LEON COUNTY AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Age-Friendly Mission
Leon County is a welcoming community that is safe, healthy, vibrant and livable for all ages and backgrounds.

Age-Friendly Vision
Leon County is an age-friendly community, meaning a community that is diverse and livable for people of all ages and backgrounds. It is a welcoming community where daily life is safe, active, engaging and inclusive, where residents have affordable housing options, multiple transportation options, and access to efficient public services which serve and strengthen our community.
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Letter from the Chair of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners

On behalf of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, I am pleased to express support of Leon County’s Age-Friendly Community Action Plan as part of the AARP Age-Friendly Community Network. Leon County continuously strives to be a provider of essential services which promote the wellbeing of our citizens and enhance the livability of our community. As a member of the Network since 2021 and in furtherance of this commitment, Leon County seeks to implement its Action Plan that will enhance the community’s livability for residents of all ages, including those 50 years old and older.

As detailed throughout the enclosed Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, Leon County is committed to leading the implementation of this plan in our community to better serve our seniors and to expanding local programs and services which connect them to the community. Leon County’s age-friendly plan will be implemented on an organizational-wide basis to ensure all areas of the County are engaged in enhancing the various age-friendly domains of our community. As you know, the action plan focus areas, encompassing livability domains, represent the availability and quality of certain community features that have a particular impact on the well-being of older adults. Leon County has demonstrated an emphasis in addressing several of the focus area domain needs and gaps which will, in turn, better position Leon County as a more age-friendly community.

Our organization recognizes the value of being a contributing partner among fellow age-friendly communities across the nation and appreciates the ability to exchange best practices in implementing age-friendly initiatives among members. With that in mind, we look forward to working with AARP as well as various other stakeholders as we implement our Action Plan to be a more inclusive, livable, and age-friendly community for all its residents, young and old alike.

Sincerely,

Carolyn D. Cummings

Carolyn D. Cummings, Esq.
Chair, At-Large
Executive Summary

The Age-Friendly Communities Initiative was developed through the World Health Organization and efforts of the AARP to improve livability for older adults in their communities. According to AARP, an “age-friendly” community is one that enables residents to thrive at every age and every life stage by adapting its services and physical structures to be more inclusive and receptive to the needs of its population to improve their quality of life as they age. In 2021, Leon County received designation as an Age-Friendly Community from AARP demonstrating our commitment to continuing to encourage healthy aging by optimizing resource to improve, health, safety, and inclusion of all residents in the community. And in furtherance of this designation, this document serves as the Leon County Age-Friendly Community Action Plan which outlines specific goals, objectives, and tasks in support of our ongoing efforts to becoming a more age-friendly community.

As you’ll see, the Leon County Age-Friendly Work Plan provides a look into the various resources utilized to develop the action plan itself, including a community profile review; recent survey findings; assessment of existing relevant community resources; and more. Leon County Age-Friendly Work Plan also reflects feedback received from various departments and divisions across the County who will be directly involved in making a more age-friendly community.

In addition to these efforts, the County sought to identify opportunities for improvements utilizing AARP’s 8 Domains of Livability Framework to organize and prioritize efforts to become more livable for both older residents and people of all ages. Leon County’s Community Action Plan is organized by five community focus areas that in most instances involve multiple livability domains. The Plan’s five focus areas include promote aging in place, community health and health services, mobility, social participation, and jobs. For each focus area, the plan outlines key findings and action steps addressing goals, essential activities, target dates, responsible parties, needed resources, and indicators of progress related to how Leon County will work towards becoming a more age-friendly community. Most importantly, the Leon County Age-Friendly Community Action Plan targets issues identified in the community with the intention of making significant strides and to be built upon throughout our continuous efforts to being a more age-friendly community.
Leon County Community Profile

LEON COUNTY COMMUNITY PROFILE

Leon County is Florida's Capital County. Leon County is home to Florida's Capital, Tallahassee, which was established in 1824, legislative and executive offices and the State House and Senate Chambers are located here.

Leon County was named after the Spanish explorer, or conquistador, Juan Ponce de Leon. He was the first European to explore Florida in 1513 in search of the “Fountain of Youth” and named the state after the Spanish word for “flowery.”
The overall livability index score for Leon County, Florida is 52.

**Total Population:**

289,770

**African American:** 31%

**Asian:** 4%

**Hispanic:** 6%

**White:** 61%

**Age 50+:** 29%

**Age 65+:** 13%

**Households w/Disabilities:** 11%

**Life Expectancy:** 78 years old

**Households Without a Vehicle:** 6%

**Median Income:** $61,144

**Poverty:** 22%

**Upward Mobility:** 38

Source: AARP 2020
Introduction to the Plan

Developing the Plan

Introduction

Leon County was added to the AARP network of Age-Friendly Communities in 2020 and was set on a path to share and integrate its efforts as a participant. The typical process includes taking time to assess the community and develop a customized work plan. This process is usually no less than about three years. Leon County also has the benefit of drawing from the City of Tallahassee which has been an integral of the AARP Age-Friendly Network since 2015.

