



# JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING AGENDA

November 18, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Zoom Only

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/81491760970?pwd=bkFwWk42Mllmazl0aFdMS3ArTG5qZz09>

Or Call In: 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 814 9176 0970; Passcode:858248

**A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. 2025-10-21 JCOA Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

**D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**E. AGENDA TOPICS**

2. Introduction of New JCOA Members & Election of Chair, Vice Chair & Secretary
3. Follow Up on CBJ Assembly Presentation
4. Housing Subcommittee Updates - Presentation by THRHA President/CEO Jacqueline Pata

JCOA's primary topic today will be Ms. Jacqueline Pata, President & CEO, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) – presenting information about housing opportunities being made available by THRHA in Juneau. See attached THRHA info about its North Douglas project.

5. Recreation/Fitness Subcommittee - Update on Marie Drake Gym Use
6. Age-Friendly Planning Report Update - Report Due in December
7. AARP - Update from Linda Kruger
8. Outreach: Web, KTOO, & "Senior Moments"

**F. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS & QUESTIONS** Welcome to Assemblymember Paul Kelly

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES - 3PM VIA ZOOM**

9. Upcoming JCOA Meetings/Workgroups

*Dec. 9: JCOA Workgroup Meeting - finalize year-end report*

Dec. 16: JCOA Regular Meeting - 2026 Strategy & Priority Identification

**H. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**10. 2025 JCOA Annual Report - Draft**

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

ADA accommodations available upon request: contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to a meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services. The Clerk's Office: (907)586-5278 or [city.clerk@juneau.gov](mailto:city.clerk@juneau.gov).

**JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Draft Full Meeting Minutes**  
**October 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM – ZOOM MEETING**

A. CALL TO ORDER - – Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Barbara Murray, Jennifer Garrison, Laura Revels, Diane Kyser.

Absent: Carol Ende

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chair Craig asked for the addition of the CBJ FY2027 Leg Capital Priorities Response from JCOA to be added to the agenda. Agenda addition approved unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- all minutes attached approved unanimously. Barb Murray has volunteered to be the JCOA Secretary replacing Linda Kruger.

1. 2025-08-19 JCOA Meeting Minutes - Draft
2. 2025-09-16 JCOA Meeting Minutes - Draft
3. 2025-10-14 JCOA Meeting Minutes - Draft

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

F. AGENDA TOPICS

4. Main JCOA Projects & Subcommittee Updates

1. CBJ FY2027 Leg Priorities Letter from JCOA – unanimous support to send the letter developed by the JCOA to the CBJ. Chair Craig will send the comments to the CBJ Planning Department (*sent 10/23/25*)
2. Housing Subcommittee Updates — UNAVAILABLE: Presentation from Jacqueline Pata, President/CEO of Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) on information regarding housing opportunities with THRHA. SUGGESTION: Laura Revels will contact Ms. Pata to attend the Nov 18 meeting and it will be a good time to ask if T&H would be willing to use the No Douglas complex as a model for tours.
  - a. Other Housing info – Rich Harris will be building the little house development at Auke Bay – he has 95% of his permits, will begin building in 2026 and Deb reached out to determine if he would like to meet to discuss age friendly amenities. Examples would be straight line stairs for easier installation of chair lifts, wider doors, low/no thresholds, larger bathrooms, levered door handles, etc.
  - b. Ms. Hall indicated an interest in housing information and Diane indicated the Coast Guard might have data concerning the influx of CG coming to Juneau – Diane will provide Deb with a contact for the Coast Guard.
3. Recreation & Wellness — Update on Gym Use – Chair Craig has not heard from P&R regarding opening Marie Drake and has been in contact with Erin Walker-Tolles of CCS regarding collaborations on gym use. CCS manages the current senior center that provides recreation and senior meals, and their kitchen is in disrepair. CCS is interested in options for kitchen use to ensure ongoing senior meals. CCS indicated a willingness to discuss staffing to alleviate P&R staffing burden. Chair Craig has made contact with Robert Barr, Deputy Manager CBJ to discuss use of the MD complex north of the gym (which is managed by P&R). Emails have been sent to both Lauren Verelli and Robert Barr in this regard.

**JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING**  
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4. Age-Friendly Planning — Due in December, Chair Craig is looking into housing data and requests and assist from members. Of particular concern is the idea of the “Missing Middle” income housing for people from low income to rise up to and for seniors to downsize. Ms. Hall suggested Deb contact Rain Coast Data for any updates they are working on.
5. AARP Update – Linda Kruger reported as the Chair of the AARP CAT Juneau.
  - a. AARP will be providing a Virtual Dementia Tour to Legislators to ensure understanding and advocacy of the legislature for senior programs.
  - b. May – AARP CAT Juneau Planning an Aging In Place Conference
  - c. AARP is also working on Brain Health Series, is hosting a piano series
6. Other Announcements
  - a. Jennifer Garrison commented on changes coming to Capital AKcess that will impact seniors across Juneau. As of Nov 1, the contract will change from CCS to GTS in that they were the lowest bidders to provide service. It is unclear how they will be able to continue the current level of service and CCS will be laying off drivers. Most importantly, riders will need to verify their ADA Transportation Disability. *(See attached info that Jennifer provided after the meeting)*
7. Website, KTOO & Newspaper Updates
  - a. Website needs update – the local election has impaired the ability of CBJ staff to respond to all request but Chair Craig will send over a new layout for the webpage.
  - b. KTOO next meeting November 6 – please provide input – suggested that we focus on the changes in transportation availability for seniors.
  - c. Senior Moment FIRST article published in Juneau Independent and November article needs to be written – AARP CAT Leader Linda Kruger will take November.

**G. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Maureen Hall, CBJ Assembly Liaison provided her final report to the JCOA, commenting that on Oct 27, the CBJ Assembly will make new appointments. Maureen reported:

- The election is being certified today and the results will be a \$9-12 million budget shortfall, in addition to the issues on our federal level (immigration impacting various employment sectors, Food Stamps being out of funding on Nov 1 if the government does not reopen, etc).
- Parks and Rec hired Marc Wheeler as the new Director and he is being regarded as an innovator who will bring small business start up and management experience.
- Housing continues to be an issue – the Cold Weather Shelter opened. Maureen attended two events that have broadened her view of housing options: at SE Conference she toured the Sitka Land Trust’s model of housing expansion (lots leased with caps on profit at time of sale) and touring the Eugene Oregon homelessness projects for ideas for Juneau. JEDC is working on homebuilding models, the Coast Guard is working closely with the CBJ regarding potential housing at Telephone Hill and Pederson Hill. The THHA project is one that will be a great model.

**JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Draft Full Meeting Minutes**  
**October 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM – ZOOM MEETING**

- Maureen expressed her enjoyment working with the JCOA and was encouraged to attend our meetings or ask the JCOA to be a resource at any time.

