

As we move into 2023, we have been continuing projects begun in 2022 and submitting grants for 2023 projects implementing the Age-Friendly Olmsted County 2022-2025 Action Plan (1). Here is where we stand:

#### Action Area I: Age-Friendly Community Supports and Health Services

Goal #1: Increase availability of affordable Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).

- **Efforts continue in the state legislature to provide funding to sustain Minnesota HCBS programs and increase HCBS funding. (2)**
- **Completed a state-funded community co-design project that conducted a needs assessment of HCBS services for rural and underserved communities in Olmsted and Rice Counties.**

Goal #2: Expand Service Navigators in community.

Goal #3: Develop cross-sector, holistic, culturally appropriate dementia informed approach to care.

- **An Older Americans Act Grant submitted to support Goals #2&#3.**

#### Action Area II: Aging in Place Readiness Planning

Goal #4: Make available effective tools & protocols for aging for aging in place for older adult service providers and individuals.

Goal #5: Education on Aging in Place is widely available.

- **Age-Friendly Minnesota Community Grant submitted to support Goals #5 & #6.**

#### Action Area III: Age-Friendly Community Engagement

Goal #6: Ensure perspectives of older adults inform public planning and policy.

- **Efforts continue in the state legislature to provide funding to sustain HCBS programs and increase HCBS funding. (2)**
- **Completed a state-funded community co-design project that conducted a needs assessment of HCBS services for rural and underserved communities in Olmsted and Rice Counties.**
- **Remain engaged with efforts to develop accessory dwelling unit (ADU) pilot projects.(3)**
- **Grant will be submitted to form a [Digital Connection Committee](#). (4)**

Goal #7: Extend age-friendly network participation in Olmsted County.

- **Initiating conversations with local campuses (UMR, WSU-R, and RCTC) regarding membership in the Global Network of Age-Friendly Universities.**
- **Pine Island joined the age-friendly network last year. Oronoco should be announcing its membership soon.**

Goal #8: Address age-based barriers to opportunity and access for aging in place for older adult service.

- **An AARP Community Challenge Grant will be submitted to conduct a safety and walkability [walk audit](#) in downtown Rochester. (5)**

**Comments:**

1. The **grants** are being submitted by the Family Service Rochester (FSR) - AFOC lead agency and the “responsible party” for action plan goals and objectives. We will provide updates and convene partners as decisions on grant awards are received.
2. Our effort in the **state legislature** has received bi-partisan support and leadership from our state legislative delegation. The county board is also supporting the reforms we are seeking. Partners include FSR, the Alzheimer’s Association, and AARP Minnesota. AARP Minnesota has included this effort in their legislative priorities. We do not yet have bill numbers. When we do we will pass those along with a request for your support.
3. **ADU pilot project** partners include the Rochester Area Housing Coalition and Alliance, Olmsted County, the City of Rochester, and interested builders.
4. The **Digital Connection Committee** would form in March and conduct its work through July.
5. The **walk audit** would likely begin its work in July with completion by November. If you are interested in joining a Feb 14 webinar on walk audits register here:  
<https://americawalks.org/the-walk-audit-an-effective-tool-for-community-change/>

Age-Friendly Minnesota (AFM) is an important part of our state’s age-friendly ecosystem. The AFM Council provides input and coordination for age-friendly initiatives across government agencies. AFM legislation provides funding for the grant programs that support local age-friendly work. With that in mind, this from AARP Minnesota

**Age-Friendly Minnesota Legislation Needs Your Help**

An extension for Age-Friendly Minnesota was included in Governor Walz’s budget proposal. This gives a boost to efforts to create a permanent council. Authors in the House and Senate are Rep. Alicia Kozlowski from Duluth and Sen. Aric Putnam from St. Cloud. More co-authors are needed. [Please contact your representatives](#) and ask them to sign-on. No bill numbers yet, but your request can refer to the “Sen. Putnam’s or Rep. Kozlowski’s Age-Friendly Minnesota bill” that enables state government to better serve our aging population, and provides funding to achieve results in their home district and community.

Here is a description from Governor Walz’s budget proposal:

*Extension of the Age-Friendly Council and Community Grants:*

*Recommendation: As Minnesota surpasses one million older adults this year, the third strategy of this proposal extends the newly established Age-Friendly Council through June 30, 2027, to complete the work of Minnesota's entry into the World Health Organization's Age-friendly Network of States and Communities*

*This proposal seeks to also extend the essential funding for small community and technical assistance grants to 100 counties, tribal nations, and/or community organizations seeking to become Age-Friendly Communities. In 2022, Minnesota became the 10th State to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The Age-Friendly Council is working to establish a strong partnership with age-friendly health systems, university and public health, and non-aging partners, including law enforcement, economists, and public and private foundations. The Governor recommends \$2 million in community grants and \$1.15 million for Technical Assistance grants. The grants begin in the Fiscal year 2025 and extend through the Fiscal year 2027*