The Leon County Age-Friendly Work Plan provides a look into the various resources utilized to develop the action plan itself, including a community profile review; recent survey findings; assessment of existing relevant community resources; and more.

Leon County’s Action Plan is organized by five community focus areas that in most instances involve multiple livability domains. The Plan’s five focus areas include promoting aging in place, community health and health services, mobility, social participation, and jobs.
For each focus area, the plan outlines key findings and action steps addressing goals, essential activities, target dates, responsible parties, needed resources, and indicators of progress related to how Leon County will work towards becoming a more age-friendly community. Most importantly, the Leon County Age-Friendly Action Plan targets issues identified in the community with the intention of making significant strides and to be built upon throughout our continuous efforts to being a more age-friendly community.

**Community Survey Summary**

In November 2021, Leon County launched an extensive community-wide survey to gather data from all key sectors, including residents, businesses, neighborhood leaders, and others, and gauge community satisfaction, perceptions, and suggestions across a variety of issues, including the livability of the community. To create the most effective survey tool possible, the County engaged a local consulting firm for the design and implementation of the survey to ensure a large and diverse representation of countywide citizen input. The survey provided data from a representative sample of all Leon County residents representing all local neighborhoods as summarized in detail in the following sections of the Plan.

The survey sought feedback from residents related to the livability of our community and opportunities to support the quality of life for older adults. The following graphics provide additional detail on the survey methodology, as well as excerpts of the survey’s key takeaways, topline findings, and reoccurring themes that were most relevant for the development of the Plan.

The Plan also uses the finding and challenges within Leon County’s latest environmental survey and the Tallahassee Age-Friendly Work Plan assessment in 2022, as well as supplemental information from public sector providers, other non-profit community resources, and information and data from the County’s Geographic Information System data.

**Survey Methodology**

A total of 4,090 respondents were recruited to conduct the survey through two separate methods: (1) random sampling of the Leon County voter file, and (2) recruitment through community partners. The results of each question were compared between these cohorts in order to identify any significant differences between samples. No meaningful differences were found, permitting an analysis of the results as a single sample. Results are representative of Leon County residents in terms of age, race and ethnicity, gender, ZIP code, political affiliation, employment status, education level, and homeownership status. Complete demographic breakdowns of respondents are provided within the report. The average margin of error is +/- 1.7% at the 95% confidence level.

**Key Takeaway: Overall Satisfaction with Leon County is Exceptionally High**

Overall satisfaction with Leon County is exceptionally high, with 94% rating the quality of services provided by Leon County Government as positive and 81% saying they are likely to recommend Leon County as a place to live, work, and raise a family. Additionally, it is notable that overall satisfaction appears greater among certain populations, including older residents, among others.
The Strategic Framework

The Leon County Age-Friendly Action Plan uses the Eight Domains of Livability established by the World Health Organization as a guide, with the understanding that each key finding involves multiple domains. As a result, we have organized the action plan by identified community priorities instead of by domain. What follows are the key findings for the action plan with goals, essential activities, target dates, responsible parties, needed resources, and indicators of progress.

Responsible parties

Leon County Administration
Leon County Housing Services and Community Partnerships (HSCP)
Leon County Community Media Resources (CMR)
Leon County Library Services
Leon County Parks and Recreation
Leon County Public Works
Tallahassee Senior Center (TSC)
Tallahassee Senior Foundation
Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA or MPO)
Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (BPIA)
Joint Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC)
Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department (TLCPD)
City of Tallahassee Housing and Community Resilience
City Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs
City of Tallahassee Underground Utilities and Public Infrastructure
StarMetro Transit
Advantage Aging Solutions Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
Career Source
Volunteer Leon
LEON COUNTY
COMMUNITY SURVEY

KEY TAKEAWAY: OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH LEON COUNTY IS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH LEON COUNTY IS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH, WITH 94% RATING THE QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT AS POSITIVE AND 81% SAYING THEY ARE LIKELY TO RECOMMEND LEON COUNTY AS A PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND RAISE A FAMILY.

LEON COUNTY IS:

PLACE OF LIFELONG LEARNING (96%)
PLACE TO LIVE AND RAISE A FAMILY (95%)
PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY, SAFE AND CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY (91%)
PLACE FOR RECREATION (91%)
PLACE TO RETIRE (88%)

45 - 64 YEARS IN AGE

PLACE FOR RECREATION (96%)
PLACE TO WORK (96%)
PLACE TO RETIRE (92%)
MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION (86%)
PLACE WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS (78%)

65+ YEARS IN AGE
LEON COUNTY
COMMUNITY SURVEY

4090
TOTAL RESPONDENTS

49%
RESPONDENTS
AGE 45+

LIVABILITY SURVEY

WHAT LOCAL FEATURES, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO MAINTAINING THE LIVABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR OLDER ADULTS?
ARE THERE WAYS OUR COMMUNITY CAN BETTER SUPPORT THE HEALTH, WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF OLDER ADULTS?