H. NEXT JCOA MEETING DATES - 3pm via Zoom

~~October 28, 2025 – JCOA Workgroup Meeting – Cancelled~~

November 11, 2025 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting - Discussion on CBJ Assembly Presentation

November 17, 2025 – JCOA presentation to the CBJ Assembly HR Committee

November 18, 2025 - JCOA Regular Meeting – Presentation THHA on the Douglas Subdivision, Discussion of draft Age Friendly Report

December 9, 2025 – JCOA Workgroup Meeting – Approval Age Friendly Report

December 16, 2025 – JCOA Regular Meeting – Elections of Chair and Secretary

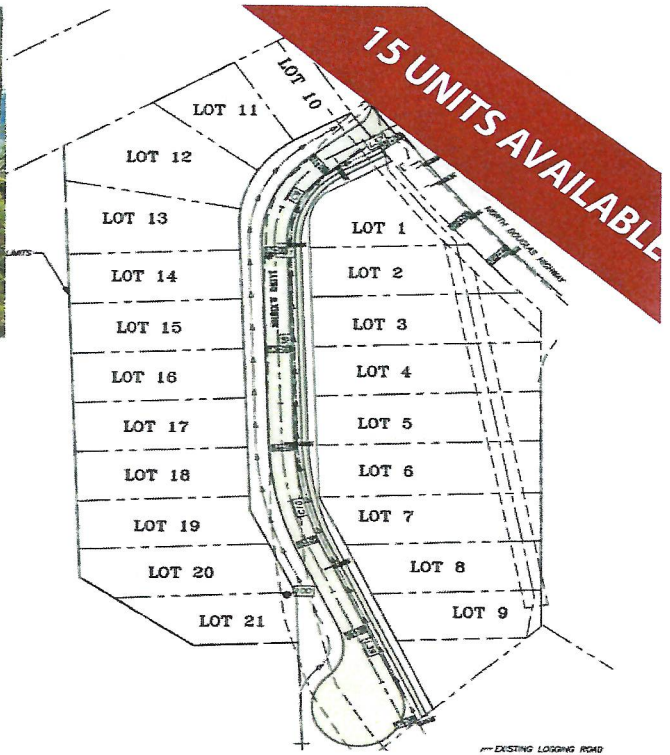
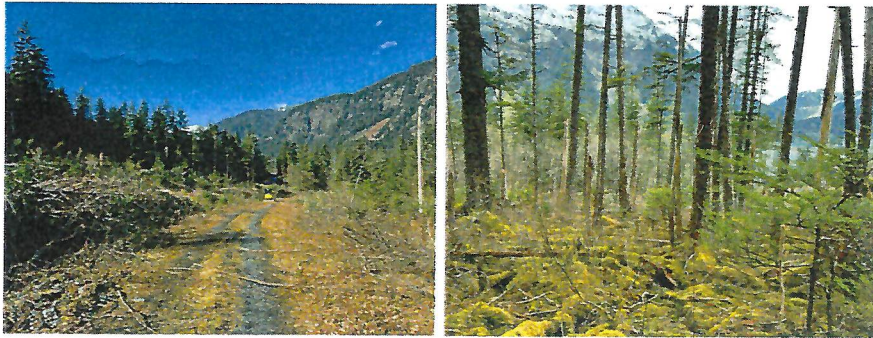
~~December 23, 2025 – JCOA Workgroup Meeting – Cancelled~~

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CALENDAR REFLECTS ATTENDING OUR REGULAR MEETINGS EVERY THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 3PM VIA ZOOM.**

# SUCCESS STARTS WITH ME

MORTGAGE PROGRAM | APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED IN JUNEAU

FOR SÉET KANAX DUTÉEN DEVELOPMENT, 1.5 Mile North Douglas Hwy



## GENERAL TERMS

- Homebuyer must be a resident of Juneau/Douglas
- Enrolled tribal member
- Homebuyer is required to attend three financial literacy/homebuyer/home maintenance classes.
- Income not to exceed 80% MFI - see chart
- Meet program eligibility requirements

Pre-sale allows for choice in the number of bedrooms, layouts, and colors.  
Flexible loan terms-tailored to individual needs. Credit builder program included.

## JUNEAU INCOME LIMITS

2025 HUD INCOME MFI – JUNEAU

Low-Income Limit (LIL) 80% of Median*							
1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$72,100	\$82,400	\$92,700	\$102,950	\$111,200	\$119,450	\$127,700	\$135,900

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Haa Yakaawu Financial Corporation  
Phone: 907-780-3105  
Email: Hyfc@thrha.org



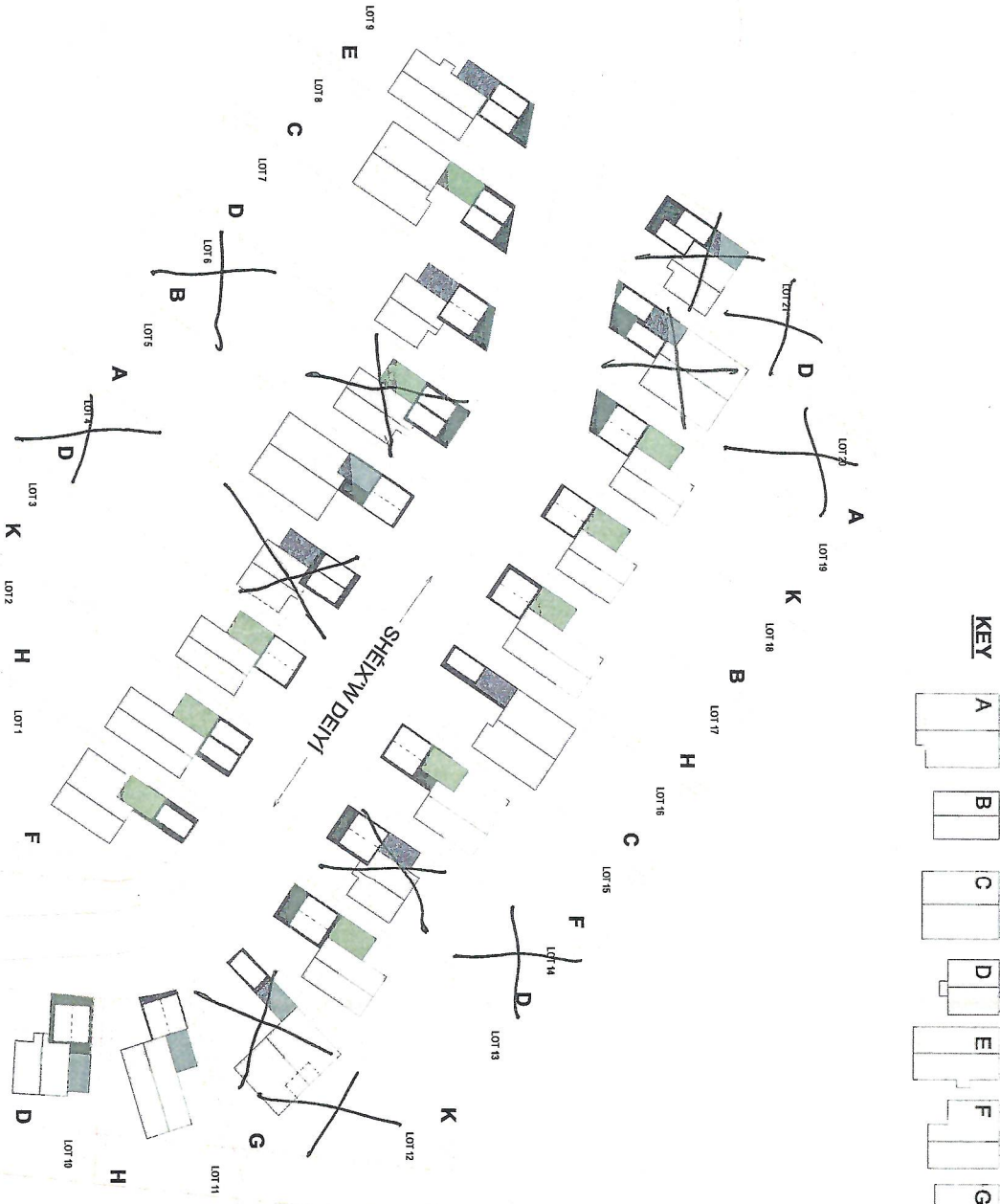
APPLY TODAY AT [REGIONALHOUSINGAUTHORITY.ORG/HYFC-LOAN/](http://REGIONALHOUSINGAUTHORITY.ORG/HYFC-LOAN/)



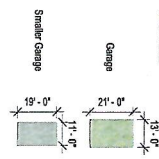
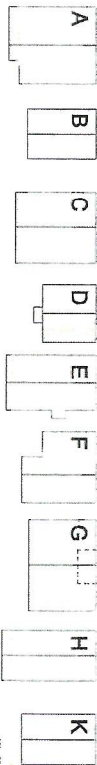
1 NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN  
1" = 500'



NORTH DOUGLAS HIGHWAY



KEY



**ZONING**  
DENSITY: D18  
FRONT YARD SETBACK: 20'-0"  
REAR YARD SETBACK: 10'-0"  
STREET SIDE YARD SETBACK: 15'-0"  
SIDE YARD SETBACK: 5'-0"

125 Second St.  
Juneau, AK 99901  
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**NorthWind Architects, LLC**

IN THE STATE OF ALASKA, I, **NorthWind Architects, LLC**, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I AM THE REGISTERED ARCHITECT FOR THIS PROJECT.

