

Survey Results

Recognized Michigan Communities For a Lifetime

1. What improvements have been made to your community since the date you received Community For a Lifetime (CFL) recognition for completing a community assessment?

All recognized Communities who responded to the Survey (12) noted community improvements. Responses included, but are not limited to the following within the TEN CFL Assessment Domains:

A. Walkability/Bikability

- *Improved pedestrian safety and walkability features*
- *Added Bike Paths*
- *Increased and improved snow clearing of major sidewalks and downtown areas to improve walkability in the winter*
- *Many new benches installed for great resting/stopping places for seniors who need a few rests during an extended walk*

B. Supportive community systems

- *Improved communication with Seniors regarding available financial assistance, tax preparation assistance and community resources.*
- *A developing volunteer friendly-caller system*
- *New Adult Day Care businesses started up*
- *Some increased consideration for impact of programs/services/needs of seniors*
- *Increased awareness of needs*
- *Ranking "Top 50 Places to Live, America's Best Small Towns" Money Magazine*
- *Listing of Community for a Lifetime designation on community website*
- *A heightened awareness of the Michigan Communities for a Lifetime project and the importance and value of attention being given to the asset areas*
- *More discussion on a governance level about livability*
- *A local Caregiver Resource Network has grown, developed more programs, and educated more caregivers*
- *Enhanced communication between key participants to increase collaboration on future planned improvements*
- *A senior resource guide is being published annually*
- *A brochure listing all senior centers in the county has been printed*
- *Increased Nursing Facility Transition Services providing nursing home facility residents alternatives for care in community-based living options*

C. Access to Health Care/Health Promotion

- *A millage that will allow increased number of meals to serve more seniors*

- *Operation Medicine Cabinet – unused and expired prescription drug drop-off 24/7*
- *New bicycling club for those 50 +*
- *The development of a new wellness clinic in an area hospital*
- *A wellness clinic offered by the commission on aging, including free vision and audiology services with community business partners*
- *New healthy aging programs like Matter of Balance and diabetes Personal Action Towards Health*
- *Addition of specialized older adult emergency departments in area hospitals with geriatric physicians, a senior friendly environment, and multiple services*
- *PACE[®] (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) provides an alternative to nursing home care – allowing low-income seniors to remain in their own homes*

D. Safety and Security

- *A federal grant to prevent and address elder abuse and enhance the available services to victims of elder abuse.*
- *Ranking high in “Annual Safe City” report based on FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports*
- *An Elder Justice Task Force helps prevent elder abuse through Senior Summits*
- *Upgraded signals with audible pedestrian phases.*
- *Improved traffic control with new stop signs and clearly marked crosswalks*
- *New Solar Powered lighted pedestrian sign installed*
- *Established standardized pedestrian crossings city-wide*
- *Improved street lighting with magnetic induction providing greater lumens and more even light spread than mercury vapor*
- *Downtown snow melt – ½ mile of safe, level walking surface all winter long*
- *Boardwalk reconstruction eliminated all tripping hazards on two mile waterfront recreation asset*
- *New high intensity reflective street signs on all new street projects*
- *A corridor study with community input to look at ways to improve motorized and active transportation along multiple routes to focus on pedestrian safety*
- *Hoarding Task Force – increasing awareness and interventions to increase safety, prevent eviction, and increase in-home service availability to older adults*

E. Housing: Availability and Affordability

- *Added affordable housing within a walkable neighborhood*
- *Additional Construction of senior and assisted living units*
- *Planning commission is studying accessory dwellings, and how current building trends may need updating through ordinances and building codes*

F. Housing: Modification and Maintenance

- *A new comprehensive housing needs assessment*
- *Home Safety program provides installation of grab bars, etc. for fall prevention*

G. Transportation

- *Improved transportation and mobility through tokens for bus transportation available at no cost to those needing transportation and help to pay for it*
- *Increased Transportation coordination and accessibility*
- *Transit expanded demand response service and increased service area*
- *Researching adding shelters at some of bus stops*

H. Commerce

- *An aging friendly community one-day conference with community residents, aging services, businesses and educational organizations*
- *A Community for a Lifetime Chocolate Candy Bar – public-private partnership*
- *Sign shop producing new high-intensity reflective copy for all signs (30% of signs replaced since 2005)*
- *Increased communications by using more social media*