94%
POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF LEON COUNTY SERVICES

81%
LEON COUNTY IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND RAISE A FAMILY

AMONG THE RESIDENTS WHO RATE LEON COUNTY AS POSITIVE, LOCAL RESIDENTS 65+ IN AGE PROVIDED SIGNIFICANTLY MORE FAVORABLE RESPONSES

1913
Respondents to Livability Questions

68%
of Respondents
Were Age 45+
LEON COUNTY
COMMUNITY SURVEY

75
COMMENTS ON
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING AND
HOUSING OPTIONS

LIVABILITY SURVEY: HOUSING

"My older parents struggle to find an affordable assisted living (with levels of independence) option"

"Safe and Affordable Housing"

"Have more affordable housing for elderly who can't live alone"

"I think we need more 55+ planned communities"

LIVABILITY SURVEY: HEALTH

"Access. Quality healthcare providers."

"Quality healthcare with choice of MDs and treatment centers"

"More outreach by Department of Health and Area Agency on Aging"

"Greater, more affordable access to healthcare"
LIVABILITY SURVEY: TRANSPORTATION

"Public transportation
Public transportation and walkable communities are important"

"Make it safe to bike and walk for transportation"

"I am 75 and have recently had some issues with transportation. I have now found what seems like a good alternative, but it took me a while"

"For me, all the walking and cycling trails (greenways). Public transportation could be improved."

"Better transportation services. More bike lanes and sidewalks"

LIVABILITY SURVEY: SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

"Recreational activities and social events are important."

"Promote active programming and fundraising and social events to connect older adults with each other (and others)."

"Support recreation (keep moving!), learning and social opportunities to gather."

"Maintain and enhance Senior center and places our parents can socialize safely"
LIVABILITY SURVEY: OUTDOOR SPACES

- Libraries, parks, open space
- Accessibility to the outdoors. More and better parks and trails.
- Make parks more friendly for older adults
- Continue to add parks and improve the ones we have in the county.

LIVABILITY SURVEY: WORK AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- More professional job opportunities as people are working longer
- More adult educational opportunities
**LIVABILITY SURVEY: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION**

- Better outreach to seniors by Health Department and aging service providers
- More outreach to let older adults know of events they can attend alone

**LIVABILITY SURVEY: RESPECT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

- I believe we need to find ways to bring older folks and younger folks together
- Treat the older population with the respect they deserve
LEON COUNTY FOCUS AREAS
Focus Areas for the Leon County Age-Friendly Action Plan

We have used the Leon County and City of Tallahassee surveys as well as the recent Tallahassee Senior Center action plan assessment. These focus areas are used to improve community livability through the eight Age-Friendly Livability Domains.

Promote Aging in Place
Older adults identify a lack of affordable housing options, and policy incentives or regulations to produce a variety of affordable housing types for seniors.

There is a need for services or programs that enable seniors to remain in their homes including affordable home repair and health support services.

Social Participation
In the post-pandemic world, older adults may be struggling with loneliness and depression either because of not knowing how to establish connections or because they may have personal mobility issues that make social participation difficult.

Community Health
More and better access to health services and in-home care services are needed.

Jobs and Employment
Older adults do not have many opportunities to learn about available jobs through local events.

Community Mobility
Include more sidewalks, trails, and connections to existing sidewalks, trails, parks and other outdoor spaces that increase safety, “walkability,” and enhance public transportation options.
Domain-Related Information

Housing
- 92% identified Affordable Housing and Homelessness as an important community issue with 7% identifying housing access as a major issue.
- 86% of those identifying affordable housing issues, said lack of affordable options/rent, wages not keeping up with the market, and inventory/supply shortages are reasons.
- The cost of independent living facilities is between $5,000 and $8,000 per month and the cost of conventional rental apartments averages $1,400 per month.
- 62% of those identifying community retirement issues said lack of senior amenities and retirement communities as well as cost of living and affordable housing are reasons.
- 87% of older adults expect to age-in-place in their homes for which ½ indicated home repairs or maintaining their homes was a concern and important to maintain independent living; 86% identified the need for affordable home repair service.
- An age-friendly advisory group identified the need to include regulatory or other incentives to produce affordable senior housing geared towards independent living.

Community Support & Health Services
- 94% identified Public Health as an important community issue with medical care a top priority for livability.
- 124 comments spoke to the need to have better accessibility and affordability of health care services including mental health services and transportation options to reach health care providers.
- 69% of survey respondents over the age of 45 rated provision of basic health and welfare services as highly important 68% identified the need for affordable home health care providers.
- 49% identified the need for conveniently located and accessible health and social services.

