



CITY OF SANTA FE

## Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan

A roadmap for aligning City systems to support independence, connection, and well-being across the lifespan

Prepared by the City of Santa Fe in partnership with residents, community organizations, and City departments.

A member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

City of Santa Fe  
Department of Community Services  
Division of Senior Services

2026

## Executive Summary

The Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan is a three-year, City-led roadmap to strengthen Santa Fe as a livable, inclusive, and connected community for residents of all ages. Grounded in extensive community engagement and aligned with national and global age-friendly frameworks, the plan advances a coordinated, all-ages approach to aging well while supporting the City's broader goals for quality of life, equity, and long-term resilience.

Santa Fe's population is older than state and national averages, increasing demand for accessible housing, reliable transportation, clear information, safe public spaces, and opportunities for connection and participation. Community input confirmed that while Santa Fe offers strong assets—such as libraries, senior centers, cultural institutions, and community organizations—residents often experience services as fragmented and difficult to navigate. This Action Plan responds by aligning existing City efforts, strengthening coordination, and embedding age-friendly and lifespan considerations into planning, policy, and service delivery.

The plan is guided by a clear mission: to create inclusive environments that support independence, safety, participation, and well-being across the lifespan. Five core values shape this work:

- Aging is understood as a lifelong experience, not a stage limited to older adulthood.
- Inclusion and accessibility are essential to community well-being.
- Coordination across departments and partners strengthens impact.
- Community knowledge and lived experience inform effective solutions.
- The Division of Senior Services is positioned as a strategic asset for collaboration.

Guiding principles translate these values into practice by committing the City to apply an all-ages lens, build on existing plans and initiatives, integrate age- and ability-inclusive considerations early in decision-making, strengthen shared responsibility across systems, improve access to clear information for residents, and pursue realistic, scalable approaches that can be sustained over time.

These commitments are operationalized through six interconnected goal areas identified through the community needs assessment:

- Transportation – improving safe, reliable access to healthcare, services, work, and community life.
- Housing – supporting affordability, accessibility, and the ability to age in place.
- Communication and Information – making services easier to find, understand, and navigate.
- Health and Wellness – strengthening access to prevention, care, and intergenerational learning.
- Social Engagement and Participation – expanding connection, belonging, civic life, and economic participation across ages.

- Safety and Public Spaces – improving the accessibility and usability of streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces.

Cross-cutting strategies support implementation by establishing shared leadership through an Age-Friendly Advisory Team, positioning Senior Services as a coordinating and advocacy hub, integrating age-friendly priorities into City planning processes, and strengthening communication, engagement, and feedback loops across City departments and community partners.

The goals, strategies, and actions outlined in this plan serve as an initial implementation roadmap. Progress will be guided by ongoing community engagement, evaluation, and collaboration, allowing the City to refine or adapt approaches as conditions change. Together, the Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan embeds age-friendly and lifespan thinking into how Santa Fe plans, invests, and governs—supporting independence, inclusion, and quality of life for current and future generations.

Review Draft

## Letter of Support from the Mayor of the City of Santa Fe

**SAMPLE LETTER:** *As Mayor of the City of Santa Fe, I am proud to offer this letter of support for the Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan. This plan reflects our city's commitment to becoming a more livable, inclusive, and connected community for residents of all ages, with a particular focus on older adults and future generations.*

*I fully endorse the plan's mission to align City policies, programs, and partnerships around an all-ages, lifespan approach to aging well. I especially support its emphasis on inclusion and accessibility, coordination across departments and community partners, and the central role of community voice and lived experience in shaping priorities. The plan's recognition of the Division of Senior Services as a strategic partner in City governance is both timely and essential.*

*I also support the six core goal areas—transportation, housing, communication and information, health and wellness, social engagement and participation, and safety and public spaces—which emerged directly from extensive community engagement. Together, these goals provide a clear and actionable framework for improving independence, safety, and quality of life for residents across the lifespan.*

*As Mayor, I am committed to working with the City Council, staff, community organizations, and residents to advance this Action Plan and to integrate its values and principles into our broader planning and investment decisions.*

*I offer this letter as my formal support and appreciation for the Age-Friendly Santa Fe initiative and the collaborative work it represents on behalf of our community*

REVISION

## Letter of Support from Santa Fe City Council

**SAMPLE LETTER:** *The Santa Fe City Council is pleased to express its strong support for the Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan and the community-wide effort it represents to make Santa Fe a more livable, inclusive, and connected city for residents of all ages. This Action Plan reflects the City's commitment to aligning policies, programs, and partnerships around a coordinated, all-ages approach to aging well, consistent with Santa Fe's participation in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.*

*The Council affirms the plan's mission to advance environments that support independence, safety, participation, and well-being across the lifespan. We endorse the plan's core values, including the recognition that aging is a lifelong experience shaped by everyday systems; that inclusion and accessibility are essential to community well-being; that coordination across City departments and community partners strengthens impact; that community knowledge and lived experience are critical to effective decision-making; and that the Division of Senior Services is a strategic asset in advancing age-friendly priorities across City governance.*

*We also support the guiding principles that translate these values into action. Applying an all-ages lens, building on existing City plans and initiatives, integrating age- and ability-inclusive considerations early in planning and design, strengthening collaboration and shared responsibility, improving navigation and clarity for residents, and pursuing sustainable and scalable approaches all align with the Council's priorities for equitable, effective, and accountable governance.*

*The Council endorses the plan's six interconnected goal areas, which reflect priorities identified through extensive community engagement. These include improving transportation options; supporting affordable and accessible housing conditions; strengthening communication and information systems so residents can more easily find and use resources; expanding access to health, wellness, and prevention services across the lifespan; deepening social engagement, civic participation, and economic opportunity; and improving the safety and accessibility of public spaces.*

*We view the Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan as a living framework that will evolve through implementation, evaluation, and continued community engagement. The City Council is committed to supporting this work through its policy, budgeting, and oversight roles and looks forward to continued collaboration with the Mayor, City staff, community partners, and residents to advance the plan's vision.*

*On behalf of the residents of Santa Fe, we offer this letter as a formal expression of support for the Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan.*

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# Introduction

## Historical Background

Santa Fe, New Mexico, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in North America and the oldest state capital in the United States [1]. Long before European contact, the area was home to Pueblo communities, with settlements dating back to approximately 1050–1150 CE. The region served as an important cultural, spiritual, and trade center for Indigenous peoples [2].

Spanish colonists formally established Santa Fe as the capital of the province of Nuevo México in 1609–1610 under Governor Pedro de Peralta. The Palace of the Governors, constructed in 1610 along the north side of the Plaza in the center of the city, remains the oldest continuously used public building built by European settlers in the continental United States [3].

Santa Fe's history reflects successive periods of Indigenous, Spanish, Mexican, and American governance, including the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, Mexican independence in 1821, U.S. occupation in 1846, and statehood in 1912. This layered history continues to shape the city's identity, civic life, and planning priorities.

## Demographics

Santa Fe is a small but influential state capital with approximately 88,000–90,000 residents. The city functions as a regional center for government, tourism, healthcare, arts, and culture [1][4].

The population is racially and ethnically diverse, with more than half of residents identifying as Hispanic or Latino. Santa Fe has a slightly higher proportion of women than men and an average household size just over two persons, reflecting a mix of single-person households, couples, and smaller families.

Race / Ethnicity Share of Population (%)	
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	~ 54%
White (non-Hispanic)	~ 38%
Native American / Alaska Native	~ 3%
Black or African American	~ 1%
Asian American	~ 1%
Two or more races / Other	~ 3%

*Race and Ethnicity of Santa Fe Residents. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023 5-Year Estimates).*

Government is the largest employer, followed by hospitality, healthcare, and creative industries. Income levels vary widely, reflecting a population that includes retirees, professionals, artists, service workers, and long-term residents. [2].

### Age and Disability Demographics in Santa Fe

Santa Fe's population is significantly older than both New Mexico and the United States overall. The city's median age is 46.4 years, compared with 39.9 years statewide and 39.2 years nationally, reflecting both the aging of long-term residents and the in-migration of older adults and retirees [1].

Santa Fe, New Mexico, and United States Age Demographics		
Location	Median Age	% 65 years and older
Santa Fe, New Mexico	46.4	26%
New Mexico	39.9	20%
United States	39.2	18%

*Median Age Comparison: Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the United States. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023 5-Year Estimates).*

Adults aged 45 and older represent a larger share of Santa Fe's population compared to those in the state or nation, while children and young adults account for a smaller proportion. These differences increase demand for healthcare, accessible housing, transportation, and community supports that enable healthy aging.

Santa Fe's disability rate is higher than the national average, possibly in part because the city has a significant older adult population. About 10% of residents under age 65 report a disability, and an estimated 17% of residents overall live with a disability, compared to about 13% nationally [1]. These patterns underscore the need for accessible services, clear information, and coordinated resources that support residents across the lifespan.

### Arts, Culture, and Community Events

Arts and culture are central to Santa Fe's identity and function as civic and economic infrastructure. The city was designated as a UNESCO Creative City, reflecting its long-standing commitment to heritage, creative industries, and cultural expression [5].

Signature events include the Santa Fe Indian Market, the Traditional Spanish Market, and the International Folk Art Market, each reflecting Indigenous, Hispano, and global traditions [6][7][8]. Performing arts, museums, festivals, and year-round programming contribute to Santa Fe's role as a living cultural landscape [4].

Everyday gathering spaces, such as the Santa Fe Plaza and the Santa Fe Farmers Market continue to support social interaction, community identity, and intergenerational connection, reinforcing the city's role as a living cultural landscape [9][10].

### **Economy, Retirement, and Tourism**

Santa Fe's economy is centered on tourism, arts, culture, and small businesses. Tourism attracts approximately 2 million overnight visitors annually and supports employment, small businesses, and City revenue [11]. City initiatives such as "Go Local, Go Different" promote local entrepreneurship and help retain economic activity within the community.

Santa Fe is also consistently ranked among the best places to retire in the United States, due to its mild climate, rich cultural scene, outdoor recreation opportunities, and lack of state income tax on Social Security income. Retirees value the city's small-town feel with access to world-class arts, dining, and healthcare, including services provided by Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center [12–15].

Tourism and retiree attraction function as complementary economic drivers. Retirees contribute to local spending on housing, healthcare, dining, and retail, supporting job creation and tax revenue. At the same time, increased demand can shift employment toward lower-wage service roles and place upward pressure on housing costs, affecting affordability for workers and long-term residents [16–18].

Tourist-oriented development can also make it harder for full-time residents—especially older adults—to age in place by displacing neighborhood-serving businesses, increasing short-term rentals, and weakening local social networks. Even when residents remain housed, rising costs and the loss of familiar places can contribute to "indirect displacement," reducing stability, belonging, and quality of life. These impacts tend to fall most heavily on lower-income and less mobile residents [19-23].

For Santa Fe, balancing tourism, retirement migration, housing affordability, workforce needs, and the well-being of long-term residents is essential to sustaining community stability and quality of life.

## **Age-Friendly and Lifespan Approaches to Aging**

Age-friendly and lifespan approaches to aging are complementary frameworks that guide how communities, systems, and policies can support well-being across the life course. While age-friendly initiatives typically focus on adapting environments and services to meet the needs of older adults today, lifespan approaches emphasize that aging is a continuous process shaped by experiences, opportunities, and environments from early life through very old age.

### **Age-Friendly Environments and Systems**

Age-friendly approaches emerged in response to rapid population aging and growing recognition that physical, social, and institutional environments strongly influence health, independence, and participation in later life. The World Health Organization defines age-friendly environments as those that "foster healthy and active ageing" by enabling people to meet basic needs, remain mobile, build relationships, and contribute to community life regardless of age or ability [24].

