



Age-Friendly

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Safe • Engaged • Well

Age-Friendly Action Plan
(2021—2024)

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Introduction

This Plan Update reflects the priority goals and actions that will help Buncombe County become an age-friendly community where older adults are safe, well, and engaged. Currently, 27% of our population is age 60+ and 20% are age 65+. However, many “age-friendly” actions described in this plan also have a significant positive impact on Buncombe County residents and visitors of all ages¹.

Formerly known as the 2018-2022 Buncombe County Aging Plan, the Age-Friendly Action Plan reflects a few changes. First, this plan reflects Buncombe County’s affiliation with the WHO/AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Second, it aligns with the County’s 2025 Strategic Plan. Last, it shifts away from a 5-year static plan, to a rolling 3-year plan, which will be updated as needed but at least every 2 years.

In May 2017, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution initiating action to join the WHO/AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities and called for the establishment of a steering team to lead the Age-Friendly Buncombe Initiative. The Age-Friendly Buncombe Advisory Group formed in early 2021 and is responsible for the following:

- Promoting the Age-Friendly Buncombe common agenda and related activities;
- Supporting work on the Age-Friendly Action Plan’s goals and activities;
- Connecting Age-Friendly Buncombe with relevant work in the community;
- Evaluating available data and other sources of information to understand the existing, emerging, and changing needs and opportunities for an Age-Friendly Buncombe community; and,
- Producing an Annual Report for Age-Friendly Buncombe.

Age-Friendly Buncombe is a big tent, bringing together community collaborations, committees, and working groups all of whom are committed to the following Common Agenda: **Older Adults in Buncombe County are Safe, Well, and Engaged in their Community.**

Over eighty nonprofit organizations, business, governmental departments and other partners, as well as many older adult volunteers, participate in the committees and working groups affiliated with Age-Friendly Buncombe (see p. 14).

The Commissioners’ resolution called upon *“all our citizens, business leaders, elected and staff government officials, philanthropists, educators, civic groups, advocacy and service organizations,*

- 1) *to recognize that older adults constitute a valuable human resource; and,*
- 2) *to engage older adults in all aspects of community and civic life.”*

Through the actions and activities described in this plan, Buncombe County endeavors to become increasingly age-friendly for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.



County Board of Commissioners

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Brownie Newman

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Al Whitesides

District 2
Ellen Frost
Mike Fryar

District 3
Joe Belcher
Robert Pressley

July 25, 2017

Mr. Doug Dickerson
AARP State Director
1511 Capital Center Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

On behalf of Buncombe County, I'm pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly environment and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Buncombe County recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address the changing demographics and to enhance independent living; it is committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging and sustain economic and social vitality.

Buncombe County continues to support the creation and active implementation of an aging plan, and has done so since 2007. Buncombe County's support includes funding to support a project coordinator and the dedication of County human resources to participate in the implementation of planning efforts. Over the past decade, this investment has yielded multiple results such as: (1) a committee dedicated to the implementation of the aging plan; (2) coordinated education and systems to reduce incidences of fraud and financial exploitation; (3) outreach to enlighten the community about resources for financial security; and (4) education for consumers and suppliers about how to live and age in community. These are but a few examples of the foundation we have built in cultivating a community for all ages and ability levels.

This is a strong framework to build upon in addressing the World Health Organization's eight domains that help to influence the health and quality of life that of people as they age in our community. We look forward to joining the global network of communities committed to giving all residents the opportunity to age with opportunities for rewards, productivity and safety. Thank you for considering Buncombe County's membership in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Sincerely,

Brownie Newman
Chairman



Age-Friendly Buncombe Action Plan in Brief

(see original goals on page 15)

