

Ontario Age-Friendly Communities Outreach Program
Age-Friendly Community Initiative Welcome Package



The **Ontario Age-Friendly Communities Outreach Program (AFC Outreach Program)** would like to welcome you to the growing number of Age-Friendly Community Initiatives (AFCIs) in the province. Age-friendly communities help create more inclusive and accessible environments for people of all ages and abilities across diverse communities. Thank you for your commitment to making your community age-friendly!

This welcome package provides an overview of the supports available to you through the AFC Outreach Program.

CONTENTS OF THIS PACKAGE

- INTRODUCTION TO THE AFC OUTREACH PROGRAM..... 3
- FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES 4
 - Ontario’s AFC Planning Guide 4
 - Website and Resources 5
 - AFC Webinars..... 5
- STAY IN-THE-KNOW 6
 - Provincial Distribution List & Newsletter 6
- WORK TOGETHER 7
 - Community Profiles 7
 - Interactive Maps..... 7
 - Knowledge Broker..... 8
 - Regional Networks 8
 - Annual Survey of AFCIs 8
- GET SOCIAL 10
 - Our Social Media..... 10
 - Your Social Media 10
- GET RECOGNIZED..... 11
 - World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network 11
 - Ontario’s AFCI Recognition 11
- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 12

INTRODUCTION TO THE AFC OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Government of Ontario funds the Ontario Age-Friendly Communities Outreach Program (AFC Outreach Program) through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. The AFC Outreach Program is managed by the [Centre for Studies in Aging and Health at Providence Care](#) (CSAH) in partnership with Queen's University and the University of Waterloo.

The AFC Outreach Program aims to increase:

- awareness of age-friendly planning principles
- access to best-practice research and information
- connectivity between Age-Friendly Community Initiatives (AFCIs) to enable the spread of promising practices and collective response to emerging gaps
- capacity of AFCIs to plan, implement, evaluate and sustain their age-friendly activities

In addition to the supports outlined in this Welcome Package, the AFC Outreach Program collects and analyzes data about how AFCIs plan, implement, evaluate and sustain their work, with an added focus on the needs of marginalized populations such as older immigrants, LGBTQ2+ older adults, older adults living in small urban and rural communities and Indigenous older adults.

For questions about the AFC Outreach Program, you can contact the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, by email brancacl@providencecare.ca or phone 1-844-276-5756.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Ontario's Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Planning Guide

The AFC Outreach Program builds on and complements Ontario's AFC Planning Guide [*Creating a More Inclusive Ontario: Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide for Municipalities and Community Organizations*](#).

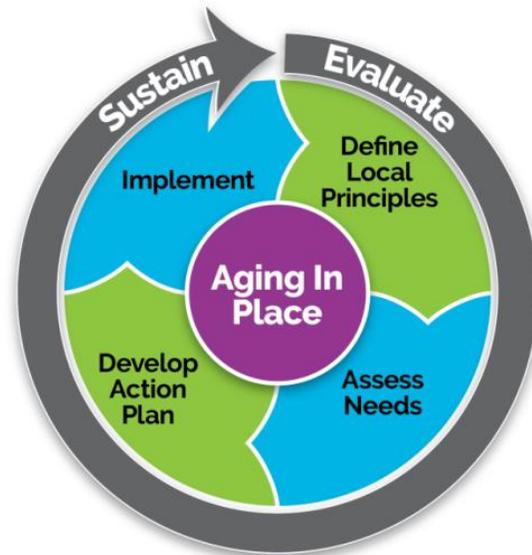
This AFC Planning Guide combines emerging research with learnings from the experiences of Ontario's Age-Friendly Community Initiatives (AFCIs). It offers municipalities and communities a comprehensive approach to planning, implementing, evaluating and sustaining their community programs.

The main sections of the AFC Planning Guide walk through the interconnected steps in the AFC process (See Figure 1)¹, tips on maintaining momentum and sustaining success in your AFCI.

The AFC Planning Guide includes three supporting documents:

1. [Creating a more inclusive Ontario: Diverse populations addendum](#) which offers information to consider when engaging small urban/rural, immigrant and Indigenous communities with aging populations.
2. [Creating a more inclusive Ontario: Age-friendly community planning toolkit](#) which provides tools and templates to support work throughout the AFC planning and development cycle.
3. [Age-friendly community remote events planning resource](#) which provides advice on how to bring a project team and stakeholders together.