The WHO Age-Friendly Cities Framework identifies key domains—such as housing, transportation, outdoor spaces, social participation, respect and inclusion, communication, and community support—that shape older adults' ability to age safely and meaningfully [24]. More recent global efforts, including the WHO's Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), emphasize embedding age-friendly principles across sectors, including health systems, housing, and social services [25].

Age-friendly features in homes and communities—such as universal design, safe mobility, proximity to services, and opportunities for social connection—are associated with better physical health, mental health, and quality of life in later years [26]. Importantly, age-friendly work increasingly recognizes diversity among older adults, including differences in income, culture, health status, disability, and caregiving roles, and the need to design systems that reduce inequities rather than reinforce them [24].

### **Lifespan Perspectives on Aging**

Lifespan approaches view aging not as a stage that begins in later life, but as a lifelong developmental process influenced by biological, psychological, social, and environmental factors that interact over time. Beliefs and expectations about aging form early in life through family, media, education, and culture and can shape health behaviors, cognitive functioning, and social participation across decades.

Negative views on aging are associated with poorer health outcomes, while more positive and flexible views are linked to better physical health, resilience, and longevity. Interventions aimed at improving aging outcomes cannot focus solely on older adulthood; they must also address education, work, health behaviors, and social inclusion earlier in life [27].

From a policy and planning perspective, a lifespan lens highlights the importance of continuity—ensuring that systems supporting education, employment, caregiving, housing, and health are designed to adapt as people move through longer and less linear life courses.

### **Connecting Age-Friendly and Lifespan Approaches**

Age-friendly and lifespan approaches are understood as mutually reinforcing. Age-friendly communities and health systems address quality of life through the lens of the needs of older adults, while lifespan-oriented policies aim to innovate conditions that improve aging outcomes for future generations.

Together, these approaches suggest that communities must both retrofit existing systems to support current older residents and redesign institutions—such as education, work, and housing—to reflect longer lives and changing roles over time. Addressing ageism and improving views on aging across the lifespan are critical to the success of both strategies, as social attitudes shape policy priorities, resource allocation, and individual behavior [27-28].

### **The Stanford Center on Longevity and the "New Map of Life"**

The Stanford Center on Longevity is a leading example of a lifespan-oriented approach to aging. Through its *New Map of Life* initiative, the Center calls for rethinking education, work, health, housing, and social institutions to support lives that may span 100 years or more [29].

The *New Map of Life* frames longevity not as a challenge to be managed, but as an opportunity to redesign systems so people can live longer lives that are healthy, purposeful, and economically secure. Its work emphasizes cross-sector collaboration, intergenerational engagement, and design innovation that explore how topics like physical environments, transportation, and climate conditions influence health and equity across the lifespan.

### **Implications for Community Planning and Policy**

For communities, planners, and health systems, investing in age-friendly environments can improve safety, mobility, and social connection for older adults today, while adopting a lifespan perspective encourages earlier and more preventive investments that shape aging outcomes over time.

Together, age-friendly and lifespan approaches provide a comprehensive framework for planning that supports independence, inclusion, and well-being at every stage of life—an essential foundation for communities seeking to become more resilient, equitable, and prepared for demographic change.

### **Implications for Younger Generations**

Age-friendly and lifespan approaches are particularly relevant for younger generations (Generation X, Millennials and Generation Z) who are likely to live longer lives while navigating more complex and less linear life courses than previous generations. These cohorts are expected to experience multiple transitions across education, work, caregiving, and health over

many decades, rather than following a single pathway from school to work to retirement [29]. At the same time, younger generations may be unaware of the impacts longer lives may have on employment and retirement [30].

Age-friendly design benefits these younger generations now, not only in later life. Walkable neighborhoods, reliable public transportation, accessible housing, green space, and inclusive public spaces can support physical and mental health for young adults, families, and older residents alike. Framing age-friendly communities as good for all generations strengthens their relevance as long-term community investments rather than niche aging initiatives.

Lifespan research highlights that behaviors and conditions in early and mid-adulthood strongly influence health and functioning later in life. Younger generations today place a high value on health, well-being, and quality of life, with many prioritizing wellness, flexibility, and supportive environments when making decisions about work and place [31-33]. This orientation aligns with lifespan models that emphasize prevention and supportive environments as foundations for healthy aging.

At the same time, these generations face significant risks related to housing affordability, employment, student debt, and mental health stressors. Lifespan perspectives emphasize that such challenges accumulate over time, potentially leading to poorer aging outcomes if left unaddressed. Age-friendly, lifespan-informed planning therefore plays a critical role in mitigating long-term risk by investing early in housing stability, accessible transportation, social infrastructure, and inclusive economic opportunity.

### **Economic Participation Across the Lifespan**

Beyond shaping physical environments and social infrastructure, age-friendly and lifespan approaches also ask to rethink how communities support work, income security, and economic participation across longer lives. Older adults aged 50 and above are increasingly turning to employment and entrepreneurship for financial stability, flexibility, and autonomy, patterns that signal how work is evolving across the lifespan. Self-employment rates rise sharply with age, from about 25% for workers aged 55–59 to 68% for those aged 75–79, often as independent contractors or small business owners, particularly among those with advanced degrees [34-35].

Programs like AARP Foundation's Work for Yourself@50+ and BACK TO WORK 50+ provide free workshops, coaching, and digital skills training to help older adults launch side hustles, freelance gigs, or businesses, addressing barriers like age discrimination and skill gaps. The Stanford Center on Longevity promotes redesigned employment and entrepreneurship models to support prosperity across extended lifespans [36-37]. This work underscores the need for policies fostering economic vitality and skills development across the lifespan.

## The WHO–AARP Age-Friendly Initiative

The Age-Friendly Initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP is a coordinated global and national effort to help communities become better places to live as people age. The initiative focuses on improving the physical and social environments that shape daily life—such as housing, transportation, public spaces, and access to services—so communities support health, independence, and participation for residents of all ages [24][38].

### The World Health Organization Age-Friendly Global Network

The WHO launched the Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in 2010 in response to rapid population aging and urbanization worldwide. The network provides a shared framework and learning platform for cities, counties, and regions committed to becoming more age-friendly. Membership represents a public commitment to engage residents, assess local conditions, and pursue continuous improvement rather than a one-time designation.

The WHO framework emphasizes 8 domains of livability:

- outdoor spaces and buildings,
- transportation,
- housing,
- social participation,
- respect and social inclusion,
- communication and information,
- civic participation, and
- community support and health services.

Together, these domains highlight how everyday environments and systems influence quality of life across the lifespan [24].

### AARP's Role in the United States

In the United States, the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities serves as the official U.S. affiliate of the WHO Global Network. Established in 2012, the AARP network supports states, cities, counties, and towns in applying the WHO framework within local contexts. AARP provides technical assistance, planning tools, peer learning opportunities, and national coordination to help participating communities move from commitment to action [39].

As of 2025, more than 1,000 communities are enrolled nationwide, and nearly 40 percent of Americans live in a jurisdiction that has joined the AARP age-friendly network. This growth reflects increasing recognition that age-friendly planning is not solely about older adults, but about creating livable communities that support people across generations [40].

### Membership Process and Continuous Improvement

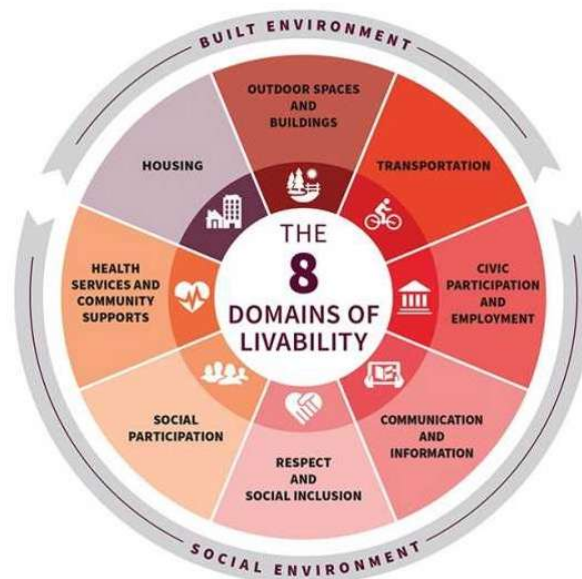
Participation in the WHO–AARP Age-Friendly Initiative follows a structured, multi-year process centered on continuous improvement. Communities begin by adopting a formal resolution or

executive action committing to age-friendly principles, which enrolls them in both the AARP Network and the WHO Global Network. Participating jurisdictions then assess local conditions using data, surveys, and community input; develop a multi-year age-friendly action plan; implement strategies; and monitor progress over time.

Communities are expected to report on progress and adjust strategies as conditions and needs evolve, reinforcing age-friendliness as an ongoing practice embedded in planning, policymaking, and service delivery rather than a standalone project [40].

### Broader Impact

Communities participating in the WHO–AARP Age-Friendly Initiative report benefits that extend beyond older adults, including safer streets, more accessible housing, stronger social connections, and improved community well-being. By designing environments and policies that anticipate aging and changing abilities, the initiative advances a more inclusive and resilient community model that supports residents throughout the life course.



## **Age-Friendly Santa Fe Initiative**

The Age-Friendly Santa Fe initiative is a city-led effort to make Santa Fe a more livable and inclusive community for residents of all ages, with a particular focus on older adults. Led by the City of Santa Fe, the initiative is grounded in formal City Council action committing the City to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

### **City Council Resolution and Five-Year Process**

In 2024, Santa Fe City Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-5, formally committing Santa Fe to becoming a more age-friendly city and enrolling in the AARP Network. The resolution directs the City to complete a structured five-year improvement process, including enrollment, a comprehensive community needs assessment, development of an Age-Friendly Action Plan, and ongoing implementation and evaluation [41].

### **Goals and Activities**

The initiative's core goal is to ensure that residents can remain active, connected, and safely housed in their community as they age, while also improving conditions for younger residents and families. Key activities include community forums, a citywide survey, advisory engagement, and the development of a multi-year Age-Friendly Action Plan aligned with the eight domains of livability.

By participating in the AARP Network, Santa Fe receives age-friendly network support, peer learning opportunities, and national recognition, while committing to ongoing resident engagement and integration of age-friendly priorities into city planning and policy decisions.

### **Age-friendly Assets of Santa Fe**

Santa Fe benefits from a wide range of age-friendly programs and services provided by the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, and community partners. The AARP Livability Index offers additional insight by highlighting both community strengths and areas for improvement related to age-friendliness.

### **City of Santa Fe Aging and Community Services**

The City of Santa Fe's Department of Community Services provides citywide library, senior, youth, and family programs designed to improve quality of life and increase access to resources across the lifespan. Through direct services, community facilities, and advisory bodies, the department supports residents' ability to remain connected, informed, and engaged in community life.

### **Department of Community Services**

The Department of Community Services is organized into three primary divisions that serve as key access points for information, services, and community engagement. In addition to direct

programming, the department provides staff support for boards, commissions, and initiatives that elevate resident voice and guide policy development:

- **Libraries Division:** Operates the City’s public library system, offering lending collections, technology access, educational programming, and community learning spaces for residents of all ages. Libraries also function as inclusive community hubs that promote literacy, digital access, and informal social connection.
- **Senior Services Division:** Administers a citywide aging services system that supports independent living, health and wellness, transportation, social engagement, and volunteerism for older adults.
- **Youth and Family Services Division:** Operates youth programs and community centers that provide afterschool, summer, and enrichment activities, along with family supports that promote healthy development and community engagement.
- **Community advisory bodies and initiatives:** Provides staff support for boards and commissions such as the Children and Youth Commission, Human Services Committee, Immigration Committee, Veterans Advisory Board, Women’s Commission, and the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Board, as well as initiatives like CONNECT that link residents to services and elevate community voice.