FOCUS AREAS		
Older Adult Safety	Older Adult Wellbeing	Older Adult Engagement
<p>Vision: A community where older adults are safe, including from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.</p>	<p>Vision: A community where older adults and caregivers experience physical, emotional, and financial wellbeing.</p>	<p>Vision: A community where older adults are engaged in their community in meaningful ways.</p>
GOALS		
<p>1. Promote community awareness of physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse, neglect, and exploitation.</p> <p>2. Ensure safe and accessible public buildings, outdoor spaces, business, and offices.</p> <p>3. Promote safe, affordable housing options for aging in place.</p>	<p>4. Support older adults' health and wellbeing.</p> <p>5. Support older adults' financial wellbeing.</p> <p>6. Support caregiver wellbeing.</p>	<p>7. Promote older adult engagement (including volunteerism, employment, lifelong learning, civic engagement, and use of cultural and recreational assets).</p> <p>8. Ensure older adults have access to services and supports.</p>
ACTIONS		
<p>Provide community awareness-raising programs and events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer fraud awareness education. • Offer elder abuse awareness education. <p>Ensure professional collaboration and coordination in preventing and responding to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation quickly, effectively, and with respect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide elder justice outreach and navigation. • Delineate roles and responsibilities framework for an Elder Abuse Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) for systems improvement. <p>Incorporate age- and dementia friendly principles into public buildings, outdoor spaces, businesses, and offices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote age- and dementia friendly practices and activities in public buildings, outdoor spaces, businesses, and offices. • Invest in age- and dementia friendly design principles and features in public buildings, outdoor spaces, businesses, and offices. <p>Raise awareness about housing options for aging in place among residents of all income levels, housing professionals, and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Provide health and wellbeing programs and services for older adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage older adults in evidence-based and evidence-informed health behavior programs. • Encourage older adult participation in social and recreation activities, including in outdoor settings. • Provide access to affordable mental health care for older adults. <p>Address risk factors that lead to poor health among older adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to nutritious food for older adults. • Provide social connectedness to isolated older adults. • Provide fall prevention education and awareness programs. <p>Provide benefits enrollment education and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist older adults enrolling in economic support programs for which they are eligible. <p>Provide access to caregiver services and supports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of group and individual respite services, including adult day services. • Offer a variety of caregiver support groups. 	<p>Educate and support employers and organizations to engage older workers and volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize age-friendly employers and organizations. • Educate employers and organizations about age-friendly employment practices. <p>Provide networking and skill-building opportunities for older adults seeking employment and volunteer work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer educational and skill-building opportunities to older adults. <p>Provide lifelong learning and other engagement opportunities for older adults and people living with dementia (PLWD).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide engagement opportunities for PLWD. <p>Encourage older adults and PLWD to participate in and use cultural and recreational assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and build partnerships that offer cultural and recreational opportunities for older adults and PLWD. • Encourage older adults and PLWD to participate in policy-making and planning around outdoor spaces.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create targeted messaging materials about housing options and aging in place. • Educate older adults about ways to maintain, and afford remaining in, their current housing. <p>Revise and modify policies and practices that support and promote affordable and accessible housing options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with City and County to identify opportunities for policy and practice change. <p>Streamline housing resources to make it easier to search and access housing options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with relevant agencies and organizations to improve and streamline housing navigation for older adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote awareness of and access to kinship caregiver services. 	<p>Support older adults’ access to technology, including safe and secure broadband.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide older adults training and support in the use of available technology. • Promote access to internet for older adults. <p>Promote safe and accessible transportation options for people of all ages and abilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage older adults and PLWD to use available public transportation options. • Encourage older adults and PLWD to participate in policy-making and planning for safe and accessible transportation options. • Establish and build partnerships that offer safe and accessible transportation options for older adults and PLWD. <p>Ensure aging services demonstrate respect, equity, and inclusion for all older adults, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide education and awareness for aging service providers about systemic racism and other systems of oppression. • Advocate for the rights and needs of older adults and PLWD <p>Promote coordination and collaboration among aging services providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of NC Care 360 throughout the aging services network. • Encourage aging services providers to participate in the Buncombe Aging Services Alliance (BASA). • Engage aging services providers in the Active Aging Center (AAC) Project. • Allocate Grant and County Supplemental Aging Funds for maximum benefit. • Communicate activities, programs, and funding recommendations to the community.
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Age-Friendly Buncombe Action Plan (2021-2024)