→ **Read the planning guide and supporting documents** at ontario.ca/agefriendly or on the provincial AFC website at agefriendlyontario.ca.



Graph courtesy of *Creating a more inclusive Ontario: age-friendly community planning guide for municipalities and community organizations*. © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2021. Reproduced with permission.

Figure 1: The Age-Friendly Community Process

¹ It is important to note that working towards making your community more age-friendly is a cyclical and ongoing process. For example, after implementing and evaluating in the fourth step, communities often recognize the need to revisit their needs assessment and determine if their community's goals, values, resources or needs have changed.

Website and Resources

The AFC Outreach Program's provincial age-friendly communities (AFC) website – agefriendlyontario.ca – has a wealth of information on AFCs and AFC-related topics.

The website includes collected resources to inform age-friendly planning, implementation, evaluation and sustainability. The types of resources include reports, guides, tools, templates, and community examples.

Resources are categorized into lists by the following topics:

- Aging
- Age-Friendly Business
- Age-Friendly Communities
- Aging Research Centers in Ontario
- Civic Participation & Employment
- Communication & Information
- Community Support & Health Services
- Dementia-Friendly Communities
- Housing
- LGBTQ2S+
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Outdoor Spaces & Public Buildings
- Respect & Social Inclusion
- Rural Communities
- Social Participation
- Transportation

→ **Visit the website and explore the resource lists** by clicking [here](#).

→ **Share a resource or topic area to be included on the website** by contacting the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, by phone 1-844-276-5756 or email brancacl@providencecare.ca.

AFC Webinars

The AFC Outreach Program provides an ongoing webinar series about AFC planning, implementation, evaluation, promising practices and emerging trends. These webinars are advertised in our monthly e-newsletter but can also be found under the Events tab on the homepage of our [website](#).

→ **View past webinars** archived on our website [here](#).

→ **View the “Starter Kit” of webinars for new AFCIs** archived [here](#). These webinars cover the four main phases of AFCI Planning: defining local principles, creating a custom needs assessment, developing an action plan, implementation and evaluation.

STAY IN-THE-KNOW

Provincial Distribution List & Newsletter

The AFC Outreach Program uses a provincial distribution list to share regular communications with age-friendly stakeholders, including a monthly newsletter and information about funding opportunities and upcoming webinars.

A monthly e-newsletter highlights age-friendly resources and research, among other things. We hope to increase the visibility and accessibility of age-friendly research so that you are able to use evidence-based decision making in your communities.

- **Join the provincial AFC distribution list** by clicking [here](#) to receive all communications.
- **View past issues of the e-newsletter** by clicking [here](#).
- **Contribute information for the e-newsletter** by contacting the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, by phone 1-844-276-5756 or email brancacl@providencecare.ca.

Community of Interest on Social Isolation and Loneliness

The AFC Outreach Program hosts a Community of Interest on Social Isolation and Loneliness to explore the best practices to mitigate negative effects of social isolation among community-dwelling older adults during and post COVID-19.

- **Join the Community of Interest** by clicking [here](#).
- **View past issues of the Community of Interest e-newsletter** by clicking [here](#).

WORK TOGETHER

Community Profiles

The number of AFCIs in Ontario continues to grow across all four regions of the province – north, east, central and southwest. The AFCI profiles on our website are organized by region and include information about each community, its funding sources and current activities. Explore profiles of communities close-by or similar in size or scale to spark ideas for your own community or identify partners for collaboration.

“The Ontario AFC website is very helpful. It is great to review online profiles to see what other communities are engaged in.” – An Ontario AFCI Lead

→ **Explore Community Profiles** by clicking [here](#).

→ **Add a Profile for Your AFCI** by contacting the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, by phone 1-844-276-5756 or email brancacl@providencecare.ca.

Interactive Maps

The two interactive maps on our website are another opportunity to showcase AFCIs and activities being implemented across Ontario. The maps are updated on a regular basis and include information about current AFCIs, age-friendly activities across the eight domains, and organizations/agencies related to age-friendly principles. The maps were designed to help spread promising practices and create opportunities for collaboration.