### **Division of Senior Services**

The Division of Senior Services operates a coordinated network of programs designed to help older adults remain active, connected, and living safely in their homes and communities. Services are generally available to residents age 60 and older, with some volunteer programs open to adults age 55 and older. Most services are offered at no cost, with suggested donations. Core functions include:

- Supporting independent living through nutrition services, transportation, in-home and respite services, and case assistance
- Promoting healthy aging through fitness, health promotion activities, and preventive screenings
- Reducing social isolation through senior center–based activities, special events, and friendly visiting or companion programs
- Mobilizing older adults as community assets through structured volunteer programs, including AmeriCorps Seniors

### **Senior Centers**

Senior Services operates three senior centers that serve as key access points for programs, meals, transportation connections, and community life. These centers provide congregate meals, social and recreational activities, and referrals to additional supports:

- Luisa Senior Center
- Mary Esther Gonzalez (MEG) Senior Center
- Pasatiempo Senior Center

## Senior Services Programs

Senior Services programs are designed to support aging in place, social connection, and overall well-being. Key program areas include:

- **Nutrition services:** Congregate meals at senior centers and home-delivered meals for homebound residents, supporting nutrition, socialization, and independence.
- **Transportation:** Senior-focused transportation services linked to senior centers, supporting access to meals, health care, activities, and essential services.
- **Health promotion and wellness:** Fitness and recreation programs, health promotion activities, and screenings that support strength, balance, mobility, and disease prevention.
- **Recreation, education, and social activities:** Classes, cultural and educational activities, games, special events, and Senior Olympics opportunities that foster social connection and active aging.
- **Benefits counseling and information and referral:** Assistance navigating benefits and services, along with outreach to connect older adults with community resources.
- **Respite care and home management:** Limited respite and home management services that support family caregivers and help older adults remain at home.
- **Senior Scene newsletter:** A free monthly publication that explains how to access senior services, lists activities, and shares program updates.

Together, these programs function as essential components of the community's long-term care system, complementing medical and residential services while emphasizing independence and participation.

## Volunteer and Civic Engagement Programs

Senior Services also administers AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer programs that both support older adults and engage them as contributors to the community. Volunteer opportunities include:

- **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP):** Connects adults age 55 and older with volunteer placements that address local needs such as food distribution, education support, environmental projects, and emergency preparedness.
- **Foster Grandparent Program (FGP):** Engages older adults as mentors and tutors for children and youth, providing academic and social support in schools and community settings.
- **Senior Companion Program (SCP):** Supports income-eligible volunteers age 55 and older who serve as companions to homebound or isolated older adults, offering emotional support and basic assistance.
- **Care Companion Program (CCP):** Places volunteers of all ages to provide regular social visits and engagement for residents in long-term care communities.

These programs extend the reach of Senior Services while strengthening intergenerational connections.

## Santa Fe County Senior Services

Santa Fe County operates a separate senior services system serving adults age 60 and older in unincorporated areas of the county, with some facilities located within or near city limits. County services are distinct from the City of Santa Fe's Division of Senior Services.

County programs are delivered through five senior centers that offer congregate and home-delivered meals, door-to-door transportation, fitness and wellness activities, arts and educational programs, and service navigation through CONNECT. Programs are generally free or donation-based for eligible residents.

### Age-Friendly Community Resources and Programs

In addition to City and County services, Santa Fe is supported by a broad ecosystem of nonprofit organizations, health systems, educational institutions, and community-based programs that contribute to age-friendly conditions. These resources play an important role in supporting older adults, caregivers, and families across health, housing, caregiving, social connection, and lifelong learning. The lists below are not comprehensive but illustrate the range of programs and services that strengthen Santa Fe's age-friendly capacities.

#### Health and Caregiving

Organizations in this category provide medical, caregiving, and dementia-related services that support aging in place, caregiver well-being, and quality of life.

- Age Friendly Senior Care (home care for individuals with memory loss)
- Alzheimer's Association New Mexico Chapter (Alzheimer's and dementia education and resources)
- CHRISTUS St. Vincent Center for Healthy Aging (Age-Friendly Health System)
- Life Circle (adult day services and dementia support)
- Scott's House (hospice and end-of-life care)
- The Memory Care Alliance (caregiver and dementia support services)
- Sun and Moon Eldercare (care coordination and navigation)
- Crossroads Aging Care Professionals (life care management)

#### Service Navigation and Information

These organizations help residents and caregivers understand, access, and coordinate available services across systems.

- CONNECT 211 (City of Santa Fe and United Way of North Central New Mexico)
- Santa Fe County CONNECT (service navigation and referrals)
- Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
- North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging)

- Santa Fe Eldercare Network (network of professionals serving Santa Fe elders)
- SHARE New Mexico (community information database)

### **Nutrition, Housing, and Basic Needs**

Programs in this category address food security, housing stability, and essential supports that enable older adults to remain safely in their homes and communities.

- Bienvenidos Outreach (food pantry and elder support)
- REunity Resources (senior food programs, farm stand access, and community gardens)
- Housing Trust Fund of Santa Fe (affordable housing, including senior housing)
- Be The Blessing Nonprofit (assistance for seniors and veterans)
- Salvation Army Santa Fe Corps (“Love the Elderly” program)

### **Physical Activity, Wellness, and Fall Prevention**

These programs promote physical health, mobility, and fall prevention through targeted and accessible activities.

- Punching Out Parkinson’s Santa Fe (exercise programs for individuals with Parkinson’s disease)
- Villages of Santa Fe (fall prevention, fitness, and aging-in-place supports)

### **Education, Civic Life, and Intergenerational Support**

Organizations in this category support lifelong learning, civic engagement, and intergenerational connections that strengthen social participation.

- Santa Fe Community College (lifelong learning and caregiver training)
- Santa Fe Community Foundation (funding and capacity-building for senior-serving nonprofits)
- Silver Horizons (support for grandparents raising grandchildren)
- Youth Works Santa Fe (youth employment, counseling, and intergenerational services)
- Somos Un Pueblo Unido (advocacy supporting immigrant and worker rights)
- Santa Fe Indigenous Center (culturally responsive services for Indigenous elders)
- Turquoise Trail Charter School (community-based education and opportunities for intergenerational engagement)

Together, these organizations complement City and County services and reflect Santa Fe’s broader commitment to supporting aging in place, caregiver resilience, cultural responsiveness, and social connection across the lifespan.

# AARP Livability Index



The AARP Livability Index evaluates communities on a 0–100 scale across seven categories: Housing, Neighborhood, Transportation, Environment, Health, Engagement, and Opportunity. Santa Fe earns an above-average overall score of 59, though affordability and safety remain ongoing challenges.

The city performs strongest in Engagement (80), reflecting broad access to cultural arts, entertainment, and competitively priced internet. Santa Fe also scores well in Environment (66), supported by generally healthy air quality. Housing receives a mid-range score (57), shaped by the presence of subsidized housing alongside housing costs that exceed the national average. Opportunity is the lowest-rated category (36), driven by limited age diversity and higher levels of income inequality. The Neighborhood score (53) reflects a mixed picture, balancing strong access to libraries and parks with an above-average crime rate.

PRE

 **Housing** ⓘ  
Affordability and Access



 **Neighborhood** ⓘ  
Proximity and Security



 **Transportation** ⓘ  
Safety and Convenience



 **Environment** ⓘ  
Clean Air and Water



 **Health** ⓘ  
Prevention, Access and Quality



 **Engagement** ⓘ  
Civic and Social Involvement



 **Opportunity** ⓘ  
Inclusion and Possibilities



## Needs Assessment and Community Engagement

The Age-Friendly Santa Fe initiative is grounded in comprehensive community engagement and a systematic needs assessment process. The initiative gathered input from residents, community partners, and service providers to inform Santa Fe's Age-Friendly Action Plan. This needs assessment included a community survey, listening sessions, workshops, and community forums, along with insights from advisory committee members and organizational leaders working across aging, housing, transportation, health, and community services.

### Core Project Team

The needs assessment was led by a small core project team composed of the Director of Community Services, the Director of Senior Services, and a contracted Project Manager. This team met regularly to plan, coordinate, and oversee the assessment process.

### Advisory Committee

The core project team organized an Age-Friendly Santa Fe Advisory Committee to support the community needs assessment and development of the Age-Friendly Action Plan. The committee comprised leaders and community members from various City departments and community organizations. Members met virtually throughout 2025 and provided input on Santa Fe's age-friendliness across AARP's 8 Domains of Livability, helped identify existing strengths and areas for improvement, and offered guidance on community engagement efforts, including the survey, listening sessions, workshops, and community forums.

Age-Friendly Santa Fe Advisory Committee	
Member	Name of Organization
Gary Williams	AARP New Mexico
David Fresquez	Age-Friendly Senior Care
Kathleen Tunney	CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center
Manuel Sanchez	City of Santa Fe Division of Senior Services
Maria Tucker	City of Santa Fe Department of Community Services
Johanna Nelson	City of Santa Fe Economic Development
Kathylene Gish	City of Santa Fe Mayor's Committee on Disability
Margaret Neill	City of Santa Fe Public Library
Julie Sanchez	City of Santa Fe Youth and Family Services
Jennifer Nevarez	CommUNITY Learning Network
Daniel Lopez	Designated ADA Coordinator, Equity and ADA Manager
Kevin Bowman	Human Rights Alliance
Matilda Byers	Santa Fe County Seniors Services
Erick Aune	Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Ann Church	Villages of Santa Fe
Andrew West	Age-Friendly Santa Fe Project Manager

In addition to the Advisory Committee meetings, the core project team also met with other community leaders and organizational representatives to gather additional perspectives. Together, this input complemented feedback from residents and helped inform the priorities, goals, and strategies included in the Age-Friendly Action Plan.

### **Community Engagement Process**

Residents were engaged to understand what supports living and aging well in Santa Fe and to inform the development of the Age-Friendly Action Plan. Multiple opportunities for input were provided, including a survey, listening sessions, workshops, and community forums. All materials and activities were available in English and Spanish, with interpretation provided at in-person events.

Information about the Age-Friendly Santa Fe initiative and opportunities to participate was shared through multiple channels, including:

- The Age-Friendly Santa Fe website
- Newsletters and email announcements
- Flyers distributed in City buildings and facilities
- Senior Scene newsletter (print and online)
- Community partner networks and email lists

Community partners—particularly organizations working closely with Spanish-speaking residents—supported outreach by sharing bilingual and Spanish-language invitations.

### **Community Survey**

The initiative developed an abbreviated survey based on the AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Residents could complete the survey:

- Online through the City's Age-Friendly website
- In paper form at all City senior centers and public libraries

The survey was promoted through newsletters, flyers, email lists, and community outreach activities. Spanish-language paper surveys were also distributed in person at an event hosted by community partner Somos Un Pueblo Unido.

### **Listening Sessions**

Listening sessions were small group conversations where residents shared perspectives on what supports quality of life in Santa Fe and what could be improved as people age. Sessions focused on topics aligned with AARP's 8 Domains of Livability and were held at the City's three senior centers.

Sessions were conducted in English with Spanish interpretation available. Flyers and invitations were hand-delivered to residents living near affordable housing units at the Luisa and

Pasatiempo centers. One listening session planned to be conducted entirely in Spanish, in partnership with Somos Un Pueblo Unido, did not have any attendees.