GOALS	ACTIONS	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Goal 1. Promote community awareness of physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse, neglect, and exploitation.			
1.1 Provide community awareness-raising programs and events.			
		1.1.a. Offer fraud awareness education.	⇒ # fraud and scam awareness sessions/activities provided. ⇒ # individuals reached.
		1.1.b. Offer elder abuse awareness education.	⇒ # elder abuse awareness sessions/activities provided. ⇒ # individuals reached.
1.2 Ensure professional collaboration and coordination in preventing and responding to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation quickly, effectively, and with respect.			
		1.2.a. Provide elder justice outreach and navigation.	⇒ Progress and process updates.
		1.2.b. Delineate roles and responsibilities framework for an Elder Abuse Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) for systems improvement.	⇒ Roadmap with signed memoranda of understanding.
Goal 2. Ensure safe and accessible public buildings, outdoor spaces, businesses and offices.			
2.1 Incorporate age- and dementia friendly principles into public buildings, outdoor spaces, businesses and offices.			
		2.1.a. Promote age- and dementia friendly practices and activities in public buildings, outdoor spaces, businesses and offices.	⇒ #s of businesses and organizations designated as dementia friendly. ⇒ #s of businesses and other settings engaged in age-friendly practices.
		2.1.b. Invest in age- and dementia friendly design principles and features in public buildings, outdoor spaces, businesses and offices.	⇒ \$\$ invested.
Goal 3. Promote safe, affordable, accessible housing options for aging in place.			
3.1 Raise awareness about housing options for aging in place among residents of all income levels, housing professionals, and other stakeholders.			
		3.1.a. Create targeted messaging materials about housing options and aging in place.	⇒ #s reached through social media and other outlets.

3.1.b. Educate older adults about ways to maintain, and afford remaining in, their current housing.	⇒ #s reached through social media and other outlets.
3.2 Revise and modify policies and practices that support and promote affordable and accessible housing options.	
3.2.a. Work with City and County to identify opportunities for policy and practice change.	⇒ Policies identified. ⇒ City or County committees with aging representation.
3.3 Streamline housing resources to make it easier to search and access housing options.	
3.3.a. Work with relevant agencies and organizations to improve and streamline housing navigation for older adults.	⇒ Demonstrated collaborative approach to improving or streamlining navigation.
Goal 4. Support older adults' health and wellbeing.	
4.1 Provide health and wellbeing programs and services for older adults.	
4.1.a. Engage older adults in evidence-based and evidence-informed health behavior programs.	⇒ # of classes offered. ⇒ # of presentations made. ⇒ # of individuals reached.
4.1.b. Encourage older adult participation in social and recreational activities, including in outdoor settings.	⇒ Types of social activities offered. ⇒ Types of recreational activities available.
4.1.c. Provide access to affordable behavioral, mental health and substance abuse services for older adults.	⇒ # of organizations providing affordable behavioral, mental health and substance abuse services. ⇒ # of individuals served.
4.2 Address risk factors that lead to poor health among older adults.	
4.2.a. Provide access to nutritious food for older adults.	⇒ # attendees at Dining Sites. ⇒ Food delivered/provided. ⇒ # enrolled in SNAP benefits.
4.2.b. Provide social connectedness to isolated older adults	⇒ # Contacts made. ⇒ # of socialization events. ⇒ # of participants per event.
4.2.c. Provide fall prevention education and awareness programs.	⇒ # of classes, presentations. ⇒ # of individuals reached.
Goal 5. Support older adults' financial wellbeing.	
5.1 Provide benefits enrollment education and services.	
5.1.a. Assist older adults enrolling in economic support programs for which they are eligible.	⇒ # older adults enrolled. ⇒ # applications completed. ⇒ Estimated \$\$ saved.

Goal 6. Support caregiver wellbeing.