SEET KANAX DUTEEN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

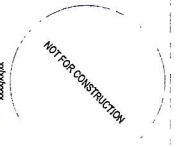
THRHA  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

SHEET TITLE:  
NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

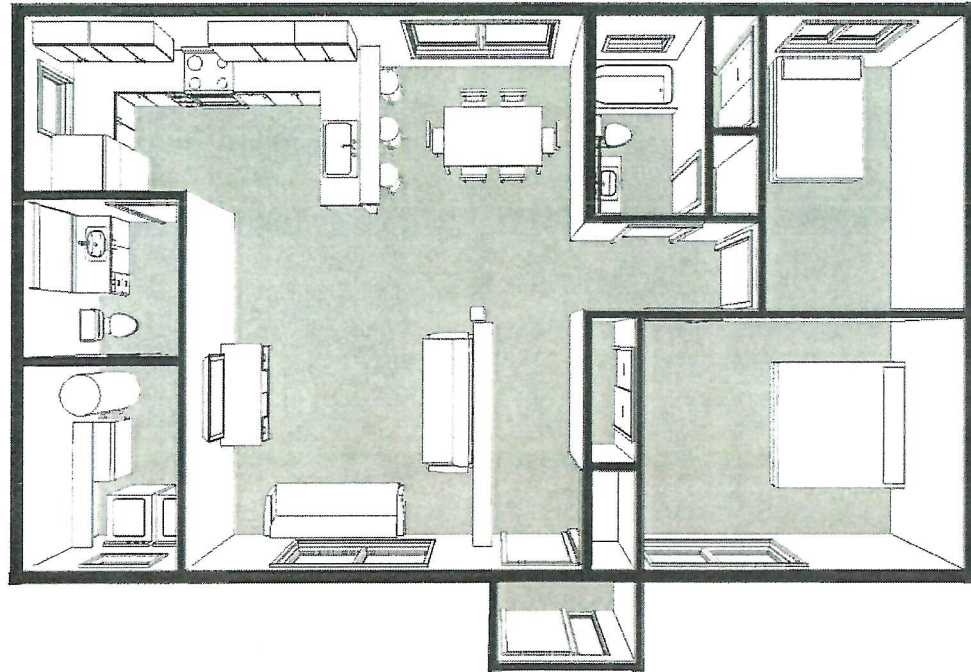
CHECKED: JB  
DRAWN: ND & SCC  
DATE: 08/19/2021

SHEET # **G1.C**

ISSUE DATE: 08/19/2021



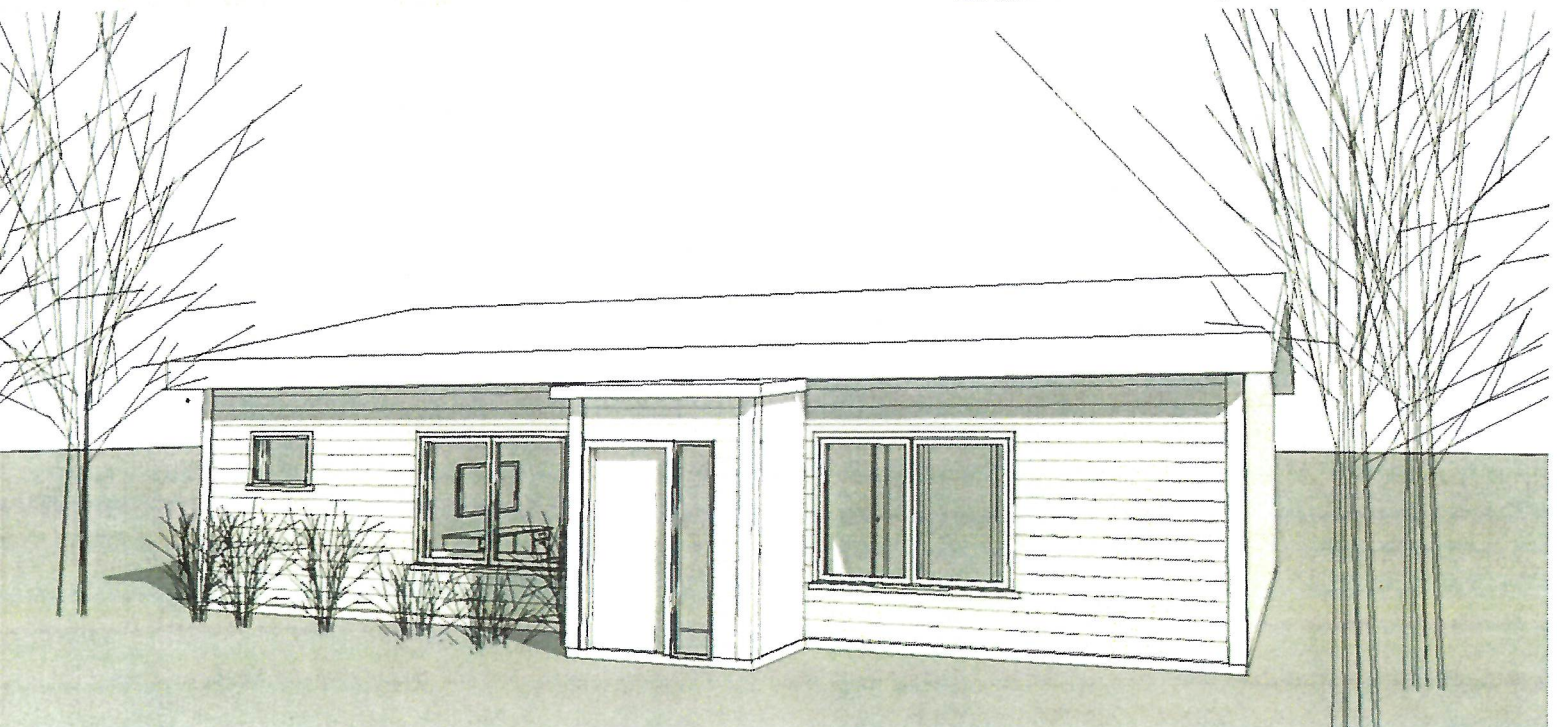
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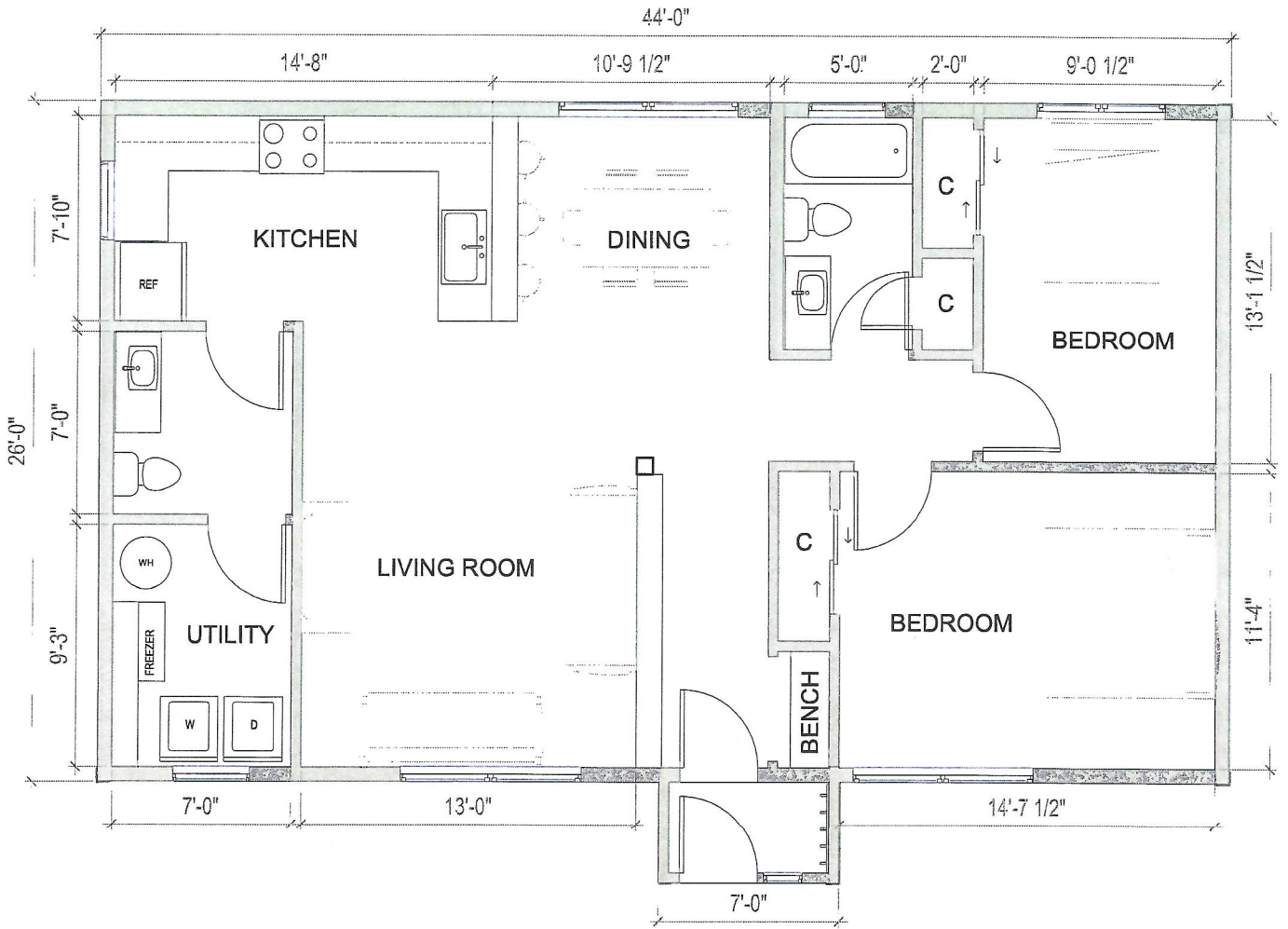


