



AGING IN COMMUNITY

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Draft Policy Guide Review: Directions & Timeline

- Deadline for Chapter & Division comments:
March 25, 2014
Submit via email to govtaffairs@planning.org
- Deadline for Chapter Delegate appointments:
March 31, 2014
Submit via email to LJorgenson@planning.org
- Delegates receive revised policy guides:
April 14, 2014
- Delegate Assembly Preview Webinar:
April 17, 2014 at 2:00 pm ET
- Delegate Assembly:
April 26, 2014 in Atlanta

INTRODUCTION

The American Planning Association (APA) supports the creation and integration of housing, land-use, transportation, and social service systems that support a high quality of life for people of all ages and abilities. A multigenerational planning approach ensures that the needs of all residents are met and that older members of our communities are not at risk of social isolation, poverty, declining health, and poor economic well-being. The APA recognizes that the aging of the population creates a unique opportunity and responsibility to apply sound planning approaches and policy to improve communities to serve the needs of older adults, independent to frail. The planning community can be a leader in encouraging comprehensive approaches and mobilizing resources to enhance the quality of life of our aging population. A shared vision should advance strategies in community engagement, housing, transportation, land-use and zoning, economic well-being, and the overall community support structures.

DEFINITION AND BENEFITS OF AGING IN COMMUNITY

Aging in community means that older adults are able to live as independently as possible as members of the community of their choice. For some, this means growing older in a long-time home; for others, it means transitioning to a more appropriate and supportive setting but still in their community. During a lifetime, people develop connections to place and form important social relationships within their neighborhoods and communities. Sustaining these relationships plays an important role in aging well. Planners play a key role in the provision of the structures and services that either support or hinder resident well-being, interdependence, productivity, and prosperity.

GUIDING POLICIES FOR AGING IN COMMUNITY

1. **Actively Involve Older Adults and Engage the Aging Perspective in the Planning Process**

Older adults are the experts on their own lives, so effective planning in all dimensions – physical design, social and community supports - must involve older adult participation on an ongoing basis. Older adults are producers, consumers, leaders, community, and family members, and when their potential is



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maximized, people of all ages benefit. Planners also must take a lead role in bringing together leaders across sectors to assess and plan for the needs of older adults living in their jurisdictions.

2. Ensure a Range of Affordable Housing Options are Available for Older Adults

The promise of aging in community can be challenging to deliver. Communities should make provisions for ensuring a continuum of housing options to support older adults ranging from those who are fully independent to those requiring progressively more assistance in daily life. Policies and programs should promote affordability, safety, and accessibility, incorporate enabling design-based home modifications, and foster upkeep and sustainability of the housing stock. The design of homes should be adaptable and allow different generations or types of households to live in a single home, as well as allow for technologies, devices and in-home management systems that optimize active aging. In addition, planners will need to work diligently to ensure access to fair housing, and address the disparate impacts of housing location and availability for elders of all races and incomes.

3. Ensure Access to Quality Transportation Options for Older Adults

A range of transportation choices, including grassroots services such as shared autos, is critical for older adults to be able to maintain their independence. Transforming transportation systems to maximize connections with land-uses critical to older adults, particularly housing, health care, and human services will enhance the livability of our communities. Viable options can directly benefit older adults, their caregivers, as well as health care workers or emergency responders. Funding mechanisms should support new and improved transportation options. Funding transportation components such as benches, and bus shelters, good lighting, cross walks that are well marked, crossing signals with adequate time to cross for persons of all abilities is essential. Education of planners, transportation engineers, and the people who use transportation systems is imperative. When transportation systems are properly designed and implemented, they can be a key resource for helping individuals to maintain their independence and mobility by ensuring accessibility to destinations.

4. Use Land-Use and Zoning Tools to Create Welcoming Communities for Older Adults

In many communities planning for an aging population often has been limited to concerns over providing space for nursing homes and age-restricted housing. As planners, we recognize that the location of where we develop housing is equally as important as what type of housing we build, as is proximity to essential goods and services. Policies, investments, and new tools such as form-based codes should help create a built environment that intentionally provides opportunities for older people to easily participate in community life and activities. This allows them to age in community and not in isolated age-specific enclaves. Because mobility limitations may increase with age, it is important to facilitate quality of life for older adults by creating mixed-use, well-connected neighborhoods with access to pharmacies, grocery stores, parks and cultural activities. This includes the maintenance of sidewalks and lights for safe and walkable neighborhoods.