### Workshop Series

A four-part workshop series was hosted at Santa Fe Public Library locations and focused on skills that support aging well. Each workshop lasted approximately 90 minutes and included a presentation followed by group discussion. Participants shared ideas about how Santa Fe can better support residents as they age. Workshops were held in English with Spanish interpretation available.

### Community Forums

Six community forums were held later in the process to share findings from the survey, listening sessions, and workshops. Residents were invited to respond to early findings and provide feedback on draft goals and strategies for the Age-Friendly Action Plan. Forums were held at City library locations and senior centers and were conducted in English with Spanish interpretation available.

### Language Access and Inclusion

Language access was prioritized throughout the engagement process. All outreach materials and surveys were available in English and Spanish, and Spanish interpretation was provided at listening sessions, workshops, and community forums. Community partnerships supported targeted outreach through Spanish-language communications and in-person engagement.

### How Community Input Was Used

Information from the survey, listening sessions, workshops, and community forums was reviewed together to identify common themes, shared priorities, and key concerns. Community forums provided an opportunity for residents to respond to preliminary findings and help refine ideas. Together, this input informed the priorities, goals, and strategies of the Age-Friendly Action Plan.

Event Participation	
Engagement Activity	Participants
Workshops	113
Listening Sessions	92
Community Forums	75
Total Participation*	280
Unique Participants	260

Survey Participation	
Paper Surveys	68
Online Surveys	494
Spanish Surveys	16
English Surveys	546
Total Surveys	562

\* Note: Some residents took part in more than one activity.

# Needs Assessment Results

## Survey Results

Summary of Survey Results	
Topic Area	Key Findings
Perceptions of Aging in Santa Fe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>67% rated Santa Fe as a good or very good place to age</li> <li>Average rating: 3.12 (“Good”)</li> </ul>
Aging in Place & Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 90% rated staying in their home as important or very important</li> <li>Over 90% rated living independently as important or very important</li> <li>73% rated staying in Santa Fe as important or very important</li> </ul>
Housing Situation & Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83% reported owning their home; 16% reported renting</li> <li>39% reported home repairs / modifications would be helpful</li> </ul>
Transportation & Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% reported having reliable transportation</li> <li>94% primarily drive themselves</li> <li>Smaller shares reported walking, biking, ride services, or public transit</li> </ul>
Social Connection (Frequency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>94% reported regular communication with family, friends, or neighbors</li> <li>75% reported social interaction at least three days per week</li> <li>55% expressed interest in additional social or volunteer opportunities</li> </ul>
Social Connection (Where People Connect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respondents connected through gyms, support groups, faith-based organizations, and community centers</li> <li>Many described informal connections through friends, family, work, and volunteering</li> <li>A smaller group reported limited or no social connection</li> </ul>
Information Access & Technology Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93% reported daily internet use</li> <li>97% use smartphones; 95% email; 91% text messaging</li> <li>Common sources included newspapers, personal networks, social media, and libraries</li> </ul>
Use of City Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% reported using Santa Fe libraries</li> <li>38% reported using recreation centers</li> <li>18% reported using senior centers</li> </ul>
Employment & Financial Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% reported being fully retired</li> <li>62% were unsure whether sufficient financial wellness resources are available</li> </ul>
Respondent Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average age: 68</li> <li>71% identified as female</li> <li>76% identified as White; 15% Hispanic</li> </ul>

Response results for all survey questions are provided in **Appendix B Age-Friendly Santa Fe Survey Results**.

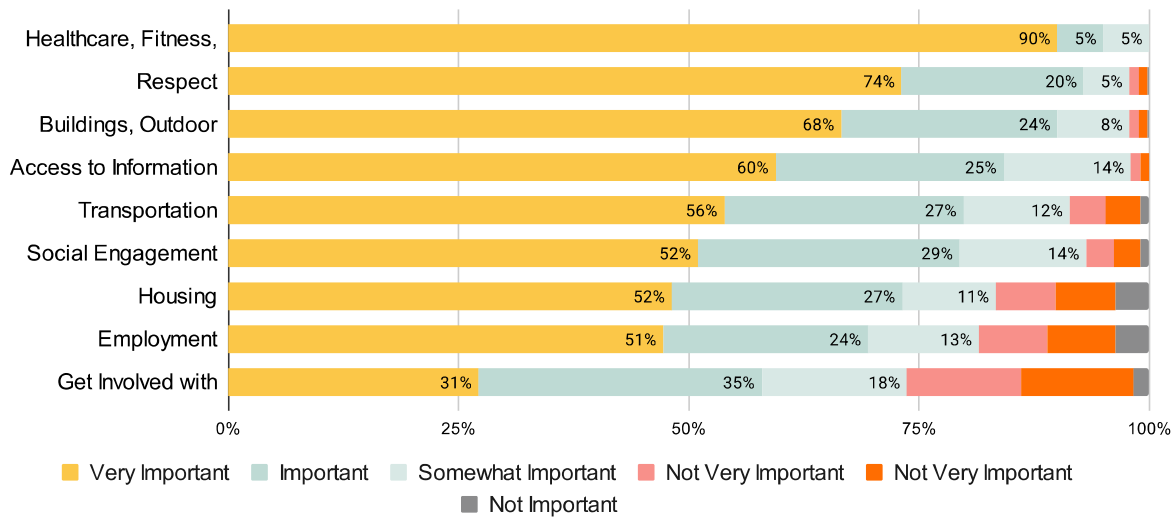
Survey results indicate that most respondents view Santa Fe as a good place to age and report strong social connection and high use of technology. At the same time, housing stability, independence, and transportation emerged as central priorities, with many respondents identifying home repairs, accessibility modifications, and reliable mobility as important to aging in place. While most respondents reported good health and regular social interaction, gaps between the importance of key livability domains—particularly healthcare, housing, transportation, and employment—and current community conditions suggest areas where improvements are needed. Together, these findings highlight both strong community assets and persistent structural challenges that informed the focus areas and strategies outlined in the Age-Friendly Action Plan.

Priority livability domains were identified by comparing resident ratings of importance and current quality for each domain. Domains with the largest gaps—those rated as highly important but lower in quality—were prioritized for this action plan.

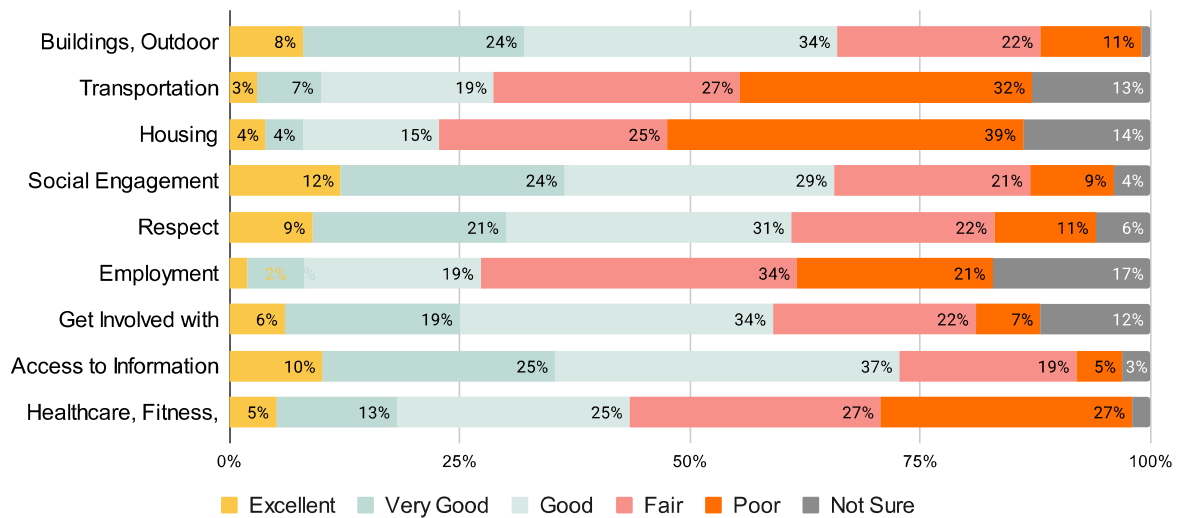
Survey Results – Domains of Livability	
Topic Area	Key Findings
<b>Most Important Livability Domains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare</li> <li>• Feeling valued across ages</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Access to information</li> </ul>
<b>Lowest Rated Livability Domains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Healthcare</li> </ul>
<b>Priority Domains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Largest gaps between importance and current conditions were in               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Healthcare</li> <li>○ Transportation</li> <li>○ Housing</li> <li>○ Employment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Select Charts and Graphs of Survey Results on the Livability of Santa Fe

### Domains of Livability Importance



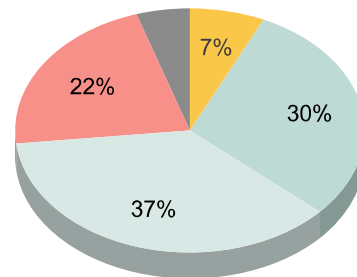
### Domains of Livability Ratings



How would you rate Santa Fe as a place to live as someone ages?	n	%
Good	209	37%
Very Good	168	30%
Fair	123	22%
Excellent	40	7%
Poor	28	5%
No Response	8	
Average Score	3.12	



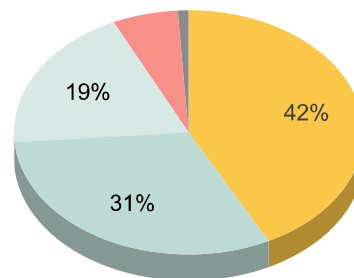
How would you rate Santa Fe as a place to live as someone ages?



How important is it for you to stay in Santa Fe as you age?	n	%
Very important	237	42%
Important	175	31%
Somewhat important	104	19%
Not very important	35	6%
Not important at all	8	1%
No Response	17	
Average Score	4.07	

● Excellent ● Very Good ● Good ● Fair ● Poor

How important is it for you to stay in Santa Fe as you age?



● Very important ● Important ● Somewhat important ● Not very important ● Not important at all

REVIEW

## Key Themes from Listening Sessions, Workshops, and Community Forums

<b>Summary of Listening Session, Workshop, and Community Forum Results</b>	
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Key Concerns Raised by Participants</b>
<b>1. Moving Through the City Feels Increasingly Hard and Risky</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsafe street crossings, especially on major corridors</li> <li>• Fast-moving traffic and driver behavior that feels dangerous</li> <li>• Uneven, missing, or poorly maintained sidewalks</li> <li>• Poor or inconsistent lighting and affecting comfort and safety of public spaces</li> </ul>
<b>2. Transportation Is the Link Between Resources and Daily Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty scheduling rides, especially with advance notice requirements</li> <li>• Bus routes and schedules that do not align with daily needs</li> <li>• Limited flexibility for same-day or spontaneous trips</li> <li>• Reliance on neighbors or informal help when systems fall short</li> </ul>
<b>3. Housing Works Best When It Is Affordable and Close to Daily Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited affordable housing near healthcare, groceries, and services</li> <li>• Rising costs affecting long-term residents' ability to remain in place</li> <li>• Impacts of second homes and short-term rentals on availability</li> <li>• Difficulty aging in place when housing is far from resources</li> </ul>
<b>4. Access to Santa Fe's Cultural Life Is Uneven for Full-Time Residents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited parking near cultural sites and downtown</li> <li>• Limited parking availability for residents/those with mobility needs</li> <li>• Cultural areas perceived as oriented toward tourists</li> <li>• Tension between full-time residents and seasonal residents</li> </ul>
<b>5. Staying Connected Requires Energy, Access, and Opportunity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation and safety barriers limiting participation</li> <li>• Health limitations affecting ability to engage regularly</li> <li>• Isolation among some residents who remain disengaged</li> </ul>
<b>6. Being Active Is Essential, but Not Always Easy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited access to pools, gyms, and recreation facilities</li> <li>• Transportation and distance barriers to physical activity</li> <li>• Safety concerns limiting walking and outdoor movement</li> <li>• Inconsistent availability of programs or staffing</li> </ul>
<b>7. Access to Information and Communication Is Unclear and Inconsistent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited awareness of available programs and services</li> <li>• Confusion about where to find accurate information</li> <li>• Lack of clear follow-up when concerns are reported</li> <li>• Reliance on libraries, newsletters, staff, and word-of-mouth</li> </ul>
<b>8. People Feel Heard in These Conversations, but Less So Elsewhere</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few opportunities outside these sessions to share concerns</li> <li>• Uncertainty about whether input leads to action</li> <li>• Difficulty navigating city processes and decision-making</li> <li>• Sense of distance between residents and formal systems</li> </ul>

Across listening sessions, workshops, and community forums, participants described how mobility, housing, and access shape daily life and independence in Santa Fe. Safety concerns related to traffic speed, pedestrian infrastructure, lighting, and noise were frequently raised, influencing where people go, when they go out, and whether they feel comfortable participating in community life.