- 1144 SF SINGLE-STORY HOME
- 2 BEDROOMS, 1.5 BATHROOMS
- LARGE PANTRY/ LAUNDRY ROOM
- OPEN GATHERING ROOMS



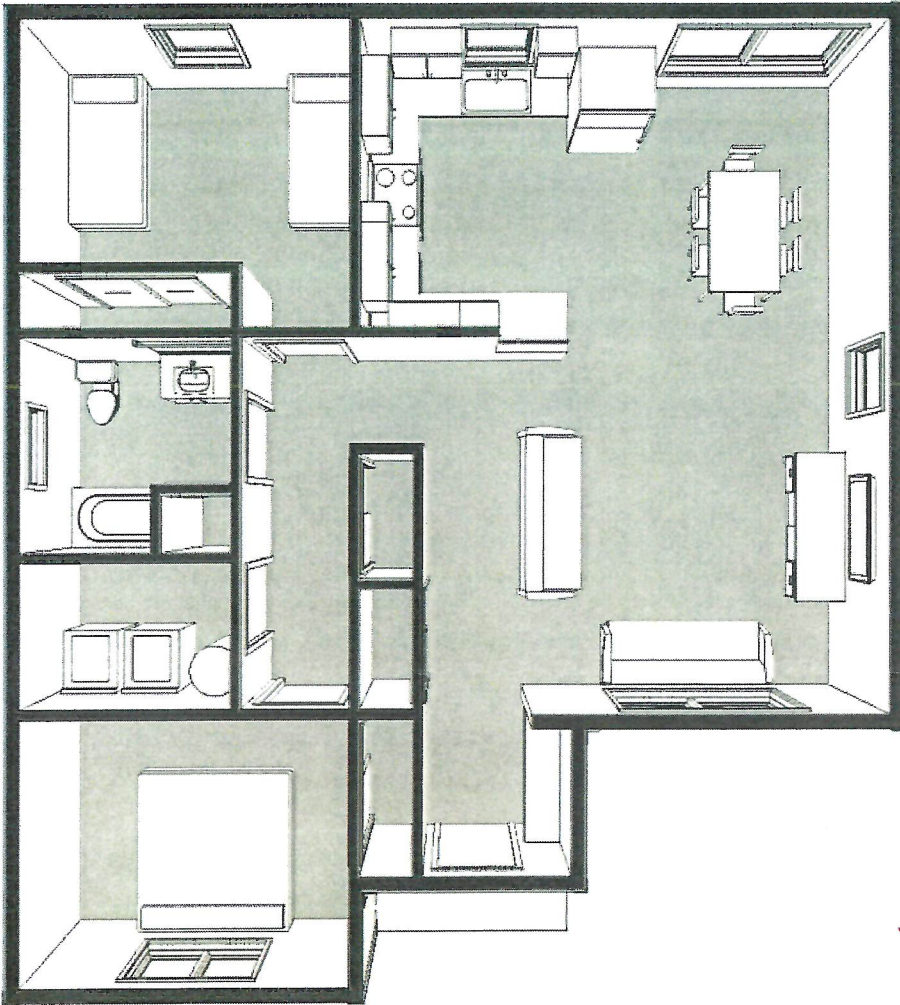
Regional Housing Authority





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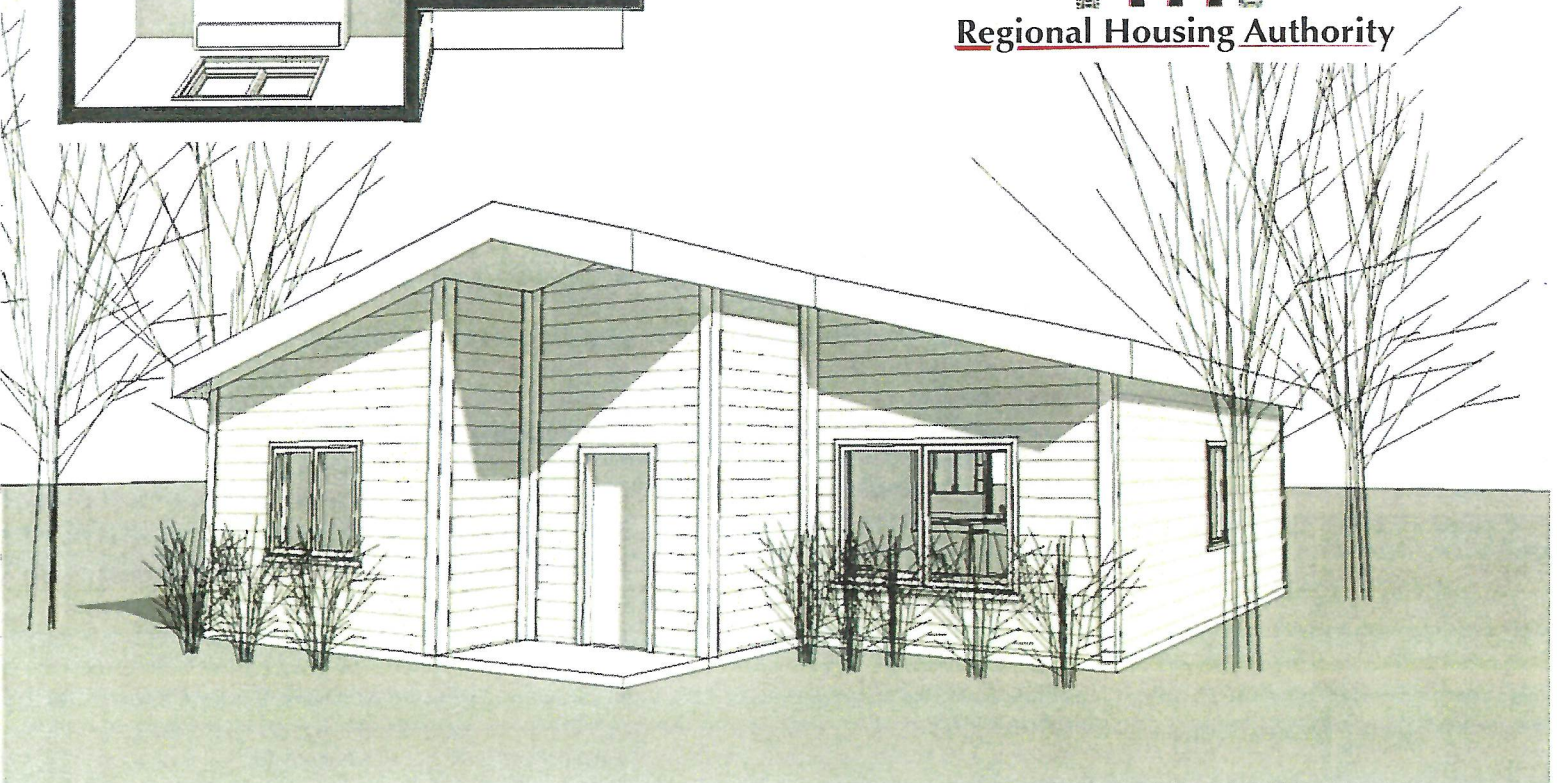
# SEET KANAX DUTEEN FLOORPLAN F