I. Enrichment

- *Lifelong learning opportunities through Society of Active Retirees (SOAR)*
- *New Ice Rinks and Skate Parks*
- *Increased computer education offerings for adults 50 years +*
- *Enhanced Library offerings for all ages*
- *Destination for Detroit Institute of Art's "Inside Out" program, which brings reproductions of great art masterpieces to the streets and parks of Metro-Detroit.*
- *Relocated juried fine arts show to double the number of exhibiting artists, and increase community attendance*
- *Ranked one of top 5 places in America to retire - CNN*
- *Named top city in Michigan for retirement - AARP*
- *Downtown Renaissance project to improve community infrastructure and assets*
- *Added Community gardens with senior friendly features*
- *Eight pickleball courts built*
- *An expanded trail system to provide more recreational opportunities for all ages*

J. Inclusion

- *Senior Games are conducted through a collaborative partnership*
- *All transit buses now lift-equipped*
- *All public buildings inspected and corrections made to ensure full accessibility*
- *Extensive work at city waterfront park and recreational area, with accessible trail and walkways, beach access matting, accessible kayak launch*

- *Pilot project to provide vouchers for payment of friends and relatives to take older adults to medical appointments and social events*

2. What do you see as the biggest barriers to preventing a community from improving itself as a community for a lifetime?

No. of Xs Listed	Barrier Categories Listed
12	<i>Cost, funding, reduced tax base & reduced public services dollars</i>
6	<i>Competing Priorities, buy in and the will to do it</i>
3	<i>Less available human resources organizational staff time</i>
2	<i>Ageism and greater focus on youth</i>
1	<i>Increasing senior population with increased needs</i>
1	<i>Lack of community education about benefits of being aging friendly</i>
1	<i>Communication</i>

3. How does your; community, municipality, aging network, non-profit and/or business world operate differently than it did before receiving CFL recognition/designation?

No. of Xs Listed	How Operate Differently Response Categories
4	<i>Increased communication and coordination among businesses, municipalities and residents on ways to become more aging friendly</i>
3	<i>Little or no change noted</i>
2	<i>Collaboration among senior services providers has increased</i>
2	<i>Increased recognition of demographic changes by municipalities</i>
1	<i>Original CFL Leadership Team more energized</i>
1	<i>More area funding sources requiring grant applicants to include strategies to promote aging friendly outcomes</i>
1	<i>Used information from the community assessment to seek grants</i>
1	<i>Aging network and service provider agencies operate with more attention given to CFL asset areas</i>

4. What benefits have you seen to your community since receiving CFL recognition/designation?

No. of Xs Listed	Benefits to Community Categories Listed
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8	<i>Greater awareness in the community about CFL needs, issues and assets as a priority</i>
5	<i>Increased community assets for all ages</i>
4	<i>Greater visibility and credibility for the community as a community for all ages</i>
2	<i>Facilitation of aging program development, service coordination, advocacy and planning process</i>
1	<i>Successful national grant funding secured for community improvements citing the CFL Recognition in the grant application</i>
1	<i>Another nearby county started an aging friendly initiative as a result of the original county receiving CFL recognition</i>
1	<i>None</i>

5. What would have made more of an impact?

No. of Xs Listed	Would have Made More Impact Response Categories
7	<i>More technical assistance, communication and mentoring from OSA in the form of; marketing and promotional materials, a CFL logo, state and national info.- both pre and post CFL recognition</i>
3	<i>Better organization and utilization of stakeholders and follow up</i>
3	<i>Periodic contact with other CFL recognized communities for exchanging ideas, best practices, success stories, promotional efforts and critical elements for success</i>
2	<i>A clearer vision of this designation, its benefits and how to capitalize on it</i>
2	<i>Additional funding to implement CFL-recommended actions, assets and improvements</i>
1	<i>More attention to the significant increase in senior population</i>

6. Would you be interested in attending a future CFL educational, sharing and showcase forum with representatives from other recognized Michigan CFL Communities?

No. of Responses (12 Total)

- **Yes** **9**
- **Probably** **0**

- **Possibly** 2
- **Not Sure** 1
- **No** 0

7. We are considering the possibility of upgrading the Michigan CFL Assessment at some point to feature a scorable format to reflect different levels of achievement towards CFL designation, such as: Copper, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Do you think that your community would be willing to consider completing a revised CFL Assessment toward achieving some such contemporary CFL designation level in the next year or two?

No. of Responses (12 Total)

- **Yes** 1
- **Probably** 2
- **Possibly** 4
- **Not Sure** 5
- **No** 0

July, 2014