Transportation emerged as a central connecting factor rather than a standalone issue. Participants emphasized that access to food, healthcare, cultural activities, social connection, and physical activity depends on reliable and flexible transportation. When systems do not align with daily needs, residents rely on informal support, plan far in advance, or opt out of activities altogether.

Housing was discussed primarily in terms of affordability and proximity to daily needs. Participants described the ability to live near healthcare, grocery stores, parks, libraries, and cultural spaces as essential to aging in place and maintaining independence. Rising housing costs, second homes, and short-term rentals were cited as factors limiting stable housing options for full-time residents.

Participants also highlighted the importance of social connection, physical activity, and access to information. While Santa Fe offers valued cultural, recreational, and community assets, barriers related to safety, transportation, health limitations, and uneven access can limit participation. Libraries, trusted staff, newsletters, and in-person conversations were consistently identified as reliable sources of information, while many expressed frustrations with unclear processes and limited follow-up when concerns are raised. Despite these challenges, participants valued the opportunity to be heard through the engagement process and expressed a desire for more consistent avenues for resident input.

REVISIONS

## Key Insights from Advisory Committee, Resource Providers, and Community Leaders

Insights from Advisory Committee, Resource Providers, and Community Leaders	
Theme	Key Insights
<b>Fragmentation of Services, Resources, and Networks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services operate across many organizations with limited coordination</li> <li>• Providers often lack visibility into one another's work</li> <li>• Residents experience support as disconnected rather than system-based</li> </ul>
<b>Awareness and Navigation as Central Barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services exist but are not consistently visible to residents</li> <li>• Navigation pathways are unclear or informal</li> <li>• Access often depends on personal networks or timing</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation as the Link Between Services, Housing, and Daily Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation determines practical access to services and opportunities</li> <li>• Mobility challenges affect work, caregiving, health, and participation</li> <li>• Transportation efforts are not always connected to other systems</li> </ul>
<b>Housing, Location, and Access Are Inseparable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing stability depends on affordability, location, and connectivity</li> <li>• Rising costs and limited supply affect residents across life stages</li> <li>• Short-term rentals and cost of living increase instability and homelessness risk</li> </ul>
<b>Existing Platforms Offer Untapped Potential for Connection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trusted tools and institutions already exist</li> <li>• These platforms reach residents across ages and life circumstances</li> <li>• Their role as shared entry points is not consistently reinforced</li> </ul>
<b>Communication and Coordination Shape How Systems Are Experienced</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistent communication leads to gaps and confusion</li> <li>• Coordination relies on informal relationships</li> <li>• Systems function better individually than collectively</li> </ul>
<b>Disability, Accessibility, and Inclusive Services Shape Daily Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility benefits people of all ages and abilities</li> <li>• Inclusive design supports independence and participation</li> <li>• Inconsistent accessibility limits engagement and increases isolation</li> </ul>
<b>Aging as a Lifespan Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging is shaped by everyday systems, not age alone</li> <li>• The same systems affect families, workers, caregivers, and businesses</li> <li>• A lifespan lens highlights shared community impacts</li> </ul>

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Input from advisory committee members, resource providers, and community leaders highlighted that Santa Fe offers many programs and services that support aging well, but these efforts are often experienced as fragmented rather than as a coordinated system. Limited visibility across organizations and inconsistent coordination make it difficult for residents to understand how resources connect or how support evolves across different life stages.

Across discussions, awareness and navigation emerged as central barriers to access. Services were generally viewed as valuable once found, but information about them does not consistently reach residents in clear or predictable ways. Access often depends on personal networks, informal referrals, or timing, underscoring the importance of improving communication and coordination across City efforts and community partners.

Transportation and housing were consistently identified as foundational systems shaping access to daily life. Reliable transportation determines whether residents can reach healthcare, work, education, and community activities, while housing stability depends on affordability, location, and proximity to services. Participants emphasized that inclusive design, accessibility, and trusted information platforms—such as libraries and CONNECT Santa Fe—play a critical role in supporting participation across ages and abilities. Together, these insights reinforce the importance of addressing aging as a lifespan issue shaped by everyday systems, informing the focus areas and strategies of the Age-Friendly Action Plan.

Review Draft

## Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan Focus Areas

The following focus areas identify the key conditions that shape residents' ability to live and age well in Santa Fe and serve as the foundation for the Action Plan's goals and strategies.

Focus Areas to Ground Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan Goals and Strategies	
Focus Area	Why This Matters
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation supports independence by determining whether residents can access healthcare, housing, social activities, and essential services as mobility needs change.</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable and affordable housing is critical to aging well, as cost, accessibility, and location affect health, safety, and the ability to stay connected to the community.</li> </ul>
Communication & Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear and coordinated communication helps residents understand how to find and use services and resources, especially during times of transition or increased need.</li> </ul>
Social Engagement & Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social engagement and participation support well-being by fostering connection, belonging, and involvement in community life, which are important for health and quality of life at all ages.</li> </ul>
Health & Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and wellness are central priorities for residents and are closely connected to transportation, housing stability, and opportunities for social engagement.</li> </ul>
Safety & Public Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and accessible public spaces influence residents' confidence, mobility, and willingness to participate in community life.</li> </ul>

The focus areas for Santa Fe's Age-Friendly Action Plan were developed by synthesizing findings from the full needs assessment process, including the community survey, listening sessions, workshops, and input from community partners, service providers, community leaders, and the Age-Friendly Santa Fe Advisory Committee. Rather than relying on a single source, the initiative identified patterns that appeared consistently across the needs assessment.

The selected focus areas reflect the conditions that most influence residents' ability to live and age well in Santa Fe. They represent interconnected aspects of daily life that shape independence, access to services, social connection, and participation in the community. Challenges in one area—such as transportation—often affect others, including access to healthcare, housing options, and opportunities for engagement.

Together, these focus areas provide a clear framework for organizing the goals and strategies of the Action Plan and responding to the priorities identified by residents and community partners to improve age-friendliness in Santa Fe.

# Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan

## Mission, Values, and Guiding Principles

### Mission

The purpose of this Action Plan is to advance a coordinated, all-ages approach to aging well by aligning City policies, programs, and partnerships; elevating Senior Services as a strategic partner in City governance; and leveraging existing City efforts to create inclusive, accessible, and connected communities for residents across the lifespan.

### Values

#### **Aging Is a Lifespan Experience**

Aging is a continuous process that affects all residents. Planning for aging well means creating conditions that support people at every stage of life, not only in older adulthood.

#### **Inclusion and Accessibility Are Essential**

Age-friendly, ability-friendly and family-friendly design, communication, and services are fundamental to participation, safety, and well-being for individuals, families, and communities.

#### **Coordination Strengthens Impact**

Meaningful progress is achieved by aligning efforts across departments, organizations, and initiatives rather than working in isolation or duplicating services.

#### **Community Knowledge Matters**

The lived experience of residents, families, business owners, workers, caregivers, and service providers is essential to understanding needs, identifying gaps, and shaping effective strategies.

#### **Senior Services Is a Strategic Asset**

The Division of Senior Services plays a critical role not only in service delivery but in advocacy, capacity building, and collaboration across the City and community partners.

## Guiding Principles

### Apply an All-Ages Lens

Consider how policies, programs, and investments support people now and as they age, with attention to continuity, prevention, and adaptability over time.

### Build on Existing Work

Leverage current City plans, programs, and partnerships whenever possible, strengthening alignment and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

### Integrate Early

Include age- and ability-inclusive considerations at the earliest stages of planning, design, and decision-making.

### Strengthen Collaboration and Shared Responsibility

Promote partnerships across City departments, community organizations, and residents, with shared ownership of goals and outcomes.

### Improve Navigation and Clarity

Prioritize strategies that make information easier to find, services easier to access, and systems easier to understand.

### Support Sustainable Capacity

Advance approaches that are realistic, scalable, and sustainable, strengthening long-term capacity rather than short-term solutions.

These mission, values, and principles are the foundation for the goals, strategies, and actions outlined in this plan. They are intended to guide decision-making, promote alignment across City efforts, and support a consistent, all-ages approach to the quality of life for Santa Fe residents.

The following goals translate community priorities into coordinated strategies and actions. Goals define intended outcomes, strategies describe how the City will respond, and actions identify priority areas for implementation.

Implementation of these strategies and actions will be led through collaboration among the Age-Friendly Advisory Committee or Task Force, the Department of Community Services, and the Division of Senior Services. Specific roles, responsibilities, timelines, and success indicators are detailed in the implementation tables provided in Appendix A Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Matrix.

These goals, strategies, and actions are an initial roadmap for advancing age-friendly priorities. As implementation proceeds, the initiative may pivot, refine, or adopt new strategies in response to continued community engagement, evaluation, and changing conditions.

## Cross-Cutting Strategies

1. Establish shared leadership and resident involvement to guide Age-Friendly Action Plan implementation.
2. Position Senior Services as a coordinating and advocacy hub across City initiatives and programs.
3. Integrate age-friendly, ability-friendly, and family-friendly priorities into existing City plans, programs, and partnerships.
4. Strengthen communication, engagement, and feedback loops across City and community partner systems.

## Cross Cutting Actions

### Governance and Infrastructure

- Establish an Age-Friendly Advisory Committee or Task Force to guide implementation, incorporate ongoing community input, and report progress to City Council.
- Explore the creation of a dedicated age-friendly and community engagement staff position within Senior Services or Community Services.

### Engagement and Input

- Host regular meetings, workshops, and community conversations focused on domain-specific areas of livability.
- Use senior centers, libraries, and community venues as consistent access points for gathering age-friendly community input.
- Establish a clear pathway for resident input to flow from the aging services network through Community Services to the Advisory Committee or Task Force and City Council.

### Planning and Coordination

- Engage City planning processes to ensure age-friendly considerations are incorporated.
- Integrate age-friendly language and principles into City plans, policies, and reports.
- Position Senior Services as a strategic planning partner to support coordination across the City.



## Transportation Goals, Strategies, and Actions

### Goal

Improve transportation options so residents of all ages can reliably and safely get to healthcare, services, work, social activities, and community events.