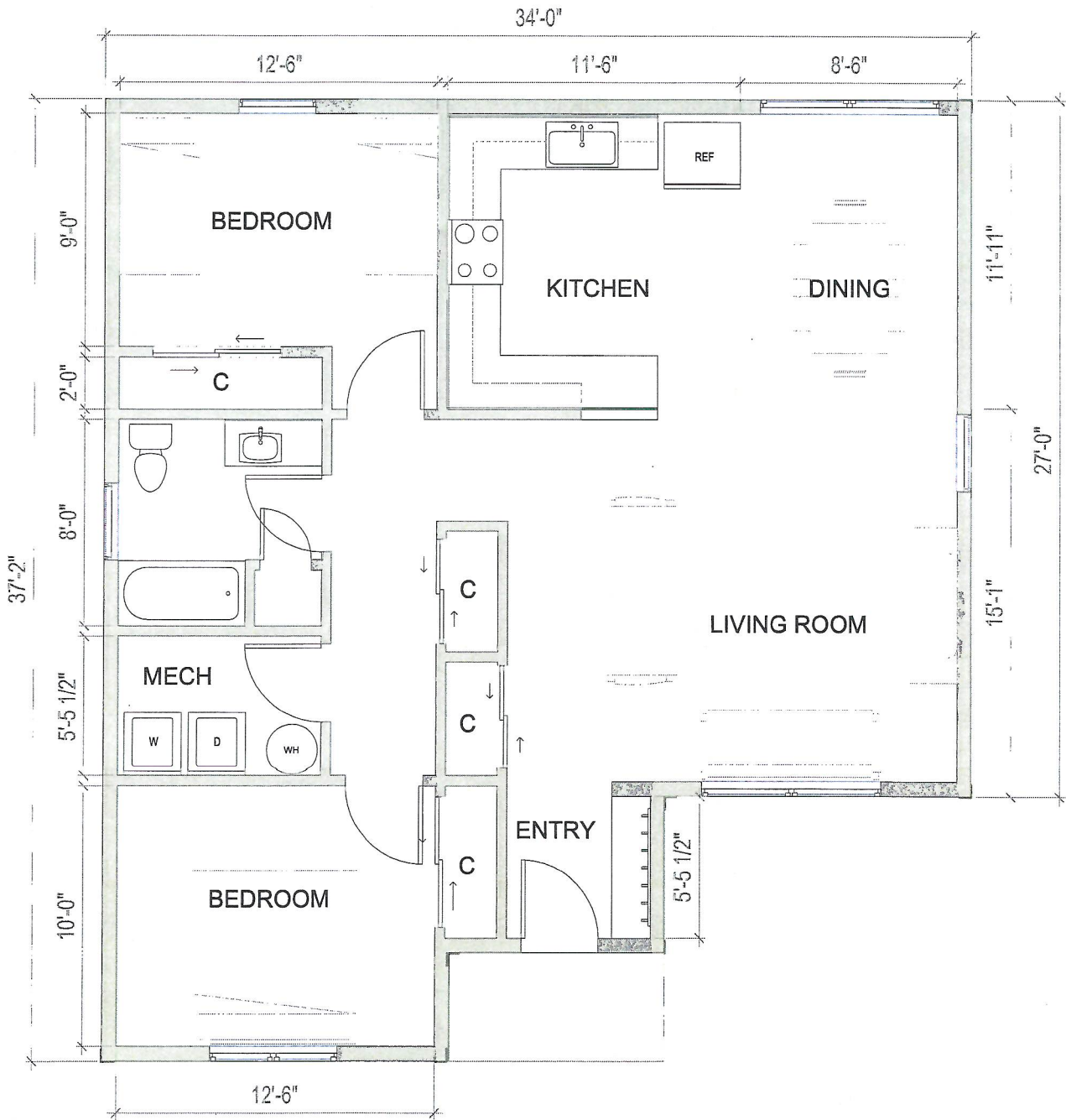


- 1072 SF SINGLE-STORY HOME
- 2 BEDROOMS, 1 BATHROOM
- AMPLE CLOSET SPACE



Regional Housing Authority





NOT PRINTED TO SCALE



# **JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN Progress Report December 2025**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Juneau joined the Age Friendly Network in late 2022 and submitted their plan June 2025 as a joint effort between the Juneau Commission on Aging and the AARP Juneau Community Action Team, as well as engaging many community partners. This plan was submitted to the City and Borough of Juneau for consideration during their multiyear Comprehensive Planning process that began this year. Our goal is to weave senior/elder considerations into all phases of our community planning processes as we implement this Age Friendly Plan.**

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# LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM MAYOR OF JUNEAU

# WELCOME TO JUNEAU

Alaska's capital is a land locked southeast coastal rainforest community located in a unique geographical area surrounded by glaciers, mountains, and tidal waters. The Tlingit people and their clans were well established and actively trading in Southeast Alaska when European explorers made their first advances into the Gastineau Channel in the 1700s. The A'akw and T'aaiu Kwáan maintained thriving villages in the Juneau, Auke Bay, Douglas and Taku River area for over 750 years.



In the late 1800s rumors of gold findings lured prospectors to the Gastineau Channel and in 1880 and 1881 Juneau and Douglas were founded as townships. Soon Douglas was operating one of the world's largest hard rock gold mines. By the mid-1900s, Juneau was operating three mines and became the capital of the territory. It was also a travel and trading hub in and out of Alaska with regular Canadian Pacific Steamship arrivals and departures. In the 1920s Filipino workers were brought to Juneau to work in the mines, and the canneries and many stayed and married contributing to our community and cultural fabric.



Alaska achieved statehood in 1959 and Juneau became the capital of the 49<sup>th</sup> state. Today, the City and Borough of Juneau is the second largest (square miles) municipality in the United States and is a vibrant and diverse multicultural city of about 32,000 people. Our Capitol conducts state business and houses the legislature from January-May.

Alaska has always experienced surging economic periods: fur trade, gold, fisheries, military, oil and gas and now tourism. Over a million summer visitors contribute to the tourism industry and experience our rich wilderness and cultural experiences.

Regional and local Native Corporations headquartered in Juneau benefit tribal citizens and share native culture and history. Two productive mines operate outside the city.