5. Support the Economic Well-Being of Older Adults and their Caregivers

Local economic development policies and planning should address the needs of community members of all ages and income levels. When economic development policies and local businesses recognize the needs and assets of older adults as consumers, workers, mentors, and entrepreneurs, resilient economies are built. Additionally, formal and informal caregivers represent a large and largely invisible and undercounted component of local economies. Caregivers should be recognized and considered in planning, land-use, and economic policy development. Home care workers, in particular, need access to efficient transportation and affordable housing options.

6. Strengthen the Community Assets of and Supports for Older Adults

Planners need to design policy and planning responses that address the needs of older adults and also take advantage of the contributions of older adults in all community contexts – urban, suburban and rural. Inadequate physical design must be recognized as a barrier and addressed to ensure segments of our society are not excluded. Community services and the assets that older adults and their social networks represent are key complements to physical design. Communities that incorporate opportunities and services for older adults in all aspects of economic, land-use and transportation planning and zoning will allow older adults and their families to engage more fully in community and economic activities and also reduce the individual and societal costs of institutionalizing older adults who could be better cared for in community settings. Moreover, community inclusion of older adults will reduce both individual and societal costs associated with institutionalization. And, greener buildings may improve the health of its occupants.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following policy recommendations advance strategies in each of these areas.

1. Actively Involve Older Adults and Engage the Aging Perspective in the Planning Process

General Policy Position 1-1: The APA supports community engagement of older adults in all dimensions of planning. Planners must reach out to all members of the community, making participation possible across age, language, class, race, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, ability and technology barriers.

Specific Policy Position 1-1A: Planners should develop mechanisms to regularly consult with older adults on specific plans and policies. Planning paradigms such as Complete Streets, Transit-Oriented Development and Traditional Neighborhood Design should be systematically reviewed from an aging perspective. For older adults particularly, it is important to consider meeting times, physical accessibility of locations, transportation options, accessibility of oral and written communications, and relevant agendas. Planners must actively seek out those who are homebound, who speak languages other than English and those who may not have access to computers. Family caregivers can also provide planners with insight into their needs and desires, and those of their loved ones.

Reasons to support: Jurisdictional plans should reflect the input and experience of people of all ages who live in different circumstances and with different abilities.

General Policy Position 1-2: The APA encourages planners to meet with public, private, and community stakeholders (including older adults) in their jurisdictions to assess, discuss, and develop strategies to address unmet needs as well as apply the strengths of older adults living in their jurisdictions.

Specific Policy Position 1-2A: Planners should foster opportunities for community-wide dialogue to bring together professionals from a variety of fields, including transportation, planning, physical and mental health, architecture, geriatrics, gerontology, housing, faith communities, and social work to identify appropriate community designs to support and involve older adults throughout their lifetime. Planners should align the goals of aging in community with broader local community priorities to gain trust and participation in the process.



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Reasons to Support: The aging of the population demands a fundamental shift in planning in order to maximize the engagement of older adults and minimize the economic, social and health challenges that will otherwise overwhelm communities. Anticipating this demographic change early facilitates developing key relationships, coordinating critical strategies as well as creating new options. Finding common themes and opportunities to work with other strategic alliances will prove beneficial. Collaborative efforts allow partners to advance initiatives more quickly, share resources, and leverage funding.

2. Ensure that a Range of Affordable Housing Options are Available for Older Adults

General Policy Position 2-1: The APA supports federal funding for the production of new and preservation of existing low-income rental housing, including subsidies and financing structures that ensure long-term viability of affordable rental housing developments.

Reasons to Support: Demographic trends including longer life expectancies are anticipated to increase the demand for affordable rentals, especially by the increasing number of low- and extremely-low income households, and older adults on fixed incomes. Preserving existing affordable rental housing offers cost advantages over new construction, especially if funding for new subsidized housing is limited.

Specific Policy Position 2-1A: The APA supports programs such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program and increased allocations, as well as increased funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and funding to capitalize the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF).

Reasons to Support: Since its creation as part of corporate income tax reform in 1986, LIHTC has become the principal source of development equity for the production of low-income housing nationwide, including specific state-based allocations for senior housing. Over time, existing projects often lack sufficient resources to make necessary retrofits and are faced with raising rents to meet this need. Resources should be directed to preservation and recapitalization of existing affordable housing projects, particularly, senior housing. The NHTF was authorized by Congress in 2008, and once funded can become a mainstay of capital for the development of affordable senior housing and other forms of affordable housing that can serve people of all ages.

