



RESEARCH BRIEF

AGE-FRIENDLY COLUMBUS

MAKING COLUMBUS A BETTER CITY FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES



OBJECTIVES

- *Implement the Age-Friendly Columbus Strategic Plan through community based participatory planning and community collaborations*
- *Create an evaluation system to measure impact in community*
- *Integrate an intergenerational lens across implementation strategies*
- *Develop a communication network that prioritizes and values older residents as influencers at the policy and advocacy level through a robust 50+ Resident Council*
- *Engage students and faculty in interdisciplinary, intergenerational field experience, research, and community outreach within the work of the AFC Strategic Plan*
- *Expand research, planning, and implementation efforts across Franklin County*

What is Age-Friendly Columbus?

Central Ohio's 65+ population is expected to double in the next 30 years. This poses a great opportunity for the region to provide easy access to services, amenities, and opportunities to ensure we can all thrive as we age.

Age-Friendly Columbus entered The World Health Organization and AARP International Network of Age-Friendly Communities in 2016. The initiative was housed at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and under the leadership of an Advisory Council, 50+Resident Council, and several topic-specific committees. A year-long research and assessment phase, followed by a year-long strategic planning phase resulted in two publications: [The Age-Friendly Columbus Findings Report](#) and [The Age-Friendly Columbus Strategic Plan](#).



Age-Friendly Columbus is now in the implementation phase to make these changes happen in our community.

A BETTER CITY FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

Project Timeline

The Age-Friendly Columbus process consists of four stages of inclusive planning. The process is intended to be a continual five-year cycle. The project is currently in Phase 3: Implementation. We are taking our strategic plan—informed by our research, field work, and outreach—and implementing that plan in multiple Columbus and Franklin County neighborhoods.

We will work toward improvements in 8 focus areas:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Safety and emergency preparedness
- Respect, inclusion, and social participation
- Employment and civic engagement
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services



The role of Ohio State’s College of Social Work

The Ohio State University College of Social Work will act as the administrative arm and collaborative partner for the Age-Friendly Columbus initiative during the 2018-2020 implementation period.

The Age-Friendly Communities initiative aligns with the College of Social Work’s strategic plan, by engaging with our community partners to bring evidence-informed interventions to our local neighborhoods. We have are committed to supporting diversity, innovation, and collaboration. Through engagement, educational and research opportunities, the college will lead interdisciplinary efforts to improve the well-being of people of all ages living in the community.

ABOUT THE TEAM

Leading the project is **Ms. Katie White**, **Dr. Holly Dabelko-Schoeny**, and **Ms. Lisa Durham**. **Ms. White** is a passionate advocate for older adults and has been leading this effort through the assessment and planning phases. We are very excited to have her join the College of Social Work for the implementation of the Age-Friendly Columbus strategic plan. **Dr. Dabelko-Schoeny** is an applied community-based researcher seeking to improve the delivery of home and community-based services for older adults and their caregivers through collaboration with community agencies, interdisciplinary faculty, and students. **Ms. Lisa Durham** is a leader in the College of Social Work acting as the Assistant Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Community Engagement.

Multi-disciplinary research teams are currently being formed for the implementation and evaluation of this program.

Consider becoming an Age-Friendly Affiliate by contacting: white.3073@osu.edu.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

The Ohio State University College of Social Work has faculty expertise in a wide range of issues relating to aging. Our faculty work with many community partners and leaders to address these pressing issues.

CONTACT US

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