



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING AGENDA

June 17, 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

B. ROLL CALL

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 20, 2025 JCOA Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Standing Agenda Topics

1. Housing
2. Recreation & Wellness
3. Age-Friendly Community Planning - Update on Plan Submission to Mayor's Office

G. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

H. NEXT MEETING DATE

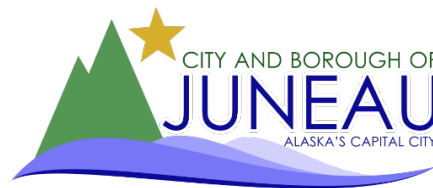
3. June 24 – JCOA Workgroup
July 15 – JCOA Regular Meeting
July 22 – JCOA Workgroup – Recreation & Wellness

I. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

J. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES - **DRAFT**



May 20, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

<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– Chair Craig called the JCOA meeting to order at 3PM via Zoom

Present: Chair Deborah Craig, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garrison, Chris Schapp, Barb Murray, Linda Kruger, Kimberly Adkinson, Anne Stepetin joined toward the end of the meeting.

Absent: Diane Kyser.

Others Present: JCOA Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chair Craig requested Assy Liaison Hall provide update first. No objection.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes approved – no objection

April 15, 2025 JCOA Minutes

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

E. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: Maureen Hall, CBJ update -

Maureen Hall gave the committee an update of recent CBJ activities. The CBJ Assembly meeting Monday night and covered a wide range of issues including; Homelessness (especially related to Teal St. area), lack of housing (including affordable), Mendenhall Glacier (keeping it a public entity), AEL&P electricity delivery future, Juneau School District (budget and staffing issues), HESCO flood barrier project status (phase 1 being complete, with 1a and 1b proceeding).

Questions posed in regard to updates were about Pederson Hill project of land given to T&H for 80 housing units, and if there would be any focus on Senior affordable housing, what the city would get in return for this? Maureen stated she would get back to us on that.

F. Standing JCOA Agenda Topics - CBJ Update/Main Projects/Subcommittee Updates

1. **Housing updates** – Chair Craig and Linda Kruger met with Contractor Richard Harris regarding the Pederson Hill, "tiny houses", housing alternatives that is in the permitting stage. His primary concern is not being able to get permit from CBJ in a timely manner, hopes for some sort of "age-friendly" housing alternatives and thinks an over 55 complex would do well but needs to do the math to determine if it is fiscally viable. Deb, Linda and Rich had a 1.5 hour discussion of the need for age friendly amenities, left an AARP Age Friendly handout and a short list of Contractor items that would be a first step toward age friendly: low or no threshold, wide doorways, larger bathroom space to accommodate wheel chair or walker and straight line stairs to accommodate chair lift. Mr. Harris was very responsive and willing to accommodate if it pencils out fiscally.

2. **Age-Friendly Community Planning** - Age friendly plan due June 17, 2025. Question posed to members if we had enough information in the plan to send to Mayor Weldon for letter of recommendation? Group agreed it looked good, however add another entry for more home health care. Maureen Hall commented on current Federal immigration crackdowns over temporary immigration status hurting the overall numbers of "home-healthcare workers". She urged everyone to contact their congressional delegation and voice objection on this issue.

Linda/Deb/Carol will do final edits of the Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan before sending plan along to Mayor Beth Weldon to request a letter of support. Idea of an "Office of Aging" that the CBJ would benefit from still a topic to explore further and will be included in the plan, as well as comments on Home Healthcare workers. Document then gets forwarded to AARP for their input/approval and then resubmitted to the CBJ to add to the CBJ Comprehensive Planning process that is now underway.

<https://juneau.org/community-development/our-juneau-comp-plan> (info for CBJ Planning)

Commission members unanimously voted to move the Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan forward after edits.

3. Recreation and Wellness -Marie Drake complex still on hold. Low staffing at Parks and Rec. coupled with CBJ concentration on higher priority topics (Flood barriers, budget, under-staffing, Eaglecrest, tourism). Still a focus and won't give up trying for use of that facility. Maureen Hall let us know there is a vacancy on the Parks & Rec. committee, maybe a good spot for one of the pickle-ball community!

G. MEETING DATES - 3pm via Zoom (check top of agenda for correct Zoom link)

May 27 JCOA Workgroup – Recreation & Wellness (cancelled)

June 17 JCOA Regular Meeting

June 24 – JCOA Workgroup TBD

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the commission, meeting adjourned at 3:45.



JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN JUNE 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Juneau joined the Age Friendly Network in late 2023 and we are proud to submit our plan. The plan has been prepared as a joint effort of the Juneau AARP Community Action Team and the Juneau Commission on Aging, who engaged many community partners. This plan will be submitted to the City and Borough of Juneau for consideration during their five-year 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.

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM MAYOR

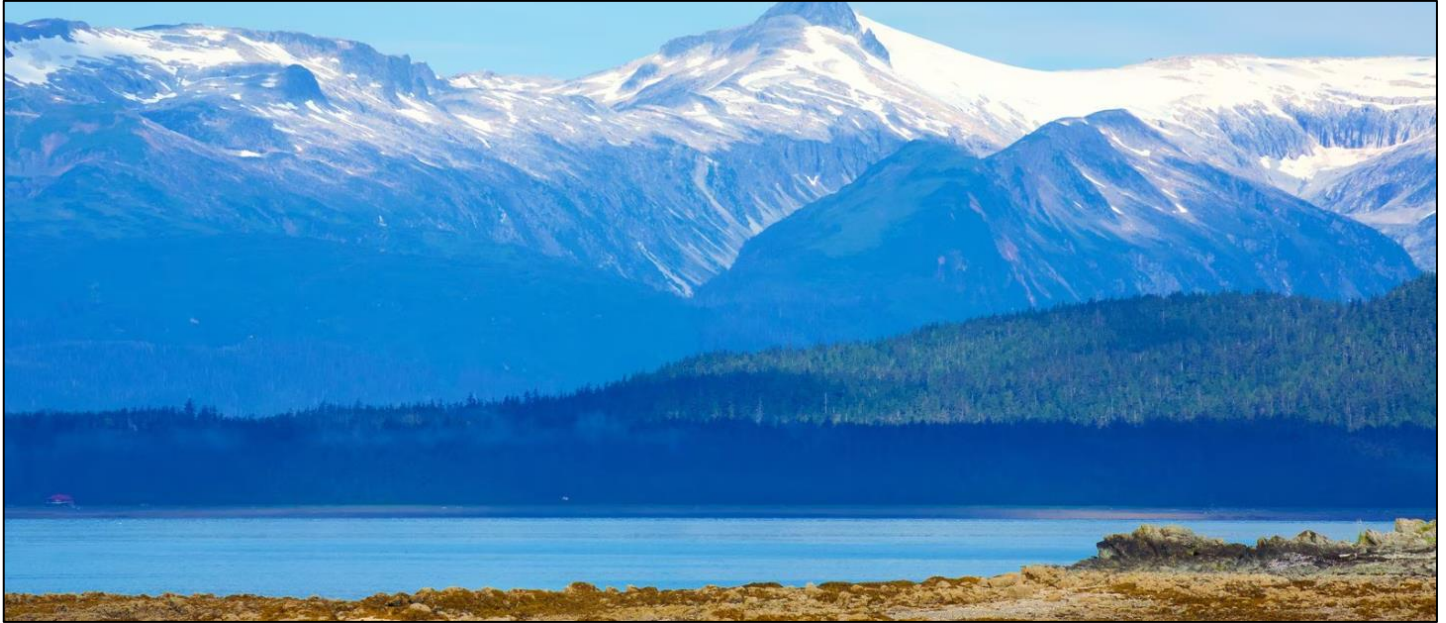
DRAFT

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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'aakú 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 capitol of the 49th 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

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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 contributors both financially and as volunteers.





