

Livable

New York

**Sustainable Communities
for *all ages***

This power point presentation provides a detailed description of the State's *Livable New York initiative*.

Livable New York
focus areas

Housing

Universal design

Development

Planning

Zoning

Energy alternatives

Green Building

Transportation

Mobility

These are the areas of community life that the initiative primarily focuses on— choices in successful housing, mobility, and transportation options; innovative home, building, and community design; and effective planning, zoning, and development approaches.

**New York State
Office for the Aging**

Affiliate Partners

- NY State Energy Research and Development Authority
- Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
- USDA Rural Development—NY State Office
- NY State Department of State
- NY State Homes and Community Renewal
- NY State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
- NY State Builders Association
- NY State Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

The State Office for the Aging is the lead agency for the State's *Livable New York* initiative.

Eight affiliate partners support the mission, intent, and goals of the initiative.



An initiative providing communities with . . .

Education
Training
Technical Assistance

Through its products and activities, the intent of *Livable New York* is to provide communities with education, training, and technical assistance related to the initiative's focus areas.



The Initiative's Intent:

Livable Communities

Through the initiative's education, training, and technical assistance, the aim of *Livable New York* is to help communities advance their efforts to improve the livability of their communities.

Livable Communities

Various elements contribute to or improve a community's level of "livability"

**Tangible & Intangible
elements**

Increasingly, people use the terms "livability" & "livable communities."

Definitions can vary, as many professions have adopted elements or principles of livability specific to their own disciplines.

However, ALL elements that affect quality of life have an impact on a community's livability.

Some *tangible* elements

**Housing
choices**

**Universally designed
homes
& buildings**

**Healthy environment—
air ... water ... food**

**Accessible
public
spaces**

Mobility options

**Basic life necessities—
good quality
easily accessible
affordable**

**Transportation—
accessible
& affordable**

**Good education
Work & volunteer
opportunities**

**Healthy—
homes & buildings**

**Supportive services
& health care—
choices
accessible
affordable**

**Communication venues—
accessible**

These are some of the major “tangible” elements that create or improve a community’s level of livability.

Tangible elements are easy to see and measure.

Some *intangible* elements

Sense of “community”

“Empowered” residents

A community “identity”

Perception of safety

**Inclusive planning:
Valued “social capital”—
including all ages
all cultural & ethnic groups
all functional abilities
all sectors**

**Social connections
Community integration**

**Community’s
heritage & character
are preserved**

These are some of the major
“intangible” elements that create
or improve a community’s level
of livability.

Intangible elements are not as
easy to see and measure . . . but
residents know when these
elements are NOT there.

Elements of livability have
a major impact on . . .

**Residents'
Quality of Life**

**Overall
Community
Well-being**

a Livable Community . . .

A good place

to live ... work ... grow up ... and grow old

When a community is characterized by enough of those tangible and intangible elements, community members want to continue living there . . . don't want to move away.



Assistance to communities through . . .

3 Major Components

- 1. Advisory Workgroup *Recommendations***
- 2. Technical Assistance *Resource Manual***
- 3. Livable New York *Academy***

Education, training, and technical assistance is provided through *Livable New York's* three major components—each of which is related to the initiative's focus areas.

Livable New York's Advisory Workgroup is made up of state and local government agencies, community officials and leaders, professionals from various disciplines, and residents—all of whom are experienced in the initiative's focus areas.

Advisory Workgroup

Report



Sustainable Communities for all ages

1st Component

86-member WORKGROUP created a set of recommendations addressing challenges communities can face when planning, developing, and implementing projects

The *Resource Manual* is meant for use by ALL community members— as a resource when planning, designing, developing, and implementing activities & projects related to the initiative's focus areas.

2nd Component



Sustainable Communities
for all ages

A resource manual for

Future-based, inclusive planning

Livable communities

Aging in place

Sustainable neighborhoods





Resource Manual

**125 articles
devoted to**

***Livable New York's*
focus areas**

Housing

Universal design

Development

Planning

Zoning

Energy alternatives

Green building

Transportation

Mobility

Each of the 125 articles in the *Manual* is devoted to a specific model, strategy, or approach related to the initiative's focus areas.

Articles will continue to be added to the Manual.

Resource Manual -- intent

**A technical assistance tool for
all members and all sectors
of the community . . .**

. . . for planning and decision-making

Aim:

Stimulate thinking

Broaden perspectives

Promote alternative models & strategies

The *Manual* is written for a general audience, in order to educate about all the focus areas across all community sectors . . . and as a means of encouraging collaboration and inclusive planning.

Resource Manual –

The 125 articles & resources . . .

**Written by
a cross-section of experts
from across the State ...
and several from around the country**

For reading ease . . .

**Each article: very short
Format: consistent**

To encourage greater use of the *Manual*—and to encourage people to learn about topics outside their own areas of expertise—each article is short, and all are formatted in a consistent way.

Format for each article –

- **Description of model or strategy**
- **Benefits of model or strategy for: individuals, families, caregivers, the community**
- **Challenges to implementation**
- **Operating examples of the model or strategy**
- **Relevant laws or legislation**
- **Extensive links to written and web resources**

Each article in the *Manual* includes these six segments.

Resource Manual

7 sections

- 1. Demographic and Social Trends**
- 2. Planning, Zoning, and Development**
- 3. Housing**
 - Housing Options**
 - Housing-Related Programs / Services**
- 4. Design**
 - Housing / Buildings / Community**
 - Energy-Efficiency and Alternatives**
 - Green Building**
- 5. Mobility and Transportation**
- 6. Community Tools, Guidelines, & Award Programs**
- 7. Appendix**

The *Manual's* 125 articles are organized into six sections, plus the appendix.

