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Major Report on Livable Communities Released
Focus on Strategies for Success from the Field

Washington, DC—Today, a national report on the growth of the Livable Communities for All Ages movement in the United States was released. The report, “Making Your Community Livable for All Ages: What’s Working!,” provides the context for growing interest in developing Livable Communities—defined as communities working to meet the needs of people across their lifespan. The work being conducted by select cities and counties in New York, Colorado, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and Kansas is also showcased in the report, as are recommendations and best practices culled from over a decade of research conducted by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) and lessons learned from its member agencies and other community-based organizations undertaking this vital work.

Interest in developing Livable Communities for All Ages is decades old, but momentum has escalated in recent years as the first wave of baby boomers turned age 65. The ramifications for our society of an older adult population that will not only double between 2000 and 2030, but will also enjoy greater longevity and productivity than previous generations, have become increasingly clear. Without the physical, social and support infrastructures needed to help older adults age well in their homes and communities, quality of life—for people of all ages—will be compromised.

According to n4a CEO Sandy Markwood, “In order to create communities that are great places to grow up and grow old, local and regional governments must develop policies and programs that are informed by an understanding of the needs of older adults and how they intertwine with the needs of the community-at-large. Where Livable Communities initiatives are in place, that message is being heard loud and clear by decision-makers.”

“We have been pleased to support Livable Communities programs because a core principal of this work involves securing participation by a wide array of stakeholders, including government, businesses, nonprofits and the public to affect change that is truly sustainable. It’s a model that has produced results for communities nationwide,” said Dennis White, President & CEO, MetLife Foundation.
About n4a

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is a 501c(3) membership association representing America’s national network of 618 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and providing a voice in the nation’s capital for the 246 Title VI Native American aging programs. The mission of n4a is to build the capacity of its members so they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible.