

May 13, 2025

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to receive and file the Long Beach Age-Friendly Action Plan. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

The Long Beach Age-Friendly Action Plan represents a collaborative communitywide effort to create systems and services that are inclusive, responsive, and supportive of older adults. As part of a global movement, this plan aims to prepare for shifting demographics, ensuring that older adults are valued and meaningfully integrated into community life. The process for creating this age-friendly plan began in late 2018 with the City of Long Beach's commitment to joining AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the establishment of the Long Beach Age-Friendly Initiative. Since then, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) - Healthy Aging Center (HAC) in collaboration with community partners, engaged in efforts to create the Long Beach Age-Friendly Action Plan that highlights the collaborative strength of the older adult/aging services system and lists goals, objectives, and action items to address emerging needs of older adults, their families, and their care providers.

Five key study areas (Health, Safety, Transportation, Quality of Life, and Housing), as identified in the 2005 and 2016 City of Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults, were applied as workgroups to study the current circumstances and possible changes needed to accommodate an aging population. The workgroups, comprised of experts, agency representatives, community organizations, local universities, hospitals/health plans, older adult residents, and various departments within the City of Long Beach met monthly to provide insights, observations, and innovative ideas. Their findings were reviewed by the Steering Committee, which met quarterly to oversee progress and contribute an additional layer of guidance and expertise. As the community emerged from the COVID-19 restrictions, information developed through the workgroups was presented to groups of older adults and other stakeholders in open forums, one-on-one discussions, and with feedback surveys for their input. While the focus areas resonated with the audiences, their insights and suggestions for refinement were integrated into the plan resulting in a more detailed plan. This plan is the culmination of both grassroots efforts and professional expertise and collaboration.

The Long Beach Age-Friendly Action Plan, which is overseen by the Healthy Aging Center and the Long Beach Age-Friendly Steering Committee and led by various partners across Long Beach, identifies key areas for improvement within the Built, Social, and Service Environments

and develops recommendations that the community can focus on to improve conditions across 9 interconnected Domains, 24 Goals, and 108 Action Items that address key aspects of aging in Long Beach. The 9 Domains are as follows:

Built Environment

Domain 1: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

Domain 2: Transportation

Domain 3: Housing

Social Environment

Domain 4: Social Participation

Domain 5: Respect & Inclusion

Domain 6: Civic Participation & Employment

Service Environment

Domain 7: Health Services & Community Supports

Domain 8: Communication & Information

Domain 9: Safety at Home & In Society

The plan builds on multi-agency coordination and establishes an infrastructure for cross-sector collaboration on aging-related issues. Recognizing the vital role that systems and communities play in shaping the aging experience, the plan emphasizes the collective effort required to seize opportunities and address challenges associated with an older, more diverse population.

The Long Beach Age-Friendly Action Plan, intended as a roadmap, consolidates strategies that advance practices that foster age-friendly inclusion for the aging services providers and the older adults/aging population serving community. With this collaborative effort, the City and local private and nonprofit organizations/community partners can work towards solutions that can guide changes at the local level and ensure that Long Beach is ready to meet the needs of its rapidly aging population ensuring that all residents can age with dignity, accessibility, and opportunity.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Nicholas Masero on April 18, 2025, and by Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on April 25, 2025.

EQUITY IMPACT

The Health Department is committed to making Long Beach a healthy, safe and thriving community for all. This Age-Friendly Plan was developed with extensive community input. To ensure the Action Plan's goals, objectives and strategies have an equitable impact, the Health Department will continue to work closely with the many community-based organizations we currently partner with, and also widen our reach to ensure we better reach populations that are disproportionately impacted by inequities and advance health equity in the city. Internally, the Health Department will continue to focus on incorporating equity and inclusion into our policies, programs and services.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action to receive and file the Long Beach Age-Friendly Action Plan is requested on May 13, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. The Plan does not commit the City or any of the identified partners to specific projects or prescribe any investments; rather, it serves as a framework of age-friendly guidelines and practices that various entities may choose to pursue. The fiscal impact will be assessed and determined by each entity as specific action items are considered for implementation. The plan is a visionary document with no direct funding to implement the recommended strategies. Enactment of the strategies and proposed action steps will be reviewed for potential implementation costs and budget resources that will be reviewed in future budgets. If the City moves forward with some of the Plan's recommendations, funding will be identified, and cost estimates will be developed as part of the implementation. The Plan was developed using existing staff time currently budgeted in General Fund in the Health and Human Services Department. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with the existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Alison King
Director
Health and Human Services

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

ATTACHMENT