

Liveable New York

Sustainable Communities
for all ages



New York State
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

New York State Office for the Aging
Greg Olsen, Acting Director

Summary

Innovative initiative – The New York State Office for the Aging, together with its affiliate partners, are pleased to advance a new initiative to help municipalities better plan for the housing and community needs of the State's older people, younger people with disabilities, families, and caregivers. Municipalities will be provided with information, technical assistance, and examples of successful models and practices related to: housing, universal design, development, planning, land use, zoning, energy alternatives and efficiency, green-building, mobility, and transportation.

New York's Governor and the State Legislature have directed that these resources be widely disseminated as a means for supporting communities' efforts to develop a variety of housing and transportation alternatives, incorporate new and innovative building design and energy ideas, and institute creative planning approaches and zoning strategies.

Population and policy trends in New York State underscore the importance and timeliness of this initiative—

New York's changing population – The profile of New York's communities is changing significantly . . . due to the aging of the baby boomers; increasing longevity; the shifting proportional balance between the elderly and non-elderly populations; loss of specific population groups to other states; and the increasing diversity of our residents, which stems from our robust immigration and migration patterns, increasing numbers of people with disabilities, expansion of cultural and ethnic groups, and growth in the number and variety of non-traditional households.

New York's shifting housing and care policies – Housing, health, and long-term care policies in New York promote the ability of *all* people to live in their own homes and communities throughout their lifetimes, as an alternative to costly institutionalization. New York stresses the provision of in-home and community-based care and services for people of all ages . . . supporting the ability of all residents to successfully and safely age in place. In addition, housing, care, and educational programs support the momentous efforts of over 2.2 million New Yorkers who provide substantial unpaid care for their frail elderly family members and younger-aged members with disabilities.

Creating more livable communities –The initiative's intent is to help communities better respond to their dramatically changing profiles and to help them create neighborhoods that reflect the evolving needs and preferences of all their residents . . . making New York the best place for all residents to live, work, grow up, and grow old.

Livable New York
New York State
Office for the Aging

Affiliate Partners

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

Components of the Livable New York initiative

Below is an outline of the major activities that will be implemented to achieve the intent and goals of *Livable New York*.

Livable New York

This innovative initiative will be implemented through three major activities—

1. Develop a Technical Assistance Tool Kit for communities:

- ***Manual*** – to assist in replication or adaptation efforts in the areas of housing, development, planning, land-use, zoning, universal design, green building, energy alternatives, mobility, and transportation:
 - Descriptions of models, strategies, and approaches
 - Benefits of innovative or successful models and strategies for:
 - Older people
 - People with disabilities
 - Families
 - Caregivers
 - The wider community
 - Barriers and challenges to development or implementation
 - Technical assistance:
 - Examples of operating models, practices, and strategies
 - Relevant laws and ordinances
 - Written and web-based materials
 - Contact names
- ***DVD series*** – highlighting examples of various housing options; planning, zoning, and land-use strategies; universal design, energy, and green-building features; and mobility and transportation models in New York State or in other states.

2. Develop recommendations, for presenting to the Governor, Legislature, and state agency commissioners:

- In collaboration with the New York State Department of State and New York State Homes and Community Renewal
- In collaboration with the Initiative's Advisory Workgroup
- In consultation with experts, consumers, and decision-makers across the State

3. Through a *Livable New York Academy*, provide communities with education, training, and facilitated technical assistance in their efforts to improve the livability of their communities:

- ***Audience***: local zoning and planning boards, elected officials, local leaders from a variety of sectors across communities, service providers from various networks, legislators, consumers, media, builders and developers, members of the real estate and finance industry, members of the nonprofit and business communities, faith community, and more.
- ***Purpose of the Academy***: Stimulate the creation of more livable communities, which can

encourage older people, younger adults, and families to remain living in New York State and to continue to successfully live in their own homes and apartments.

- Educate and train communities about demographic and policy trends; the implications of New York's changing profile; housing preferences of various population groups; alternative housing options; innovative and successful planning and land-use strategies; energy, green-building, transportation, and mobility approaches; universal design for homes, buildings, and communities; visitability and walkability; benefits of successful options and strategies for older people, younger people with disabilities, individuals and families, caregivers, and the overall community; model zoning language; and technical assistance resources for taking next steps.
 - Support community-based action through facilitated technical assistance and distribution of the *Livable New York* Tool Kit.
 - Stimulate community action, resulting in planning, design, and development that reflects the needs and preferences of all members of the community.
- *Three major steps in the Academy process:*
- Training event for community leaders, officials, sectors, disciplines
 - Cross-age, cross-culture community evaluation process
 - Implementation of projects, based upon the findings of the community evaluation

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Livable New York Principles

Future-based planning
Inclusive, cross-sector collaborative planning and
implementation Community-driven decision-making
Focus: *all* ages, abilities, and cultures
Broad resident participation

Livable New York Goals

Sustainable neighborhoods
Successful aging in place

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For more information, please contact:

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