

# AGING in MASSACHUSETTS

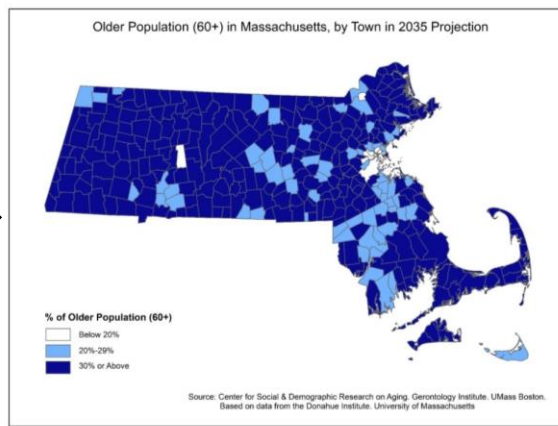
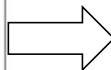
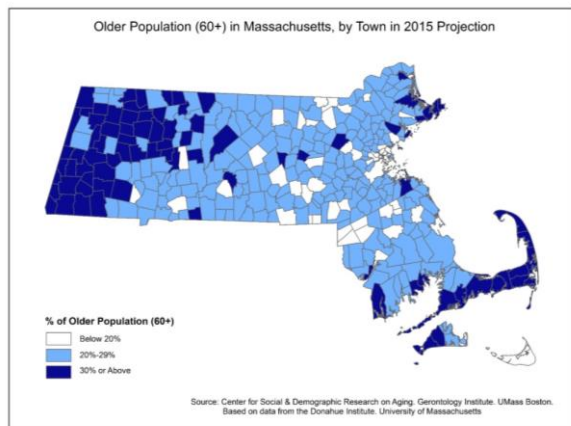
*Shaping the Future*

MassHousing Community Services Conference  
Secretary Alice Bonner, Executive Office of Elder Affairs  
13 June 2018

# Demographics – Massachusetts

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's population is aging at a faster rate than ever before and now has more residents over the age of 60 than under the age of 20.

By 2030, the majority of cities and towns will have at least a third of residents over the age of 60.



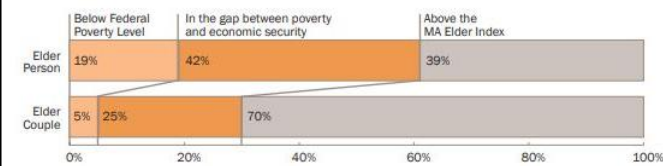
# An Aging Population

**In Massachusetts, 42% of single older adults and 25% of couples do not have incomes low enough to qualify for many programs and services, but do not have enough money to make ends meet.**

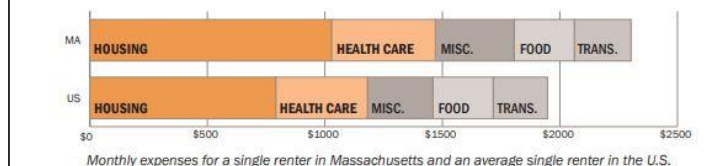
**Nearly 2 out of every 3 older adults have 4 or more chronic conditions in Massachusetts.**

### Many older adults in Massachusetts face economic insecurity.

42% of single older adults and 25% of couples are not poor enough to qualify for many programs and services, but do not have enough money to make ends meet.



### Housing and health care are the biggest expenses in Massachusetts and throughout the U.S.



Source: UMass Boston Gerontology Institute and Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative

# Governor's Council to Address Aging in MA



A screenshot of the Mass.gov website. At the top, there are links for 'Select Language', 'State Organizations', and 'Log In to...'. Below this is the 'Mass.gov' logo and a search bar with the text 'Search Mass.gov' and a 'SEARCH' button. A navigation menu includes 'LIVING', 'WORKING', 'LEARNING', 'VISITING &amp; EXPLORING', and 'YOUR GOVERNMENT', each with a dropdown arrow. The main content area features a large image of the Massachusetts State House with a green overlay. The text reads: 'Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts'. Below this, it states: 'On April 12, 2017, Governor Charles D. Baker signed Executive Order 576 establishing the Governor's Council to Address Aging'. A 'TELL US WHAT YOU THINK' button is located in the bottom right corner of the content area.