Transportation
- 95% said traffic safety and congestion are important local issues with 12% identifying major issues with roads and traffic; several specific comments call out improving “walkability” of the community.
- 86% of older adults drive themselves to medical and service destinations.
- 60% identified the need to have safe public transportation stops or areas and about 50% identified the need for better affordable public transportation, visual pedestrian crossings and driver education.
- 49% identified the need for better sidewalks that are in good condition.
Social Participation

- 34 comments recognize existing social programs and importance of the senior center but identified the need for additional affordable socializing opportunities including those outside of senior center offerings.
- 63% identified the need for more affordable activities for all residents and similarly for a variety/location of activities.
- 50% of older adults experience loneliness which was exacerbated by the pandemic.

Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings

- Over 90% of residents enjoy County parks and outdoor spaces and approximately 3/5 indicate the need to maintain and improve the high quality of parks; and approximately 10% identify the need to finish or make connections to other facilities.
- Approximately 50% of residents identified need for better accessibility, well-maintained parks with benches, public restrooms in public buildings and spaces.

Work and Civic Engagement

- 85% identified the need to have training opportunities and range of flexible jobs for older adults and 79% identified the need for jobs adapted for people with disabilities.
- 50% of the specific comments on jobs include having options for older adults including type of job and part-time alternatives.

Communication and Information

- 85% identified the need for printed information with large lettering and clear display.
- 42% of residents get news from County bulletins, e-mails and newsletters.
- 39% identified the need to have free access to computers and internet in public spaces.
- 75% of comments on getting news stated the need to continue print forms rather than social media

Respect & Social Inclusion

- Comments included having more multi-generational activities with younger people through existing or newly developed programs.
- 50% of older adults experience loneliness which was exacerbated by the pandemic.

Other Relevant Domain-Related Plans

Leon County’s strategic initiatives focus on improving quality of life, the environment, and governance for its residents by assessing services and updating its capital commitments. Annual review of the strategic initiatives allows revisions and additions to continue to meet the needs of residents and set priorities for the community. Leon County policy and strategic plans work towards livability in Leon County and are reflected in the Action Plan.

Leon County Strategic Plan

- Emphasizes maintaining parks, recreation and green spaces.
- Supports provision and access to health care and mental health.
- Supports providing affordable housing and combatting homelessness.
- Promotes livability through strong neighborhoods, enhanced mobility, creation of public spaces and human scale development.
- Supports building and improving resilience to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan

- Allocates land to accommodate residents now and in the future.
- Requires transportation best practices for Complete Streets and multi-modal development features.
- Establishes minimum development set asides for affordable housing.
- Requires an urban forest master plan.
- Maintains Complete Streets policy(ies)

Leon County Local Mitigation Strategy

- Identifies strategies, projects, and funding opportunities to help expand community resilience and to prevent or mitigate impacts on critical infrastructure and other facilities from natural and manmade disasters.

Greenways Master Plan

- Identifies future trails and paths, parks and greenways, blueways, and other non-automotive connections within the community.
- Identifies critical lands necessary to protect significant environmental features and ecosystems.
ACTION PLAN BY FOCUS AREAS
Focus Area: Promote Aging in Place

Domains:

Challenge: Many older adults may live on a limited or fixed income, and cannot afford or find existing independent living or other housing options within their budget range. There are not enough affordable rental apartments, and assisted independent living communities.

Goal #1: Require & Incentivize Affordable Housing. Leon County will seek to improve the options for affordable housing in Leon County for older residents.

Action Steps: Amend the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan Housing Element to reflect the adopted County Inclusionary Housing Ordinance Requirements; and

Adopt a County Inclusionary Housing Ordinance that requires and incentivizes affordable housing for older adults.

Assess the Homeownership Development Program (HOD), the Home State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Repair Rehabilitation Program, and the Emergency Home Repair Program, to determine level of participation for seniors age 55+ and potential program improvements.

Continue to maintain at the same level or greater, the County Home Rehabilitation and Home Replacement that serve older adults and special needs populations, and the Rental Redevelopment Program that serves families exiting homelessness.

Explore opportunities to implement best practices identified by the AARP’s Livable Communities program.

Responsible Party: Leon County Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships (HSCP) Division of Housing Services

Action Year: 2025 and 2026

Summary: Through local collaboration between the HSCP Division of Housing Services, City Housing and Community Resilience Department, the joint County-City Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) and the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department (TLCPD), develop and adopt local policy and regulatory items to encourage affordable senior housing and assess existing select county housing programs.

Indicators of Progress: By 2026, revise the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan to include the framework of the ordinance; adopt a County Inclusionary Housing Ordinance with incentives for senior affordable housing; and complete an assessment of select housing programs for continued success in serving seniors.
Focus Area: Promote Aging in Place

Domain:

Challenge: Many older adults in Leon County have lived in their homes a long time and prefer to stay there as long as it is safe and they can maintain their homes with affordable repair services and health support services such as home visits or in-home care.

