

# FY 2019-22 Age Friendly Westerly Community Plan



Indicator: Percentage of Westerly seniors with income less than \$30K (40.4% compared to 28.7% in Washington County)

Indicator: Percentage of Westerly Seniors living alone (13.2% compared to 11.8% in Washington County)

Indicator: Isolation/ among Westerly seniors (21.8% compared to 16.1% in RI)

**Goal: To facilitate resident connections to senior-focused community resources to promote health and wellness and reduce social isolation.**

Strategy	Action Steps		Outcomes	Target Date	Lead Org.	Resources Needed
<b>Age Friendly Westerly Infrastructure:</b> Collaborate with Age Friendly Rhode Island to support implementation of their strategic actions in greater Westerly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect with Age-Friendly RI for information about actions to date in Westerly and to establish partnership</li> <li>Establish an Age Friendly Westerly action team</li> <li>Continue seeking data, including in community conversations, to identify needs/consider related actions</li> <li>Pursue funding to support initiatives</li> <li>Strengthen connections with statewide strategies</li> <li>Participate in Age Friendly RI Social Isolation Workgroup and share resources</li> </ul>		Multi-disciplinary action team meets at least 5 times in year 1	December 2019 and ongoing	Westerly Hospital	In-kind staff resources including willing/able partner agencies
<b>Age Friendly Westerly Infrastructure:</b> Collaborate with AARP Rhode Island to join the Liveable Communities Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for a Town Council resolution in support of Age Friendly Westerly</li> <li>Complete the AARP application process</li> <li>Host a public announcement once achieved</li> </ul>		Town Council resolution passed Westerly becomes part of AARP Network	June 2021	Westerly Town Manager and Town Council	In-kind staff resources including willing/able partner agencies
<b>Age Friendly Westerly Infrastructure:</b> Support Westerly Hospital in pursuing Age Friendly hospital designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect to AARP and Institute for Healthcare Improvement Resources</li> <li>Provide any data necessary, including community input, to support application</li> </ul>		Westerly Hospital designated as Age Friendly Hospital	June 2023	Westerly Hospital	In-kind staff resources including willing/able partner agencies

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<p><b>Age Friendly Domain: Communication and Information</b> Promote available community resources and existing partner organizations' services as well as general health information and resources for older residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create/distribute a printed brochure listing of resources</li> <li>• Include pertinent information in all communications</li> <li>• Collaborate with organizations to target identified needs</li> <li>• <b>Consider town-wide communication tool such as in Stonington</b></li> </ul>	<p>At least 500 rack cards distributed through community partners</p> <p>Town wide communications strategy developed</p>	October 2022	Westerly Hospital	Grant dollars and/or in-kind resources
<p><b>Age Friendly Domain: Communication and Information</b> Create a series of public access TV short informational/ PSA videos with educational information important to area older residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect with Westerly Public access TV</li> <li>• Collaborate with community agencies to identify subject matter experts for the programs</li> <li>• Collaborate with Yale New Haven Health System videographer for PSA filming and production</li> <li>• Broadcast the videos prior to town council meetings and at other available times</li> </ul>	7 one-minute PSA videos produced and aired on a rotating schedule	October 2020	Westerly Hospital Westerly Public Access TV	Grant dollars received from Tufts Health Plan Foundation
<p><b>Age Friendly Domain: Transportation</b> Collaborate with RIPTA to advocate for enhanced regional transportation for Westerly residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish understanding of existing initiatives</li> <li>• Ensure Age Friendly Westerly representation in those efforts</li> <li>• <b>Include reports at Age Friendly Westerly and Health Impact Collaborative meetings</b></li> <li>• <b>Pursue additional partnership with RIPTA for transportation improvements</b></li> </ul>	Increase awareness of and activism/advocacy around transportation in Greater Westerly	October 2022	RIPTA Health Impact Collaborative of Greater Westerly	New service resources to RIPTA In-kind staff resources including willing/able partner agencies

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<b>Age Friendly Domain: Housing</b> Facilitate efforts to improve affordable housing options for older residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form a housing task force including relevant stakeholder organizations and residents</li> <li>Connect to Homes RI and inventory current resources</li> <li>Research best practices in developing affordable housing</li> <li>Connect with Westerly planning re: alignment with Community Plan and support plan implementation</li> </ul>		Plan developed to pursue the development of affordable housing for older residents Community support for the development of affordable housing esp. for older residents	October 2025 and ongoing	Jonnycake of Westerly Age Friendly Housing Task Force	In-kind staff resources including willing/able partner agencies Grant funds to support program expansion and housing development
<b>Age Friendly Domain: Housing</b> Partner on community programs that provide support for residents to age in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote existing programs such as Habitat for Humanity of South County and Westerly Police Department key box program</li> <li>Provide education on available community home visiting resources</li> <li>Research options for multi-generational shared housing including ordinance change potentially required</li> <li>Establish the Westerly Village in partnership with The Village Common of RI</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age in Place resources are well-known and well-utilized</li> <li>Villages model established in Westerly</li> </ul>	October 2022 and ongoing	Jonnycake of Westerly Age Friendly Housing Task Force	In-kind staff resources including willing/able partner agencies Grant funds to support program expansion
<b>Age-Friendly Domain: Healthcare Access</b> Collaborate with partners to leverage resources toward improved access to care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify nursing programs with students seeking community health experience</li> <li>Connect with the Community Health Team as to services in Westerly and opportunities to partner</li> <li>Connect with Westerly Ambulance Corp to determine status of Mobile Integrated Health Program</li> </ul>		At least 2 new partnership efforts advancing access to health care	October 2025 and ongoing	Westerly Hospital	In-kind support for partnerships from community agencies and higher ed

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<b>Age Friendly Domain: Outdoor Spaces</b>  <b>Downtown business assoc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the use of trails throughout community</li> <li>guide to outdoor s including the development of a guide to outdoor spaces;</li> <li>Include resources such as schools to use tracks; preserves; places where there are benches for older residents</li> <li>Explore shuttle bus capacity for older residents for large events downtown</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher use of existing places to walk</li> <li>Overall community accessibility improved throughout downtown Westerly</li> </ul>	December 2025	Westerly Library (guide)  Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce (shuttle bus exploration )	In-kind staff resources including willing/able partner agencies
<b>Age Friendly Domain: Public Buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey opportunities to increase accessibility of public buildings</li> </ul>			December 2025		Collaboration with Dept. of Developmental Services
<b>Age Friendly Domain: Social Participation</b> Align activities with the Westerly Recreation Master Plan  Identify opportunities to promote social interaction and combat isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote multi-generational activities by improving access to active and passive recreational programming</li> <li>Pursue addition of age-friendly component to Westerly's annual restaurant week including earlier seating, healthy food options, early bird specials</li> <li>Support greater public knowledge of existing park amenities and new age-friendly features in parks</li> <li>Partner with the Westerly Library to continue periodic older resident community conversations.</li> <li>Establish a public Happy to Chat bench in Wilcox Park</li> </ul>		Age-friendly components added to Westerly Restaurant Week by 2021   Bench locations and funding for signs identified	December 2025	Westerly Recreation Dept.  Westerly Library  Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce	In-kind staff resources including willing/able partner agencies   Funding for signs and agreement from bench owners