

Community Assessment Topic Areas

When we talk about the following topic areas, what we mean is ...

Housing

Many older adults in Orange County intend to remain in their own homes as they age. As a result, physical modifications to homes, such as lever door handles, as well as appropriate services, like mobile grocery shopping, will be important considerations in the 2012-2017 MAP.

Additionally, older adults would like to see more senior housing options in order to avoid becoming isolated from the community. They also felt a lack of knowledge about what the available options are. Other housing concerns were related to cost of living, including property taxes, indicating that financial planning resources may be helpful.

Health and Wellness

Older adults voiced concerns about access to affordable healthcare, but at the same time were unsure about what options are available to them. This demonstrates a potential need to increase knowledge about healthcare as well as provide different options.

Senior centers were also seen as valuable for maintaining social connectedness and preventing isolation, but not everyone has easy access to the centers, meaning that it is important to consider alternate avenues for remaining engaged in the community.

Navigation and Transportation

The walkability of towns in Orange County was a concern of many older adults, especially the need for sidewalk maintenance and properly timed lights at crosswalks. Lack of handicapped parking and handicapped accessible entrances to buildings were seen as barriers for those with physical disabilities, limiting the places they can go.

Chapel Hill Transit was seen as valuable, but many would like it to be expanded to more rural parts of the county and to have schedules and routes that are not as student-centered.

Community Engagement

Older adults expressed a desire to remain involved in the community. While senior centers were seen as valuable, an aging-friendly community needs to be developed beyond, so that older adults are not seen as being separate from the rest of the community. One way to accomplish this is through the promotion of multigenerational activities, which will also help to remove stigma around being old.

Communication and Dissemination of Information

Email and the Internet were viewed as efficient means of communication; however, communication structures need to be put in place to provide information to those with limited Internet access or who are living in rural parts of the county. Existing social networks in the county could be a potentially effective method for disseminating information.

What's missing from this list?