Goal #2: Leon County will assist efforts of older residents to remain in their homes and receive health support to do so.

Action Steps:
- Support maintaining the Tallahassee Senior Center telemaintenance home repair self-service resources and home repair referral resources (to assist residents in addressing home upkeep and accessibility to allow aging in place)
- Provide home maintenance and repair tools for checkout through the “Library of Things,” and target market these resources through Leon County Library Services.
- Support maintaining the health services, caregiver support, and home health resource cards through the Tallahassee Senior Foundation website.
- Promote the Leon County Home Expo at HSCP through the Leon County Senior Outreach Program and the Tallahassee Senior Center to connect individuals with information and resources about how to maintain their homes.
- The TSC and Leon County Senior Outreach program will host a Mini Expo and Lunch & Learns on how to choose qualified home repair services and maintenance, and educate residents about County programs.

Responsible Party: Leon County Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships (HSCP)

Action Year: 2023 to 2026

Summary: Through local collaboration between HSCP, and the Tallahassee Senior Center, maintain and enhance the existing home repair self-service and home repair resources referral information including “resource cards”; maintain and update in-home health care resource cards; and host and promote expos and educational opportunities for home maintenance.

Indicators of Progress: Through 2026, the home repair self-service, home repair referral, and in-home health care resource cards are continued to be listed and updated on the Tallahassee Senior Foundation website. Leon County Library Services maintains/enhances/markets the “Library of Things” as a home repair resource for older adults. A home expo, mini-expo and Lunch & Learns for home maintenance and repair are held at TSC and County community centers.
## Promote Aging in Place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals/Objectives</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Partnerships and Resources</th>
<th>Measures of Success</th>
<th>Action Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal #1: Leon County will seek to improve the options for affordable housing in Leon County for older residents</strong></td>
<td>Revise the Comprehensive plan to reflect the adopted County Inclusionary Housing Ordinance</td>
<td>HSCP, Joint AHAC, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department</td>
<td>The Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan is revised to include the framework of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance</td>
<td>2026</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective: Develop and adopt local policy and regulatory items to encourage affordable senior housing; and assess select county housing programs to determine participation and potential improvements</strong></td>
<td>Develop and Adopt a County Inclusionary Housing Ordinance that includes seniors</td>
<td>HSCP, City Housing &amp; Community Resilience, Joint AHAC</td>
<td>County Inclusionary Housing Ordinance is developed and adopted with incentives for senior affordable housing</td>
<td>2025</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Complete assessment that includes participation level by seniors 55+ and identifies improvements and incentives to maintain or improve the Homeownership Development Program (HOD), The State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Home Repair Rehabilitation Program, and the Emergency Home Repair Program</td>
<td>HSCP, City Housing &amp; Community Resilience, Joint AHAC</td>
<td>Assessment of the subject programs is underway or completed by 2026</td>
<td>2025</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maintain County Home Rehabilitation, Home Replacement, and Rental Redevelopment Programs</td>
<td>HSCP, City Housing &amp; Community Resilience, Joint AHAC</td>
<td>The County Home Rehabilitation, Home Replacement, and Rental Rehabilitation Programs are continued at the same or greater service level</td>
<td>2025</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Explore opportunities to implement best practices for housing and housing affordability identified by the AARP’s Livable Communities publication and community examples resources.</td>
<td>HSCP, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, HSCP and DSEM</td>
<td>Assessment or implementation of best practices, in coordination with other County and City Departments, is underway or completed by 2026.</td>
<td>2025</td>
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**Domains:**
- Housing
- Health and Community Support
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<tr>
<th>Goals/Objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Goal #2: Leon County will assist efforts of older residents to remain in their</td>
<td>Coordinate with Tallahassee Senior Center staff to ensure the Tallahassee Senior Foundation resource website and program information on home repair self-service assistance, home repair referral, and in-home health care resources are listed and accurate.</td>
<td>HSCP TSC</td>
<td>The home repair self-service assist, home repair referral, and in-home health care resource cards are continued to be listed and updated on the Tallahassee Senior Foundation website.</td>
<td>2023 Through 2026</td>
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<tr>
<td>homes and receive health support to do so</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>“Library of Things” home maintenance and repair tools continue to be available for checkout and target marketing occurs including appropriate links within the County and to the Tallahassee Senior Foundation resource cards</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective: Maintain and enhance the existing home repair self-service, home</td>
<td>Move the self-assist “telemaintenance” resource link on the Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation website to the Housing Maintenance tab.</td>
<td>HSCP TSC</td>
<td>The link is duplicated or moved to the maintenance site so that people can find it.</td>
<td>Completed 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>repair information referral, and in-home health care resource cards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Promote the Leon County Division of Housing Services annual Home Expo event through Tallahassee Senior Center to provide information and resources about home maintenance and repair.</td>
<td>HSCP TSC</td>
<td>Increase attendance of individuals 50 and up at the annual Home Expo.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hold mini-expo and Lunch &amp; Learns on home repair.</td>
<td>HSCP TSC</td>
<td>1 mini-expo is held 3 lunch and learns are held.</td>
<td>2024 to 2025</td>
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<td>Domains:</td>
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Domains:

- Housing
- Health and Community Support
Focus Area: Community Health

Domain:

Challenge: Many older adults in Leon County report that they are not able to make connections to affordable health and wellness services in the community. Residents may not be aware of them or how to access what is needed; and more services are needed overall.

