



# Annual Presentation to Clark County Cities



# Commission on Aging (COA)

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- Nine-member volunteer commission.
- Provide leadership in addressing the special needs of the aging population
- Manage and assist with implementation of the Aging Readiness Plan (ARP)
- Update the ARP as needs change



# Public Engagement

- Survey
- Stakeholder Focus Groups
- Strategy Workshops
- Strategy Prioritization Workshop



# Healthy Communities Chapter Overview

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**Goal HC-1:** Improve access to healthy food.

**Goal HC-2:** Create safe and accessible parks, greenspaces, and community gathering spaces.

**Goal HC-3:** Create a welcoming and age-friendly built environment.

**Goal HC-4:** Develop local and community-based healthcare resources.

**Goal HC-5:** Provide resources for caregivers.



# Housing Chapter Overview

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**Goal H-1:** Provide a range of housing for multigenerational communities.

**Goal H-2:** Provide housing that enables people to age in place.

**Goal H-3:** Support the development of more affordable housing.



# Mobility Chapter Overview

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**Goal M-1:** Design transit options for people who are older and have a disability.

**Goal M-2:** Increase alternative transportation options in areas not well-served by transit lines.

**Goal M-3:** Design communities for safe walking and rolling for a range of users and abilities.

**Goal M-4:** Promote land use patterns and design standards that encourage walking, rolling, and transit use.

# Civic Involvement Chapter Overview

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- **Goal CI-1:** Support the efforts of neighborhood associations and other volunteer groups to reach and engage older adults.
- **Goal CI-2:** Support cross-cultural and intergenerational community events.
- **Goal CI-3:** Continue to offer a variety of engagement opportunities in-person and online.



# Emergency Preparedness Chapter Overview

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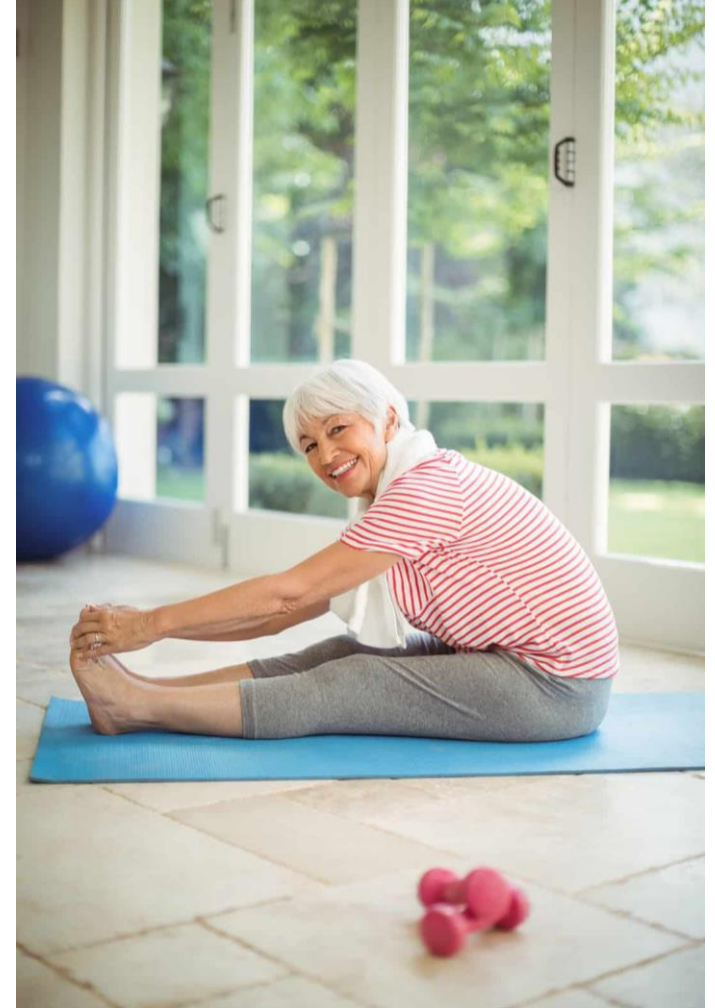
- **Goal EP-1:** Mitigate the impacts of potential hazards before they occur.
- **Goal EP-2:** Prepare for natural hazards through education and improved communication.
- **Goal EP-3:** Provide essential services during hazard events.



# Implementation

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- ARP approved September 2023
- Focus on two priority strategies highlighting community engagement
  - Educate older adults and caregivers on information and resources provided by the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Southwest Washington, or AAADSW
  - Team with the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Southwest Washington (AAADSW), Neighborhood Associations, and other partner agencies to share and distribute best practices for reaching older adults



# Implementation

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- Fireside chats
  - Work with AAADSW on engagement
  - Local examples of community engagement
  - Engagement in another area of the country
- Resource distribution

# Implementation

## COA 2023 Achievements:

- Letters of support
- Proclamations
- Resources document
- Community presentations
- 2023 Silver Citizen Award

**Focus for 2024: Emergency preparedness**



## Governor's Smart Communities Awards - 2024

### Judges Merit Awards

Recognize success in more than one judged category.

#### **Clark County Aging Readiness Plan: 10-year Update – Clark County**

Originally submitted for a Smart Vision award, this update to Clark County's Aging Readiness Plan (ARP) reminds us that we can consistently support our most vulnerable populations with forward thinking and collaborative teamwork. A long-range planning document, the ARP was first developed in 2012 to support the county's growing number of older residents. With a huge list of partners, including all of the incorporated cities in the county, recommendations within the ARP focus on addressing missing or lacking public infrastructure, support for social services, and zoning and planning standards that encourage age-friendly community's older adults can thrive in. The latest iteration of the plan codified in 2023 expands on existing topics by including an emergency preparedness chapter. The sheer scope of work, extensive outreach and long term partnerships represented here have earned this project the Judge's Merit Award.



*Photo credit: Clark County*

# Thank you!

## More information:

Commission on Aging

Webpage: <https://clark.wa.gov/aging>

Email: [Cnty.Comm-aging@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Cnty.Comm-aging@clark.wa.gov)

Phone: 564-397-4913 or 564-397-4516

Staff: Susan Ellinger & Amy Wooten

## Resources for older adults & caregivers:

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Webpage: <https://www.helpingelders.org/>

Email: [clarkadrc@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:clarkadrc@dshs.wa.gov)

Phone: 360-694-8144