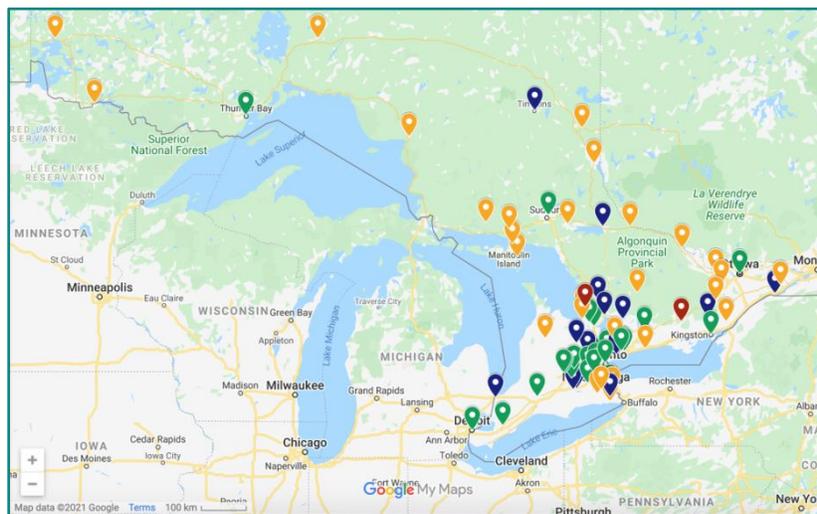


Figure 2: Screenshot of Map 1

→ **View Map 1** by clicking [here](#). Map 1 contains the name and location of active Ontario AFCIs (colour-coded by size) and age-friendly activities in the eight AFC domains.

→ **View Map 2** by clicking [here](#). Map 2 contains the name and location of active Ontario AFCIs (colour-coded by size), Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC), Public Health Units and Ontario Universities.

Knowledge Broker

The AFC Knowledge Broker can provide advice, link you to resources, connect you to other leaders exploring similar issues, or answer any questions about age-friendly community development in Ontario. The Knowledge Broker is well-versed in the activities of AFCIs in Ontario and can connect you with the appropriate contact.

“Although each community may be somewhat unique, we are all passionate about promoting and enhancing healthy aging. We are proud to share our projects. The Knowledge Broker is the hub to that wheel; the connector of the spokes.” – An Ontario AFCI Lead

→ **Contact the AFC Knowledge Broker**, Lisa Brancaccio, by phone 1-844-276-5756 or email brancacl@providencecare.ca.

Regional Networks

The regional age-friendly networks include age-friendly leads from many of Ontario’s AFCIs. Network members meet regularly (virtually) to share their local age-friendly planning processes, describe innovative programs and services, and discuss emerging trends or gaps. The regional networks are an opportunity to learn from and with each other to help accelerate and strengthen work at a local level. The network meetings also provide an opportunity to collaborate with other communities who are working on similar projects.

The networks are as follows:

- Northern Ontario Age-Friendly Network
- Eastern Ontario Age-Friendly Network
- Central Ontario Age-Friendly Network
- Southwestern Ontario Age-Friendly Network

→ **Join a Regional Network** by contacting the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, by phone 1-844-276-5756 or email brancacl@providencecare.ca.

Annual Survey of AFCIs

Each winter the AFC Outreach Program distributes an annual survey to all AFCIs in the province. The lead(s) or designate of an AFCI are invited to submit one set of responses on behalf of their community. The purpose of this yearly survey is to:

- Monitor and evaluate local AFCI implementation, sustainability, enablers, challenges, and outcomes
- Draw a provincial picture of the scope and reach of AFC initiatives in Ontario
- Provide the AFC Outreach Program with valuable feedback on its current activities and identify opportunities for additional support.

The survey covers the following core categories:

- Current AFCI status
- Funding and governance
- Current activities
- Use of AFC Outreach Program supports
- Enablers and challenges
- Benefits
- Sustainability
- Engaging diverse populations

Survey findings are shared with all AFCIs and stakeholders through presentations, white papers publications, etc., to inform future decision making, policy, and funding opportunities. Along with a provincial summary, the AFC Outreach Program will also send you a copy of your responses to the survey for use by your AFCI.

→ **If you have questions about the annual survey** contact the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, by phone 1-844-276-5756 or email brancacl@providencecare.ca.