6.1 Provide access to caregiver services and supports.

6.1.a. Promote use of group and individual respite services, including adult day services.	⇒ # vouchers used. ⇒ # caregivers using vouchers. ⇒ # of caregivers in day programs.
6.1.b. Offer a variety of caregiver support groups.	⇒ #/types of groups, meetings. ⇒ # of participants.
6.1.c. Promote awareness of and access to kinship caregiver services.	⇒ Information/education provided. ⇒ Number of Kinship Caregiver Directories distributed.

Goal 7. Promote older adult engagement (including volunteerism, employment, lifelong learning, civic engagement, and use of cultural and recreational assets).

7.1 Educate and support employers and organizations to engage older workers and volunteers.

7.1.a. Recognize age-friendly employers and organizations.	⇒ # of employers enrolled in AARP Employer Recognition Program. ⇒ Annual Experienced Workforce Initiative (EWI) Award.
7.1.b. Educate employers and organizations about age-friendly employment practices.	⇒ # of employers, organizations trained.

7.2 Provide networking and skill-building opportunities for older adults seeking employment and volunteer work.

7.2.a. Offer educational and skill-building opportunities to older adults.	⇒ # of opportunities/events. ⇒ # of participants.
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7.3 Provide lifelong learning and other engagement opportunities for older adults and people living with dementia (PLWD).

7.3.a. Provide engagement opportunities for people living with dementia (PLWD).	⇒ # of opportunities/events. ⇒ # of participants.
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7.4 Encourage older adults and PLWD to participate in and use cultural and recreational assets.

7.4.a. Establish and build partnerships that offer cultural and recreational opportunities for older adults and PLWD.	⇒ # partnerships that offer cultural and recreational opportunities for older adults and PLWD. ⇒ # of partners in each partnership.
7.4.b. Encourage older adults and people living with dementia to participate in policy-making and planning around outdoor spaces.	⇒ #/% of older adults serving on relevant boards.

Goal 8. Ensure older adults have access to services and supports.

8.1 Support older adults' access to technology, including safe and secure broadband.

8.1.a. Provide older adults training and support in the use of available technology.	⇒ # of older adults trained/supported. ⇒ # training/support programs.
8.1.b. Promote access to internet for older adults.	⇒ Permanent or temporary increase of broadband access.
8.2 Promote safe and accessible transportation options for people of all ages and abilities.	
8.2.a. Encourage older adults and people living with dementia to use available public transportation options.	⇒ # of public transportation providers trained by Dementia Friendly WNC.
8.2.b. Encourage older adults and people living with dementia to participate in policy-making and planning for safe and accessible transportation options.	⇒ #/% of older adults and PLWD serving on relevant boards.
8.2.c. Establish and build partnerships that offer safe and accessible transportation options for older adults and PLWD.	⇒ # partnerships that offer or provide safe and accessible transportation for older adults and PLWD. ⇒ # of organizations partnering.
8.3 Ensure aging services demonstrate respect, equity, and inclusion for all older adults, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected status.	
8.3.a. Provide education and awareness for aging service providers about systemic racism and other systems of oppression.	⇒ # of education, awareness sessions. ⇒ # of participants/session.
8.3.b. Advocate for the rights and needs of older adults and people living with dementia.	⇒ # and types of advocacy activities.
8.4 Promote coordination and collaboration among aging services providers.	
8.4.a Promote use of NCCARE360 throughout the aging services network.	⇒ # of aging services organizations using NCCARE360.
8.4.b. Encourage aging services providers to participate in Buncombe Aging Services Alliance (BASA).	⇒ #of organizations represented, and # of individuals attending BASA meetings.
8.4.c. Engage aging services providers in the Active Aging Center (AAC) Project.	⇒ #of aging services providers engaged in AAC planning. ⇒ # of individuals engaged in AAC planning.
8.4.d. Allocate Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) and other County Supplemental Aging Funds for maximum benefit.	⇒ HCCBG and County Supplemental Aging Funds allocations. ⇒ #s units of service and unduplicated clients.
8.4.e. Communicate activities, programs, and funding recommendations to the community.	⇒ Age-Friendly Buncombe website and social media traffic