The University of Alaska Juneau offers advanced education with about 3000 students actively attending classes. Additionally, Juneau has an active parks and recreation program, a robust boating community with four harbors and houses the third largest fishing fleet in Southeast Alaska.

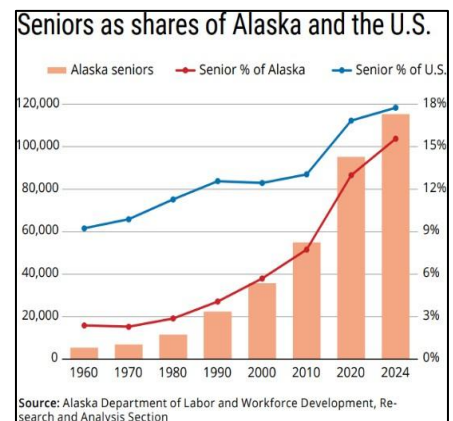


Juneau continues to be home to a diverse community of Alaska Natives, Filipinos, South Pacific Islanders, African Americans, as well as a

magnet for young people seeking adventure and has become the home of a high number of active, healthy seniors. Almost 30% of Juneau's residents are over 55. Juneau's seniors tend to be homeowners, active in the community and contribute to the community both financially and as volunteers.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

The number of Alaskans 65 and older has skyrocketed over the last decade and a half, continuing to rise even as youth and working-age populations have declined. Today, seniors play a bigger role in Alaska than they ever have. Alaska has always been a young state and this shift toward an older population is one of the ways Alaska has begun to look more like the rest of the country. The highest concentration of seniors is in Southeast Alaska and Juneau is the largest Southeast community. Juneau's Senior population (60+) has steadily grown 39% (3.3% annually) between 2012 and 2021. There are 11,494 seniors 50+ living in Juneau and 3,997 are AARP members.



### Juneau Commission on Aging 2020 SENIOR SURVEY FINDINGS

**Seniors are healthier and better off than in previous survey years:**

- 28.7% of Juneau residents are 55 and older\*\*
- 84% own their own homes and pay taxes
- 80-90% (depending on age) drive their own cars
- 63% volunteer in the community
- 95% over 65 have Medicare Insurance
- 66% over 65 have State of Alaska Retirement
- 40% have Long Term Care Insurance
- 42-46% (depending on age) take continuing education classes (UAS/CS)
- 72 – 84% (depending on age) recreate weekly (walking, hiking, swimming, biking, gyms, skiing)

\*\* AKDOL has updated this figure to 30% in 2023

The City and Borough of Juneau provides funding for a Senior Survey every decade via the Juneau Commission on Aging. In 2020, the JCOA reached out to a broad swath of the community for the fourth Senior Survey in 40 years and found that seniors are a growing demographic and are doing generally well due to a number of factors. This data was critical to understanding our status, issues and needs in community.

# JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING (JCOA)

The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly appoints the Juneau Commission on Aging with nine volunteers representing elders and relevant senior organizations in the community. The JCOA is charged with advocating for Seniors within the community and reporting to the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly at least annually.

## JCOA VALUE STATEMENTS

- ❖ **Inclusion:** We value our community’s diversity and strive to create a welcoming environment where all residents, regardless of age or ability, can thrive.
- ❖ **Equity:** We are committed to addressing systemic disparities and ensuring that resources, opportunities, and programs are accessible to all, particularly marginalized and underserved groups.
- ❖ **Collaboration:** We believe in the power of partnerships and work collectively with residents, organizations, and policymakers to create sustainable solutions.
- ❖ **Empowerment:** We aim to empower individuals through education, resources, and opportunities, enabling them to lead fulfilling, independent, and connected lives.
- ❖ **Innovation:** We embrace creative approaches and adaptive strategies to address the evolving needs of our community.
- ❖ **Sustainability:** We prioritize long-term impact and resilience, ensuring the success of age- and ability-friendly initiatives for generations to come.

The JCOA had been proactive about reaching out to the community via a website (see sample right), a monthly radio show highlighting senior activities and a monthly newspaper article entitled “Senior Moments”.



# JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## How Did Your Organization Facilitate Age Friendly Planning?

How was the AF process structured and organized? Detail leadership team and how it evolved. Identify organizations and stakeholders, and how residents engaged. Describe methods used to implement.

The JCOA represents and collaborates with both volunteer seniors and senior oriented community organizations. Organizations represented included the senior services grantee, Catholic Community Services, tribal representative Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) and AARP. Stakeholders included SE Alaska Regional Health Consortium and Bartlett Regional Hospital (who later joined the JCOA as appointed members).

The JCOA 2020 Annual Senior Survey (see Page 5) provided a robust picture of senior status and needs. The AARP provided additional outreach to seniors that complemented the Survey and provided up to the minute data, as well as including AARP Age Friendly Senior Data Sets describing Age Friendly elements of our specific community.

The AARP CAT and the Juneau Commission on Aging teamed up to write the Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan and then submitted the plan to the City and Borough of Juneau for consideration and inclusion in the CBJ Comprehensive Plan currently in the process of being written. This partnership has resulted in meetings with the CBJ Planning Team and discussion of how our recommendations fit into the overall plan of the CBJ going forward.

The Juneau Commission on Aging and the AARP Juneau Community Action Team welcome everyone in the community to join with us as we advance these priority action items. Becoming an Age-Friendly Community provides an opportunity and a responsibility for each of us to do what we can to promote the ideas described in the following pages. That said, our overarching philosophy is that inclusion of our recommendations into the long term CBJ Comprehensive Plan would assure increased likelihood of continuation of Age Friendly concepts into the future.

## What did Age Friendly Accomplish – What are you most proud of This Year?

*Name three key accomplishments. Of the Eight Domains of Livability, we are focusing on Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, and Respect and Social Inclusion as our highest priorities but also played a role in contributing in many ways to the other domains.*

One of our key accomplishments that we are most proud of is that the Age Friendly Plan was prepared and submitted to both the AARP and the CBJ Community Planning Department. This required gathering information and input from a large array of resources and community members, culminating in a document that comprehensively represents Juneau seniors.

## DOMAIN: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Concept: Availability of safe, public, recreational facilities.

Community members have long expressed the continuing need for a Community Senior Activity Center with fitness center/gym and meeting spaces for classes and gatherings in a central location. To that end, the JCOA and AARP strongly advocated for use of the Marie Drake Complex with an indoor walking track. This effort is ongoing and has resulted in improved access at a valley location but we continue to work toward a more centralized Center that will serve a broader population. Community members expressed interest in the Dimond Park Fieldhouse and CBJ responded by adding an ADA compliant elevator. AARP completed a Walk Audit and facilitated Walks to the Library

## DOMAIN: Transportation

Concept: Safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation.

Community members long expressed a desire for improved Capital AKcess (Care-A-Van) and, unfortunately, the contract for this service changed in November 2025 resulting in reduced service. While out of our control, we used our media resources to ensure the public was aware of this change in service.

## DOMAIN: Housing

Concept: Availability of home modification programs for aging in place, as well as range of Age-Friendly housing options.

Community members expressed a desire for Age Friendly, affordable, first floor or accessible units. The AARP CAT successfully obtained a grant for RL Mace Universal Design Institute who provided a community forum In August 2025 on Universal Design and Multigenerational Housing that included CBJ Community Development Staff. In light of our advocacy for Senior Age Friendly Housing JCOA and AARP Leads were also invited to a CBJ Housing Forum in November of 2025 to ensure senior needs were included in planning for Code Changes to the CBJ Building Code. At this meeting, the CBJ revealed that permits related to Accessory Dwelling Units had been upgraded and expanded to further assist seniors (and others) with adding ADU's to their home.

It is noteworthy that Juneau voted to lower property taxes which is a benefit for seniors who own homes but unfortunately, it may eliminate funding for other housing and recreational opportunities. AARP also distributed copies of the AARP Home Fit Guide at many of these venues.

## DOMAIN: Social participation

Concept: Access to leisure and cultural activities, including opportunities for older residents to socialize and engage with their peers as well as with younger people.

