

Vaughan Age-Friendly Community Action Plan: Implementation Strategy

April 2022



The *Age-Friendly Community Action Plan* itself identifies several core strategies that demonstrate the City's full commitment to the vision of this *Plan* and to creating a city-wide approach to age-friendly planning.

These include developing an age-friendly decision-making framework; establishing the Older Adult Task Force (OATF) as the Age-Friendly Vaughan Advisory Committee (AFVAC) to continue to support and guide age-friendly planning across the city; requiring, through procurement, a commitment to age-friendly principles; joining Ontario's Network of Age-Friendly Community Initiatives; considering the priorities of this *Plan* for inclusion in the 2022-2026 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan; supporting work underway to establish an Intergovernmental Age-Friendly Working Group; preparing annual community progress reports; and conducting a full review of the *Plan* in 2026. These recommendations are critical to the implementation of the *Plan* and highlight the full pledge of the City in becoming a more age-friendly city.

To further support this important work, this Implementation Strategy identifies timelines and potential partners for all 28 actions identified within the *Plan*. This document is intended to be a jumping-off point for the implementation of all recommended actions, one which evolves overtime through further guidance from staff and the newly developed age-friendly executive working group. As the *Age-Friendly Community Action Plan* moves forward, it will be up to City Staff to operationalize this *Plan* through the City's *Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan* and the various departmental plans.

Timelines:

O = Ongoing

S = Short Term (1-2 years)

M = Medium Term (3-5 years)

L = Longer Term (5+ years)

AFVAC = Age-Friendly Vaughan Advisory Committee

Age-Friendly Dimension	Action	Timeline				Suggested Potential Partners
		O	S	M	L	
Outdoor Spaces & Public Buildings 	1. Continue to explore opportunities to expand winter snow removal program for seniors.					Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) Schools
	2. Continue to ensure that park and open space design incorporate spaces and amenities that are accessible and encourage physical activity, wellness, and recreational opportunities for all ages.					
	3. Continue to make improvements to street lighting, pedestrian crossings and signal times, and overall community safety.					York Region
	4. Expand opportunities to support the development of community gardens accessible to all ages and abilities.					Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) York Region Human Endeavour
	5. Identify opportunities to create more walkable neighbourhoods.					York Region
Transportation 	6. Continue efforts to enhance bus stop accessibility, equity, comfort, and safety.					York Region

Age-Friendly Dimension	Action	Timeline				Suggested Potential Partners
		O	S	M	L	
	7. Work with community partners to promote, and support opportunities to expand alternative transportation modes.					AFVAC CHATS (iRIDE) Human Endeavour York Region Association of Differently Abled People Together (ADAPT) Right at Home Private sector Ride Share organizations
	8. Create greater awareness of transit options across the city.					York Region
	9. Explore opportunities to provide a needs-based transit subsidy.					York Region
Housing 	10. In support of the City's Affordable Housing Strategy, establish policies, and identify opportunities, to provide a range of housing forms that meet the diverse and changing needs of residents.					York Region Non-profit and private housing providers and developers
	11. Explore opportunities for community partnerships to pilot a HomeShare program in Vaughan.					Community service providers Post-Secondary Schools
	12. Share information and promote funding options for home adaptation, repair, and modification programs.					York Region AFVAC Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) Leap of Faith Together (LOFT) March of Dimes

Age-Friendly Dimension	Action	Timeline				Suggested Potential Partners
		O	S	M	L	
	13. Support community partners in efforts to promote and increase in-home supports for seniors and people with disabilities.					AFVAC CHATS Leap of Faith Together (LOFT) Reena Vaughan Community Health Centre (VCHC)
Respect & Social Inclusion 	14. Celebrate the contributions of seniors and youth through a local art exhibition.					AFVAC Museums Vaughan Public Libraries
	15. Work with community partners to increase awareness and share resources to combat ageism and elder abuse.					Vaughan Public Libraries York Regional Police Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) Victim Services of York Region Family Services York Region Leap of Faith Together (LOFT) Schools
	16. Work with local seniors' clubs to explore opportunities for integrated programs and activities.					Seniors Association of Vaughan Initiative (SAVI)

Age-Friendly Dimension	Action	Timeline				Suggested Potential Partners
		O	S	M	L	
	17. Engage and partner with community organizations to identify and develop programming opportunities that support the diverse needs of residents and older adults.					Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, Accessibility Advisory Committee, AFVAC Family Services York Region Vaughan Community Health Centre (VCHC) Islamic Society of Vaughan Vaughan African Canadian Association Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations Nin Os Kom Tin Indigenous Friendship Centre Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Pflag York Region Family Services York Region Community resident champions
Civic Participation & Employment 	18. Explore and promote City and community volunteer and employment opportunities.					CoV (Recreation, Human Resources) YorkWorks VaughanLink Community service providers (COSTI Immigrant Services, Reena, March of Dimes)
	19. Expand age-friendly awareness among local businesses.					Vaughan Chamber of Commerce AFVAC AFC Outreach Program – Business Group
	20. Engage with Older Adult Task Force/Age-Friendly Vaughan Advisory Committee as part of City planning initiatives.					AFVAC

Age-Friendly Dimension	Action	Timeline				Suggested Potential Partners
		O	S	M	L	
Communication & Information 	21. Expand digital access and literacy among residents and seniors.					Vaughan Public Libraries Human Endeavour
	22. Enhance online presence of community information and services.					CoV (Recreation, Human Resources, Economic Development) York Region Community partners and service providers
	23. Continue efforts to ensure communication and promotional materials create positive and inclusive images celebrating the city's diversity.					
Community Support & Health Services 	24. Explore opportunities to develop a community hub.					Community service providers York Region Libraries
	25. Develop relationship with the Western York Region Ontario Health Team to further advocate for health services in Vaughan.					AFVAC Western York Region Ontario Health Team Vaughan Community Health Centre (VCHC)
Social Participation 	26. Continue to explore options to expand recreational program delivery including options for inter-generational programs, programs for people living with dementia, programs that meet the needs of ethno-cultural groups, programs in other languages, and outdoor and virtual programming.					Vaughan Public Libraries

Age-Friendly Dimension	Action	Timeline				Suggested Potential Partners
		O	S	M	L	
	27. Explore opportunities for additional training for front-line staff to support seniors.					Alzheimer's Society CHATS
	28. Work with community organizations to coordinate monthly 'Coffee Connections'.					Seniors Association of Vaughan Initiative (SAVI)