General Policy Position 2-2: The APA supports strategies that ensure quality housing choices for older adults, such as the maintenance of the existing housing stock through direct financial assistance from loan and grant programs, mortgage default avoidance education, home maintenance assistance, and weatherization assistance programs.

Reasons to Support: The maintenance of the existing housing stock is not only critical to older adults, but also to their neighborhoods. Keeping homes affordable reduces deferred maintenance and its cumulative effects on the functioning, appearance, and quality of the home and neighborhood. Energy-efficiency improvements contribute to a high-performing housing stock and healthy neighborhoods.

General Policy Position 2-3: The APA supports adopting policies, ordinances and incentives that include enabling design - design that enables residents of varying levels of physical ability to live - in all multifamily housing and single family residential and advocates its use in housing assisted with federal subsidies.

Reasons to Support: Whether by ordinances or incentives, communities should explore the benefits of design features that enable residents with a range of ages and abilities to live as independently and interdependently as possible across their lifespan. With longer life expectancies and with less personal and societal economic resources available, minimizing or eliminating the need to retrofit a home, especially when on a fixed income is a practical solution. If home modifications are needed, they should



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be affordable and from providers who understand the needs of older adults, Enhancing the mobility and independence of people of all abilities, young as well as old, contributes to community vitality. Accessible housing environments may be considered a public health issue via building codes and a civil rights issue from a disability perspective.

General Policy Position 2-4: The APA supports the preservation and modernization of federally-assisted housing for older residents; including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture 515 and 521 programs.

Reasons to Support: Affordability is a major factor determining where older people live and their quality of life, especially for those with a fixed, low-, or extremely-low incomes. There are long open and closed waiting lists, and the need for Section 202 and Section 515 senior housing continues to increase as people with limited incomes age. The Seniors Commission Report shows that by 2020, there will be 2.6 million Older Americans who require assistance with activities of daily living or have cognitive or mental disabilities living at or below 150% of poverty. At the same time fiscal constraints have limited the construction of new units and the rehabilitation of existing units. This affordable housing shortage is a serious problem. Planners should initiate a dialogue with providers of federally-assisted housing to identify collaborative opportunities to assist in the rehabilitation of the housing stock and explore mechanisms and innovative models to create new housing units.

3. Ensure Access to Quality Transportation Options for Older Adults

General Policy Position 3-1: The APA recommends that local, state, federal, and private entities evaluate and modify their transportation planning policies and practices to ensure accessibility, affordability, convenience and safety for older adults of all abilities.

Specific Policy Position 3-1A: The APA suggests designing for the specific needs and abilities of older adults of each component of the transportation systems, including physical attributes (e.g., interior spaces, sidewalks, lighting, large button crosswalk controls, retro-reflective signs and pavement paint, low floor buses with stop enunciators, seating at bus stops) and information features (e.g., signage, schedules and website).

Specific Policy Position 3-1B: The APA supports the adoption of policies and implementation of plans consistent with the principles of Complete Streets, whereby everyone has convenient, safe, and reliable transportation options regardless of whether they choose to get around by car, bicycle, on foot, or by public transportation, and regardless of age and ability.

Specific Policy Position 3-1C: The APA urges states to explicitly address the needs and capacity of older road users (drivers, passengers, and non-motorized) in their transportation plans including their Strategic Highway Safety Plans.

Specific Policy Position 3-1D: The APA supports cost benefit analyses of age- sensitive designs and systems to identify the best use of resources and potential savings in both transportation and broader community budgets.

Specific Policy Position 3-1E: Planners should advocate for funding to plan and develop well-integrated pedestrian and bicycle paths, trails and facilities.

Reasons to Support: Age-sensitive design and proper maintenance of the transportation system enables persons of all ages and abilities to benefit from system investments. Residents who are forced to navigate



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a system that doesn't address age-related changes will experience a lowered level of functioning, leading to reduced mobility, increased dependence on family and community supports, and be at greater risk for falls and other accidents. The consequence of poor environmental design is costly—to individuals, families, and the community. Communities earn a greater return on investment from enabling design.

General Policy Position 3-2: The APA supports the education of the general public, stakeholders, decision makers, planners and older adults on the components of transportation systems and the effects such systems have on daily living.

Specific Policy Position 3-2A: The APA should continue to support educational activities for planners, as well as other professionals in related disciplines, on enabling design to ensure that planning and design professionals understand how their work impacts older adults' mobility and overall quality of life.

