

## AFPHS 6Cs Training and Implementation Guide

### Module 2: Capacity Building Strategies for “Connecting and Convening Partners”

The focus of this module is to expand the capacity of public health practitioners to enhance and build new connections and partnerships to promote healthy aging. After completing these sections, public health practitioners should be able to identify partners and/or existing coalitions and networks that could help to leverage the development and adoption of age-friendly policies and programs, including a state-wide AFPHS action or work plan.

**Definition:** Connecting and convening multi-sector partners to address the health and social challenges of older adults through collective impact could take many forms, including coalitions to advance healthy aging, educating partners about the value of age-friendly programs and services, and engaging with partners to advance a Multi-sector Plan for Aging.

#### Module 2 Learning Objectives:

1. Define “Connecting and Convening”
2. Identify at least three strategies that demonstrate “Connecting and Convening”
3. Identify opportunities to collaborate with staff across multiple sectors and agencies to adopt and implement age-friendly policies and systems changes
4. Explain how to advance health equity within healthy aging practices by addressing the social determinants of health
5. Identify challenges to and solutions for public health adoption and implementation of healthy aging policies and systems changes

### Policy and Practice Strategies

The strategies listed below have been compiled based on current activities of state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments that are building age-friendly public health systems. Some are very practical and may be easier to adopt and implement (Tier One) and some will be more challenging, requiring more time, resources, and potentially, funding (Tier Two). No policy or practice changes is too large or small for consideration and should be approached in the context of department leadership, existing partnerships, and appetite for change.

The steps below are intended to guide exploration of healthy aging with a view toward full adoption of healthy aging as a core public health function. Practitioners are encouraged to consider additional strategies based on the healthy aging work already underway, the structure of the public health agency, and the unique needs of older adults and caregivers in their own jurisdictions.

#### Steps:

1. Identify 2-3 strategies to explore.
2. Answer all questions and identify the next steps for that strategy. If working with a committee, discuss the feasibility of the strategies.
3. Select the tools and resources you can use to better understand how to move toward completion of that strategy.
4. Identify other healthy aging strategies that are achievable and sustainable within this tenet.

| Strategies                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Questions to Consider:<br>These are meant to expand your thinking around the strategies and prompt further exploration of other approaches.                                                      | Resources to Explore: These resources may or may not be related to the questions on the left, but increase awareness of additional approaches to various aspects of this work. | Selected Strategies |
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| <b>Example: Mississippi AFPHS Statewide Plan:</b><br><br><b>Connect communities with resources and tools so that they can begin to expand age- and dementia-friendly initiatives.</b>                                                   | <i>-What toolkits may exist to start or accelerate age- and dementia-friendly work?</i>                                                                                                          | ◇ <a href="#">Mississippi AFPHS Statewide Plan</a><br><br>◇ <a href="#">Dementia Friendly Community Toolkit</a>                                                                |                     |
| <b>Tier One</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                |                     |
| <b>Explore and engage in new partnerships to promote healthy aging (e.g., the Area Agency on Aging, State Unit on Aging, community cooperatives, public libraries, senior centers, non-profit service delivery organizations, local</b> | <i>- What existing healthy aging initiatives might be leveraged to expand partnerships?</i><br><i>- What additional organizations or institutions should be considered for new partnerships?</i> | ◇ <a href="#">Age-Friendly Ecosystem by State</a><br>◇ <a href="#">Theories of Community Collaboration</a><br>◇ <a href="#">Age-Friendly Ecosystem: Voices From the Field</a>  |                     |

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| universities, community-based organizations, and housing communities for older adults).                                                                 | <p>- What agency or institutional structures can be leveraged to bring partners together? For example, is your state developing a Multi-Sector Plan for Aging?</p> <p>-What expertise are you missing that could be contributed by another organization?</p>                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">State Units on Aging</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Area Agencies on Aging</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Multisector Plan for Aging</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Getting Started with a Multisector Plan for Aging (chcs.org)</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Indicators of Healthy Aging Guide</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">National Alliance for Caregiving</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Strengthening Partnerships between Public Health and Community-Based Organizations   CDC Foundation</a></li> </ul> |  |
| Evaluate existing partners who are already engaged in healthy aging efforts and consider how these partnerships could be expanded in your jurisdiction. | <p>-How might you connect and convene existing partners to ensure community collaborations are inclusive of state and local public health systems?</p> <p>-How might your existing coalitions be enhanced to align with healthy aging work?</p> <p>-Consider any existing barriers and how to address them with your partners in the development of healthy aging work.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">MAPP PHASE 1: Organize for Success/Partnership Development</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Toolkit: Leveraging Healthy People 2030 to Build Non-Traditional Multisector Partnerships</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Circles of Involvement, Developing Key Relationships for Implementation</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Engage partners in the community to promote educational initiatives on healthy living, nutrition, exercise, immunizations, tobacco use, diabetes,       | <p>- What relationships exist that could be leveraged to promote older adult health and healthy aging through educational initiatives (e.g., nutrition programs, balance classes)?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">Fall Prevention Partner Toolkit</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Physical Activity Guidelines for Older Adults</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |

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| fall prevention, and other health-related topics.                                                                                                                     | <p>- How might you engage community leaders and members to promote healthy aging and older adult health through educational initiatives?</p> <p>-What areas could you target to enlist partners or create new partnerships to improve equity? Consider areas like technology integration, healthcare infrastructure, and community health initiatives.</p> | <p>◇ <a href="#">USDA Nutrition Guidance for Older Adults</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">Best Practices to Leverage Partnerships to Support Health Equity (ASTHO)</a></p> |  |
| Partner with the state or local emergency preparedness agency to ensure older people, their families, and caregivers are included in emergency preparedness planning. | <p>-Does your jurisdiction's emergency preparedness plan include older adults and caregivers?</p> <p>-Does your jurisdiction's emergency agency include older adults in their planning and response efforts?</p>                                                                                                                                           | <p>◇ <a href="#">Disaster Preparedness Planning for Older Adults (ASPR)</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">Emergency Preparedness (ACL)</a></p>                               |  |

| Tier Two                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     |
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| Strategies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Questions to Consider:</b><br>These are meant to expand your thinking around the strategies and prompt further exploration of other approaches.                                                                                                                       | ◇ <b>Resources to Explore:</b> These resources may or may not be related to the questions on the left, but increase awareness of additional approaches to various aspects of this work.                                                                                            | Selected Strategies |
| Create a state or community coalition of organizations that already have a touch point with older adults, such as Adult Protective Services, Elder Affairs agency, local pharmacies, libraries, book clubs, veterinarians, and the YMCA to improve social connectedness. | <p>-Consider agencies and organizations that provide services or supports for older people in the state or community as well as caregivers and who can help identify other networks.</p> <p>- If the coalition does not yet exist, which partners should be invited?</p> | <p>◇ <a href="#">Guide to Building Community Coalitions</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">Community Care Hubs</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">Aligning Health and Social Care</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">Developing a Multi-Sector Plan for Aging</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">Collective Impact</a></p> |                     |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>- What existing healthy aging initiatives can be leveraged to expand the coalition's focus?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">The Waters of Systems Change</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Guide to Building Community Coalitions</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Indicators of Healthy Aging Guide (Community Health Assessment)</a></li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>Facilitate focus groups with representatives from community organizations and older adults to elevate existing programs and identify needs for new ones.</b></p>                                                                                                                            | <p>- What relationships exist that could be leveraged to ensure focus groups are representative of and accessible for the older adult population in your jurisdiction?</p> <p>- Are there community-based organizations, such as senior centers or faith-based organizations, that could help with recruiting or hosting participants for focus groups?</p>                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">MAPP 2.0</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Guide to Building Community Coalitions</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Guidelines for Conducting a Focus Group</a></li> </ul>                                             |  |
| <p><b>Develop or expand work with colleges or universities to enhance healthy aging practice and identify research/data collection opportunities for your jurisdiction. Consider offering internships for public health students to raise awareness and build expertise in healthy aging.</b></p> | <p>-Does your state State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) or Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) include any priorities or objectives that could benefit from additional research or data?</p> <p>-What opportunities for data collection exist that universities could lead or contribute to?</p> <p>-Are there existing opportunities for student engagement that can promote involvement in age-friendly work?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">Examples of Research Projects on Older Adults in Rural Settings</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Research – Age Friendly University Global Network</a></li> </ul>                                              |  |
| <p><b>Join or lead the development of a collaborative with state or community agencies, departments, and commissions to support the</b></p>                                                                                                                                                       | <p>- Is my jurisdiction an age-friendly community, city, or state? If not, has this process started and who is leading it? If</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">AARP Livable Communities</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Tennessee Livability Collaborative Logic Model</a></li> </ul>                                                                                        |  |