GET SOCIAL

Our Social Media

The AFC Outreach Program uses Twitter to share events, research and information related to seniors health, healthy aging and age-friendly communities.

→ **Follow the AFC Outreach Program on Twitter** [@SHKNetwork](https://twitter.com/SHKNetwork).

Your Social Media

Using social media can be a fantastic vehicle to engage older adults in your community and share your age-friendly work. If you have a website or any social media accounts, we would like to follow you to stay up-to-date on your age-friendly work. We can also add this information to your Community Profile.

→ **Share your online presence** by contacting the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, by phone 1-844-276-5756 or email brancacl@providencecare.ca.

GET RECOGNIZED

World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network

The WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities connects cities, communities and organizations worldwide with the common vision of making their community a great place to grow old in. The Network aims to do this by inspiring change, facilitating knowledge exchange and supporting age-friendly cities and communities to find appropriate innovative and evidence-based solutions.

While membership to the Network is not a designation of age-friendliness, it does demonstrate a commitment to working with older adults to create age-friendly physical and social environments. It's also an opportunity to share experiences, achievements and lessons learnt on a global scale.

- **Learn more about the WHO Global Network** by clicking [here](#).
- **Consult the Network's Age-Friendly Practices Database** by clicking [here](#).
- **Apply to become a member of the WHO Global Network** by clicking [here](#).

Ontario's Network of AFCIs

Currently in Ontario, you are part of Ontario's Network of AFCIs if your committee is actively making efforts to follow the four-step process in the AFC Planning Guide. Your AFCI will have its own Community Profile (see page 7) and will be added to the interactive maps (see page 7) on the provincial AFC website.

"The benefits . . . include things that are not easily measured like encouragement, feeling of belonging and knowing that we are all at different stages and that is OK."
– An Ontario AFCI Lead

- **Add your AFCI profile to the Ontario website** by contacting the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, by phone 1-844-276-5756 or email brancacl@providencecare.ca.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q: [How does my community become a designated age-friendly community?](#)
- Q: [How do I build and sustain momentum around the AFC approach in my community?](#)
- Q: [Who can provide a presentation to my community about age-friendly communities?](#)
- Q: [Who should sit on our steering committee?](#)
- Q: [Should I hire a consultant?](#)
- Q: [How are AFCIs in Ontario funded?](#)
- Q: [How can I strengthen an AFC grant application?](#)
- Q: [How do we move forward specific activities in our action plan?](#)
- Q: [Can I suggest a topic for a future webinar?](#)
- Q: [How do AFCs align with the Advancing Accessibility in Ontario Framework?](#)
- Q: [Are dementia-friendly communities and age-friendly communities the same?](#)
- Q: [Are compassionate communities and age-friendly communities the same?](#)
- Q: [Have more questions?](#)

Q: How does my community become a designated age-friendly community?

A: While you may hear of communities being designated as “age-friendly”, this is actually a common misconception. Age-friendly community development is ongoing and often a cyclical process. Once a community begins to implement age-friendly activities, they often recognize other priority areas that may have emerged. Therefore, communities are not designated as actually being “age-friendly,” rather are recognized their commitment toward becoming a more age-friendly community. Please see the guidelines and requirements below:

Ontario’s Network of Age-Friendly Community Initiatives (AFCIs): Currently in Ontario, communities are added to the Ontario’s Network of AFCIs if they are actively working towards making their community more age-friendly by following the framework outlined in [Ontario’s AFC Planning Guide](#). From forming a steering committee to conducting a needs assessment to implementing an action plan, all AFCIs in Ontario are at a different part of the AFC path. If your community continues to devote time into developing, implementing and evaluating an age-friendly plan that responds to the needs of local older adults, other communities can learn from your experience and you can learn from other communities by being part of our provincial network.

Your community does not need WHO recognition to be an AFCI in Ontario. Membership to the [WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities](#) is obtained through an application used to demonstrate that your community is committed to working towards becoming age-friendly. Many communities in Ontario have sought WHO recognition because it brings visibility to their initiative, participation from governmental leadership, as well as other benefits such as access to the global network of resources.