### Strategies

1. Apply an age- and ability-inclusive approach to transportation planning and services
2. Use resident transportation experience to inform planning and decision-making
3. Improve access to transportation services and key destinations
4. Coordinate transportation efforts across City and regional partners

### Summary of Priority Actions

- Engage transportation planning bodies to incorporate age-friendly, ability-friendly, and family-friendly community insights.
- Increase community participation in the planning and evaluation of transportation plans and initiatives.
- Host transportation-specific listening sessions and information events.
- Identify gaps in parking availability, routes, hours, and destinations within City transportation services.
- Improve access to cultural, recreational, and community destinations through City transportation services.
- Promote awareness and use of City transportation and infrastructure reporting systems.
- Improve coordination with transit providers.
- Promote awareness of safety, sidewalk, lighting, and street issue reporting mechanisms.



## Housing Goals, Strategies, and Actions

### Goal

Support housing conditions and options that allow residents to remain safely, affordably, and comfortably in their homes and neighborhoods throughout different stages of life.

### Strategies

1. Integrate and strengthen age-friendly, aging-in-place and accessibility considerations into existing housing planning, operations, and initiatives
2. Use resident housing experience to inform housing and land-use decisions
3. Improve access to housing resources and supports
4. Support housing stability and safety across the lifespan

### Summary of Priority Actions

- Engage housing planning bodies to integrate age-friendly, ability-friendly, and family-friendly community insights.
- Increase community participation in housing and land-use planning and evaluation processes.
- Host housing-specific listening sessions and information events.
- Improve and expand awareness of City housing resources, programs, and affordable housing initiatives.
- Educate developers, landlords, and property and land organizations on age-friendly and universal design principles and related policies.



## Communication and Information Goals, Strategies, and Actions

### Goal

Make it easier for residents to find, understand, and navigate information about services, programs, and community resources across the city.

### Strategies

1. Coordinate how information is shared across the aging services and community services networks.
2. Improve resident utilization and navigation of City and community partner resources.
3. Strengthen follow-through and transparency in communication.

### Summary of Priority Actions

- Build and maintain an Age-Friendly website that serves as a centralized clearinghouse for age-friendly resources, programs, and services.
- Develop and distribute printed, paper-based Age-Friendly information and resource guides to ensure access for residents who face barriers to digital tools or online information.
- Launch an Age-Friendly commitment and recognition program for organizations and businesses.
- Improve information sharing and cross-promotion across the aging services network.
- Create and maintain a coordinated age-friendly calendar of events.
- Strengthen promotion and integration of CONNECT 211 across City, County, and community partner services.
- Plan, organize, and host an annual Age-Friendly fair or community event.
- Add a regular Age-Friendly feature to the *Senior Scene* newsletter.
- Improve and expand the City's use of bilingual information and resources.
- Improve and expand collaboration with organizations serving Spanish- and Native-language-speaking community members.



## Health and Wellness Goals, Strategies, and Actions

### Goal

Strengthen access to healthcare, wellness, and preventive services that support physical, mental, and social well-being across the lifespan.

### Strategies

1. Promote healthy aging and a lifespan approach to well-being
2. Use City senior centers and libraries as hubs for intergenerational wellness and learning.
3. Improve access to health, caregiving, and health-prevention resources.
4. Support active and engaged living, independence, and social well-being.

### Summary of Priority Actions

- Offer workshops on healthy aging and intergenerational topics.
- Design and facilitate trainings for City leaders and staff on aging, ageism, and lifespan approaches.
- Expand intergenerational wellness, technology, and learning programming at City senior centers.
- Expand educational, social, and health and wellness programming at City senior centers.



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## Social Engagement and Participation Goals, Strategies, and Actions

### Goal

Strengthen social connection, belonging, civic participation, and economic engagement so residents of all ages feel valued, connected, and able to contribute to community life.

### Strategies

1. Strengthen social connection and participation across the lifespan
2. Use Senior Services and partners to connect residents to opportunities
3. Expand intergenerational engagement and shared community life
4. Support work, volunteering, and entrepreneurship as forms of participation

### Summary of Priority Actions

- Expand intergenerational programming through libraries and schools.
- Support older adult entrepreneurship and workforce participation through City and community partner initiatives.
- Strengthen the role of senior centers as hubs for connection and participation.
- Engage community partner organizations to increase community awareness and understanding of diverse family structures.
- Improve and expand coordination of City and community partner volunteer networks.



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## Safety and Public Spaces Goals, Strategies, and Actions

### Goal

Improve the safety, accessibility, and usability of public spaces so residents of all ages feel confident moving through and participating in community life.

### Strategies

1. Use resident experience to inform safety and public space decisions
2. Improve coordination to address safety and accessibility concerns
3. Improve awareness and use of safety and reporting systems
4. Support inclusive, accessible, and connected public spaces

### Summary of Priority Actions

- Improve awareness of the City's safety and ADA reporting systems.
- Incorporate feedback loops so residents understand what happens after issues are reported.
- Engage neighborhood associations in age-friendly community safety efforts.
- Promote aging-in-place villages and other neighborhood-based community connections.
- Improve and expand adoption of the City's Neighborhood Watch program.



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## Appendix A Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Matrices

### How to Read the Implementation Tables

The tables in this appendix summarize the actions that support the Age-Friendly Action Plan and identify roles, indicators, and timing for implementation.

### Column Descriptions

#### Action

Describes the specific activity or effort to be undertaken to advance the goal. Actions are written to reflect what will be done, not how it will be implemented in detail.

#### Lead with Key Partners

Identifies the department, group, or body responsible for coordinating implementation of the action as well as Key Partners to support or advise implementation as appropriate:

- Age-Friendly Advisory Committee/ Task Force
- City of Santa Fe Department of Community Services
- City of Santa Fe Division of Senior Services

Key partners should commit to collaborating with appropriate City Departments, committees, boards, and/or teams who specialize in goals areas (e.g. Housing, Transportation, etc.).

#### Indicators

Describes how progress or completion of the action will be demonstrated. Indicators focus on documentation of implementation, coordination, participation, or increased awareness.

#### Timeline

Indicates the expected timeframe for implementation:

- Short-term: 1–2 years
- Mid-term: 3 years
- Ongoing: Continuing or recurring efforts

#### Additional Resources Needed?

Indicates whether implementation is expected to require resources beyond existing staff capacity or current budgets. This column does not imply a funding commitment and may be refined through future planning and budget processes.

## Cross-Cutting Actions

Cross-Cutting Actions				
Action	Lead / Key Partners	Indicators	Timeline	Additional Resources Needed?
<b>Governance and Infrastructure</b>				
1. Establish an Age-Friendly Advisory Committee or Task Force to sustain the Age-Friendly Santa Fe initiative, monitor implementation of strategies and actions, incorporate ongoing community input, and provide regular progress reports to City Council.	City Council/ Senior Services	Committee established and meeting regularly; progress updates provided to City Council	Short-term	N
2. Explore the creation of a dedicated age-friendly and community engagement staff position within Senior Services or Community Services to support coordination, implementation, and reporting of the age-friendly initiative.	Community Services / Senior Services	Role assessed and leadership decision documented	Short-term	Y
<b>Engagement and Input</b>				
1. Host regular meetings, workshops, and community conversations focused on domain-specific areas of livability (e.g., transportation, housing, health, and safety) to inform planning and decision-making.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Engagement activities conducted; community input documented	Ongoing	N
2. Use senior centers, libraries, and community venues as consistent access points for gathering age-friendly community input.	Community Services	Input gathered across multiple venues; resident participation documented	Ongoing	N
3. Establish a clear pathway for resident input to flow from the aging services network through Community Services to the Advisory Committee/Task Force and City Council.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Input pathway defined and in use; feedback shared with City Council	Short-term	N
<b>Planning and Coordination</b>				
1. Engage City planning processes (e.g., The City's General Plan, Santa Fe Forward) to ensure age-friendly considerations are incorporated.	Advisory Committee	Age-friendly considerations documented in planning processes	Mid-term	N
2. Integrate age-friendly language and principles into City plans, policies, and reports.	Advisory Committee	Age-friendly language incorporated into City documents	Mid-term	N

Cross-Cutting Actions				
Action	Lead / Key Partners	Indicators	Timeline	Additional Resources Needed?
<b>Governance and Infrastructure</b>				
3. Position Senior Services as a strategic planning partner within the City to support integration and coordination of age-friendliness throughout the city.	Advisory Committee	Cross-departmental coordination involving Senior Services documented	Ongoing	N

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## Transportation Actions

Transportation				
Action	Lead / Key Partners	Indicators	Timeline	Additional Resources Needed?
1. Engage transportation planning bodies (e.g., MPO) to incorporate age-friendly, ability-friendly, and family-friendly insights from community members into transportation planning processes.	Advisory Committee / Senior Services	Age-friendly priorities documented in planning processes	Short-term	N
2. Increase community participation in the planning and evaluation of transportation plans and initiatives (e.g., MPO, Santa Fe Forward).	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Resident participation documented; community input incorporated	Short- to Mid-term	N
3. Host transportation-specific listening sessions and information events at libraries, senior centers, and other City and community partner venues to inform planning and service improvements.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Engagement activities conducted; resident participation documented	Short-term	N
4. Identify gaps in parking availability, routes, hours, and destinations within City transportation services through structured community input.	Advisory Committee / Senior Services	Service gaps identified and documented	Short- to Mid-term	N
5. Improve access to cultural, recreational, and community destinations for residents through City transportation services.	Community Services / Senior Services	New or improved routes, stops, schedules, or connecting services identified and documented.	Mid-term	Y
6. Promote awareness and use of City transportation and infrastructure reporting systems.	Community Services / Senior Services	Outreach or communication efforts implemented and documented	Short-term	N
7. Improve coordination with transit providers to enhance service alignment and reliability.	Community Services / Senior Services	Coordination with transit providers documented	Mid-term	N
8. Improve awareness of safety, sidewalk, lighting, and street issue reporting mechanisms.	Community Services	Outreach or communication efforts implemented and documented	Short-term	N

## Housing Actions

Housing				
Action	Lead / Key Partners	Indicators	Timeline	Additional Resources Needed?
1. Engage housing planning bodies (e.g., Office of Affordable Housing, etc.) to integrate age-friendly, ability-friendly, and family-friendly insights from community members into housing and land use planning.	Advisory Committee /	Age-friendly considerations documented in housing plans	Short-term	N
2. Increase community participation in the planning and evaluation of housing and land use plans and initiatives (e.g., Santa Fe Forward, etc.).	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Resident input documented and incorporated	Short- to Mid-term	N
3. Host housing-specific listening sessions and information events at libraries, senior centers, and other City and community partner venues to inform housing policies and programs.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Engagement activities conducted; community participation documented	Short-term	N
4. Improve and expand awareness of City housing resources, programs, and affordable housing initiatives.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Outreach or communication efforts to increase awareness of housing resources documented	Mid-term	N
5. Educate developers, landlords, and property and land organizations on age-friendly and universal design principles and related policies.	Advisory Committee	Educational outreach conducted; participation documented	Mid-term	N

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## Communication and Information Actions

Communication and Information				
Action	Lead / Key Partners	Indicators	Timeline	Additional Resources Needed?
1. Build and maintain an Age-Friendly website that functions as a centralized clearinghouse for information and access to age-friendly resources, programs, and services from the City, community partners, and providers within the aging services network.	Community Services / Senior Services	Website launched and maintained	Short-term	Y
2. Develop and distribute printed, paper-based Age-Friendly information and resource guides through libraries, senior centers, community venues, and trusted community partners to ensure access for residents who face barriers to digital tools or online information.	Senior Services / Community Services	Materials distributed through multiple access points	Short-term	N
3. Launch an Age-Friendly commitment and recognition program by which organizations and businesses: a. identify which domains of livability their services or products support, and b. commit to age-friendly, ability-friendly, and family-friendly policies and practices.	Senior Services / Economic Development	Program launched; organizational participation documented	Mid-term	N
4. Improve information sharing and cross-promotion across the aging services network to reduce duplication and improve access.	Senior Services	Coordination across the aging services network documented	Ongoing	N
5. Create and maintain a comprehensive and coordinated age-friendly calendar of events from City departments and aging services network providers.	Senior Services / Community Services	Calendar maintained and used	Short-term	N
6. Strengthen promotion and integration of CONNECT 211 across City, County, and community partner services.	Community Services / Advisory Committee	Outreach or integration efforts to promote CONNECT 211 documented; participation documented	Mid-term	N
7. Plan, organize, and host an annual Age-Friendly fair or event that brings together City departments, community organizations, aging services providers, family services providers, and local businesses.	Senior Services / Community Services	Event conducted; community participation documented	Annual	Y

<b>Communication and Information</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead / Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Additional Resources Needed?</b>
8. Add a regular Age-Friendly feature to the Senior Scene newsletter to highlight age-friendly concepts and promote community partners.	Senior Services	Contributors identified; features written and published	Ongoing	N
9. Improve and expand the City's use of bilingual information and resources.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Bilingual materials or outreach efforts created and documented	Ongoing	Y
10. Improve and expand collaboration with community organizations that serve Spanish- and Native-language-speaking community members.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Outreach with partners; collaborations documented	Ongoing	N

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## Health and Wellness Actions

Health and Wellness				
Action	Lead / Key Partners	Indicators	Timeline	Additional Resources Needed?
1. Offer workshops on healthy aging and intergenerational topics at libraries, senior centers, schools, and community partner locations.	Senior Services / Community Services	Workshops delivered; resident participation documented	Short-term	Y
2. Design and facilitate trainings for City leaders and staff on aging, ageism, and lifespan approaches to community building and City governance.	Advisory Committee / Senior Services	Trainings delivered; staff participation documented	Short-term	Y
3. Expand intergenerational wellness, technology, and learning programming at senior centers.	Senior Services / Community Services	New programs identified; facilitation and participation documented	Mid-term	Y
4. Expand educational, social, and health and wellness program offerings at the Pasatiempo and Luisa senior centers.	Senior Services / Community Services	New programs identified; facilitation and participation documented	Mid-term	Y

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## Social Engagement and Participation Actions

Social Engagement and Participation				
Action	Lead / Key Partners	Indicators	Timeline	Additional Resources Needed?
1. Expand intergenerational programming through libraries and schools.	Community Services / Senior Services	Programs implemented; partnerships established; participation documented	Mid-term	N
2. Support older adult entrepreneurship and workforce participation through City and community partner initiatives.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Participation in entrepreneurship or workforce initiatives documented	Mid-term	N
3. Strengthen the role of senior centers as hubs for connection and participation.	Senior Services / Advisory Committee	Expanded use of senior centers for social connection identified and documented	Ongoing	N
4. Engage community partner organizations to increase community awareness and understanding of diverse family structures (e.g., multigenerational households, LGBTQ+ communities).	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Outreach conducted and documented; resident participation documented	Short- to Mid-term	N
5. Improve and expand coordination of City and community partner volunteer networks across initiatives.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Outreach conducted and documented; new collaborations documented	Mid-term	N
6. Promote the Age-Friendly University Initiative with local institutions of higher learning (e.g. Santa Fe Community College, Saint John's College, etc.) and assist them in their own age-friendly initiative.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Outreach conducted and documented; new collaborations documented	Mid-term	N

## Safety and Public Spaces Actions

Safety and Public Spaces				
Action	Lead / Key Partners	Indicators	Timeline	Additional Resources Needed?
1. Improve awareness of the City's safety and ADA reporting systems.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Outreach conducted and documented; engagement activities conducted	Short-term	N
2. Incorporate feedback loops into City reporting systems so residents understand outcomes following reported issues or incidents.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Feedback processes identified and implemented	Short-term	N
3. Engage neighborhood associations in age-friendly community safety efforts.	Advisory Committee / Community Services	Outreach conducted and documented; engagement activities conducted	Ongoing	N
4. Promote aging-in-place villages and other neighborhood-based community connections.	Senior Services / Community Services	Outreach conducted and documented; engagement activities conducted	Mid-term	N
5. Improve and expand adoption of the City's Neighborhood Watch program across the community.	Community Services / Advisory Committee	Outreach conducted and documented; engagement activities conducted	Mid-term	N

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## Appendix B Age-Friendly Santa Fe Survey Results

Most percentages shown in the tables are rounded to the nearest whole percent. Because of rounding, some totals may appear slightly above or below 100%.

How would you rate Santa Fe as a place to live as someone ages?	n	%
Good	209	37%
Very Good	168	30%
Fair	123	22%
Excellent	40	7%
Poor	28	5%
No Response	8	
Average Score	3.12	

Participants generally rated Santa Fe positively as a place to age, with about two-thirds of respondents (67%) rating Santa Fe as a good or very good place to age, while 22% rated it as fair. Smaller shares rated Santa Fe as excellent (7%) or poor (5%), resulting in an average rating of 3.12 (Good).

How important is it for you to stay in your home as you age?	n	%
Very important	387	69%
Important	120	22%
Somewhat important	41	7%
Not very important	9	2%
Not important at all	0	0%
No Response	19	
Average Score	4.59	

Nearly all respondents indicated that staying in their home as they age is important, with more than nine in ten respondents (91%) reporting that staying in their home as they age is important or very important, including 69% who rated it as very important. Only 2% rated this as not very important, and no respondents rated it as not important at all.

How important is it for you to stay in Santa Fe as you age?	n	%
Very important	237	42%
Important	175	31%
Somewhat important	104	19%
Not very important	35	6%
Not important at all	8	1%
No Response	17	
Average Score	4.07	

Most participants expressed a desire to remain in Santa Fe as they age, with roughly three-quarters of respondents (73%) rating staying in Santa Fe as very important or important, while 19% rated it as somewhat important. About 7% rated staying in Santa Fe as not very important or not important at all.

Do you rent or own where you live?	n	%
Own	465	83%
Rent	91	16%
Other (please specify)	3	0.5%
No Response	17	

Most respondents (83%) reported owning their home, while 16% reported renting. Fewer than 1% reported another type of housing arrangement. Some participants reported living in their car or just recently homeless.

Does your home need any repairs or things like ramps and grab bars to help you live there for as long as possible?	n	%
No	248	45%
Yes	219	39%
Not sure	90	16%
No Response	19	

Nearly four in ten respondents (39%) reported that their home needs repairs or accessibility modifications, while 45% reported no such needs. An additional 16% reported being unsure.

How important is it for you to live independently in your own home as you age?	n	%
Very important	398	71%
Important	124	22%
Somewhat important	33	6%
Not very important	5	1%
Not important at all	1	0.5%
No Response	15	
Average Score	4.63	

Living independently was a top priority for respondents, with more than 90% of respondents rated living independently as important or very important, including 71% who rated it as very important. Fewer than 2% rated independence as not very important or not important at all.

Do you have reliable transportation to get to the places you need to go?	n	%
Yes	492	88%
No	42	8%
Not sure	25	4%
No Response	17	

Most respondents reported having reliable transportation, though about one in eight either lacked reliable transportation or were unsure.

How do you get around to shop, go to work, visit the doctor, run errands, or go to other places? Select all that apply	n	%
Drive yourself	527	94%
Walk	124	22%
Have others drive you	108	19%
Ride a bike	65	12%
Take a car service like a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	59	11%
Use public transportation	38	7%
Other (please specify)	21	4%
No Response	16	

Nearly all respondents (94%) reported driving themselves to get around. Smaller shares reported walking (22%), having others drive them (19%), biking (12%), using ride services (11%), or using public transportation (7%).

In general, how would you rate your health?	n	%
Very Good	253	46%
Good	150	27%
Excellent	110	20%
Fair	41	7%
Poor	1	0.2%
No Response	21	
Average Score	3.77	

Most participants (93%) rated their health as good, very good, or excellent, including 46% who rated it as very good and 20% who rated it as excellent. Fewer than 8% rated their health as fair or poor.

Do you have a disability or a chronic illness?	n	%
No	361	65%
Yes	180	32%
Not sure	15	3%
No Response	20	

About one-third of respondents (32%) reported having a disability or chronic illness, while 65% reported that they do not. A small share (3%) reported being unsure.

Do you have difficulty doing daily activities like errands, cooking, cleaning your home, or dressing yourself because of a disability or chronic illness?	n	%
No	428	77%
I do not have a disability or chronic illness	68	12%
Yes	51	9%
Not sure	12	2%
No Response	17	

Most respondents (77%) reported no difficulty with daily activities, while 9% reported difficulty and 2% were unsure. An additional 12% reported that they do not have a disability or chronic illness.

Are you a caregiver for a family member or friend with a disability or chronic health condition?	n	%
No	479	86%
Yes	75	13%
Not sure	4	1%
No Response	18	

Most respondents (86%) reported that they are not caregivers, and approximately one in eight respondents reported serving as a caregiver for a family member or friend.

How many people live in your household? Please include yourself.	n
Min	1
Max	7
Average Score	1.48
No Response	23

Respondents reported household sizes ranging from one to seven people, with an average household size of 1.48 people. Most respondents lived in households of one or two people.

Who do you live with? Select all that apply	n	%
Spouse/partner	292	53%
I live alone	227	41%
Children	55	10%
Other (please specify)	23	4%
Other family member	14	3%
Roommate	10	2%
Grandchildren	8	1%
Friend	7	1%
No Response	23	

More than half of respondents (53%) reported living with a spouse or partner, while 41% reported living alone. Smaller shares reported living with children (10%), other family members (3%), roommates (2%), or others.

How safe do you feel at home and with the people you live with?	n	%
Very safe	400	72%
Safe	130	24%
Not very safe	10	2%
Not safe at all	2	0.4%
Not sure	10	2%
No Response	24	

Nearly all respondents (96%) reported feeling safe or very safe at home, including 72% who felt very safe. Only about 2% reported feeling not very safe or not safe at all.

Do you have family and/or friends you communicate with regularly?	n	%
Yes	524	94%
No	27	5%
Not sure	7	1%
No Response	18	

An overwhelming majority of respondents (94%) reported regular communication with family or friends. Only 5% reported no regular communication, and 1% were unsure.

Do you want to find more ways to meet people, be more socially active and/or volunteer?	n	%
Yes	307	55%
No	165	30%
Not sure	85	15%
No Response	19	

More than half of respondents (55%) reported interest in finding additional ways to be socially active or volunteer, while 30% reported no interest and 15% were unsure.

Does Santa Fe have enough resources to help your emotional and mental health, like wellness classes, talk therapy, counseling, social support groups, etc.?	n	%
Not sure	260	47%
Yes	154	28%
No	143	26%
No Response	19	

Nearly half of respondents (47%) reported being unsure whether Santa Fe has enough emotional and mental health resources. About 28% reported yes and 26% reported no.

Where do you go to connect and be with other people? Select all that apply.	n	%
Gym or fitness facility	170	32%
Social support groups	115	22%
Faith-based organization (church, temple, etc.)	107	20%
Recreational/Community center	87	16%
Senior center	59	11%
Other (please specify)	306	58%
No Response	44	

Respondents reported connecting socially across a wide range of settings, with 32% selecting gyms or fitness facilities, 22% social support groups, 20% faith-based organizations, and 16% recreational or community centers. More than half of respondents also selected “other,” and open-ended responses indicated that many residents connect primarily through informal, relationship-based settings such as friends, family, neighbors, private homes, work, and volunteering rather than through formal programs or designated centers. Respondents also described interest- and activity-based connections, including arts and cultural groups, outdoor recreation, spiritual or faith communities, libraries, coffee shops, and community events. A smaller group reported limited or no social connection, citing factors such as health limitations, caregiving responsibilities, continued employment, geographic isolation, or limited access to community spaces.

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Where do you go for information about resources, events, and programs in Santa Fe? Select all that apply.	n	%
Internet	400	72%
Newspaper	307	56%
Family or friends	282	51%
Social media (like Facebook, YouTube, etc.)	217	39%
Library	181	33%
Nonprofit organizations (like AARP, etc.)	126	23%
Radio	108	20%
Television	83	15%
Senior center	71	13%
Your doctor or other health care professionals	63	11%
Faith-based organizations (church, temple, etc.)	60	11%
2-1-1/CONNECT	6	1%
Other (please specify)	31	6%
No Response	24	

Most respondents reported using the internet (72%), newspapers (56%), or family and friends (51%) for information about community resources and events. Smaller shares reported using social media (39%), libraries (33%), nonprofits (23%), or other sources.

How often do you interact with your friends, family or neighbors who do not live with you? This could be by phone, in person, email or social media like Facebook.	n	%
About once a day	151	27%
Several times a day	133	24%
3-6 days a week	131	24%
1-2 days a week	90	16%
Once every few weeks	40	7%
Once a month or less	7	1%
I do NOT interact with others	4	1%
No Response	20	

Most respondents (75%) reported interacting with people outside their household at least three days per week, including 51% who reported daily interaction. Only about 2% reported interacting once a month or less or not at all.

How often do you use the Internet for things like email, getting news and information, paying bills, managing finances, and/or shopping?	n	%
Several times a day	431	78%
About once a day	83	15%
3-6 days a week	17	3%
1-2 days a week	7	1%
Once every few weeks	6	1%
Once a month or less	4	1%
I do NOT use the Internet	7	1%
No Response	21	

Internet use was widespread, with nearly all respondents (93%) reported using the internet daily or multiple times per day, including 78% who reported several-times-per-day use. Only 1% reported not using the internet.

What technologies do you use? Select all that apply.	n	%
Cellphone/Smartphone	541	97%
Email	534	95%
Text message	511	91%
Laptop computer	380	68%
Video Chat/Calls (Zoom, FaceTime, Google Meet, etc.)	303	54%
Social media (Facebook, YouTube, etc.)	294	53%
Desktop computer	243	43%
Tablet	224	40%
No Response	16	

Nearly all respondents reported using smartphones (97%), email (95%), and text messaging (91%). Many also reported using laptops (68%), video calling (54%), social media (53%), desktops (43%), or tablets (40%).

Do you or anyone in your household use any of the following in Santa Fe? Select all that apply.	n	%
Santa Fe Library	421	90%
Santa Fe Recreation Centers	176	38%
Santa Fe Senior Centers	82	18%
Santa Fe Teen Center	10	2%
2-1-1/CONNECT	11	2%
No Response	109	

Most respondents (90%) reported using public libraries, while 38% reported using recreation centers and 18% reported using senior centers. Other city services were used by relatively small shares.

Does Santa Fe have enough employment opportunities for you to earn money?	n	%
Not sure	259	47%
No	155	28%
Yes	134	24%
No Response	28	

Nearly half of respondents (47%) reported being unsure whether Santa Fe offers enough employment opportunities, while 28% reported no and 24% reported yes.

Does Santa Fe offer enough resources to help you improve your financial wellness, like classes on saving/managing money, tax help, etc.?	n	%
Not sure	345	62%
No	123	22%
Yes	85	15%
No Response	23	

Most respondents (62%) reported being unsure whether Santa Fe offers enough financial wellness resources. Smaller shares reported no (22%) or yes (15%).

What is your age?	n
Minimum	28
Maximum	92
Average Age	68
No Response	11

Average age of respondent was in the late 60s.

What is your gender?	n	%
Female	409	71%
Male	150	26%
Other	3	1%
I'd rather not say	11	2%
No Response	3	

Most respondents identified as female (71%), while 26% identified as male. About 3% identified as another gender or declined to report.

What is your current relationship status?	n	%
Married	248	45%
Divorced	134	24%
Never married	71	13%
Not married, living with partner	49	9%
Widowed	49	9%
Separated	3	1%
No Response	22	

Nearly half of respondents (45%) reported being married, while others reported being divorced (24%), widowed (9%), never married (13%), or living with a partner (9%).

What is the highest level of education you have completed?	n	%
Graduate or professional degree	295	53%
4-year college degree	145	26%
Some college	74	13%
Trade school or associate degree	19	3%
High school graduate, or GED	17	3%
K-12th grade (no diploma)	2	0.4%
No Response	24	

Most respondents (79%) reported completing a four-year college degree or higher, including 53% with a graduate or professional degree. Smaller shares reported lower levels of education.

Which of the following best describes your current employment status?	n	%
Retired, not working at all	281	50%
Employed, full-time	98	18%
Self-employed, part-time	51	9%
Retired, working part-time	31	6%
Self-employed, full-time	29	5%
Retired but interested to find work	26	5%
Employed, part-time	17	3%
Unemployed, but looking for work	14	3%
Not in labor force for other reasons	10	2%
No Response	19	

Half of respondents (50%) reported being fully retired, while 18% reported full-time employment and others reported part-time, self-employment, or interest in work.

What is your race and/or ethnicity? Select all that apply.	n	%
White	436	76%
Hispanic	70	12%
Hispanic + Other	20	3%
Other	15	3%
Asian American	7	1%
African American	5	1%
American Indian / Alaskan Native + White	5	1%
African American + White	3	1%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	2	0.3%
Middle Eastern/ North African	2	0.3%
Middle Eastern/ North African + White	1	0.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native+African American	1	0.2%
Middle Eastern/ North African American + Other	1	0.2%
Asian American + White	1	0.2%
No Response	7	

Most respondents identified as White (76%), while 12% identified as Hispanic and smaller shares identified as other racial or ethnic groups. Some respondents reported multiple identities.

What is your household income?	n	%
\$150,000 or more	75	14%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	61	11%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	43	8%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	40	7%
\$90,000 to \$99,999	39	7%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	35	6%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	28	5%
\$60,000 to \$69,999	27	5%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	24	4%
\$80,000 to \$89,999	24	4%
\$70,000 to \$79,999	22	4%
Less than \$10,000	15	3%
I'd rather not say	122	22%
No Response	21	

Respondents reported household incomes across a wide range, with 22% choosing not to report income. Among those who reported, incomes were distributed across lower-, middle-, and higher-income categories.

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Importance of Domains of Livability											
Livability Domain	Very Important		Important		Somewhat Important		Not Very Important		Not Important at all		*
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	
Quality healthcare, as well as fitness and wellness resources	90%	502	5%	28	5%	28	0%	1	0%	0	17
The sense that people of all ages are valued and respected	74%	412	20%	110	5%	27	1%	6	0.2%	1	20
Safe buildings and enjoyable parks and spaces that are accessible and close to where	68%	378	24%	132	8%	42	1%	4	0.2%	1	19
Access to information about resources and events in your community	60%	331	25%	139	14%	79	1%	7	0%	0	20
Reliable and affordable transportation options	56%	313	27%	150	12%	65	4%	25	1%	4	19
A wide range of opportunities for you to engage and socialize with your community	52%	289	29%	162	14%	79	3%	18	1%	7	21
Affordable and accessible housing that is or can be adapted to your needs	52%	287	27%	148	11%	61	7%	37	4%	20	23
A wide range of work opportunities for people of all ages and abilities	51%	283	24%	136	13%	72	8%	43	4%	22	20
Opportunities to get involved with local government and support issues important to you	31%	173	35%	193	18%	99	14%	79	2%	11	21

\* = No Response

Large majorities of respondents rated each livability domain as important or very important, including 90% for healthcare, 74% for feeling valued across ages, and 68% for safe and accessible public spaces.

Current ratings were more varied, with higher ratings for information access and social opportunities and lower ratings for housing, transportation, and employment.

Weighted averages show that healthcare, respect, safety, and information access were the highest priorities among respondents, while civic engagement ranked lower in relative importance. Weighted importance scores ranged from 3.79 to 4.84, with healthcare receiving the highest average importance rating.

The largest gaps between importance and current conditions were reported for healthcare, transportation, housing, and employment, identifying these as the most urgent priorities from the perspective of survey respondents.



Current Ratings of Domains of Livability

Livability Domain	Excellent		Very Good		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Sure		*
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	
Safe buildings and enjoyable parks and spaces that are accessible and	8%	47	24%	133	34%	186	22%	121	11%	61	1%	7	21
Reliable and affordable transportation options	3%	16	7%	37	19%	103	27%	149	32%	176	13%	73	22
Affordable and accessible housing that is or can be adapted to your needs	4%	22	4%	20	15%	82	25%	138	39%	214	14%	76	24
A wide range of opportunities for you to engage and socialize with	12%	68	24%	136	29%	160	21%	118	9%	52	4%	22	20
The sense that people of all ages are valued and respected	9%	49	21%	118	31%	172	22%	123	11%	61	6%	31	22
A wide range of work opportunities for people of all ages and abilities	2%	13	6%	33	19%	106	34%	189	21%	116	17%	91	28
Opportunities to get involved with local government and support	6%	31	19%	103	34%	189	22%	123	7%	38	12%	68	24
Access to information about resources and events in your community	10%	58	25%	139	37%	206	19%	106	5%	27	3%	18	22
Quality healthcare, as well as fitness and wellness resources	5%	29	13%	72	25%	137	27%	152	27%	151	2%	12	23

\* = No Response

How important is it for you to have the following in your community?	Weighted Average
Quality healthcare, as well as fitness and wellness resources	4.84
The sense that people of all ages are valued and respected	4.67
Safe buildings and enjoyable parks and spaces that are accessible and close to where you live	4.58
Access to information about resources and events in your community	4.43
Reliable and affordable transportation options	4.33
A wide range of opportunities for you to engage and socialize with your community	4.28
Affordable and accessible housing that is or can be adapted to your needs	4.17
A wide range of work opportunities for people of all ages and abilities	4.11
Opportunities to get involved with local government and support issues important to you	3.79

How would you currently rate the following in your community?	Weighted Average
Access to information about resources and events in your community	3.18
A wide range of opportunities for you to engage and socialize with your community	3.09
Safe buildings and enjoyable parks and spaces that are accessible and close to where you live	2.97
The sense that people of all ages are valued and respected	2.94
Opportunities to get involved with local government and support issues important to you	2.93
Quality healthcare, as well as fitness and wellness resources	2.4
A wide range of work opportunities for people of all ages and abilities	2.21
Reliable and affordable transportation options	2.1
Affordable and accessible housing that is or can be adapted to your needs	1.95

Domains of Livability Prioritized	Importance Score	Ratings Score	Priority Score
Quality healthcare, as well as fitness and wellness resources	4.84	2.4	<b>2.44</b>
Reliable and affordable transportation options	4.33	2.1	<b>2.23</b>
Affordable and accessible housing that is or can be adapted to your needs	4.17	1.95	<b>2.22</b>
A wide range of work opportunities for people of all ages and abilities	4.11	2.21	1.9
The sense that people of all ages are valued and respected	4.67	2.94	1.73
Safe buildings and enjoyable parks and spaces that are accessible and close to where you live	4.58	2.97	1.61
Access to information about resources and events in your community	4.43	3.18	1.25
A wide range of opportunities for you to engage and socialize with your community	4.28	3.09	1.19
Opportunities to get involved with local government and support issues important to you	3.79	2.93	0.86

Percentages represent the share of respondents selecting each option. Respondents could select multiple options; totals may exceed 100%

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