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| <b>development of livable communities across the state.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><i>not yet started, what role can the state or local health department play?</i></p> <p><i>- What other partners should be engaged to prioritize livability for older adults in states and communities?</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>◇ <a href="#">TFAH's Age-Friendly Ecosystem Map</a></p>                                                                                           |  |
| <b>Join or create a multi-disciplinary team to address and prevent elder mistreatment in your jurisdiction. Teams could include public health, hospitals (emergency departments), adult protective services, first responders (police and fire/emergency) and others.</b> | <p><i>-What information is needed to identify victims or potential victims of elder abuse?</i></p> <p><i>-What programs already exist that help to identify victims and support investigation activities?</i></p> <p><i>-Does the local hospital practice screening or assessments for older adults who are admitted for falls or other injuries?</i></p> <p><i>- Does your jurisdiction/organization have an existing relationship with paramedics in your community?</i></p> <p><i>- Do paramedics receive training on older adult health and/or care coordination?</i></p> <p><i>- What resources or relationships are required to successfully provide care coordination for older adults?</i></p> | <p>◇ <a href="#">Emergency medicine and public health: New steps in old directions - Annals of Emergency Medicine (annemergmed.com)</a></p>          |  |
| <b>Join a committee or collaborative to develop the multisector plan on aging in your state.</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><i>- What opportunities are available for public health to contribute to or lead the development the plan?</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>◇ <a href="#">Multisector Plan on Aging</a></p>                                                                                                   |  |
| <b>Leverage state BOLD funding to create a dementia-focused collaborative or alliance to support and implement actions outlined in the state Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD)</b>                                                                         | <p><i>- Does your state have a BOLD grant that can be leveraged for expanding partnerships on ADRD efforts?</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>◇ <a href="#">CDC Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Data Portal</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">State and Jurisdictional ADRD planning (CDC)</a></p> |  |

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| <b>Plan and respond to the needs of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.</b> | <p><i>-Are the needs of people living with ADRD and their caregivers being considered in existing age-friendly work?</i></p> <p><i>- What are opportunities for increasing the focus on people living with ADRD and their caregivers in existing age-friendly work?</i></p> <p><i>- What additional partners should be considered to include in this alliance?</i></p> | <p>◇ <a href="#">Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">CDC BOLD Grants</a></p> |  |
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## Strategies to Address Barriers and Opportunities

Through strategic engagement with multi-sector partners, public health professionals are well positioned to connect and convene partners to promote older adult health and well-being within jurisdictions. Public health professionals can also assess whether any barriers exist within their jurisdiction that may prevent them from enacting systemic change. Specific actions are listed here that they can take to address barriers in their efforts to connect and convene.

### Steps:

1. Identify any challenges you may face in your efforts to advance healthy aging and the selected strategy.
2. Answer all questions and identify the next steps for that strategy.
3. Select the tools and resources you can use to better understand how to move toward completion of this strategy.
4. Identify other healthy aging strategies that are achievable and sustainable within this tenet.

| Strategies                                                                               | Questions to Consider                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Resources to Explore                                                                                                                                                | Selected Strategies |
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| <b>Review the funding opportunities that may exist to support collaborative efforts.</b> | <p><i>-In what ways can the abundance of resources or the lack of resources make the case needed to convene and connect partners?</i></p> <p><i>-What funding flexibilities might exist to support advancing a selected strategy?</i></p> | <p>◇ <a href="#">Grants.gov</a></p> <p>◇ <a href="#">Grantmakers in Aging</a></p> <p>◇ State/municipal funding</p> <p>◇ Jurisdiction or regional philanthropies</p> |                     |

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| Explore and compile any data that may be needed to identify needed partners to support adoption and implementation of AFPHS strategies. | <p><i>-What additional data would be helpful to inform this work?</i></p> <p><i>-Are there any trends apparent from the data that is available?</i></p>                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">Indicators of Healthy Aging Guide (Community Health Improvement)</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">MAPP 2.0 Community Health Improvement Planning</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| Identify existing silos among agencies and organizations and explore opportunities for more effective collaboration.                    | <p><i>-How might you connect health care, public health, and long-term care entities with the public, industry, government, and nonprofit organizations?</i></p> <p><i>-Are there models for collaboration that address the issue of silos?</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">Boundary Spanning Leadership</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Moving Forward Coalition</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Collaboration Across the Age-Friendly Ecosystem</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Recognized Leaders - Age-Friendly Public Health Systems</a></li> <li>◇ Toolkit: <a href="#">Leveraging Healthy People 2030 to Build Non-Traditional Multisector Partnerships</a></li> </ul> |  |
| Leverage relationships with policy makers, health officials, and other administrators to advance healthy aging initiatives.             | <p><i>-How could vouchers for transportation, meals, broadband access, and others be implemented for older adults?</i></p> <p><i>-What policies could be promoted to support age-friendly initiatives?</i></p>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <a href="#">Supporting Healthy Aging and Older Adult Health: The Role of State and Territorial Health Agencies</a></li> <li>◇ <a href="#">Leveraging Health Official Authority and Influence for Systems Improvement</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                            |  |

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