Age-Friendly and Buncombe County Strategic Plan Alignment

AARP/WHO Domains of Livability	Age-Friendly Action Plan	Buncombe County Strategic Plan
Housing	Promote safe, affordable, accessible housing options for aging in place.	Protect older residents’ ability to age in place. Implement land use strategies that encourage affordable housing near transportation and jobs.
Transportation	Promote safe and accessible transportation options for people of all ages and abilities.	Increase access to public transportation, including public transit and paratransit services.
Outdoor Spaces and Building	Ensure safe and accessible public buildings, outdoor spaces, businesses and offices.	Expand and maintain cultural and recreational assets.
Social Participation, Civic Engagement, and Employment	Promote older adult engagement (e.g., volunteerism, employment, lifelong learning, civic engagement, and use of cultural and recreational assets). Support older adults’ financial wellbeing.	Protect older residents’ ability to age in place. Expand and maintain cultural and recreational assets. Increase total employment in region’s targeted industries. Increase median household income to North Carolina’s benchmark.
Respect and Inclusion	Ensure aging services demonstrate respect, equity, and inclusion for all older adults regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected status.	Ensure that policies and practices eliminate barriers to allow for equitable opportunity.
Health and Community Services	Support older adults' health and wellbeing. Support caregiver wellbeing. Support older adults’ financial wellbeing. Allocate Grant and other County Supplemental Aging Funds for maximum benefit.	Protect older residents’ ability to age in place. Increase median household income to North Carolina’s benchmark. Ensure funding, talent, and partnerships that enable high quality delivery of services and information.
Information and Communication	Ensure older adults have access to services and supports (including technology and broadband). Promote community awareness of physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Communicate activities, programs, and funding recommendations to the community.	Ensure funding, talent, and partnerships that enable high quality delivery of services and information.

Affiliated Committees and Working Groups

Active Aging Center Steering Committee – The proposed Active Aging Center (AAC) will address adult day health, care management, the social determinants of health including food insecurity, transportation issues, social isolation, and access to activities for health and wellness.

Age-Friendly Buncombe Advisory Group – The Buncombe Aging Services Alliance (formally the Aging Coordinating Consortium (ACC)) provides networking, collaboration, advocacy, and education for aging service providers.

Blue Ridge Pride Generation Plus – Generation Plus (GP) seeks to enrich the lives of LGBTQ+ and allied community adults in Western North Carolina who are living life's third act: the years beyond fifty.

Communities for Older Adult Health (COAH) – Communities for Older Adult Health's mission is focused on: Identifying opportunities for Asheville-Buncombe County to facilitate healthy aging; and, encouraging communication among its citizens and leaders to determine how to use these opportunities to improve the health of the entire community.

Community Transportation Advisory Board – The Community Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) assists in the implementation of the Community Transportation Program.

Dementia Friendly WNC – Dementia Friendly WNC (DFWNC) is a group of community members and organizations committed to the well-being of people living with dementia and their families.

Elder Justice Coalition – The mission of Buncombe Elder Justice Coalition (EJC) is to strengthen our community's capacity to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation quickly, effectively, and with respect.

Experienced Workforce Initiative – The Experienced Workforce Initiative (EWI) of Western North Carolina supports and promotes the engagement of adults age 50+ in the volunteer and workforce continuum.

Family Caregiver Advisory Committee – The Family Caregiver Support Committee works on a regional level to establish partnerships with caregiver service providers, caregivers, and those who interact with caregivers to leverage resources and improve and expand the available resources and services for caregivers.

Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee -- The Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee (HCCBG) makes grant recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding allocations of Home and Community Care Block Grant funding and County Supplemental Aging Funds.

Housing Options for Aging in Place – The mission of Housing Options for Aging in Place (HOAP) is that all older adults living in Buncombe County have the ability and choice to age in place in order to remain safe, well and engaged in their communities.

Social Bridging Project – The Social Bridging Project pairs older adults who feel isolated at home with trained volunteers who can provide conversation, training on use of technology, and referral to needed and desired resources.