Community members expressed interest in both an Office of Aging within CBJ, a Community Senior Activity Center (discussed above Outdoor Spaces). Despite the difficulty with having a permanent space, we sponsored or co facilitated several senior activities. AARP co-sponsored Walk Southeast and Walk to the Library, the Piano Music Series, Juneau Community Band Concerts. JCOA sponsors a Monday Mah Jongg Meeting and facilitated a Senior Friend Project with the Juneau Pioneer's Home that starts with a Pioneer Home resident hosted by a community member at the Juneau Holiday Symphony.

## DOMAIN: Respect and Inclusion

Concept: Programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction and dialogue.

Community members expressed a desire for an Office of Aging within CBJ to promote and advance inclusive senior programs and issues. This remains a future priority for consideration.

## DOMAIN: Communication and Information

Concept: Access to communications technology and other resources so older residents can connect with their community, friends and family.

Over the last year, JCOA and AARP have increased outreach and mechanisms for information sharing by developing a JCOA Website <https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa> that has become a focal point for referring to during our monthly radio slot on Juneau's Public Radio Station - KTOO Juneau Afternoon Program. JCOA are hosting a monthly column in the local newspaper "Senior Moments" to highlight our activities and issues of concern. JCOA and AARP have also made presentations to local Rotary Groups.

## DOMAIN: Community and Health Services

Concept: Access to home-based care services, health clinics and programs that promote wellness and active aging.

It is noteworthy that Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) became the first community hospital in Alaska to receive Age-Friendly Health Care System Level 1 Designation from the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*, the *Institute of Healthcare Improvement*, and the *American Hospital Association Collaboration* by adopting Age-Friendly Health Care concept. JCOA is also working with Catholic Community Services in light of their challenges in providing Senior Meals and Meals on Wheels. There is a need for an upgraded commercial kitchen and we are advocating for use of space at the Marie Drake Complex that is currently not available to the public.

## DOMAIN: Work and Civic Engagement

Concept: Paid work and volunteer activities for older residents and opportunities to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives.

While not one of our top priorities, the JCOA maintains a space on our website for volunteer opportunities for seniors. Bartlett Regional Hospital also signed the AARP Employer Pledge - affirming the value of experienced workers and a commitment to developing a diverse organization.

## What Was Learned?

*What were your challenges, benefits, successful practices, opportunities to leverage and outreach to diverse partners?*

The first challenge was to ensure the community was engaged in the process of planning and the JCOA/AARP team effected a robust outreach process that included developing a website, providing regular presentations on the radio, providing presentations to local groups such as Rotary and writing a monthly newspaper column to ensure Seniors 1) are aware of the activities and 2) have an opportunity to participate. We also learned that being nimble is an important quality to ensure we can adjust to unexpected opportunities or challenges. These practices were found to be both beneficial for the public and a successful practice for our team. These opportunities also allowed us to connect to diverse partners across the community.

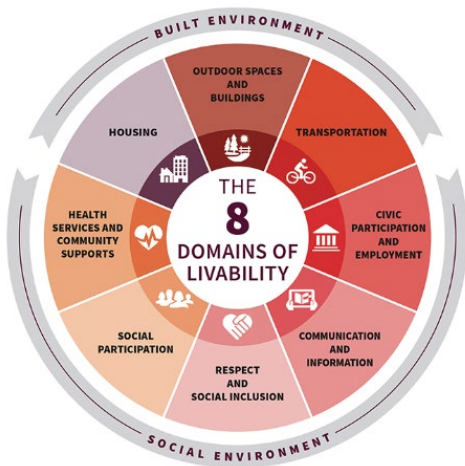
## What Are Next Steps?

*How will you build upon accomplishments, share new opportunities to tackle, have your mission vision and values evolved? Describe future aspirations.*

We are continuing to use our outreach venues to connect to the public and with our newfound visibility, we are able to expand on our original mission and be more inclusive as issues arise. For example, Transportation was not one of our priorities until the senior transportation system was changed and we were able to use our outreach to ensure seniors across the community were made aware of the changes that would impact their access to transportation.

We have also accomplished one of our key goals – creating the Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan and we will continue to ensure it is integrated into our CBJ Comprehensive Plan while also refocusing on other key issues such as housing, wellness/recreation and transportation.

Lastly, we will continue to work collaboratively with AARP, as well as our community stakeholders to ensure that senior voices are heard throughout our community.



## Senior Moments Are We Age-Friendly?

Juneau’s senior population (30% and growing) agree this is a great place to live but many worry about their ability to remain in our home town. Is Juneau “age friendly” for people of all ages and abilities? What makes a community truly livable? The Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA) and the AARP Community Action Team (CAT) have joined forces to improve Juneau’s “livability” and ensure seniors can stay in the community we love as we age.

Community issues are best solved by the whole community working together. The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities & States, a community-based planning process, is a way to adopt age-friendly concepts within a framework called the Eight Domains of Livability. “Age-Friendly Communities” are intentionally designed to be inclusive and accessible for people of all ages, especially older adults, by adapting structures and services to meet evolving community needs to help people age with dignity, independence and security. This includes safe and accessible public spaces, affordable and suitable housing, accessible transportation, and opportunities for social and civic participation.

The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) joined the Age Friendly Network in 2022. The JCOA and AARP partnered to advocate for the Eight Domains of Livability and recently submitted the first Juneau Age-Friendly Community Action Plan to the CBJ Comprehensive Planning Team to ensure seniors have a voice in Juneau’s future. This plan <https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa-age-friendly-planning> highlights priorities and identifies action steps for improving housing options, community and wellness/health services, and recreation opportunities for all ages.

Promising livable communities have adequate, appropriate housing. Our plan promotes Age Friendly housing developments that enable seniors to downsize from larger, less accessible homes, leading to housing market expansion, while providing options for people of all abilities to live safely. Earlier this year AARP sponsored “Design for Life” – a community forum exploring housing ideas for all ages and stages of life. In an effort to expand options, CBJ recently simplified the process and size criteria for adding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU’s) to increase the ability of elders to add space to their home for family helpers or home health care assistance. But we can do more to increase options.

Another key indicator of livable communities are plentiful Recreation and Wellness opportunities and with the help of local organizations, we continue to support the concept of the Marie Drake as a Senior Community Center with indoor pickleball courts, walking indoor track and multigenerational classes and activities to serve the downtown, Salmon Creek corridors and Douglas Island to provide spaces for more indoor community activities and to complement the array of options in the valley.

Socialization opportunities are critical for all ages but especially our elders. AARP has collaborated extensively with Juneau Parks & Recreation and Juneau Public Libraries. We recently co-cosponsored Parks and Rec multigenerational Walks to the Libraries, several music events and workshops such as Brain Health, Strong Bones to promote wellness and longevity.

Employers contribute on many levels to “livability”. Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) became the first community hospital in Alaska to receive Age-Friendly Health Care System Level 1 Designation from the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*, the *Institute of Healthcare Improvement*, and the *American Hospital Association Collaboration* by adopting Age-Friendly Health Care concepts and signing the AARP Employer Pledge - affirming the value of experienced workers and a commitment to developing a diverse organization.

Community collaboration sparks innovation and novel ways to resolve community issues. If you are interested in learning more about Juneau’s Commission on Aging, tune in to KTOO Juneau Afternoon for senior news at 3PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month and check out our website: <https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa>. If you are interested in information on the AARP Employer Pledge google AARP Age-Friendly Businesses. AARP welcomes additional partners. Anyone 18 or older can join AARP, however some benefits are restricted to those 50 and older. The Juneau Community Action Team is always looking for partners. And all community members are encouraged to add your voice to the CBJ Comprehensive Plan at [OurFuture@Juneau.gov](mailto:OurFuture@Juneau.gov).

November is Family Caregiver Month. Alaska Caregivers provided millions of hours of unpaid care and it’s projected to increase as our population ages. This month we honor the caregivers of those living with chronic illness, pain or disability and in need of ongoing support. Our caregivers selflessly devote time and energy to their loved ones. Honor a caregiver this month with kindness, thanks or a gift of respite.