Initiative's 3rd Component

Livable New York *Academy*

Major steps:

Community training
Community evaluation
Project(s) implementation

Livable New York's third major activity is a community-based *Academy*, which will provide assistance to communities through three major steps.

- ***Community Training***

**A training event for:
public officials, local
government, community
leaders, community groups,
professional disciplines /
sectors**

**Training event:
assistance by the Academy.**

This will be a two-day training event to help municipalities begin their community-driven, inclusive process of planning and implementing activities and projects that will improve the livability of their neighborhoods.

Community Training

Including:

- **Understanding the impact of demographic and social change on *your* community.**
- **Elements and benefits of— a livable community, and an inclusive approach to achieving livability.**
- **Steps in the Academy process.**
- **Roles for different community sectors— in the Academy process, and in achieving community livability.**
- **How to sustain a community-coalition approach.**
- **Understanding various models & strategies**

These are examples of what can be included in the two-day training.

Each community's needs and circumstances differ . . . so, to be effective, the training agenda for each community must be customized.

- ***Community Evaluation***

An evaluation of residents' perceptions of their community's livability.

**Evaluation:
assistance by the Academy.**

A livable community reflects the needs, preferences, and expectations of its residents.

Using an evaluation tool and process, the *Academy* will help communities measure residents' perceptions of their community—which will provide a basis for “livability” planning and decision-making.

Residents' views—

For example:

- **What they like & don't like about their community.**
- **What are their community's strengths & what is missing.**
- **Why would they stay in their community.**
- **Why would they consider moving away.**
- **Check-up on the elements of a livable community: Housing, mobility, walkability, sense of empowerment, accessibility, services, others.**

These are a few examples of what will be included in the community evaluation tool.

The intent is to gather a picture of how residents feel about their communities ... their living environment.

Assistance from the Initiative includes:

- **Training for forming the evaluation team and for implementing the process.**
- **Successful evaluation tools; roles for various community sectors and residents.**
- **ID resources for analysis of findings.**
- **Strategies for publicizing the evaluation activity.**
- **Strategies for involving community members in the evaluation process & design, and in prioritizing the evaluation's findings.**

These are examples of the types of assistance the *Academy* will provide to communities as the community sets about planning and implementing its evaluation process.

Outcomes of the Evaluation include:

- **Broad community involvement.**
- **Heightened awareness of the community's livability goals & activated interest in achieving the goals.**
- **Findings form basis for the Academy's 3rd activity:
Selecting, planning, and implementing projects and activities.**

Livable New York's community evaluation process is meant to achieve valuable outcomes beyond simply drawing a picture of residents' perceptions.

- ***Implementing Solutions***

Selecting and implementing models, approaches, and strategies in response to the findings from the community evaluation.

**Implementation:
assistance by the Academy.**

Communities will be assisted in taking the third major step in the *Academy* process—improving livability by implementing activities and projects in response to the community evaluation's findings.

Technical assistance with—

- **Prioritizing evaluation findings and selecting projects and activities to implement.**
- **Identifying community-coalition sectors for implementation.**
- **Information, education, & training:**
 - **Understanding various successful and innovative models, strategies, and approaches related to the chosen projects and activities.**
 - **Weighing alternative solutions & benefits of alternatives.**
- **Facilitate overcoming implementation challenges and barriers.**

These are examples of the types of assistance provided by the *Academy* as communities set about implementing solutions to improve their level livability.

Training & technical assistance sources—

For example:

- **Government agencies**
- **Private sector professionals**
- **Universities and researchers**
- **Your peers**
- **Others**

When communities are implementing livability solutions, one type of assistance provided by the *Academy* will be facilitated access to expertise that the community may need or want.

These are examples of sources of such needed expertise.

Improving Livability—*some* outcomes

Community members are more responsive

More members “invested” in community well-being

More vibrant community

Higher quality of life and well-being

Healthier communities

More creative solutions

More efficient use of resources

Better business climate

There are social, organizational, political, and financial advantages to increasing your community’s level of livability.

Principles —

To be most effective, *Livable New York's* products and activities follow a set of five principles.

You can view these principles on the New York State Office for the Aging's web site:

Go to <http://www.aging.ny.gov/livableny/index.cfm>.

On the menu, under:
“Livable New York—Learn More About the Initiative,”
click on:
“Livable New York Principles”

Demographic, Social, and Public Policy Trends—

The impact of significant social, demographic, and public policy trends is transforming the profile of our communities.

Across the country, these changes are a major force driving the livable communities movement.

You can view a summary of seven of these major trends on the New York State Office for the Aging's web site:

Go to <http://www.aging.ny.gov/livableny/index.cfm>.

On the menu, under:

“Livable New York—Learn More About the Initiative,”
click on:

“The Initiative—Why Now?”

To view the *Advisory Workgroup Report*:

<http://www.aging.ny.gov/LivableNY/AdvisoryWorkgroupRecommendationsReport.pdf>

Advisory Workgroup

Report



Sustainable Communities for all ages

1st Component

86-member WORKGROUP
created a set of
recommendations
addressing challenges
communities can face
when planning,
developing, and
implementing projects

To view the *Livable New York Resource Manual*:
<http://www.aging.ny.gov/LivableNY/ResourceManual/Index.cfm>

2nd Component



Sustainable Communities
for all ages

A resource manual for

Future-based, inclusive planning

Livable communities

Aging in place

Sustainable neighborhoods

