

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems

Connecting & Convening

One of the public health sector's key roles in advancing an age-friendly ecosystem is connecting and convening new and existing partners to support healthy aging. Using a collective impact approach can create sustainable, comprehensive partnerships to ensure health and well-being across the life course.



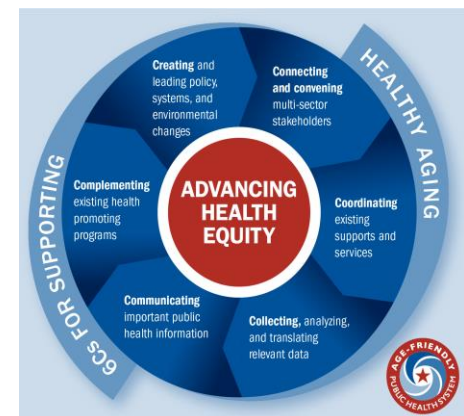
With the number of older adults in the United States continuing to grow each year, the public health sector does and will continue to face increasing challenges and opportunities in supporting the health and well-being of people across the life course. Many sectors already work with the older adult population, yet this work is often siloed, with few opportunities to collaborate with potential partners. By connecting and convening partners, the public health sector can promote healthy aging and ensure that individual and community needs are met.

Using a collective impact approach to collaboration can be useful for public health practitioners seeking to form a coalition of partners that can support older adult health and well-being. Collective impact approaches consist of five core elements, including a common agenda, shared measurement system, engagement in mutually reinforcing activities, open and continuous communication, and the formation of a backbone organization. Moreover, the collective impact approach emphasizes equity in all core elements, with a focus on systems change, contextually grounded work, and listening to and acting with the community being served.

The public health sector has a long history of effective, cross-sector partnerships, and this legacy can be seen in newer, age-friendly public health activities. AARP's Livable Communities initiative helps communities prepare and accommodate for the increasing older adult population while also encouraging urbanization and community investment. Jurisdictions that register as a Livable Community receive support in fostering partnerships with other sectors, including the transportation, recreation, urban planning, and economic development. People of all ages benefit when communities are walkable, safe, and accessible, and AARP's Livable Communities initiative helps the public health sector collaborate with partners to make this vision a reality.

Trust for America's Health's 6Cs Framework for Creating Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) organizes public health roles in aging services. Public health can enhance healthy aging outcomes by:

- ✓ Creating and leading policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve cross-sector collaboration and support healthy aging.
- ✓ Connecting and convening multi-sector partners to address the health and social needs of older adults through collective impact approaches focused on the social determinants of health.
- ✓ Collecting, analyzing, and translating data about older adult health to identify areas in which partners could be more engaged in supporting older adult health and well-being.
- ✓ Coordinating existing services to ensure that the efforts of partners in promoting healthy aging are not unnecessarily duplicated.
- ✓ Communicating important public health information, including the potential roles of partners, to support older adult health and well-being.
- ✓ Complementing existing health promoting programs to foster sustainable partnerships with collaborators across the age-friendly ecosystem.



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