CITY AND BOROUGH OF
JUNEAU
ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING — JCOA

Empowering Juneau's Seniors

JCOA's mandate is to advise the CBJ Assembly on actions and policies that improve the quality of life for seniors. Our mission is to provide CBJ with proactive, coordinated, culturally sensitive and holistic strategies to support Juneau seniors' unique needs as we age in this community we love and call home.

SENIOR SERVICES IN ALASKA & JUNEAU

JCOA PRIORITIES

JUNEAU SENIOR SURVEY

AGE-FRIENDLY PLANNING

SENIOR PROFILES

COMMISSIONERS

CALENDAR / CONTACT US

VOLUNTEERS

ACTIVITIES

Get out and play! Visit a friend!



Aging! So cool, everyone is doing it!



Working on the Inside Community
JCOA
Senior Resources on Aging
in the Community

The City and Borough of Juneau reinstated the Juneau Assembly appointed Commission on Aging (JCOA) in 2017 to continue the early work of advocating for Seniors within the community and have an established website for disseminating news:

<https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa>

The JCOA also provides monthly updates to the community on the local Public Radio Station during the "Juneau Afternoon" Radio show.

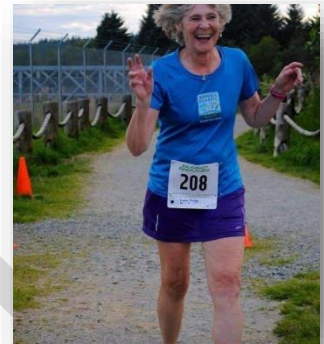
JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES



MISSION STATEMENT: Our mission is to support a community where all people live with dignity and purpose and are able to fulfill their goals and dreams in an inclusive, equitable, age and ability friendly Juneau. (Seniors on Mt. Juneau, Alaska)

VISION: Juneau is a livable vibrant community that is safe and accessible, and supports age and ability friendly actions by empowering residents, fostering collaboration, and implementing innovative strategies that enhance accessibility, social connection, and quality of life for individuals of all ages and abilities.



VALUE STATEMENTS

1. Inclusion: We value our community's diversity and strive to create a welcoming environment where all residents, regardless of age or ability, can thrive.
2. Equity: We are committed to addressing systemic disparities and ensuring that resources, opportunities, and programs are accessible to all, particularly marginalized and underserved groups.
3. Collaboration: We believe in the power of partnerships and work collectively with residents, organizations, and policymakers to

create sustainable solutions.

4. Empowerment: We aim to empower individuals through education, resources, and opportunities, enabling them to lead fulfilling, independent, and connected lives.

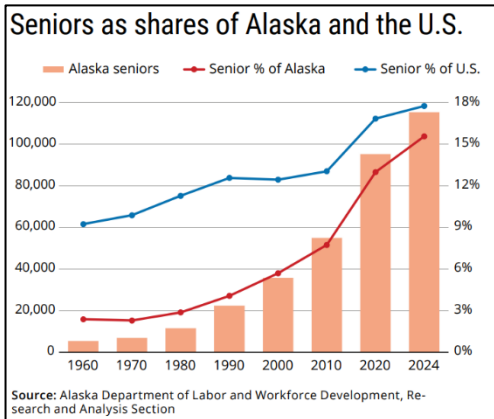
5. Innovation: We embrace creative approaches and adaptive strategies to address the evolving needs of our community.

6. Sustainability: We prioritize long-term impact and resilience, ensuring the success of age & ability-friendly initiatives for generations to come.



JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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. As Alaska has always been a young state, 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, of which Juneau is the largest 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



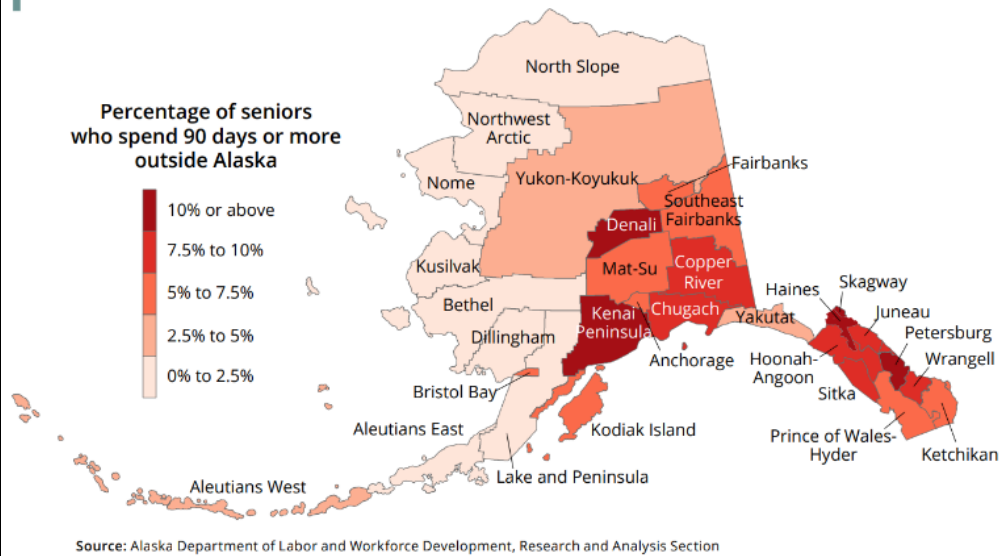
The City and Borough of Juneau facilitates a Senior Survey every decade via the Juneau Commission on Aging. In 2020, the JCOA reached out to a broad swath of the community for the fourth Senior Survey in 40 years and found that seniors are a growing demographic that is doing generally well due to a number of factors.

“It’s a common perception that Alaska retirees move south for warmer weather or the services they can’t get in Alaska. The massive growth in the 65-plus population puts to rest the idea that they all flee after retirement — but given Alaska’s 12-year streak of negative net migration, that raises the

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question: How much has the larger elder population contributed to the overall outflow? People relocate less as they get older and while seniors have always been a low percentage of movers, they have increasingly influenced net migration numbers in recent years.” (AK DOLWD)

Popularity of ‘snowbirding’ by those 65+ varies by Alaska area, 2024



Even though outflow continues to increase, the senior population continues to grow in Alaska, particularly in Southeast but senior outflow has “created an undertow to the state’s migration numbers that didn’t exist before, which has baked in a steady net loss”. SE Seniors continue to bring significant value to the community and

are a resource that the Juneau Commission on Aging has focused on ensuring the community recognizes and works to keep Seniors in community. This will be accomplished by ensuring Age Friendly Community values are recognized and promoted.

AARP PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE LIVABILITY SCORES FOR JUNEAU AREA

Characteristics of Juneau Borough, Alaska

Demographics

Total Population:

32,108

Black/African American: 1%

Asian American: 7%

Hispanic/Latino: 7%

White: 64%

American Indian/Alaska Native: 9%

Hawaiian: 1%

Two or More Races: 15%

Some Other Race: 2%

Age 50+: 35%

Age 65+: 15%

% of the population with a disability: 12%

Life Expectancy: 81 years old

Households Without a Vehicle: 9%

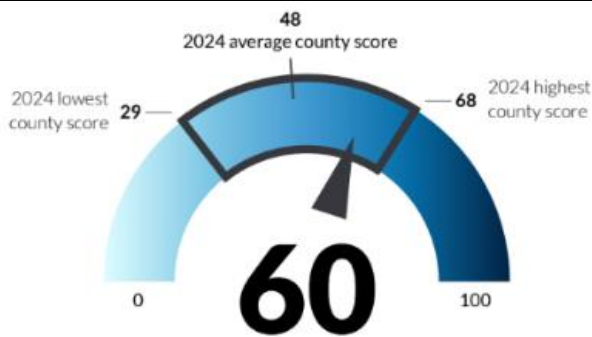
Median Household Income: \$98,191

% of the population with income below poverty: 7%

Upward Mobility : 76

Climate

2023 Temperature	January	July	2023 Avg. Precipitation	January	July
Lowest	21°	43°		19"	4"
Average	26°	50°			
Highest	30°	57°			



Overall Livability Score

The overall livability index score for **Juneau Borough, Alaska** is **60**.

This is in the **top half** of communities in the U.S.

Environment Clean Air and Water



Indicators: Metrics	2015 Value	Change	2024 Value & Measure	Tertile	2024 Median US County
Drinking water quality	0.00% of people are exposed to violations	↓	0.78% of people are exposed to violations	□□□	0.00%
Regional air quality	0.7 unhealthy air quality days per year	↑	0.3 unhealthy air quality days per year	□□■	3.9
Near-roadway pollution			0.28% of people are exposed	□□■	0.00%
Local industrial pollution			0.07 RSEI Score from 0 to 12,498	□□■	0.01

Key: ↑ Getting Better = No Change ↓ Getting Worse * Imputed Data

Performance: ■ Top Third of Communities □ Middle Third □□ Bottom Third

Engagement Civic and Social Involvement

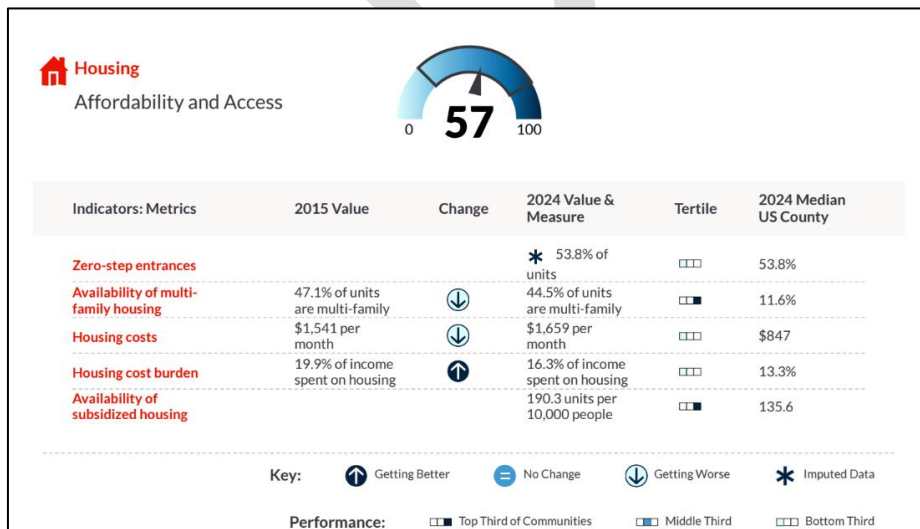
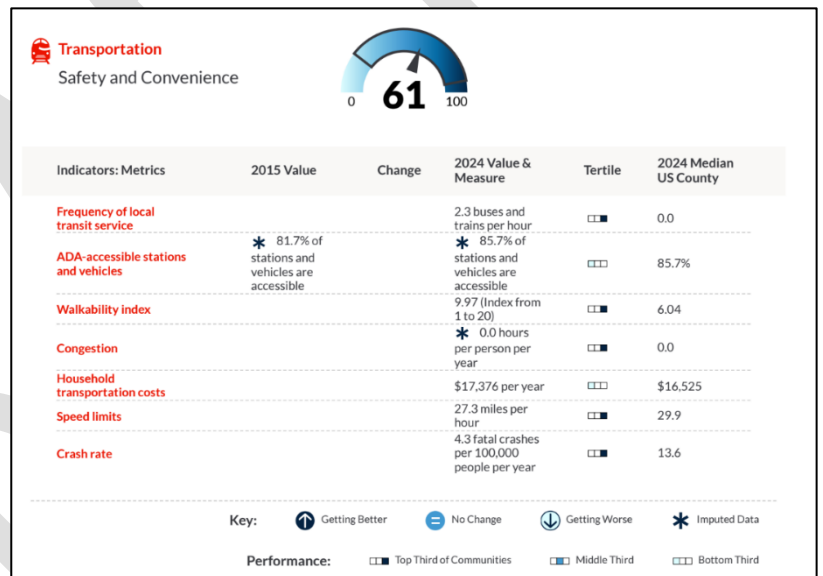
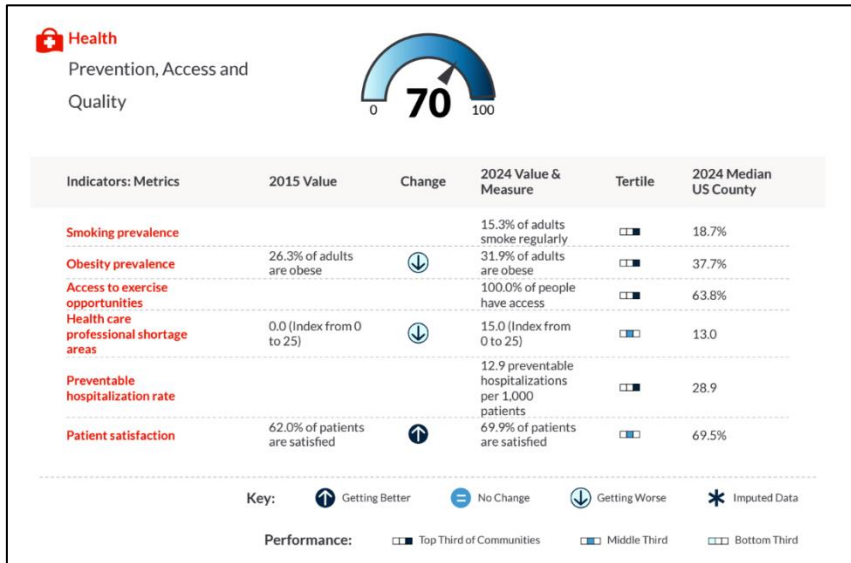


Indicators: Metrics	2015 Value	Change	2024 Value & Measure	Tertile	2024 Median US County
Broadband cost and speed			35.9% of residents have high-speed, competitively-priced service	□□■	51.3%
Opportunity for civic involvement			65.2 organizations per 10,000 people	□□■	38.1
Voting rate			42.3% of people voted	□□□	63.7%
Social involvement index			1.04 (index from 0 to 2.5)	□□■	1.02
Cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions			29.3 institutions per 10,000 people	□□■	4.5

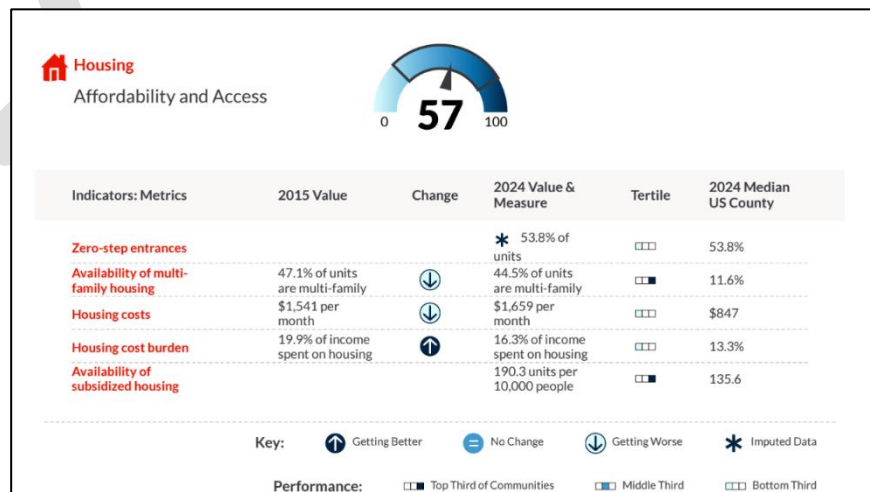
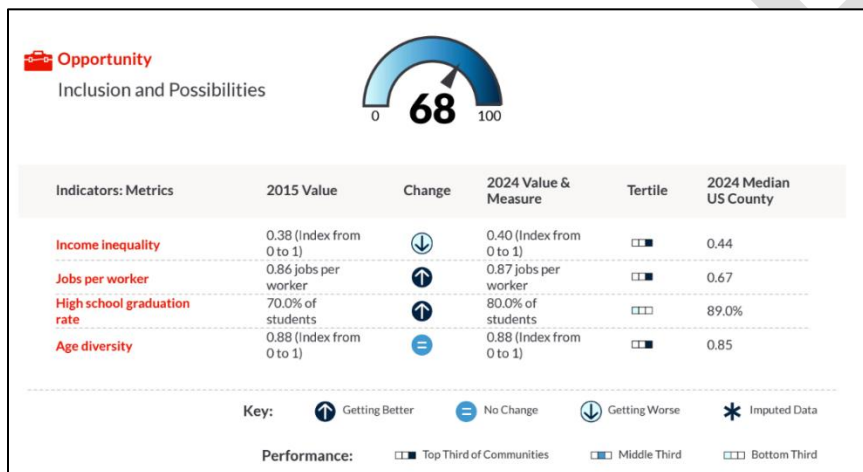
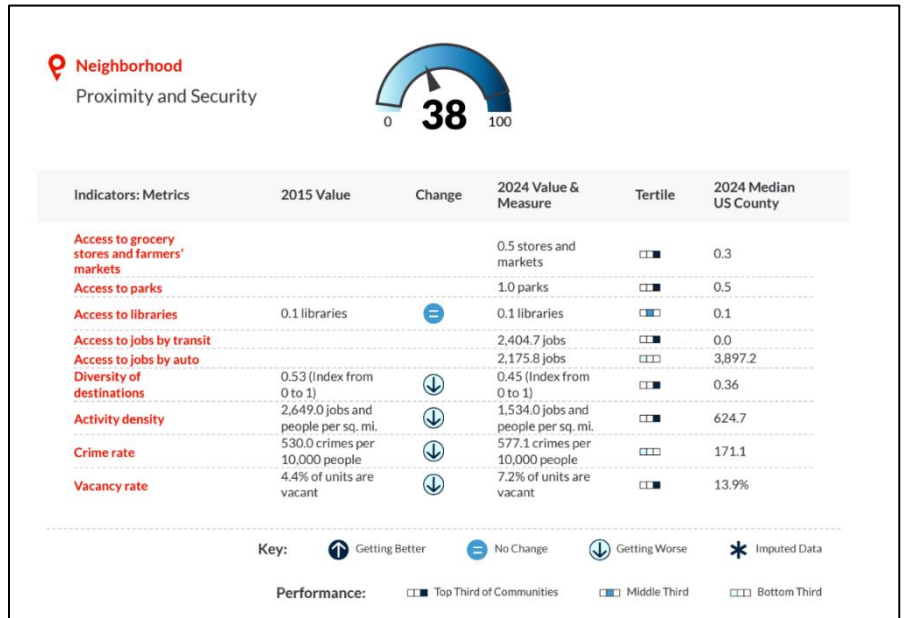
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JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



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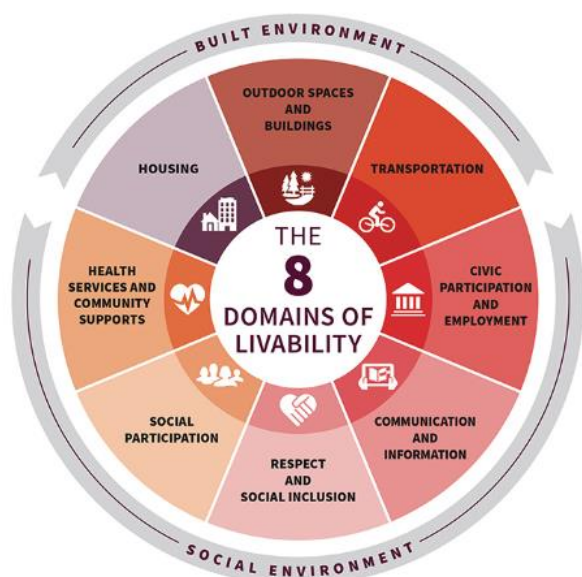


JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

Survey and Listening Sessions 2023 and 2025

In celebration of National Older Americans Month in **May 2023**, the Juneau AARP Community Action Team (CAT) and the Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA) co-sponsored three listening sessions to gather information for Age-Friendly Juneau planning. In early 2023 Juneau became the second Age-Friendly community in Alaska. The co-chairs of Age-Friendly Juneau at the time, Dr. Emily Kane (Chair of the Juneau Commission on Aging) and Linda Kruger (Lead for the AARP Juneau CAT), announced the kick-off of Age-Friendly Juneau and the listening sessions on KTOO Radio's Juneau Afternoon program. The listening sessions were held on consecutive Tuesdays at the three local libraries.



Eight flip charts, representing each of the Age-Friendly domains, were posted around the room. A ninth flip chart welcomed comments that didn't fit any of the eight categories or applied to more than one. Participants wrote comments and suggestions on post-it notes and posted them on the appropriate flip chart pages. Several participants completed a long questionnaire providing detailed suggestions for improving Juneau for seniors.

In addition to JCOA and CAT members (who had lots of ideas!) around twenty-five members of the public participated in the sessions. Several people who could not attend in person submitted comments by email or completed online surveys.

After a short introduction about the AARP Age-Friendly Network, the AARP-CAT and Juneau COA, there were lively discussions of what could help Juneau become more Age-Friendly. Comments and suggestions from the listening sessions, completed questionnaires (hard copies and online), and other comments that were received provided the background for this five-year plan for moving Age-Friendly Juneau forward. Suggestions included: a dedicated senior center for presentations, information (with a navigator), social events and games, and senior exercise classes; transportation to senior events and congregate meals and provision of transportation services out past the ferry terminal; an affordable, pedestrian friendly, small-scale co-housing village for seniors; CBJ support for home modifications to help seniors stay in their homes; more in-person social activities and programs for seniors; an Age-Friendly Community Day; increased Hospice and Homecare services; and additional affordable and accessible senior apartments.

To be more inclusive the Age-Friendly Juneau co-chairs reached out to groups in the community who may not have participated in the listening sessions. Several individuals completed an online or paper questionnaire. The most responses received related to the Age-Friendly Domains of Social Participation, Communication and Information, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Civic Participation and Employment, and Health Services and Community Supports. Housing and Transportation were

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

close behind leading us to include each of these domains in our workplan. We decided it is also important to include Respect and Social Inclusion since these are key foundations of whatever is implemented. We also recommend working with other community groups to address Community Emergency Preparedness.

Additionally, AARP held additional listening sessions in **February of 2025** using a similar model of data gathering. The following represents the input first from the 2023 Listening Sessions, then input updated from the 2025 Listening Sessions.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Concept: Availability of safe, public, recreational facilities.

