

Is your city age friendly? *Be recognized for the work you've done.*

KC Communities for All Ages (CFAA) and the First Suburbs Coalition (FSC) are offering the Community for All Ages Recognition Program as an incentive for your city to become a Community for All Ages.

How it works

This program will recognize communities that have taken steps to become more welcoming to residents of all ages and, in the process, more vibrant, healthy and prosperous. It is not meant to be a formal certification program.

A community can earn one of three levels of recognition representing the extent of its work in becoming a Community for All Ages: **Bronze** (Awareness), **Silver** (Assessment) or **Gold** (Implementation).

Recognition for each level requires a community to complete a set of tasks (see reverse). The tasks don't necessarily require a great financial commitment, but do require time and effort from elected officials and staff, as well as citizen engagement. In most cases, the tasks can be included in already-existing processes and programs.

Application process

To apply for Communities for All Ages recognition, submit an application form and supporting documentation to the First Suburbs Coalition via the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) by 5 p.m., April 1, 2016, or by 5 p.m., Nov. 1, 2016.

A joint First Suburbs Coalition and KC Communities for All Ages committee will review applications and certify those communities that meet the criteria. Communities will be notified by June 1, 2016 (for April deadline) or January 16, 2017 (for Nov. deadline) if they have met the recognition criteria and, if not, what additional work needs to be done.

Communities are encouraged to use "Making Your Community Work for All Ages: A Toolkit for Cities" and the "Communities for All Ages Checklist" to guide their work. They are also encouraged to seek assistance from the First Suburbs Coalition, KC Communities for All Ages and MARC.

An application form may be downloaded at www.KCCommunitiesforAllAges.org.

Topic areas include:

- Public outdoor spaces and buildings
- Housing and commercial development
- Transportation and mobility
- Social inclusion, communication and participation
- Civic participation and employment
- Community and health services



Advantages of participating

- A more aware, well-planned community that meets the needs of all its residents.
- Regional recognition that your city is looking to the future, creating a community that is vibrant, connected and green, and serves the needs of all residents regardless of age.
- Recognition at First Suburbs Coalition and or Communities for All Ages events and on websites.
- Assistance with materials for websites, newsletters and news releases.
- News releases on the recognition and why it is important for communities.
- Templates for Community for All Ages street signs.



Actions that earn recognition

To earn Bronze / Awareness recognition:

- Adopt a resolution to become a Community for All Ages.
- Make a presentation to governing bodies, department staff and relevant commissions on becoming age friendly and the Communities for All Ages program, and take at least two of the following actions:
 - Hold at least one community meeting to discuss Communities for All Ages issues and present information.
 - Prepare written materials on age-friendly communities and distribute to the public.
 - Establish a speakers bureau to share information with neighborhood groups, businesses and civic groups.
 - Put information about demographic changes and CFAA on your website.



To earn Gold recognition:

- Meet the Bronze / Awareness and Silver / Assessment level criteria.
- Adopt a Communities for All Ages Plan or include a Community for All Ages component in a major local plan, such as a comprehensive plan, strategic plan or park plan.



To maintain your recognition level:

- After achieving one of these levels of recognition, a community must demonstrate that it is continuing to work to become a Community for All Ages, by moving to the next level and demonstrating a substantive investment in infrastructure, services or programming identified in the Communities for All Ages plan.
- If a community fails to meet this maintenance standard, it will forgo its recognition and the benefits that result.



To earn Silver / Assessment recognition:

- Meet the requirements for Bronze / Awareness level.
- Form a Community for All Ages committee of community members (or assign tasks to an existing committee) and have members use the [Communities for All Ages Checklist](#) to assess your community and issue a report based on the findings and recommendations resulting from the assessment process.



Application submission and review

Applications are due by 5 p.m., April 1, 2017, or Nov. 1, 2017, and can be delivered by one of the following methods:

- Mail to Mid-America Regional Council, Attn: Cathy Boyer-Shesol, 600 Broadway, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO 64105
- Deliver in person to MARC, to the attention of Cathy Boyer-Shesol, at the above address.
- Email to Cathy Boyer-Shesol at cboyer@marc.org.

A joint First Suburbs Coalition and KC Communities for All Ages committee will review applications and certify those communities that meet the criteria. Official recognition announcements will be made by June 1, 2017 (for April deadline) or January 5, 2018 (for Nov. deadline).

Download these resources at KCCommunitiesForAllAges.org:

- [Communities for All Ages Application Form](#)
- [Making Your City Work for All Ages: A Toolkit for Cities](#)
- [Communities for All Ages Checklist](#)
- [Communities for All Ages Checklist Workbook](#)

For more information, contact Cathy Boyer-Shesol at cboyer@marc.org or Georgia Nesselrode at gnessel@marc.org.



KC Communities for All Ages is an initiative of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), with funding from WJ Brace Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee; Jewish Heritage Foundation; Roger A. and Corinne R. Durkee Fund, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation; MARC Area Agency on Aging; Truman-Heartland Community Foundation; and AARP Missouri.