Specific Policy Position 3-2B: The APA supports educational activities geared towards older adults and their support networks as well as the general public. All citizens must be more aware of and better-educated on transportation options and their successful use, including public transportation, mobility management, driver and car assessment programs, and other public and private services.

Reasons to Support: Communities benefit when their planners and designers are well versed in design methods that result in enabling environments. Similarly, educational programs, such as transit travel training, encourage greater use of the transportation system by older adults, connecting them to community activities and services and potentially lowering the overall cost of providing transportation.

General Policy Position 3-3: The APA supports increased local, state, and federal funding, and coordination of, fixed-route public transportation, specialized transportation (including demand responsive, paratransit, and human services transportation), and intercity bus and rail transit. The overall goal is a well-integrated or connected transportation system to ease moving from one mode of transport to another (e.g., bus to rail, etc.)

Reasons to Support: People differ in their degree of physical and cognitive ability, especially among the oldest community members. As such a variety of transportation options are needed. Fixed route bus and rail services will meet the needs of many able to navigate their communities independently. Demand responsive service may be the most cost-effective form of public transportation in rural areas. For those unable to access fixed-route service, specialized transportation services, including human services transportation, provide an invaluable lifeline. Coordination of public, specialized, and human services transportation results in more efficient and effective service delivery.

General Policy Position 3-4: The APA supports policies that create incentives for private resources to support specialized transportation services for older adults, including volunteer driver programs, rideshare programs, and demand responsive paratransit service.

Specific Policy Position 3-4A: Congress should adjust the Internal Revenue Service charitable mileage deduction rate to the higher business-related mileage deduction rate to encourage participation in volunteer driver programs (in 2014, a \$0.42 difference).

Specific Policy Position 3-4B: States should establish policies that protect volunteer drivers from unreasonable or unfair increases in liability or insurance rates that arise solely from volunteer driver status.



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Specific Policy Position 3-4C: States and localities should exempt non-profit volunteer driver programs from livery laws when those programs collect payment for rides to help cover operating expenses.

Specific Policy Position 3-4D: States should establish policies that exempt non-profit volunteer driver programs from car dealership laws that impede their ability to exchange vehicles from older adults for transportation service.

Specific Policy Position 3-4E: Specialized transportation providers should be encouraged to reach out to hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, employers, etc. to help fund their services.

Reasons to Support: Public funding for specialized transportation has not kept pace with growing demand. In some cases, private sector resources may be harnessed simply by removing legal barriers. In other cases, outreach to non-traditional funders can result in untapped resources for community benefit. After all, community transportation providers often transport the patients and residents of the above institutions. Employers benefit from reduced time off work when their employees can rely on community transportation services for family members.

General Policy Position 3-4: The APA recognizes the importance of transportation systems to the health and well-being of older adults.

Reasons to Support: The availability of transportation options facilitates personal independence. Older adults in many communities rely on their own personal vehicle for transportation, and if that option is restricted or removed, older adults may become isolated and depressed, as well as lose their ability to contribute to the economy and the community. This can be a particular problem in rural and suburban areas, but also in urban areas. Maintaining social connections is critical for the health and well-being of older adults.

4. Use Land-use and Zoning Tools to Create Welcoming Communities for Older Adults

General Policy Position 4-1: The APA recognizes that a gap exists between the needs and abilities of older adults and the design of the built environment throughout most communities and supports policies which eliminate this gap, using land-use and zoning as a vehicle for creating enabling environments to raise the level of functioning and independence of older adults.

Specific Policy Position 4-1A: The APA supports the development of zoning policies for accessible Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), which are recognized as an important mechanism to allow people to remain in their communities. ADUs can support caregiving and provide a source of essential income.

Specific Policy Position 4-1B: The APA recognizes that the scale of development impacts an aging population with mobility concerns and supports policies that encourage smaller minimum floor areas, smaller lot sizes, and more compact development.

Specific Policy Position 4-1C: The APA supports land-use policies and building codes for the development and application of enabling design standards (such as large-button cross walk controls, large font signage, wayfinding and zero-step entries in housing) to ensure that design is accessible at a human-scale throughout a community.

Reasons to Support: Enabling design standards which respect the varied needs and abilities of older adults can decrease demand for services, increase housing choice, and increase level of functioning,



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independence, physical activity, social interaction, community involvement, and civic and economic engagement.