2023: Community members 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; community gardens – Mendenhall Valley Library; group walks and socials; indoor and outdoor walking opportunities (recovery from surgeries, fitness, socializing); complete the Vintage Park Trail to connect to the Brotherhood Bridge Trail; publish a directory of places people with limited mobility can connect with nature/accessible trails; more trails for seniors and mobility impaired people, and more benches on trails; improve rain canopies (2nd and Seward, St., by the courthouse on Seward St.), add lights on walking trails near Thunder Mountain Middle School, Vintage Park – Brotherhood Bridge Trail; add indoor senior walking hours at area schools, walking track downstairs around the turf at Dimond Park – a new elevator will eliminate this need in the future.

2025: Community members expressed interest in the Dimond Park Fieldhouse and use of the Marie Drake Gym, safe and accessible public spaces, especially more covered areas (corner of 2nd and Seward, next to the Court House, etc., more indoor meeting spaces - (community center), more community gardens (near the Valley Library), more indoor and outdoor walking opportunities for all abilities and completion of the Brotherhood Bridge Trail Loop.

Transportation

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

2023 Community members expressed a desire for improved cross walk safety - need more flashing cross walk lights (like at the Egan Drive-- Glacier Ave access to Juneau Seawalk); bus stop needed near Global CU and Petro One Station; more weatherproof bus shelters; transportation for events such as the Juneau Symphony, Perseverance Theatre, etc.; improve Capital Access (Care-A-Van) and bus service for seniors, including past DeHarts and Lena Loop; easier access to obtain a senior pass; Senior Day with bus service to pools, libraries, grocery stores, Bartlett, etc.; Improve sidewalks and crossings, especially around Riverview Senior Living, Trillium Landing and Vintage Park; help with snow removal on sidewalks and driveways.

2025 Community members expressed interest in: safe and accessible public spaces, especially more covered areas, many crosswalks need flashing lights (like the Egan to Sea walk crossing) - at Four Points Hotel, Cordova and Douglas Highway and others, bus stop is needed near the Global Credit Union and Petro Gas Station across from Fred Meyers and transportation to events similar to a Senior Uber/Lyft Service, especially for community events like concerts and plays

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Housing

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

2023: Community members expressed a desire for: Affordable, first floor senior units; update code to include universal design features; tiny homes, cottages, or apartments for homeless; small scale affordable co-housing, apartments, and cottages for seniors; (Riverview is “too expensive for many” and Fireweed Place and Trillium Landing are “too industrial.”), lower property taxes, grandfather in lower tax rates, or have a ceiling for seniors; home modifications are needed- SAIL has done home evaluations for senior safety features; home modification stipends are desired.

2025 Community members emphasized the continuing need for affordable, accessible senior housing.

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.

2023: Community members expressed a desire for: Community Senior Activity Center; Geocaching, movies for grown-ups, share your love and talents campaign, senior activity center with movie nights, music nights, game nights, daytime events for seniors who don’t drive at night, card game clubs, senior lunches, transportation to events and book clubs; partner with senior living facilities for events, art classes, music events; JACC hosted senior events; senior movies at Goldtown Theater; tiny homes or cottages would promote social engagement; AARP driver’s safety and other classes; and scheduled activities at public libraries; arts and craft classes, AARP events, community gatherings and celebrations, counseling services.

2025 Community members expressed interest in: an Office of Aging, a Community Senior Activity Center with art classes, exercise, movie nights, card and game nights, music nights and events during the day for seniors who don’t drive at night, free senior lunch programs, book clubs, group walks, multicultural events and celebrations, geocaching for seniors, movies for grownups, share your love and talents campaign, publish (print and online) a directory of places people with mobility challenges can experience nature

Respect & 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 senior programs, activities, priorities across CBJ departments and an updated webpage with schedules and news for seniors; Community Senior Activity Center open to all (multigenerational) with regular schedule of activities; flowers for homebound residents, like meals on wheels; safe and accessible public spaces for walking and gathering; multi-cultural events and celebrations (Festival of Holi in March, Sons of Norway, Filipino holidays, etc.); Social events; Age-Friendly Days; work across community groups; support prison-release programs to support re-entry, voting, healthy life-practices, housing.

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Communication and Information

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

Community members expressed a desire for: Juneau Seniors Facebook Page; semi-annual senior expo; online senior events calendar, also posted around town; fliers for concerts and other events posted at senior living facilities; share information on seniors' contributions to the community; Age-Friendly Juneau webpage; write articles for Senior Voice and AARP publications. Emergency Directory.

2025 Community members expressed interest in: Facebook posts for seniors, semi-annual expo highlighting senior oriented information, monthly fliers for concerts, plays, other events (online calendar)

Community and Health Services

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

2023 Community members expressed a desire for: Community Senior Activity Center; group workshops and information sessions; geriatric care (encourage Bartlett to recruit a gerontologist, rheumatologist, cardiologist, gastroenterologist, and neurologist), Meals-on Wheels and congregate meals at Senior activity centers, encourage CAN and nursing programs at UAS, Friends of Seniors - help with small projects like changing smoke alarm batteries, etc., support Bartlett Home Health and Hospice, develop a directory of Medicare/Medicaid providers, promote wellness talks and activities (libraries, Bartlett, and senior housing).

2025 Community members expressed interest in: group informational sessions and workshops on health-related topics; flowers for the homebound (like Meals on Wheels).

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.

2023 Community members expressed a desire for: Community Senior Activity Center, financial assistance (car maintenance, banking, bill paying, household chores, senior-helper/Friends of Seniors Program), share information on the Dept. of Labor "Return to Work Programs", directory of volunteer opportunities.

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AGE FRIENDLY PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

Linda Kruger,
Juneau Community Action Team Leader
Jane Lindsey
AARP Community Action Team
Deborah Craig,
Chair Juneau Commission on Aging
Barbara Murray,
Juneau Commission on Aging

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PARTNERS

1. **City and Borough of Juneau**
 - a. **Assembly**
 - b. **City Manager's Office**
 - c. **Bartlett Regional Hospital**
 - d. **Parks and Recreation**
2. **Catholic Community Services - Senior Services Southeast**
3. **SE Regional Health Consortium**
4. **University of Alaska Southeast**
5. **Local Community Organizations (KTOO, Rotary, etc)**

DATA SOURCES

Age-Friendly Juneau Data Sources (4/10/25)

2019-2021 Community Needs Assessment Six Month Update, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Juneau Assembly Goals 2025 (Approved 2/3/2025)

Alaska's Community Capacity Review: 2019 Statewide Public Health System Assessment, Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Juneau Surveys and Listening Sessions

2020 Juneau Senior Needs Survey (include link in Age-Friendly Plan)

2023 Listening Sessions: 5/9 Downtown Library; 5/16 Valley Library; 5/23 Douglas Library

Participants and other residents also were encouraged to submit written comments.

2/25/25 Juneau AARP Reception Listening Session

Other References

Making our Roads Safer, US Department of Transportation, October 2012

AGE AND ABILITY FRIENDLY PRIORITY AREA ACTION ITEMS

The attached matrices provide input on all of the Eight Domains of Livability but we are focused on Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Respect and Social Inclusion as our first priorities.

