

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING
FY25 BUDGET REQUEST
TO THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU ASSEMBLY

USING DATA TO DRIVE DECISIONS: As Juneau’s demographics continue to shift, it is incumbent upon the CBJ to recognize the change and plan proactively for social and fiscal changes in priorities. Many seniors have lived in Juneau for decades, love our community and wish to continue to live in Juneau. This is only possible if the CBJ recognizes that developing age friendly policies – policies that serve those of all age groups – is the path to retaining the well-being of the community. Our proposals recognize these shifts in demographics while serving the entire community via a planning process that promotes an age friendly environment for all residents.

JUNEAU’S DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT BRINGS BENEFITS: The senior population in Juneau continues to grow faster than any other cohort. Seniors now represents a **28.7%** of our population (2020 CBJ Senior Survey). As the school age cohort has diminished (*3,952 school age students predicted Oct 2024, Erickson and Associates*), the senior population continues to grow (*9,138 in 2020 CBJ Demographic data*).

Seniors bring an array of “*silver dividends*” to our community: retirement income, home ownership and property tax payment, and a willingness to volunteer and contribute to the community on many levels. CBJ stated in its current 10-year fiscal plan that a top priority is to “*grow the senior economy*” and the Juneau Commission on Aging asks for CBJ support of Juneau seniors’ unique needs as we age in this community that we call home.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLANNING: In 2010 the World Health Organization (WHO) established the Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities to connect cities, communities, and organizations worldwide with the common vision of making their community a great place to age. The framework is built on the ***eight interconnected well-being domains*** to help identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of older people.

AARP, driving the Age-friendly Community Planning efforts in states and communities throughout the US, is connected to WHO initiatives with a focus on reliable scientific evidence that strives to give everyone an equal chance at a safe and healthy life.

BUILDING AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY: The JCOA is advocating for pursuing the well-recognized AARP Age Friendly Community Planning Process as a mechanism to proactively PLAN for demographic changes and embrace an age friendly plan of action. Advocating for Juneau’s aging healthy and active population, as well as those with additional supportive needs via Juneau’s Age Friendly Plan. Age friendly communities serve those aged 8 to 80, ensuring age friendly housing, and age friendly recreational and social spaces.

CBJ COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER: The JCOA is also advocating for expanding the recreational and social opportunities for seniors by using space that becoming available due to both the downturn in school age children and budget issues that have arisen recently. We propose that a CBJ Community Senior Center be manifested in one of the gyms becoming available at repurposed schools. As this property is owned by the CBJ and currently operates as a gym

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING
FY25 BUDGET REQUEST
TO THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU ASSEMBLY

space, it would be easy to shift the purpose to a Senior focused recreational site offering pickleball, yoga, weight training, health workshops, events, etc.

The JCOA will approach the AARP for assistance in developing this space as an age friendly environment.

CBJ AGE FRIENDLY HOUSING SOLUTIONS: Another area of emphasis for the JCOA is the development of more age friendly housing – housing that is accessible and allows residents to age comfortably in place. The 2020 Senior Survey noted that 84% of seniors owned their own homes but many of these homes are not age friendly. The creation of more age friendly housing development could prompt elders to sell their current homes, opening up significant real estate for younger families.

As the world at large continues to under-reproduce, all communities will need to reassess what draws working age adults to their towns. Housing availability, outdoor recreational opportunities, social activities and a vibrant community are clearly identifiable draws to working age people seeking a lifestyle, not just a job. Alaska offers countless adventure opportunities but CBJ needs to continue to promote housing access and a vibrant community that will draw people to stay in Juneau.

OFFICE OF AGING: The JCOA thus proposes an Office of Aging supported by a Coordinator who will facilitate the Age-Friendly Community Planning process, development of the CBJ Senior Health Center, as well as advocate for age friendly policies to ensure CBJ remains current with the needs and wellbeing of our community.

Budget Request and Job Description

Juneau Commission on Aging - Office of Aging
Coordinator
FY 25 Budget Request

FTE - Coordinator \$35 per hour	\$ 72,800.00
Benefits - 30% of Salary	\$ 21,840.00
Equipment (Computer, printer, etc)	\$ 1,500.00
Travel (one Conference)	\$ 2,500.00
JCOA Materials and Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
JCOA Events	\$ 10,000.00
Total Requested	\$ 119,640.00