World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network: The [WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#) program is an international effort that began in 2006. As a member of the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, a community commits itself to share and promote the values and principles central to the WHO Age-Friendly approach, to implement the four steps in creating age-friendly local environments and actively participate in the Network, including sharing experiences with other members. As outlined in the membership guidelines, this includes commitments to:

- contribute to knowledge by sharing evidence of progress (assessment reports, action plans and monitoring and evaluation reports) with other members;
- share age-friendly practices;
- share guidelines and tools with other members; and
- continuously update their profile page.

You can view the Network’s Terms of Reference and other application requirements here: <https://www.who.int/ageing/age-friendly-environments/GNAFCC-membership-en.pdf>.

Q: How do I build and sustain momentum around the AFC approach in my community?

A: Building and sustaining momentum around the age-friendly community (AFC) approach is essential to your initiative's success. Generally, progressing through the four steps of the AFC process takes at least three to four years. This can be a challenge for groups without supportive infrastructure, processes and resources to sustain and maintain their efforts. Despite limitations, many communities in Ontario have been able to keep AFC initiatives moving forward. Here are a few tips to help build and sustain momentum in your community:

- **Create a business case:** Use a business case that speaks to aspects that are value-added for local groups such as businesses, municipality and health care services.
- **Start with the low hanging fruit:** Capitalize on quick wins to give you early successes and help build the case and garner support for larger scale projects.
- **Share locally relevant messages and stories:** Keep stakeholders up-to-date with key developments that have occurred since your initiative started e.g. summary of needs assessment findings, programs being implemented and stories of how age-friendly activities and programs have implemented people in your community.
- **Talk to other AFCIs in your region:** Participate in regional and provincial networks to share knowledge and experiences, and learn from other communities.
- **Align with similar initiatives:** Connect age-friendly planning and activities to the priorities of key partners (e.g. municipalities, public health) and encourage them to incorporate age-friendly activities into their core missions.
- **Partner:** Establish ongoing and productive partnerships between a network of individuals, groups, organizations and planners committed to planning and incorporating age-friendly principles within a community.
- **Secure assets:** Secure long-term sources of both non-financial and financial support.
- **Ask us more:** Get in touch with the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, at brancacl@providencecare.ca.

Q: Who can provide a presentation to my community about age-friendly communities?

A: The AFC Outreach Program provides presentations upon request to local, provincial and international audiences to promote awareness of AFCs, describe the current provincial AFC strategy, and report on research findings. The AFC Outreach Program can also suggest and put you in contact with local presenters for your event.

Q. Who should sit on our steering committee?

A: Groups commonly engaged in AFC planning groups include: diverse older adults, municipal staff, councils on aging, public health, seniors centres, libraries, business leaders, university/college faculty organizations, Alzheimer societies and others. Having partners from various backgrounds, professional disciplines and experiences helps build momentum and sustainability for your AFC movement. However, your team does not need to include an exhaustive list of everyone who might interact with or advocate for older adults in your community. Rather, the steering committee is an early gathering of people who are passionate about, interested in and have time to contribute to age-friendly work.

Q: Should I hire a consultant?

A: Some communities hire an external consultant to carry out their community's needs assessment, develop an age-friendly action plan or conduct an evaluation. If you decide to hire an external consultant, we have heard from communities that it is important to look for candidates that have direct experience with AFC planning. We have also heard communities report successes when they use funds to hire someone internal or local to carry out the project. This contributes to developing local capacity, and ensures a historical and contextual understanding of the community is integrated into the work.

While we cannot recommend a specific consultant, we can connect you to communities that have used consultants and can share their experience with you. If you would like to be connected to another community, please email Lisa at brancacl@providencecare.ca.

Q: How are AFCIs in Ontario funded?

A: In 2020, about 45% of AFCIs were funded through multiple sources. The most common funding sources are: municipal core funding, Seniors' Community Grant and New Horizons Grant.

Links to common grants for AFC implementation are provided below. You can also [click here](#) to browse a full list of funding opportunities from the Ontario government, or browse available funding opportunities [on our website](#).

- The United Way invests in programs and initiatives that fit within United Way's three Community Impact Areas: Helping Kids Be All They Can Be, Building Strong and Healthy Communities, Moving People from Poverty to Possibility. [Click here](#) to find your local United Way.