WNC Broadband Project – The WNC Broadband Project aims to support communities interested in ensuring access to reliable, truly high-speed internet service.

WNC Fall Prevention Coalition – The WNC Fall Prevention Coalition strives to provide communities with descriptions of collaborative resources, including meetings, events, and resource list of local providers with the common goal of decreasing fall related injuries in WNC.

Contributing Organizations and Agencies¹

AARP Foundation
AARP Mountain Region NC
AB Technical Community College
Area Agency on Aging at the Land of Sky Regional Council
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity
Asheville Art Museum
Asheville Bike & Pedestrian Task Force
Asheville on Bikes
Asheville Parks and Recreation
Asheville Police Department
Asheville Realty Group
Asheville Regional Transit Coalition
Asheville Transit Committee
Avery Health Education and Consulting
Better Business Bureau
Biltmore Farms
Blue Ridge Audubon Society
Blue Ridge Bike Club
Buncombe County Affordable Housing Services Program
Buncombe County Clerk's Office
Buncombe County District Attorney's Office
Buncombe County Family Justice Center
Buncombe County Parks and Recreation
Buncombe County Public Library System
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office
Buncombe Health and Human Services
City of Asheville Community and Economic Development
Connect Buncombe
Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Inc.
DayStay Adult Day
Energy Savers Network
Family Caregiver Support Program
Givens Affordable Communities
Hands-On Asheville Buncombe County
Holistic Elder Services
Jewish Family Services of WNC
Just Economics (Better Busses Together)
Land of Sky Regional Council
Land of the Sky Association of Volunteer Administrators
Legal Aid of NC Senior Law Project
Leslie Apple, Edward Jones Financial Advisor
Linda Giltz, Community Planner, Facilitator, Project Manager
MAHEC Center for Healthy Aging
MANNA Food Bank
Meals on Wheels
MemoryCare
Mountain Area Workforce Development Board
Mountain Care
Mountain Housing Opportunities
Mountain Mobility
Multi-Modal Transportation Commission
NCCARE360
NC Center for Healthy Aging
NC Dept. of Justice Western District
NC Works Asheville Center
No Place Like Home WNC, PLLC
NovusWay Ministries
OLLI at UNC-Asheville
OnTrack Financial Education and Counseling Services
Our Voice
P.A.C.E. (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly)
Pisgah Legal Services
Premier Home Health Care
Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty)
R. L. Mace Universal Design Institute
RN Patient Advocacy of NC
SkyHeart Consulting, LLC
Small Business Administration
Smoky Mountain Home Inspections, Inc.
Terri Z. March, MPH
The Urban News
UNC Center for Health & Wellness
United Way of Asheville Buncombe County
VA Medical Center
Van Winkle Law Firm
Vaya Health
Volunteers of America Carolinas
Web Tech Czar
YMCA of WNC
YMI Cultural Center
YWCA of Asheville

¹ As of June, 2021

Original 2018-22 Aging Plan Goals

1. Prevent abuse and neglect of older adults
2. Increase awareness of fraud, scam and financial exploitation among older adults
3. Improve health and wellness among older adults
4. Support financial wellbeing among older adults
5. Support caregivers providing care to older adults
6. Increase older adults' access to transportation
7. Improve older adults' access to services and supports
8. Increase age-friendly capability of Buncombe County

For More Information

To learn more about Age-Friendly Buncombe County, visit:

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/dss/adults/age-friendly.aspx>

or email:

age.friendly@buncombecounty.org

Respectfully Submitted by:

Alison H. Climo, MSW, Ph.D., Coordinator, Age-Friendly Buncombe

ⁱ Definitions of “older adult” vary widely. AARP’s target audience begins at age 50. Senior Games and Silver Arts eligibility also start at age 50. Those age 60+ are eligible for Home and Community Care Block Grant services. The U.S. Census considers 45-64 the “older working-age” population, and 65+ the older adult population. This Plan allows for this variability but sets the minimum age at 50. The Annual Report will include age breakdowns according to individual indicators and available data.