Goal: Improve access and availability of affordable health and wellness services. Leon County will seek to improve provision of and awareness of senior health services programs.

Action Steps: Support and advertise senior health and wellness services provided by the Leon County Senior Outreach Program and TSC Foundation.

Coordinate on and support, where appropriate, the planned 2nd Senior Center to enhance health and wellness offerings to the community and serve as a potential first stop for seniors seeking preventive health and wellness services.

Responsible Party: Leon County/TSC Senior Outreach/Big Bend Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Action Year: 2023 (Awareness Program)

Summary: Existing programs administered by the TSC Foundation are through programs at the 6 Leon County Community Centers and in-person at the TSC. These Health & Wellness programs include preventive health screenings, lunch and learns, fitness classes, and educational expos. Through local collaboration between the HSCP, Leon County CMR and the Tallahassee Senior Center and Senior Outreach program, the County will seek to improve provision of and awareness of senior health and wellness services.

Indicators of Progress: By 2026, Leon County enhances and maintains Senior Outreach program information on the County website and County social media outlets.
## Community Health

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</thead>
</table>
| **Goal:** Leon County will seek to improve provision of and awareness of senior health services programs  
Objective: Improve provision of and awareness of senior health services programs | Participate in existing Senior Health Services Aware campaign and other opportunities to increase awareness of senior health services programs in coordination with the TSC. | HSCP  
CMR  
TSC | Consistent participation in the TSC Senior Health Services awareness campaign by contributing materials and input for Constant Contact | 2023 |
| | Maintain and enhance Senior Outreach program information on County website(s) and County social media outlets | HSCP  
CMR  
TSC  
Parks & Recreation | Identify and list Senior Outreach program information or link(s) on at least two County website locations | 2025 |
| | Monitor progress and respond to staff support requests from the TSC for the 2nd Senior Center | Planning  
HSCP  
TSC | Quarterly, TSC or Planning staff (in coordination with TSC) routes any updates or resource requests through the County staff in HSCP for review, response or referral | 2023 to 2026 |

**Domains:**
- Community Health
- Respect & Social Inclusion
- Communication and Information
Focus Area: **Community Mobility**

**Domains:**

- Community Health Services
- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Transportation

**Challenge:** Opportunities to promote health by staying active in Leon County’s parks and outdoor spaces are available, but there are many areas that lack sidewalks and trails and/or connections to existing or planned sidewalks, trails, parks, and other outdoor spaces. Walkability of the community was identified as a significant issue in the community survey for livability.

**Goal #1:** Improve community walkability.

**Action Steps:**

- Maintain the County’s Strategic Initiative to produce up to 90 miles new sidewalks and trails.
- Support Capital Improvements Schedule for sidewalks, sidewalk maintenance, and trails.
- Maintain and enhance complete streets provision in the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan.
- Review the Greenways Master Plan to identify those projects with separate pedestrian/cyclist pathways including trails and connections to existing trails for prioritization.
- Explore opportunities to implement best practices identified by the AARP’s Livable Communities program.

**Responsible Party:** Leon County Public Works

**Action Year:** 2023

**Summary:** Through local collaboration between Leon County Public Works, Leon County Parks and Recreation, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, and City of Tallahassee Public Infrastructure, the County will seek to prioritize walkability through sidewalk, bicycle, and other trail projects within the community.

**Indicators of Progress:** Through 2026, at least 15 miles of sidewalks and trails are completed and complete streets policy provisions in the comprehensive plan are updated.
Focus Area: **Community Mobility**

- **Domains:**
  - Community and Health Services
  - Transportation

- **Challenge:**
  Older residents face safety challenges as drivers and pedestrians when sidewalks don’t exist, are unconnected, or poorly maintained.

- **Goal #2:**
  Leon County will work to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians in the community.

- **Action Steps:**
  Support the proposed “Safe Streets and Roads for All” Safety Action Plan, adopted on June 19, 2023 by the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA or MPO), that includes safety projects for sidewalks, crosswalks and signage to reduce fatalities and injuries, and to facilitate leverage funding for implementation.

- **Responsible Party:**
  - Leon County Public Works
  - MPO

- **Action Year:**
  2025

- **Summary:**
  Through collaboration of transportation partners including Leon County public works, StarMetro transit agency, City of Tallahassee Traffic Mobility, and the MPO, Leon County will support policy plans that promote safe roads and pedestrian facilities.

