

CHSSC Recommends: Appointment of an Age Friendly/Senior Services Coordinator

Vibrant communities provide opportunities for older members to become volunteers and/or to find needed assistance from volunteers. Promoting and supporting volunteerism allows the community to marshal the expertise of older adults and to increase engagement of older adults for the benefit of the entire community. Our Committee found that many older adults want to volunteer, and many others need volunteers for help. With volunteer time in California currently estimated at approximately \$30hr by the Independent Sector organization, the many 1000's of hours available locally represents an important resource for the Town to take advantage of as much as possible.

An Age-Friendly Coordinator could address many of these goals:

- Integrate the delivery of services to older adults
- Assist with implementing the Senior Services Committee's Road Map
- Report and make recommendations to the Town Council about his/her observations concerning the delivery of services and how best to streamline the services provided by service providers
- Act as the point of contact for the Commissions, Service Provider organizations, Los Gatos Foundation For Older Adults To Thrive, and regional nonprofits providing services for Los Gatos older adults
- Be the point of contact for the key provider of recreational services to older adults (currently LGS Recreation)
- Receive information from the three CHSSC activities coordinators involving Communication & Engagement, Roadmap Tracking, and Annual Assessments
- Serve as the point of contact for questions about volunteer opportunities as Roadmap projects advance in support of this goal
- Facilitate review and presentation to Town Council of the Annual Assessment of Senior Services provided by the CHSSC for receipt by the Town Council
- Provide information and support for the Town Council review of the Roadmap progress and governance on a semiannual basis

As the Roadmap successes accrue in future years and senior services delivery advances, there may be considerable leverage gained by increasing the fractional 0.5 FTE allocation to the Town's Age-Friendly Coordinator. This graded approach could facilitate the transition of Los Gatos senior services governance from a fragmented model to an integrated partnership model.

Next steps:

1. An Age-Friendly Coordinator is hired
2. Funding: Town of Los Gatos, Los Gatos Thrives Foundation, Grants,
3. Purposed: Ensure the Coordinator is briefed on the senior services landscape. This position would provide an important step to realizing the Roadmap vision of a coordinated partnership for senior services between the Town, Town commissions and boards, the Los Gatos Foundation For Older Adult to Thrive, community service providers, and other nonprofits and regional providers.