- The [New Horizons for Seniors Program \(NHSP\)](#) is a federal grants and contributions program. It provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities.
- [The Ontario Trillium Foundation](#) offers a range of grants to support non-profit organizations.
- [Inclusive Community Grants](#) are designed to sustain existing, and create new, Age-Friendly Communities (AFCs) for older adults and people of all abilities by supporting projects with funding of up to \$60,000.
- The [Seniors Community Grant Program](#) funds projects focused on encouraging community involvement of seniors.
- [EnAbling Change Program](#) provides funding to not-for-profit organizations, industry organizations and professional associations to:
 - educate their stakeholders about the value and benefits of accessibility
 - help support compliance with accessibility laws
 - promote a culture of inclusion

Q: How can I strengthen an AFC grant application?

A: Although grant writing is not an exact science, there are steps you can take to strengthen your application and increase your chances of being successful:

Review: Check out various grant writing tools such as [non-profit guides](#) and our resource on [Grant Writing Tips](#) (French resource: [Demande de subvention: Conseils d'écriture](#)) for tips on planning and writing a proposal.

Prepare: Keep documents such as your community's action plan and needs assessment readily accessible so that when a funding opportunity is available, you already have a formed concept. Since most funding applications are due within a short timeframe, this preparation will help you develop a robust application.

Partner: Work with other groups (e.g. non-profits, municipalities) with similar goals to apply for grants together. Please find below a few partnership options you could consider for grant applications:

1. Other age-friendly community initiatives in your region.
 - Visit the [community profiles on our website](#), select your region, and click on a community for contact information, funding sources, current activities and more.
2. Academic centres in your region.
 - Use [this interactive map](#) to find the name and location of universities in Ontario. Click on the icon to view university name, location, and a link to the university website for more information.
 - [Research centres on aging in Ontario](#) – click on the 'Aging Research Centres in Ontario' dropdown to view a list of research centres focused on aging and health.

3. Public health units in your region.
 - Use [this interactive map](#) to find the name and location of the health units in Ontario. Click on the icon to view health unit name, address, and a link to the health unit website for more information.
4. Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs) in your region.
 - Use [this interactive map](#) to find the name and location of SALCs across Ontario. Click on the icon to view SALC name, address, and a link to their website for more information.

Q: How do we move forward specific activities in our action plan?

A: To move forward specific activities in your AFCI's action plan, you can consider:

- Forming a sub-committee to focus on a specific domain, evaluation or other area. Some communities have a core AFC committee that oversee all the age-friendly work, as well as have sub-committees that focus on activities that fall under a specific domain or topic.
- Applying for grants in different sectors. For example, if an action item is to improve your community's transportation for older adults, look into specific transportation grants offered to support local transportation improvements such as the Community Transportation Grant Program offered by Ontario's Ministry of Transportation.
- Partnering with researchers and students to support implementation of a specific action. Reach out to academic institutions to connect with interested researchers or with professional students to access academic skills and experience in grant writing, evaluation, survey techniques, indicator development, data analysis, etc.. Many academic programs require students to complete a community practicum placement. Students from multiple disciplines can provide invaluable time and expertise.

Q: Can I suggest a topic for a future webinar?

A: The Ontario AFC Outreach Program provides an ongoing webinar series about AFC planning, implementation, evaluation, promising practices and emerging trends. If you have a topic suggestion for a future webinar, please email Lisa at brancacl@providencecare.ca.

Q: How do AFCs align with the Advancing Accessibility in Ontario Framework?