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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Housing Action Plan Matrix

Vision for this Domain: Assure adequate and affordable housing for all CBJ residents

Objectives/Actions	By Whom	By When	Resources and Support		Potential barriers or resistance	Outputs	Outcomes - Short- and Medium-Term	Impact - Long-Term
			Available	Needed				
Information packet to CBJ planning staff: AARP Home Fit Guide JCOA-Building Age Friendly Housing in Juneau	Chair Craig Linda Kruger JCOA and AARP CAT	July 2026	Resources developed CBJ Planning Dept Local Builders	Packets made for distribution	Resistance to current practices	Regulation changes	Awareness: Community Assy Planning Comm Realtors Developers Support development of the CBJ Comp Plan	Improved building design and regulations in support of universal age friendly housing
AARP Homefit Guide to Public	Linda Kruger AARP CAT	July 2026 ongoing	Contact AARP	Need to order additional materials	None	Community Awareness	Community awareness Information for development of CBJ Comprehensive Plan	Support for universal design and age friendly home environs.
Develop team of Lifelong Housing Certificate Reviewers Using Home Fit Guide	CBJ JCOA Experienced community members to be trained as reviewers CBJ Office of Aging	April 2026	Affordable Housing Fund Tax abatement Other loan and grant programs	Experienced Community members to be trained Oversite of the project	Think differently about home design Resources CBJ support	Low, no cost & cost effective measures to ensure most homes are accessible for all ages and mobility needs	Certificate holders assess homes to ensure they are free of common barriers to mobility for everyone from toddlers to seniors.	Juneau will develop a Lifelong Housing Certificate training program.
Explore code/regulations that could encourage universal, age friendly housing	AARP Grant funded MACE Inc Assembly Planning Commission	June 2026	Explore current regulations to identify those that can be enhanced to be	Collaboration to review and modify regulations	Potential cost Resistance to change	Housing is safe and convenient for everyone of all ages.	Collaborative meetings between community, builders, designers and CBJ	Explore regulations to encourage universal, age friendly housing.

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

	Realtors Designers Builders Community		more age friendly.				on regulation changes.	
Coordinate current 911 support system to support seniors living at home Check Alert One availability	CCS Fire Department Police	April 2026	911 system currently in place	Develop protocol and support for individuals who have mobility issues in their home, frequent users of 911.	Cost coordination	With CCS the team identifies individuals who call 911 due to in home fall.	Identify individuals in need of home modifications to keep them safe from falls.	People of all ages can live in their homes safe from falls.
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Who is responsible for maintaining and updating information: Office of Aging Coordinator in concert with AARP and JCOA

Frequency of Meetings: Standing JCOA Monthly Committee Meeting

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Buildings and Outdoor Spaces Action Plan Matrix

Vision for this Domain: Create availability for those over 50 to engage socially, physically and to obtain information.

Objectives/Actions	By Whom	By When	Resources and Support		Potential barriers or resistance	Outputs	Outcomes - Impact	
			Available	Needed			Short- and Medium-Term	Long-Term
Promote development of a Senior Community Center (proposed use of Marie Drake Gym/complex)	CBJ, JCOA, AARP and interested community orgs	FY 2025 - ongoing	CBJ Marie Drake Complex via Parks and Recs	Support to use space – Juneau Empire, KTOO	Support and funding	A Senior Center open for use year round.	Determine availability of space for 2026	Open and usable space
Ensure outreach regarding Outdoor and Indoor Space Availability	JCOA, AARP, CBJ P&R	FY25 Ongoing	CBJ P&R Web and JCOA Web senior specific activities	More resources JCOA Website	Funding	Websites	More opportunity for Senior use of available resources	More Senior use of available resources
Support Thunder Mt Bike Park	CBJ	Trial Mix	Trail Mix	Community support	None	Under Thunder Bike trail	Bike Trail	Bike Trail
Support Pickleball Court at Jackie Renninger Park	JCOA, AARP, CBJ P&R	FY25 Ongoing	CBJ P&R, Pickleball Community	Outreach and community understanding of need	Funding	Pickleball Opptys	More oppty for Senior use of available resources	More Senior use of available resources
Disc Golf capacity at Sandy Beach	JCOA, AARP, CBJ P&R	FY25 Ongoing	CBJ P&R, Disc Golf Community	Outreach and community understanding of need	Funding	Disc Golf Oppotys	More oppty for Senior use of available resources	More Senior use of available resources
Indoor Walking Track Availability	National Guard/ UAS Rec Center, Senior Comm Ctr	FY25 Ongoing	Natl Guard and UAS	Natl Guard and UAS	Public Awareness	Addl indoor/ fitness rec oppty	More oppty for Senior use of available resources	More Senior use of available resources

Who is responsible for maintaining and updating information: Office of Aging, AARP and JCOA

Frequency of Meetings: Monthly JCOA Meetings Ongoing Agenda Item

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Social Participation and Inclusion Action Plan Matrix

Vision for this Domain: Improve Opportunities for and Actual Community Engagement

Objectives/Actions	By Whom	By When	Resources and Support		Potential barriers or resistance	Outputs	Outcomes - Impact	
			Available	Needed			Short & Medium-Term	Long-Term
Increase opportunities for senior engagement & awareness of opportunities	CBJ Office of Aging, JCOA & AARP Juneau	2027	Jnu Public Libraries, Juneau Parks & Recreation, UAS, Community Schools, Cooperative Extension,	Community Support Creative ideas	Creativity, facilities	Age-Friendly activities	Increased information about senior activities & new offerings	Increased participation in senior activities
Host more senior events - music events, art classes, senior movies, book clubs, walks, arts & crafts classes	CBJ Parks & Recreation, UAS, Community Schools, Cooperative Extension, Juneau Public Libraries, Bartlett Hospital,	2025-ongoing	Existing programs, New Programs, Community Members, AARP, UAS/UAF	Community Support & engagement	Competition for time, facilities	Reduction in mortality related to social determinants of health; reduction in isolation	Focused efforts to improve social determinants of health & provide more opportunities for seniors	Reduction in preventable/avoidable mortality & isolation
Coordinate efforts to establish a Community Senior Activity Center <i>See Outdoor Space & Buildings</i>	CBJ Office of Aging, JCOA, AARP Juneau, CBJ, others	2025-ongoing	Enthusiastic support	A physical space & funding	Funding, lack of available space	A location to have movie nights, daytime events, social lunches, music events, classes, physical activities like yoga & tai chi,	Increased social engagement, more active seniors	Improved mental & physical health
Reach out to Tlingit & Haida, the Filipino Community & others	CBJ Office of Aging, JCOA, AARP Juneau Riverview	2025-ongoing	Interest	Interest	Lack of interest, already overcommitted	More inclusive events	More diverse offerings & participants	Greater variety of programming

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

		Senior Living, Juneau Pioneer Home, others							
Partner with senior living facilities & agencies for events & classes			2025-ongoing	Interest in working together with all providers in Juneau	Time & attention, ideas	Funding, ideas for collaboration	More offerings reaching more people in varied locations	Increased engagement	Increased services & participation
Establish a Senior Legacy Project		UAS, AARP, JCOA, others	2025-ongoing	Framework & interest	Time, coordination & interest	Fear of the unknown or of working with others	Increased understanding across generations	Increased socializing	Improved mental health, reduced isolation
Increase courses for Seniors at UAS, Coop Extension and Comm Schools		Office of Aging, JCOA, AARP Juneau, UAS, Coop Ext	2025-ongoing	Interest and support for programs	Funding	Funding	Oppty for engagement, social activity and learning	Mental Health Brain health, social cohesion	Improved mental health, reduced isolation

Who is responsible for maintaining and updating information: Office of Aging, AARP and JCOA

Frequency of Meetings: Monthly JCOA Meetings Standing Agenda Item

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Transportation Action Plan Matrix

