

ELDER-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY: HOUSING



Health, Housing and
Human Services Council

*Thoughtful
community planning
for affordable and
appropriate housing
asks policy makers,
planners, developers,
and builders to
consider the housing
needs of those 55
and over.*

Elder-Friendly Community
Steering Committee

BI Senior Center
Community Housing Coalition
Health, Housing and Human
Services Council
Helpline House
Housing Resources Board
Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
KC Area Agency on Aging
Lutheran Community Services
NW
WA Adult Day Services Assoc.

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Aging In Place Well Requires Appropriate Housing

Most people want to stay in their own homes, condo, apartment, or senior housing. Elder-Friendly Communities help residents' "age in place" by planning for affordable and appropriate housing. *Aging in place* means not having to move from home unless by choice. Appropriate housing makes use of the array of resources and services essential to staying comfortably in one's home. Enhancing local services and working together as a community to coordinate informal and formal networks of support helps ensure aging in place is possible.

Housing Strategies to Meet Elders Needs

Encourage housing that helps elders age in place

- Develop new residential housing models that support affordable, accessible, and adaptable housing.
- Encourage partnerships with public housing providers and private developers to explore a combination of subsidized and market rate housing that includes shared services and multigenerational living.
- Support the conversion of public housing for older adults into supportive housing.
- Provide on-site service coordinators to help secure resources and services for residents.
- Start a community-based matching shared-housing program that can help defray living expenses and offer household assistance.
- Seek to keep housing affordable, and taxes manageable for elders on fixed incomes.

Design, build and remodel using Universal Design concepts

Universal Design refers to design, construction, and products that help a person remain at home safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability. Design includes features like easy-to-reach switches, handles, handrails, and curbless entries.

- Provide incentives for local builders and developers to integrate Universal Design features in their projects.
- Support and expand home modification programs that provide needed structural adaptations to existing housing and allow an individual to remain in their residence.
- Consider developing a volunteer network that can make one-time home repairs.

Develop assisted living facilities

- Partner with private developers and public housing providers to explore a combination of subsidized and market rate affordable assisted living facilities.
- Explore feasibility of newer assisted living models, which offer companionable and homelike environments.