- **Indicators of Progress:**
  The Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Plan is developed and adopted by the MPO with review and comment by the County during existing development and future updates.
Focus Area: Community Mobility

Domains:

Challenge: Not all older adults feel they have access to affordable public transportation or on-demand transportation to get basic services.

Goal #3: To improve affordable public transportation options, Leon County will support public transportation programs that make it more accessible and affordable for older adults.

Action Steps: Support the StarMetro on-demand “flex” pilot programs.

Support the 2-1-1 Lyft program to provide additional options for on-demand transportation.

Responsible Party: Leon County Development Support and Environmental Services (DSEM)

Action Year: 2025

Summary: Through collaboration of transportation partners including the Planning Department, StarMetro transit agency, City of Tallahassee Traffic Mobility, the 2-1-1 Lyft Program, and the MPO, Leon County will improve age-friendly transportation in the community by making public transit more usable.

Indicators of Progress: The StarMetro on-demand “flex” pilot program is established and continued through 2026, and fixed-route adjustments serve riders more efficiently or in additional county locations.

The 2-1-1 Lyft program is supported by the County in 2025 to provide additional on-demand services for seniors, veterans, and other vulnerable populations within City-limits and in the outlying areas of the County to access critical resources such as health care.
## Community Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals/Objectives</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Partnerships and Resources</th>
<th>Measures of Success</th>
<th>Action Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal #1:</strong> Leon County will make the community more &quot;walkable&quot; for all residents including older adults</td>
<td>Maintain the County’s Strategic Initiative to produce up to 90 miles new sidewalks and trails; and support Capital Improvements Schedule projects for sidewalks, sidewalk maintenance and trails</td>
<td>Leon County Public Works, Leon County Parks and Recreation, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, Blueprint IA, City of Tallahassee Infrastructure</td>
<td>The County’s strategic plan continues to have a strategic initiative for completion of sidewalks and trails; and at least 15 miles of sidewalks, greenways, trails and bike lanes are completed by 2026</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective: Improve community walkability through strategic and project planning</td>
<td>Review the Greenways Master Plan to identify those projects with separate pedestrian/cyclist pathways including trails</td>
<td>Leon County Public Works, Leon County Parks and Recreation, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department</td>
<td>A report is provided identifying projects with separate pedestrian/cyclist pathways including trails</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintain and enhance complete streets provision in the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan</td>
<td>Leon County Public Works, Leon County Parks and Recreation, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department</td>
<td>Mobility Element complete street policy updates are completed to emphasize sidewalks and sidewalk connections</td>
<td>2026</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explore opportunities to implement best practices for Mobility and Transportation identified by the AARP’s Livable Communities publication and community examples resources.</td>
<td>Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department</td>
<td>Assessment or implementation of best practices, in coordination with other County and City Departments, is underway or completed by 2026.</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal #2:</strong> Leon County will work to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians in the community</td>
<td>Provide review and input on the draft Safety Action Plan to CRTPA.</td>
<td>Leon County Public Works, StarMetro CRTPA</td>
<td>Comments provided on the 2023 Safety Action Plan and it is adopted by the MPO</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective: Development, adoption and maintenance of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan by the MPO</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal #3:</strong> Leon County will support public transportation programs that make it more accessible and affordable for older adults.</td>
<td>Support the StarMetro on-demand “flex” pilot programs to County residents</td>
<td>Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, StarMetro CRTPA</td>
<td>StarMetro “on-demand” programs are established and maintained through 2026</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective: Improve public transportation options for County residents through on-demand and fixed-route programs.</td>
<td>Continue to support the Big Bend Transit, Dial-A-Ride, and 2-1-1 Lyft Transit Programs offered to County residents.</td>
<td>HSCP 2-1-1</td>
<td>Programs are maintained or expanded to non-veterans starting in 2025.</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Domains:

- Community Health
- Outdoor Spaces
- Transportation
Focus Area: **Social Participation and Inclusion**

**Domain:**

- Social Participation
- Community and Health Services
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Communication and Information

**Challenge:**
Older adults may feel isolated and lonely due to life changes and even though the COVID-19 pandemic has mostly abated. Many activities are being held in person, but seniors may not know how to access available community support and mental health resources.

**Goal:**
Optimize ways to reduce loneliness and isolation in older adults. Leon County will support programs to minimize elder loneliness and isolation and promote good mental health and social participation.

**Action Step:**
Raise awareness of the Leon County Senior Outreach program and request increased funding to expand the existing Utilizing and Promoting Social Engagement for Loneliness, Isolation and Depression in the Elderly (UPSLIDE) program in the unincorporated communities.

Have evening activity offerings at County community centers and improve equipment to accommodate activity organizers and participants.