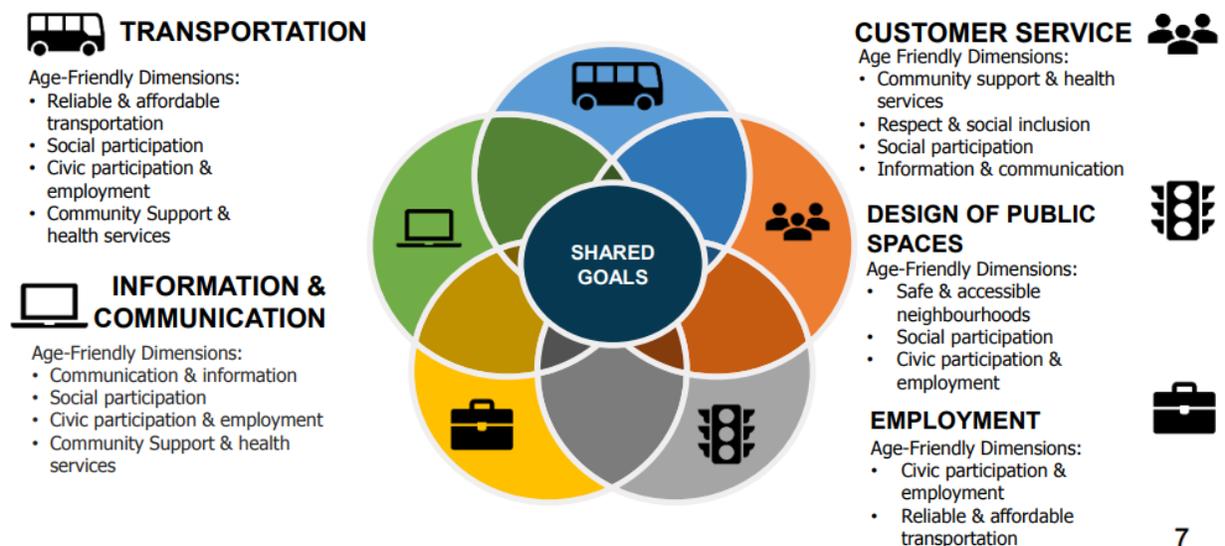
A: Age-friendly communities (AFCs) align with the Advancing Accessibility in Ontario framework which aims to make the province more inclusive and accessible for everyone, by focusing on four key areas:

- breaking down barriers in the built environment
- government leading by example
- increasing participation in the economy for people with disabilities and
- improving understanding and awareness about accessibility.

AFCs create more accessible and inclusive environments for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. The physical and social environments of communities play a major role in healthy, independent and autonomous aging. AFCs create physical and social environments that support independent and active living of older adults and people living with disabilities.

The World Health Organization recognizes eight domains that communities can focus on to ensure their policies, structures and services meet the needs of all community members: the built environment, transport, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication, and community support and health services.

These domains align with the government's Advancing Accessibility in Ontario framework. In particular, the five Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation match closely with the domains of AFCs as outlined in the graphic below.



Graphic from Mr. Alfred Spencer's presentation: "[Accessibility and Age-Friendly Communities: Strengthening Local Impact](#)".

In planning, age-friendly communities and accessible communities are not only aligned, but also complementary. In Ontario, community leaders and residents in 70+ communities have committed to become more age-friendly and are working together to ensure that local policies, programs and services are inclusive and support the social and physical environments that enable Ontarians to live safe, active and meaningful lives. Many age-friendly community initiatives in Ontario partner with local Accessibility Committees to ensure age-friendly communities are not just “senior-friendly,” but support the needs and values of all individuals in the community.

Q: Are dementia-friendly communities and age-friendly communities the same?

A: A dementia-friendly community is a place where people living with dementia are understood, respected, supported, included and have choice and control over their day-to-day lives and level of engagement. Dementia-friendly communities can be considered as being a part of age-friendly communities. Please view the following resources:

- [Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities: Complementary Initiatives](#) (document)
- [Dementia-Friendly Ontario](#) (website)
- [Building a Stronger and More Inclusive Ontario Part 1: Understanding the link between Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities](#) (webinar)

Q: Are compassionate communities and age-friendly communities the same?

A: A compassionate community is one where local health policies recognize compassion as an ethical imperative; sectors work together to meet the special needs of the aged, those living with life-threatening illnesses, and with loss; a strong commitment to social and cultural differences enables access to wider variety of supportive experiences, interactions, and communication; and all people have easy access to grief and holistic or palliative care services. Compassionate communities can be considered as being a part of age-friendly communities. Please view the following resources:

- [Building a Stronger and More Inclusive Ontario Part 2: Understanding the link between Age-Friendly and Compassionate Communities](#) (webinar)
- [Age-Friendly, Dementia-Friendly and Compassionate Communities Synergies In Ontario](#) (document)

Q: Have more questions?

A: Check out [Creating a more inclusive Ontario: age-friendly community planning guide for municipalities and community organizations](#) for community tips from members of local age-

friendly communities who have had experience with the steps in the process, or feel free to reach out to the AFC Knowledge Broker, Lisa Brancaccio, at brancacl@providencecare.ca.