A Minnesota that grows with us

Most of us want to age in our own communities, and with smart planning, support and welcoming spaces, it can happen.

Age-Friendly Minnesota (AFMN) is reimagining what it means to grow older in Minnesota through two major efforts: the Multisector Blueprint for Aging and AFMN grants. The Blueprint launched in 2024 and brings together government, nonprofits, philanthropy, healthcare and other partners to seize the opportunities and meet the challenges of demographic shifts. AFMN grants launched in 2023 to support projects that make our state a great place to age.
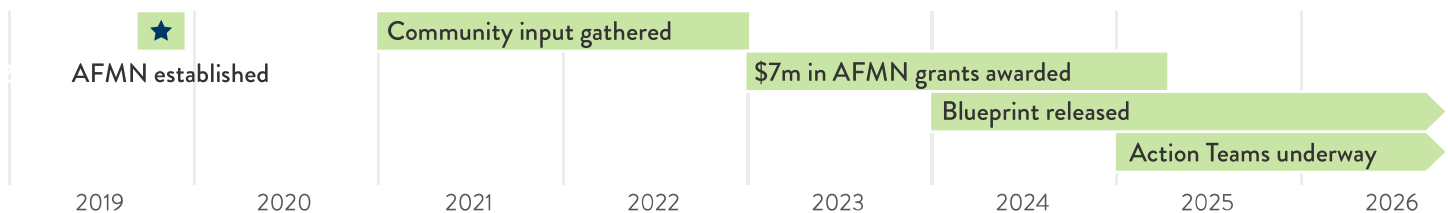
Grant highlights

148 projects supported

$7 million awarded in grant funding

"**This grant will impact so many people for so many years.** Updating accessibility of existing infrastructure is *very* important in ensuring an age-friendly community."
—*Grant recipient*

AFMN established

Community input gathered

$7m in AFMN grants awarded

Blueprint released

Action Teams underway

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |

A bold vision for our future
Minnesota's Multisector Blueprint for Aging

Explore the Blueprint
mn.gov/dhs/age-friendly-mn/blueprint/

The Blueprint addresses four priorities:

Connected Communities
Housing, transportation and public spaces that foster well-being and connection

Optimized Health and Longevity
Individualized access to health care, community services and caregiver supports

Emergency Preparedness, Individual Rights, and Safety
Inclusive and integrated programs that foster security and respect

Economic Security and Vitality
Financial security and recognition as valued contributors to society

Funding projects to improve aging in Minnesota
Age-Friendly Minnesota Grants

Age-Flourishing St. Cloud: City-wide effort to help people in St. Cloud flourish at every age. An AFMN grant helped the program reach 750 people, including over 500 older adults, through workshops and events.

Hennepin County Public Health

Hennepin County conducted a feasibility study to explore offering the CAPABLE program, which provides goal-based support from an interprofessional team in the home environment. Over the course of 10 home visits, the individual is empowered to set goals and improve their self-efficacy for daily living. The study concluded that CAPABLE is a good fit for Hennepin County and identified next steps.

1500 event attendees in 2025
70% attendees age 50 or older

Aitkin County Friends of the Arts

The Terrace is an age-friendly outdoor arts and and entertainment venue in Aitkin's downtown. Construction was completed in 2024, transforming an empty lot into a thriving gathering space to connect neighbors of all ages and support local performing artists.

Tri-County Action Program: Volunteer driver program that provides rides to rural, low-income older adults. In 2024, an AFMN grant helped their volunteer pool grow from 15 drivers to over 40 drivers.

2070 riders in 2024

Cycling Without Age Alexandria

Cycling Without Age is a worldwide program that pairs volunteer "pilots" with older adults and people with restricted mobility for bike rides. The local chapter in Alexandria, MN began in 2023 and received an AFMN grant to purchase passenger-friendly bikes. Alexandria volunteers have given hundreds of rides at assisted living/care facilities, fairs, and parades.

Northspan: Created a toolkit to help employers offer "returnships" that help individuals re-enter the workforce. For people who took a break from work due to retirement or caregiving responsibilities, these positions provide training, mentorship, and on-the-job experience. The toolkit provides concrete advice on these job positions as well as background on ageism in the workforce.