



# COUNTY of VENTURA

## Human Services Agency Area Agency on Aging

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Human Services Agency

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Area Agency on Aging

October 11, 2022

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject:** Approve the County of Ventura Master Plan for Aging; Authorize the Submission of an Application for Membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities; Authorize the Board Chair to Submit Letters of Commitment to AARP and the World Health Organization Expressing the County's Commitment to Creating an Age-Friendly Environment within the County; Adopt a Resolution Supporting Initiatives and Opportunities to Engage in the World Health Organization's and AARP Age-Friendly Communities.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Approve the County of Ventura Master Plan for Aging (Exhibit 1).
2. Authorize the Director of the Area Agency on Aging to submit an application on behalf of the County for membership in the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (Exhibit 2) and the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (Exhibit 3).
3. Authorize the Board Chair to submit letters of commitment to AARP (Exhibit 4) and the World Health Organization (Exhibit 5) expressing the County's commitment to creating an age-friendly environment within the county.
4. Adopt a resolution in support of initiatives and opportunities to engage in the AARP and World Health Organization Global Network for Age-Friendly Communities (Exhibit 6).

### **Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

There are no additional fiscal impacts associated with approving these items.

### **Discussion:**

Older adults now make up over 25% of our population, with the number projected to increase to 30% in the next 8 years. Approximately 15% of the overall population has a disability and over 15,000 people are living with Alzheimer's and related dementias. As a County, it is important that we work towards making the county age-friendly, disability-friendly and dementia-friendly as one day all of us will be older, may have a disability or have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or related dementia or have a loved one with a diagnosis.

In 2019, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-14-19 calling for the creation of a Master Plan for Aging, which is a blueprint for state government, local government, the private sector, and philanthropy to prepare the State for the coming demographic changes. The County convened a panel of stakeholders in October 2019 to start the process of talking about the reality and the challenges of growing older in Ventura County and what is needed to make the county more livable. The state issued its Master Plan for Aging in January 2021, and the Human Services Agency and the Area Agency on Aging, are now bringing the Ventura County Master Plan for Aging to your Board. The goals, strategies and initiatives support the state efforts but also include many initiatives specific to Ventura County. We ask that your Board approve the Ventura County Master Plan for Aging. If approved, Ventura will be the first County to release a Master Plan for Aging since the state adopted theirs.

While the focus of the plan is on aging, there is an equal focus on optimally aging across the lifespan because a Master Plan for Aging is for everyone in the community. Moreover, we also know that older adults and people with disabilities have common issues, though other challenges are unique. As the Master Plan for Aging was developed, there was also special focus on areas of importance to Ventura County. Those focus areas are diversity, equity, and inclusion. The County has always been cognizant of the racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity in our county and has made continual refinements in how we provide services and connections to resources to ensure we operate through a lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In this, our inaugural Master Plan for Aging, there is a specific focus on setting forth the way the County operationalizes through the lens of inclusivity. The plan's perspective is a 10-year plan that focuses on moving the County towards being age friendly, dementia friendly and disability friendly and is written from the County perspective.

One of the recommendations in the plan is for Ventura County to join the Network of Age-Friendly Communities. In 2010, the World Health Organization established the Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities to connect cities, communities and organizations worldwide with the common vision of making their community a great place to grow old in. The mission of the Network is to stimulate and enable communities around the world to become increasingly age-friendly. The Network seeks to do this by inspiring change by showing what can be done and how it can be done; connecting cities and communities worldwide to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experience; and supporting cities and communities to find appropriate innovative and evidence-based

solutions. AARP leads the Network in the United States. Joining the World Health Organization Global Network does not obligate the County of Ventura in any way. The County would be provided with space on their webpage to highlight the work of the County, raise our visibility internationally as an age friendly community, and allow us to connect with others and share best practices.

We are asking that your Board authorize the Director of the Area Agency on Aging to submit an application on behalf of the County for membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (Exhibit 2) and the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (Exhibit 3); authorize the Board Chair to submit letters of commitment to AARP (Exhibit 4) and the World Health Organization (Exhibit 5) expressing the County's commitment to creating an age-friendly environment within the County; and adopt a resolution in support of initiatives and opportunities to engage in the AARP and World Health Organization Global Network for Age-friendly Communities (Exhibit 6). These items are interrelated and necessary components to joining the AARP and WHO networks of age friendly communities.

The age-friendly rubric involves eight domains of livability that make a community livable for people of all ages. Creating an Age-Friendly County means identifying specific opportunities within each domain to advance the larger goals. It is up to each community to prioritize interventions, and there is no need to address all domains at once. The domains are:

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic participation and Employment
- Communication and Information
- Community and Health Services


It should be noted that components of these are addressed in the Master Plan as well as the required elements to participate in the AARP and World Health Organizations networks, which include the following:


- Establishing mechanisms to involve older people
- A baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the community
- The development of a community-wide action plan based on the findings of the assessment
- Identification of indicators so progress can be monitored against the action plan

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If approved, Ventura County would be the tenth county to join the network. Currently the Counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, Marin, Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Sonoma are part of the network. The State of California joined in 2021. Ventura County is already an establish dementia-friendly community.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. You may contact me at 477-7300 if you have any questions.

  
MELISSA LIVINGSTON  
Director

  
VICTORIA JUMP  
Director

#### Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Master Plan for Aging  
Exhibit 2 – Application for AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities  
Exhibit 3 – Application for World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities  
Exhibit 4 – Letter of Commitment to AARP  
Exhibit 5 – Letter of Commitment to the World Health Organization  
Exhibit 6 – Resolution to Join the World Health Organization's and AARP's Age Friendly Communities Networks