Vision for this Domain: Promote safe and affordable transportation

Objectives/Actions	By Whom	By When	Resources and Support		Potential barriers or resistance	Outputs	Outcomes - Impact	
			Available	Needed			Short- and Medium-Term	Long-Term
Encourage public transportation use	City and Borough of Juneau	ongoing	AARP, federal and state funding	Publicity of available options	Reluctance or lack of knowledge	Increased use of services	More seniors ride buses AKcess	Better services and increased ridership
Additional bus stops and improved facilities	City and Borough	ongoing	Federal, state and local funding	Community engagement	Lack of understanding of what is needed	Improved service	Weatherproof bus stop shelters	Routes convenient to services for seniors
Vintage Park Trail Improvements	Southeast Alaska Land Trust, Trail Mix, local businesses and residents	2026	Community support, willing partners	Funding for purchase of land and trail renovation and development	Funding, permitting, river course changing	2 miles of improved trail	Transfer of land to SEALT and work with Trail Mix to improve the trail	Loop trail is used by all-ages to access local facilities and for recreation
Improve sidewalks, crossings, parking, etc at Vintage Park	Alaska Dept of Trans and CBJ	2025-26	Funding is available, planning is underway	Community Support	River flooding, changing course	Improved traffic flow, parking, pedestrian crossings and sidewalks	Increased, safe pedestrian use of area	Increased pedestrian use of the area and safety for all users
Improved crossings throughout the City and Borough	CBJ and DOT-PF	ongoing	DOT and CBJ have highway/road funds for improvements	Community support to help identify needs	Continued funding	Safe streets	Safe pedestrian and car access	Safe pedestrian and car access

Who is responsible for maintaining and updating information: Office of Aging, AARP and JCOA

Frequency of Meetings: Monthly JCOA Meeting Standing Agenda Item

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Health Services and Community Supports Action Plan Matrix

Vision for this Domain: Improve Community Health Opportunities for those over 50

Objectives/Actions	By Whom	By When	Resources and Support		Potential barriers or resistance	Outputs	Outcomes - Impact	
			Available	Needed			Short- and Medium-Term	Long-Term
Establish CBJ Office of Aging with a Coordinator to represent and serve Seniors in Juneau	JCOA and AARP	FY27	CBJ, JCF	Community Support	Funding for office and Coordinator	Oversee advocacy for Seniors and Activities of the Office of Aging	Improved Senior Services and activities	Click here to enter text. Improved Senior Services and activities
Work toward Age-Friendly status for Bartlett Hospital	Rhonda Ward	2027	Bartlett Board and Staff	Community Support	Time to process	Age-Friendly recognition and implementation of processes	Improved senior services and care	Improved Senior Services and care
Reduce preventable/avoidable mortality Measured via State Statistics	CBJ Office of Aging, BRH, SEARHC, ACOA, Local Medical Providers	2028	Bartlett Staff and Community Members	Community Support and engagement	Competition for time	Reduction in mortality related to social determinants of health and lack of community preparedness	Focused efforts: improve awareness of and actions toward improving social determinants of health and community preparedness	Reduction in preventable/avoidable mortality
Provide resources and classes through partnerships	Bartlett Hospital Staff, UAS, AARP, CCS, SEARHC, ACOA, others	2025-ongoing	Bartlett Hospital Staff, AARP Volunteers,	Community support and participation	Lack of imagination for what could be	Educational programs	Improved knowledge and individual and community action	Improved community health and well-being
Encourage recreational, social programs - indoor	CBJ Office of Aging, JCOA, Bartlett	2025-ongoing	Staff at Bartlett Hospital, Juneau Parks & Rec,	Community engagement	Shortage of creative ideas, lack of adequate	Increased cultural and recreational	Increased participation by older adults	Improved health and longevity

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

and outdoor opportunities		Hospital, Juneau Parks and Recreation, AARP, UAS, CCS, SAIL, SEAHRC and others		AARP, UAS, Juneau Public Libraries, others	and dedicated funding	facilities and community engagement	opportunities and programs		
Identify community health risks		CBJ Office of Aging, Bartlett Hospital, JCOA, UAS, AARP, CBJ, CCS, SAIL	2025-ongoing	Bartlett Hospital, AARP, Alaska Public Health, Community Groups	Community Engagement	Lack of understanding, knowledge and commitment	Listing of health risks	Efforts to address risks	Reduced Risk
Fall prevention/ Better Bones and Balance Classes		UAF, community instructors, SEARHC	2025-ongoing	BRH, SEARHC, UAF Cooperative Extension, Juneau Parks and Recreation, community instructors	Community Engagement	Lack of knowledge, interest and funding	Community classes	Reduced injuries from falls	Reduced injuries from falls
Advocate for Home Health Care Workforce enhancements (See previous efforts re SREC)		CBJ Office of Aging, JCOA, Bartlett Hospital, UAS, AARP, AKDOLWD, CCS, SAIL	2025 - ongoing	Systems to support in place	Funding for Recruitment, training and placement of Home Health Providers and Wage Supp	\$2.5Million grant in place (SREC) but not being used for this purpose	“Boots on the ground” – Home health Care providers to ensure elders stay at home as long as possible	Seniors are able to stay at home as long as possible – more cost effective than institution and more desired by elders	Seniors are able to stay at home as long as possible – more cost effective than institution and more desired by elders

Who is responsible for maintaining and updating information: Office of Aging in concert with AARP and JCOA

Frequency of Meetings: Monthly Meetings

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Communication and Information Action Plan Matrix

Vision for this Domain: Improve Communication and Information for and about those over 50

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” -Maya Angelou

Objectives/Actions	By Whom	By When	Resources and Support		Potential barriers or resistance	Outputs	Outcomes - Impact	
			Available	Needed			Short- and Medium-Term	Long-Term
Improve communication of senior events and services	CBJ Office of Aging, JCOA and AARP Juneau	2025-ongoing	Juneau Empire, JCOA Web, KTOO, and other radio stations, postering	Community Support and funding for the Office of Aging	Time to administer efforts	Distribution of information on a regular basis, senior WEBPAGE	Improved access to senior information	Improve access to info important to Seniors resulting in increased engagement
Expand partnerships with organizations and businesses serving seniors	CBJ Office of Aging, JCOA, AARP Juneau	2025-ongoing	Existing groups	Collaboration plans, outreach to define possibilities	Competition for time, lack of understanding of benefits	Focused efforts to improve awareness of information important to seniors	Improved access to senior information and understanding of senior needs	Improved Info/outreach of important info for Seniors & understanding of senior needs
Expand understanding of what seniors add to the community	CBJ Office of Aging, JCOA and AARP Juneau	2025-ongoing	JCOA & AARP and other resources	Attention to getting materials out into the community	Competition for funding and time to collect and organize info	Materials to describe benefits seniors contribute	Increased understanding of the benefits seniors bring to the community	Increased appreciation of benefits seniors bring to the community
Provide classes for seniors	UAS, BRH Juneau Parks and Rec, Juneau Public Libraries, others	2025-ongoing	AARP classes, Senior Planet, UAS curriculum, Cooperative Extension	Understanding of what information is needed/helpful and funding for programs	Time, commitment and funding	Increased understanding, actionable information	Better educated seniors, improved brain health and empowered seniors	Better educated seniors, improved brain health and empowered seniors

Who is responsible for maintaining and updating information:

Who is responsible for maintaining and updating information: Office of Aging in concert with AARP and JCOA

Frequency of Meetings: Monthly Meetings



Office of the Mayor
155 Heritage Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801
PHONE: (907) 586-5240
FAX: (907) 586-5385
Beth.Weldon@juneau.gov

Ms. Teresa Holt
AARP Alaska State Director
3601 C Street Suite 1420
Anchorage, Alaska, 99503

June 10, 2025

Dear Ms. Holt,

As Mayor of the City and Borough of Juneau, I am writing to support the Juneau Commission on Aging and AARP Community Action Team's efforts to implement an Age Friendly Community Plan. The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) is currently engaged in a community wide Comprehensive Plan, and we welcome these additional efforts to complement and ensure we develop a Comprehensive Plan that is inclusive to all, including our fastest growing age cohort in Alaska: seniors.