**Responsible Party:** Leon County Community Media Relations and Leon County Parks and Recreation

**Action Year:** 2023

**Summary:**
Through CMR, HSCP, Leon County Parks and Recreation, and the Tallahassee Senior Center, identify appropriate website places for Leon County Senior Outreach and UPSLIDE links and materials.

Through Leon County Parks and Recreation, identify potential evening activities for older adults at community centers, and audit equipment to determine potential improvements for participation.

**Indicators of Progress:**
- UPSLIDE and Leon County Senior Outreach links are available on the Leon County website and resources links.
- Evening activities at Leon County Community Centers are provided for older adults.
- Older adults have increased awareness of County Senior Outreach programs.
## Social Participation and Inclusion

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Goal/Objective</th>
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<th>Action Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal: Leon County will combat elder loneliness and isolation to promote good mental health and social participation.</td>
<td>Identify appropriate County website places for Leon County Senior Outreach and UPSlide links and materials. Increased funding is requested for UPSlide.</td>
<td>CMR HSCP TSC</td>
<td>UPSlide links are available on the Leon County website and resources pages where appropriate. Increased program funding for Senior Leon County Outreach.</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective: Raise awareness about the availability of the existing Utilizing and Promoting Social Engagement for Loneliness, Isolation and Depression in the Elderly (UPSlide) program for county residents.</td>
<td>Provide evening activities for older adults at County Community Centers. Audit equipment to determine potential improvements for participation.</td>
<td>Leon County Parks and Recreation HSCP</td>
<td>Evening activities are provided at County Community Centers. Equipment improvements to increase participation, if needed, are made.</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Domains:
- Social Participation
- Community Health
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Communication and Information
Focus Area: Jobs and Employment

Related Domains: Work and Civic Engagement, Social Participation, Communication and Information

Challenge: Older adults do not have many opportunities to learn about available jobs because there are few planned job events targeted to older adults.

Goal: Leon County will provide opportunities for older adults to learn about available jobs and job resources in the community.

Action Step: Hold one Senior Job Expo by 2026 and explore potential annual job fair(s) or other resources through the Chamber of Commerce or Domi Station as venues for employers & participants.

Responsible Party: Leon County Senior Outreach and Tallahassee Senior Center in collaboration with Leon County and appropriate community partners.

Action Year: 2025 – 2026

Summary: In collaboration with HSCP, the Area Agency on Aging, Career Source and Volunteer Leon, TSC will plan and seek to hold at least one Senior Job Expo for older adults; and Leon County will coordinate with the Chamber and Domi to explore job fairs or other programs to determine potential opportunities for employers and older adult participants.

Indicators of Progress: A Senior Job Expo for older adults is held; and the Chamber and Domi job events or programs are assessed as venues for older adult job searches and/or business development.
# Jobs and Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal: Provide opportunities for older adults to learn about available jobs and job resources in the community</td>
<td>Host at least one Senior Job Expo for older adults by year 2026</td>
<td>TSC, HSCP, Area Agency on Aging, Career Source Volunteer Leon</td>
<td>At least one Job Expo is held by 2026</td>
<td>2024 to 2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective: Support at least one job/job resources event</td>
<td>Assess Chamber and Domi events and programs as possible venues for older adult job searches and/or business development</td>
<td>HSCP, Chamber of Commerce, Domi, Career Source Volunteer Leon</td>
<td>An assessment of Chamber and Domi events/programs for “job fair” and/or job search and business development potential is commenced or completed by 2025</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Domains:**
- Work and Civic Engagement
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Communication and Information
Appendices and Supporting Documentation

Age-Friendly Community Action Plan Appendices and Supporting Documents

- Leon County Survey Summary and Data [http://tinyurl.com/LeonCoSurvey], beginning page 137
- Population and Demographic Resources: Census, American Communities Surveys and Career Source Reports
  - https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/leoncountyflorida/PST045222
- Tallahassee-Age-Friendly Work Plan and Work Plan Assessment 2022 [http://tinyurl.com/TallahasseeAFCl]

AARP Livable Communities Best Practices Resource References

- Toolkit Library [https://tinyurl.com/AARPToolkit]
- Housing, “Making Room: Housing for a Changing America” [https://tinyurl.com/AARPHousingChange]
- Accessory Dwelling Units, “The ABCs of ADUs: A Guide to Accessory Dwelling Units and How They Expand Housing Options for People of All Ages” [https://tinyurl.com/ADUsInfo]
## Acknowledgments

### Advisory and Contributing Entities

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<td>Community Media Resources</td>
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<td>Development Services and Environmental Management</td>
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<td>Library Services</td>
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<td>Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency</td>
<td>Office of Economic Vitality</td>
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<td>Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency</td>
<td>Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Joint Affordable Housing Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Domi Station</td>
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![Leon County Logo](image1.png)

![AARP Logo](image2.png)

![Planning Department Logo](image3.png)

![Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation Logo](image4.png)