordance with generally accepted industry standards and as required by law. Grantees must also ensure contractors, agents, subcontractors, and providers of services maintain insurance coverage consistent with this section.
 - All promotional materials (such as newsletters, press releases), events and signage related to the funded project will include a statement indicating that support was received from AARP in compliance with the AARP Community Challenge Promotional Toolkit to be provided to selected grantees.
 - Grantees are required to capture photos, videos and/or stories from the project. As Grantee captures photos, videos and/or stories from the project, if an identifiable individual appears in the photos, videos and/or stories, grantee is responsible for having him/her sign the AARP General Release. (This document will be provided to grantees.) In addition, grantee agrees not to include any element in photos or videos or other materials provided to AARP that violates third party rights, such as artwork (including sculptures) and trademarks in text and logo used without permission. Grantee may be asked to send work-in-progress photos to AARP upon request. Following the grant period, grantees are required to respond to periodic requests for updates from AARP.
 - The submission of the After-Action Report at the conclusion of the project is required by the deadline. Failure to submit the required report will result in the removal from the AARP website until the time of submission, and non-completion will disqualify a grantee from future AARP Community Challenge grant programs.
- AARP and its affiliated organizations, subsidiaries, agents and employees are not responsible for late, lost, illegible, incomplete, stolen, misdirected, illegitimate, or impermissible submissions or any other error whether human, mechanical or electronic.