Every ten years, the CBJ, in partnership with the Juneau Commission on Aging, completes a Senior Survey to help us better understand our Seniors' status and needs. Our latest Survey, in 2020, affirmed that Seniors are robust, contributing partners in our community but there are several areas in which we could help make our community more Age Friendly. The AARP CAT Team also reached out to the Senior community on multiple occasions to further assess our ongoing needs. These multiple efforts resulted in the attached Plan.

In our effort to be a more livable community, we support efforts to ensure Juneau remains a great place to live for people of all ages. We strive to ensure safe, walkable streets, affordable housing, safe transportation options, access to needed services and opportunities so that residents of all ages can participate in an active, welcoming, supportive and enriching community.

Thank you for the opportunity to join the Age Friendly Network and promote these efforts through the Age Friendly Juneau Community Plan.

Sincerely,

Beth Weldon
Mayor



Municipality of Anchorage
Mayor Dave Bronson

Office of the Mayor

June 6, 2024

Ms. Teresa Holt
AARP Alaska State Director
3601 C Street, Suite 1420
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Subject: The MOA's commitment to work toward an Age-Friendly Anchorage

Dear Ms. Holt,

As Mayor of Anchorage, I am writing to affirm the Municipality's work to become an age-friendly community. This letter serves as a dedication to the framework outlined in the AARP Alaska's Age-Friendly leadership team's Action Plan submission as we strive to enhance the quality of life for our community members across all stages of life.

Alaska's senior population is the fastest growing per capita in the country. After becoming the 678th member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities work began to collect data through in-person listening sessions, questionnaires and outreach to the Municipality, organizations, established groups for input on the 8 domains of livability. The result of that input formalized the Anchorage Action Plan which addresses the distinct needs of older and younger community members.

As the Municipality of Anchorage strives to better serve residents of all ages, our Action Plan focuses on immediate projects to achieve a more livable community in the areas of outdoor and public spaces, transportation, housing and health services.

On behalf of the Anchorage community, I affirm AARP's work to transform our city to an age-friendly community.

Thank you,

Dave Bronson, Mayor



City of La Puente

15900 E. Main Street La Puente, CA 91744-4719 Telephone (626) 855-1500 Fax (626) 961-4626 www.lapuente.org

March 19, 2025

Ms. Nancy McPherson
AARP California State Director
1415 L St Suite 960
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. McPherson,

We are honored to submit the City of La Puente Age and Ability-Friendly Action Plan as a committed member of the AARP Age-Friendly Network. The City of La Puente is dedicated to growing our resources to improve the quality of life for people of all ages and abilities.

This action plan was a robust cross-sector collaboration that engaged elected officials, City Departments, community partner organizations, local businesses, and, most importantly, community members who call La Puente home.

The City of La Puente was awarded a Local Aging and Disability Action Plan Grant from the State of California Department of Aging to support this plan, more effectively engage our community, and create a community-led needs assessment and resident-driven goals and strategies. We are excited to use this plan and position ourselves as a local age and ability-friendly partner to the Los Angeles County Purpose Aging Los Angeles initiative, the State of California Department of Aging Master Plan for Aging, and the AARP Age-Friendly Network.

We are eager to begin the work this plan lays out. We are committed to engaging community leaders and community members of all ages and abilities to fulfill the calls to action of this plan, always seeking ways to adapt and grow this plan to better serve our community.

La Puente City Council is drafting a resolution that commits this council and the City of La Puente to officially recognize this Age and Ability-Friendly Action Plan and support its growth and for future generations of the La Puente Community.

We are excited to be a part of this initiative that will help make our city a place where people of all ages and abilities can live and thrive.

Sincerely,

Valerie Muñoz
Mayor
City of La Puente



City Hall Room 308A, 30 Church Street Rochester, New York 14614-1290 www.cityofrochester.gov

January 11, 2022

Beth Finkel, Director
New York AARP
780 Third Avenue, 31st Floor New York, NY 10017-2003

Dear Ms. Finkel:

Our elders are the backbone of our community and I am committed to their well-being. On behalf of the City of Rochester, I fully support the Age-Friendly Action Plan recommendations noted in the *Creating a Community for a Lifetime* report. Notably, this report concurs with recommendations in the City's 2034 Comprehensive Plan regarding age-friendly issues like housing, transportation, street design, and use of recreation centers.

Our 2034 Plan recommendations which are relevant to this report include:

- Encouraging emerging and as-of-yet untapped housing types, including tiny houses (permanent, not mobile in nature), co-housing, attached single-family homes (townhouses), in-law apartments, four-family homes, and condominiums.
- Supporting the production of new, high-quality, mixed-income housing that is affordable and accessible to people across a wide range of incomes, abilities, household sizes, life stages, and ages.
- Developing a street design guide that prioritizes safety and incorporates current Fire Prevention Code standards into an urban setting, while prioritizing safe, accessible and complete streets.
- Using R-Center facilities to support non-recreation activities to expand and diversify community reach (e.g., health screenings or insurance enrollment/navigation, adult education, job training, senior programming, etc.)

I am aware that after a several decade decline, the population of older adults living within the city is increasing as the Baby Boom generation ages in place, and that 21% of our city's 60-and-older residents—over 6,500 people—are living in poverty. Poverty does indeed occur across the lifespan, and I applaud this report for including economic security as a ninth, essential domain.

City Hall is committed to taking additional steps to support older residents including creating co-housing, intentional communities for older citizens, launching an independent Senior Stabilization Fund to help older adults stay in their homes, and implementing a City Senior Volunteer Corps, which will engage with seniors to keep them involved in our community, and make sure that we use all their talents, knowledge, and experience to help our city grow and thrive.

I often say, we have a past to remember, a present to live, and a future to look forward to. An age- friendly and livable community for all is the goal of these intertwined, and I believe, attainable efforts.

Sincerely,

Malik D. Evans Mayor

Dear Monroe County Resident,

In 2019, our county joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, recognizing our community's desire to create a place where older adults, can live and thrive. Since that time, our own Monroe County Office for the Aging and the Rochester Monroe County Aging Alliance have engaged older adults, businesses, organizations, and County departments, to create a comprehensive plan for our County.

I am honored to support ***Creating a Community for a Lifetime***, as a blueprint to make our community more age-friendly, and ultimately more livable for people of all ages.

Age-friendly communities makes sense. Our older adult population is growing. In 2015, the number of people 60 and older in our county surpassed 20% for the first time in history. Today, 23% of Monroe County's residents are 60 or older. We want older adults to be able to live here for a lifetime, to contribute to our community for a lifetime, and to be supported here in their 'home' of Monroe County for a lifetime.

Research for this report found that older adults seek respect and inclusion. Monroe County recognizes the invaluable contributions of older adults to our economy and community life — in volunteerism, consumerism, and in our workforce. We also recognize the significance of poverty among some older adults, and will support efforts to improve economic security for residents.

As in all other parts of the country, the COVID pandemic disproportionately affected older people in our County. Too many older adults became more isolated, which had a profound impact on their health and wellbeing. The pandemic also strikingly revealed the digital divide. I am happy to see recommendations and suggested action items within this report that will help address isolation, technological and other disparities blown wide open by the pandemic.

Our county departments have met with members of the Aging Alliance about what it means to create an age-friendly, livable community. All departments - from aviation to parks to veteran services — are committed to viewing our County's decisions and plans through an age-friendly "lens." This means older adults can participate fully in day-to-day life and enjoy our community's rich public spaces and services.

On behalf of Monroe County, I support an age-friendly Monroe County and I am committed to our own County departments' collaboration on this work. Thank you to all who participated in creating our 'Monroe County for a lifetime' action plan.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive