



AARP COMMUNITY GRANTS The 2023 Challenge is coming in April!

2022 Grant Awards - 260 projects that helped make communities more livable for people of all ages

For the sixth annual AARP Community Challenge, AARP received more than 3,200 applications from nonprofits and government entities, resulting in a highly competitive selection process.

Some \$3.4 million is being distributed to fund 260 quick-action projects across the country in 2022, helping urban, rural, and suburban communities make immediate improvements and jumpstart long-term progress to support residents of all ages.

AARP Community Challenge grants will improve public places; transportation; housing; diversity, equity and inclusion; digital access; and civic engagement, with an emphasis on the needs of adults aged 50 and over. Many of this year's projects will help communities leverage funding under the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Many projects include raised gardens, ADA compliant benches and walkways, mobility, digital assistance, bike racks, shade areas, food pantries, etc.

The selected projects are designed to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Create vibrant **Public Places** that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities
- Deliver a range of **Transportation and Mobility** options that increase connectivity, walkability, bike ability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements
- Support a range of **Housing** options that increases the availability of accessible and affordable choices
- Ensure a focus on **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** while improving the Built and Social Environment of a community
- Support communities' efforts to **Build Engagement and Leverage Funding** available under new federal programs through laws including the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and more
- Increase **Civic Engagement** with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of inclusion
- Other community improvements, including **Health Services, Community Development, and Coronavirus Pandemic Recovery**

2022 PROJECT GRANTEES – a partial list from the 260 awards providing ideas for the South Bay Cities to consider.

Link to all 260 project grantees: [2022 AARP Grantees](#)

1. **Yuma:** [Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area](#)
ADA-compliant picnic tables, benches and bike racks will be installed at a new nature park frequented by older adults.
2. **San Diego:** [Disabled Services Advisory Council, City of San Diego Parks](#)
An overgrown lot at the Park de la Cruz Community Center will be turned into a garden with raised flower beds and accessible seating.
3. **Stratford:** [Town of Stratford](#)
Maps of 12 walking routes will be updated and digitized. Four benches will be installed along the routes. A kickoff event will encourage people of all ages to walk more often.
4. **Milton:** [Town of Milton](#)
A walking tour map will be published and 12 crosswalks will be painted with colorful designs to slow traffic.
5. **Miami-Dade County:** [Transit Alliance Miami](#)
The *My Transit My City* project will offer lessons and technical support to older adults and people with disabilities about how to use the county's redesigned bus system.
6. **Pensacola:** [Council on Aging of West Florida](#)
Two "tiny houses" will be built. One will house a low-income senior citizen, the other will be used as a model home to educate the community about the ways tiny houses can help alleviate the city's severe housing shortage.
7. **McDonough:** [Heritage Senior Activity Center](#)
Ten adult tricycles will be purchased (along with helmets, locks and pumps) and made available for borrowing.
8. **Kaunakakai:** [Krause Family Foundation: 'Alana Ke Aloha, Soto Mission Molokai](#)
A free, outdoor Wi-Fi hotspot will be set up and assistance provided to those trying to connect to the internet. Digital literacy instructions will also be offered, and ADA-compliant outdoor furniture installed.
9. **Rockford:** [City of Rockford](#)
Repairs will be done to ramps, stairs, railings and porches — and connections to needed resources made — at homes in six areas with high ratios of residents age 65-plus. Other work, such as pot-hole repair, street-sign replacement and street sweeping will be done where needed.
10. **Polk County:** [Aging Resources](#)
Older adults without a smartphone will be able to order an Uber or Lyft ride by phoning a call center. Older passengers will be provided up to eight free rides per month.
11. **Bath:** [Age-Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec](#)
A multimedia package informing recipients about [accessory dwelling units](#) will be produced.
12. **Portland:** [Age Friendly Portland](#)
Purchasing portable ramps will improve accessibility to town gathering spaces, services and amenities for residents and visitors with mobility challenges.
13. **Worcester:** [MassBike](#)
Bicycling will be encouraged by pairing 20 teenaged cyclists with 20 older recipients in an ongoing program that awards free e-bikes. There will also be five bicycle workshops as well as group rides.
14. **Duluth:** [Duluth Age-Friendly and Ecolibrium3](#)
Teams of participants will design solutions that will make the city more age friendly. Areas of focus will include housing, transportation and more.
15. **Minneapolis:** [City of Minneapolis](#)
The network of "mobility hubs" — spots around town that aid travelers — will be bolstered with

improved signage and seating, and local ambassadors will be hired to educate residents about their use.

16. **Minneapolis:** [Mill City Church and IMBY MN Project](#)
A showcase accessory dwelling unit will be built and a multimedia campaign explaining the benefits of this compact housing type will be produced.
17. **Twin Cities region:** [Hearts & Hammers](#)
Homes of low-income owners will be rehabbed, including weatherstripping; the construction of accessibility ramps, stairs and walkways; and landscaping or yard renewal.
18. **Lincoln:** [Heartland Bike Share and BikeLNK](#)
Monthly events to promote bike sharing will be staged and will include group rides that include certified biking ambassadors. Courses will be offered to train others to be ambassadors.
19. **Newport:** [Town of Newport](#)
A vacant lot will be turned into a dog park and community garden, both fully ADA-accessible, with walkways, benches and raised-bed gardens.
20. **Craven County:** [Wash Away Unemployment](#)
The project will build one unit as a model for socially conscious and environmentally-friendly homelessness reduction for returning citizens and those with high barriers to employment.
21. **Greenville:** [BikeWalkNC](#)
The Greenville Traffic Garden, a simulated roadway where drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians can learn safety practices, will be developed.
22. **Bismarck, Lincoln and Mandan:** [Bis-Man Transit Board](#)
Videos to teach local residents about the transit system, including fixed-route service, will be produced and used during transit workshops.
23. **Cleveland:** [Union Miles Development Corporation](#)
Free home-repair services will be provided to older adults in the Union-Miles neighborhood.
24. **Portland:** [Lloyd EcoDistrict](#)
Workshops will be held to train older adults to prepare for emergencies. Participants will also be supplied with appropriate materials.
25. **Middle Rio Grande Region:** [Southwest Area Regional Transit District](#)
Training in how to become mobile and independent will be offered to older adults and disabled people.
26. **Bainbridge Island:** [Bainbridge Island Senior/Community Center](#)
This will test the value of a collaborative transportation web, blending volunteer and contracted drivers, to create an effective system for older adults and the community at large.
27. **Milwaukee:** [Milwaukee Turners](#)
Walking tours will be conducted for older adults in three neighborhoods, culminating in cooking demonstrations using ingredients found in those neighborhoods, with the goal of encouraging healthy movement and eating