General Policy Position 4-2: The APA supports planning policies and zoning regulations that foster mixed-use development as opportunities to co-locate services, land-uses, and programs to offer a continuum of affordable, supportive living options for healthier, independent living.

Reasons to Support: A jurisdiction's policies, services, settings and structures affect people's ability to age actively in community. For example, policies such as tax abatements may lead to aging-in-community by going beyond minimum accessibility levels when transit-oriented. Optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security will enhance the quality of life as people age. Communities must provide the structures and services to support active aging including the redesign and retrofit of community centers and neighborhood hubs to serve as one-stop resource centers for wellness and social engagement including the joint use of schools, churches and other community institutions.

General Policy Position 4-3: The APA supports policies and zoning that facilitates the infrastructure including emerging technologies needed to promote and sustain aging in community and maintenance of day-to-day functioning, engagement, and contribution to community life.

Reasons to Support: Older adults often require supportive and enabling living environments to compensate for physical and social changes associated with aging. The use of new technologies for affordable home-centric assistance products and broadband connectivity provide social engagement and stimulation, a sense of purpose, safety and healthcare applications to cope with and embrace aging, including innovative, "smart home" models and environments that access in-home healthcare and wellness options, caregiving, and social and learning opportunities. Planners need to be flexible and address planning and zoning barriers to emerging home-centric options.

General Policy Position 4-4: The APA recognizes that physical and social connectivity such as lighting and wayfinding are critical for the health and well-being of older adults. The APA supports policies that create seamless physical and social networks that facilitate improved health, economic opportunity, and community engagement.

Specific Policy Position 4-4A: Planners should support community development policies that require homes, neighborhoods, goods, services, and community facilities to be physically connected to each other by a variety of comfortable, safe, and logical mobility options.

Specific Policy Position 4-4B: Planners should promote zoning changes that support an efficient transportation network, such as mixed use development, transit-oriented development, and higher density development as appropriate for the community.

Specific Policy Position 4-4C: Planners should advocate for community parks and open space that offer opportunities to improve and maintain physical health and well-being, as well as park amenities to meet the needs of those with mobility and sensory issues.

Specific Policy Position 4-4D: Planners should advance policies that permit and encourage community gardening that offers opportunities for social connectivity, physical activity, and healthy food choices.

Specific Policy Position 4-4E: Planners should eliminate physical and regulatory barriers as needed to promote communities with connected and accessible informal and formal gathering spaces, both indoor and outdoor



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Reasons to support: Parks and recreation facilities and community amenities provide opportunities for not only physical activity, but education, nature study, and environmental awareness. Proper nutrition is a key to maintaining good health; farmer's markets and community gardens can facilitate healthy eating and access to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as opportunities for social engagement.

5. Support the Economic Well-Being of Older Adults

General Policy Position 5-1: The APA supports economic development policies that address the needs of people of all ages.

Specific Policy Position 5-1A: Planners should promote age-friendly businesses that facilitate access and use by older adults.

Reasons to support: Older adults and their caregivers represent an under-recognized market segment; serving these groups offers a new business niche that can meet the needs of older adults while at the same time promoting economic development.

Specific Policy Position 5-1B: Planners should promote workforce development programs for and by older adults.

Reasons to support: Older adults continue to work long past traditional retirement age. For many, the supplemental income is critical for reducing poverty. Also older adults provide a skilled labor force for the local economy. Finally, work is valued by many as a way to stay engaged in community life. Additionally, tapping into the experience, skills, and wisdom of older adults can offer tremendous educational and training benefits to younger workers.

General Policy Position 5-2: The APA supports the development of policies and programs that recognizes the importance of informal caregivers (and often family members who are unpaid) as integral supports for the aging population.

Specific Policy Position 5-2A: Planners should change planning and zoning codes to allow child and elder care in residential settings and to allow older adults and caregivers to reside together.

Specific Policy Position 5-2B: Public and private sector employers should support informal caregiving by offering flexible work hours, referral to caregiver resources in the community, on-site support groups for working caregivers, and discounted backup home care for emergency needs.

Reasons to support: Most caregiving is informal – from neighbors helping neighbors to family caregivers to car shares and time banks. Planners can facilitate these informal networks and link them to formal support systems. The caregiver support ratio (number of potential caregivers aged 45 to 64 for each person aged 80 and older is expected to decline sharply, placing increasing demands on local services. Today, women outnumber men as caregivers three to one. Leaving the primary burden of care for children and elders on women is poor economic policy, inequitable toward women and has been shown to reduce women's health and economic well-being in older age. Long-term lifetime earnings and subsequent retirement benefits are negatively affected by the inequitable care burden that women face throughout their lifetimes. Formal child care, elder care and other social service supports, including transportation, are critical economic infrastructure for healthy aging.

