

Housing Options for Aging in Place (HOAP): Buncombe County

An Age-friendly Buncombe County (ABC) Initiative

Vision: All older adults living in Buncombe County have the ability and choice to age in place in order to remain safe, well and engaged in their communities.

Strategy: Create a comprehensive, coordinated initiative that knits together diverse stakeholders across multiple domains to effectively work toward a community where older adults have the ability and choice to age in place.

Strategy Rationale

In just a few years, one in five residents of Buncombe County will be age 65 or older and in fewer than twenty years (by 2035) projections suggest this ratio will be closer to one in four. Yet neither the current housing stock nor the booming development of new housing matches the expressed desire among older and aging residents to age in place. According to AARP almost 90 percent of adults age 65 and over want to stay in their current home and community as they age. However, only 1 percent of the current U.S. housing stock offers the five key Universal Design features to enable aging in place. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines aging in place as *"the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level."*

HOAP-ABC Outcomes

1. The community recognizes and supports safe, accessible, affordable housing as a social determinant of health for older adults.
2. New and modified policies and practices (government, organizations) support and promote affordable and accessible housing options

Working Group

AARP; Area Agency on Aging at Land of Sky; Asheville Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement (ABIPA); Asheville Realty Group; Buncombe County Community Engagement; Buncombe County Health and Human Services; Buncombe County Public Library; Communities for Older Adult Health; Connect Buncombe; Council on Aging of Buncombe County; Dementia Friendly WNC; Givens Affordable Communities; Habitat for Humanity; Land of Sky Regional Council; MAHEC Center for Healthy Aging; MAHEC Community Improvement Project; Mission Health Partners; Mountain Housing Opportunities; NovusWay; NC Works; OLLI at UNC-A; Pisgah Legal Services; RL Mace Universal Design Institute; Self-Help Credit Union; SkyHeart Consulting; The Urban News

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