Here’s to our continued efforts to maintain good health and well-being as we all age... *because aging is so cool, everyone is doing it!*

*Juneau Commission on Aging is a nine-member, volunteer, CBJ Assembly-appointed organization whose mandate is to advise the CBJ Assembly on actions and policies that improve the quality of life for Juneau’s seniors. Our mission is to provide proactive, coordinated, culturally sensitive and holistic strategies to support Juneau Seniors’ unique needs as we age in the community we love and call home. We collaborate extensively with other organizations, such as the volunteer AARP Community Action Team, an arm of the state and national AARP network.*



## Juneau Commission on Aging Annual Report to the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly December 2025

The Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA) is charged with advising the Assembly on matters related to seniors. Seniors over 55 now comprise **30% of Juneau's population**. Juneau's elders buy goods and services, volunteer extensively, and provide support to family members in our community. Many are retired with good benefits, contribute significantly and have a desire to remain in our community while contributing to its well-being. To focus our efforts effectively, the JCOA identified three priorities to support for 2025 – 1) AARP Age Friendly Juneau Community Planning, 2) Recreation and Wellness, and 3) Age Friendly Housing.

*"We need to challenge outdated stereotypes and attitudes about getting older and spark new solutions that help people live better as they age. Today more people are embracing age as a period of continued growth and finding purpose in their lives."* Former AARP CEO Ann Jenkins

After analyzing the data from the most recent CBJ Senior Survey, JCOA also began to focus on aging as a natural process that effects everyone with more robust community outreach via presentations to local organizations, monthly slots on KTOO Juneau Afternoon, contributing "Senior Moments" editorial regularly and via our website highlights: <https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa>.

**Juneau Commission On Aging  
2020 Senior Survey Findings**

Seniors are healthier and better off than in previous survey years:

- 28.7% of Juneau residents are 55 and older\*\*
- 84% own their own homes and pay taxes
- 80-90% (depending on age) drive their own cars
- 63% volunteer in the community
- 95% over 65 have Medicare
- 66% over 65 have Medicaid
- 40% have Long Term Care Insurance
- 42-46% (depending on education class)
- 72 - 84% (depending on education class) walk, hike, or bike

\*\* AKDOL has updated...

### Priority 1: Sustainable, Age-Friendly Community Planning.

*"Master planning is a valid and necessary first step to creating a unified vision that is then represented in the CBJ's budget. Our city's amenities continue to be grossly undervalued in economic terms, as well as having impact on the city's population, school enrollment, demographics, socioeconomic status, employment, business-friendliness, etc. Juneau has a ton to offer and with investments in recreation and community amenities, could attract the households, workers, and tax base we need".* John S. Juneau Age 35

Age-Friendly Community Planning was developed by the World Health Organization and adopted by the AARP to provide mechanisms to gauge community livability. The CBJ joined the *Age-Friendly Network* in 2023 and was recently recertified to 2028. This planning tool looks at eight (8) domains of "livability" that make a community viable for *all ages*, as well as how to successfully age in place. It uses observable, measurable factors that allow comparability with other communities, as well as determining areas for improvement.

***The JCOA, in collaboration with AARP completed the Juneau AARP Age-Friendly Community plan and recommends consideration of these planning components within the scope of the CBJ Comprehensive Plan. Our plan is a) driven by data b) in alignment with community values, and c) helps Juneau be more "livable" for people of all ages. JCOA members are also participating in various workshops and events in support of the comprehensive planning process to ensure Juneau seniors are well represented. See attached Plan.***

Aging! So cool, everyone is doing it!



## Juneau Commission on Aging Annual Report to the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly December 2025

### Priority 2: Promoting community wellness, safety and healthy aging *for all ages* with a Senior Community Center.

*“I’m 73 years old and I’ve lived in Juneau since 1978. I started playing pickle ball about 5 years ago... and it really helps my physical and mental coordination. Roughly half of the people I play with are seniors but at least half are middle age people and high school students. It’s a great venue for intergenerational activity... more people would play if there were more playing times available regularly”. Mary Alice M, Juneau Age 73*



The JCOA continues to actively promote the concept of a CBJ Senior Community Center using the Marie Drake Complex to provide recreational opportunities, wellness classes, informational courses, as well as collaborating with local Senior Services providers such as Catholic Community Services, BRH and SEARHC. The concept of a multi-generational CBJ Community Center is on the CBJ Comprehensive Planning radar and remains a viable mechanism to support healthy maturing for people of all ages, while targeting our elders. People of all ages are enabled to continue to contribute by striving to be as healthy as possible.

***The JCOA recommends that the CBJ Assembly promote use of the Marie Drake Complex via the Department of Parks and Recreation to the uses outlined above to promote physical, emotional and mental health activities that help all community members attain and maintain good health by dedicating.***

#### Elements of Universal Design

- Low/No Step Entry Thresholds
- One Story Living or straight line stairs
- Wider doorways, halls and bathrooms
- Non slip surfaces
- Good lighting/rocker light switches
- Lever door handles

### Priority 3: Prioritizing *Universal Design* to build age friendly housing for people of all ages.

*I am retired, healthy and want to stay in Juneau but the maintenance of my home and yard will inevitably become daunting. I’m not interested in institutional living but would move to an accessible, affordable, age friendly dwelling that would allow me to age in place”. Lynn C Juneau Age 72*

84% of Seniors own their own homes in Juneau. Many would downsize if more age friendly housing was available - potentially opening up more housing units for working age families. The JCOA also continues to promote the concept of Universal Design that meets the needs of community members of all ages and abilities, while allowing aging at home and in community with minimal assistance. JCOA has participated in multiple housing events to ensure the needs of seniors are considered including AARP and CBJ Housing Forums. The JCOA acknowledges the significant contribution made by the CBJ to make Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU’s) easier to build and the loan programs that assist seniors in adding units to their homes to improve housing availability, as well as providing opportunities for seniors to stay in their homes longer by adding ADU’s for family members or home health care providers.

***The JCOA recommends that the CBJ Assembly consider 1) requiring Universal Design element/Age Friendly components for a percentage of any housing project obtaining funding through the CBJ and 2) prioritizing affordable age friendly housing developments that would attract/retain seniors, as well as give Juneau seniors an option to downsize, further opening up community housing availability.***

***Aging! So cool, everyone is doing it!***



## Juneau Commission on Aging Annual Report to the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly December 2025

**ATTENDANCE:** Each board shall submit to the Assembly a brief annual report setting forth the activities and accomplishments of the committee and the attendance record of each committee member during the preceding twelve months.

The following only reflects attendance at monthly required meetings. The JCOA also holds workgroup meetings on a regular basis.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Deborah Craig, Chair	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Linda Kruger, Secy	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Carol Ende	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A		
Jennifer Garrison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P		
Barb Murray	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		
Diane Kyser	P	A	P	A	A	A	A	A	A	P		
Ann Stepetin	A	P	A	A	A	A	A	P	R			
Laura Revels										New		
Kimberly Atkison	P	P	A	A	P	A	A	R				
Chris Schapp	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	R		
Rhonda Ward												
John Brett												
<b>Assy Liaison (no vote)</b>												
Maureen Hall	P	A	P	A	P	A	A	A	A SEC	P		
Paul Kelly												

Key: P- Present, A – Absent, R – Resign

NOTES: Ms. Stepetin represents CCTHITA and was replaced by Ms. Revels who attended meetings prior to being appointed by the CBJ Assembly (9/22/2025) providing for a smooth transition. Mr. Schapp moved unexpectedly out of state. New Commissioners include Ms. Ward from BRH and Mr. Brett from SEARHC (appointed 11/17/2025).

Ms. Hall was very active in attending both Workgroup and Full JCOA Meetings while also bringing substantial information to our meetings regarding CBJ Assembly activities. Her work with the Commission was very appreciated.