General Policy Position 5-3: The APA believes that local, state and federal policy should not discriminate by gender, immigration status, employment status or family definition.



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Specific Policy Position 5-3A: Planners should remove discriminatory definitions of family from zoning codes

Reasons to support: People live in all types of households. Discriminatory family definitions unnecessarily burden older adults who wish to cohabitate for financial or other reasons, including the LGBT and immigrant communities of elders. Discriminatory practices undermine the potential for new, more innovative housing arrangements that promote household sharing across generations and non-family members.

Specific Policy Position 5-3B: Planners should design policies that encourage economic access for all ages.

Reasons to Support: Immigration status and work in the informal sector can render subsets of older adults ineligible for appropriate income support and necessary health insurance. Planners have an ethical obligation to support federal, state and local policies that overcome such discrimination. The perception of growing inequality – especially among residents outside the labor force, e.g., children and older adults – must be addressed through public policies at all levels – federal, state and local. Planners should be careful not to deepen inequalities through policies that privilege the financially well-off.

6. Strengthen the Community Assets of and Supports for Older Adults

General Policy Position 6-1: The APA supports an “age in everything” approach to planning, where older adults are considered in all program and facility planning along with green building practices to ensure healthy environments. This is especially critical in suburban and rural areas, where there may not be the population to support “older adult only” services, but where modification of existing assets makes them useful to older adults.

Reasons to Support: Currently, housing and services designed for older adults are principally age-segregated (senior housing, senior centers, home-delivered meals, adult day care, etc.) This service design model has several unintended negative effects: it reinforces ageism, as there is less contact with older people by other generations; areas with smaller populations or fewer resources lack many of these facilities; the many existing community assets (libraries, schools, parks, public transportation, cultural institutions, and businesses) are often not physically accessible and inviting to older adults. Communities – large and small—where individuals of all ages, identities, and abilities have opportunities to both contribute and receive efforts, talents, and assistance promote interdependence and connectedness that make people happy and communities resilient.

General Policy Position 6-2: Planners should recognize that interdependencies between generations are beneficial to communities.

Specific Policy Position 6-2A: The APA supports planning policies and zoning regulations that foster mixed-use development as opportunities to co-locate services and programs to offer a continuum of affordable housing and service options for healthier, independent living.

Reasons to support: Interdependencies between generations are beneficial to communities, including both the critical role of informal family caregivers in caring for older adults and the critical role of older adults within families (caring for grandchildren, contributing to household support, providing emotional support and performing other key domestic roles). Communities where people of different generations live in proximity, work together and engage in civic activities together are more sustainable and more resilient. A community's policies, services, settings and structures support and enable people to age



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actively in community. Optimizing opportunities for maintaining health, participation and security will enhance the quality of life as people age. Communities must provide the structures and services to support active aging, including the redesign and retrofit of community centers and neighborhood hubs to serve as one-stop resource centers for wellness and social engagement, including the joint use of schools, churches and other community institutions.

General Policy Position 6-3: The APA believes that planners are key leaders who can help ensure that older adults remain active and engaged in their community and that support services are easy to access so that frail older adults may continue to reside in the community and improve their health and quality of life.

Reasons to Support: Older adults represent untapped, vital natural resources for communities, contributing their talents and experience to social, cultural, economic, and civic life. Care-related services are an economic investment, not just expenditures. They provide the foundation for economic development and critical support to family caregivers. For communities which lack physical design to support aging in place, services (transportation, home delivered meals, etc.) can provide the necessary complement to ensure full functionality over the life course. Services for older adults can be linked to services for children and caregivers thereby increasing access and quality of life for all. Such shared services also help build political will for community financing.

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RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICY GUIDES OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

This Policy Guide is related to other Policy Guides adopted by the American Planning Association in recent years, including:

1. Smart Growth Policy Guide (adopted 2012)
2. Surface Transportation Policy Guide (adopted in 2010)
3. Housing Policy Guide (adopted in 2006)
4. Other policy guides addressing food systems planning, security, neighborhood collaboration, sustainability and public redevelopment all indirectly address the needs of the elderly.

Please refer directly to these closely allied policy guides for additional policy reference on those topics: <http://planning.org/policy/guides/>.

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