# Governor's Council to Address Aging in MA Plan and Process



## Year One

- Held 5 in-person meetings including 4 expert panels
- Reviewed documents and data from thought leaders
- Held 4 listening sessions across the state
- Invited input and recommendations via web portal
- Heard from over 500 individuals across the Commonwealth
- Drafted initial blueprint



## Year Two

- Establish working groups to research, develop and explore potential initiatives
- Provide recommendations to Governor Baker
- Establish a plan for communications of the Council's work and reports
- Develop metrics to evaluate outcomes and measure success

# Governor's Council to Address Aging in MA

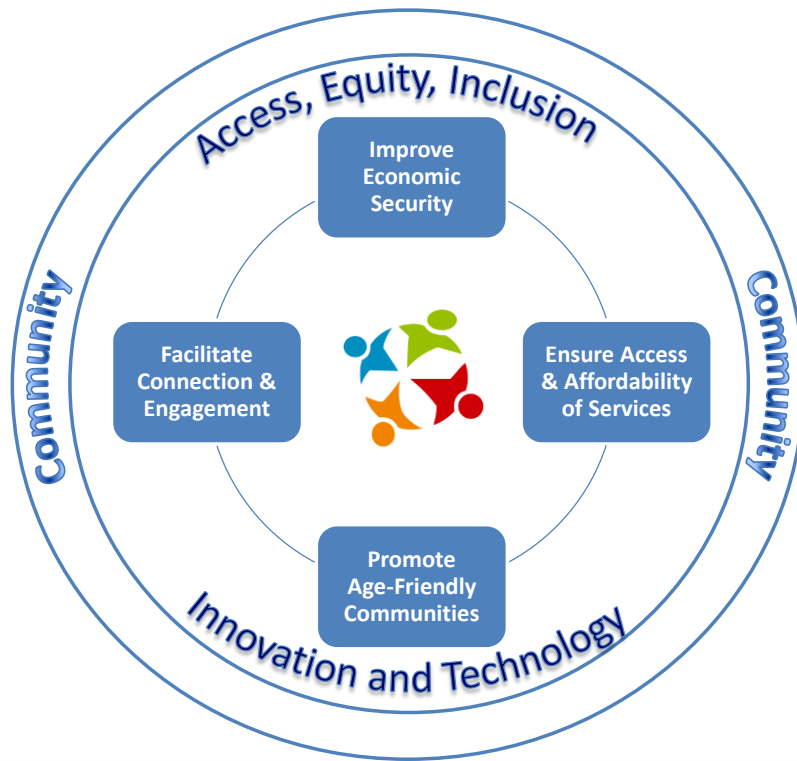
## What the Council Heard



Over nine months the Council held five working meetings and convened four listening sessions throughout the state in addition to collecting public comment online. The result was input from more than 500 Massachusetts residents.



# Governor's Council to Address Aging in MA Create an Age-Friendly Commonwealth



# Governor's Council to Address Aging in MA



## Initial Priorities

1. **Declare Massachusetts as an age-friendly state**
2. **Include age-friendly best practices in community compact program (new business, economic development, innovation and technology)**
3. **Promote the designation of age-friendly employers and practices that support mature workers and workers who are caregivers**
4. **Increase participation in employer sponsored retirement plans and explore options for those without access to employer sponsored plans**
5. **Support caregivers through increased information and awareness efforts**
6. **Promote and update property tax deferral programs**
7. **Consider options, including new sources of capital, for increasing production of accessible, affordable, service enriched housing**
8. **Quickly scale and replicate successful age-friendly pilots, such as ride-sharing**
9. **Become the Silicon Valley for innovative technology, products and services related to aging**
10. **Begin changing perceptions and address ageism with specific trainings and communication tools**



# Governor's Council to Address Aging in MA Workgroups



**Members from the Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts, along with topics experts are working on specific proposals in the following areas:**

- Caregiving
- Employment
- Housing
- Innovation and Technology
- Transportation

**The workgroups will present proposals to the full Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts in October 2018.**

## Age-Friendly State



The Governor announced that Massachusetts has been designated by AARP as only the second state in the country to join the organization's Age-Friendly Network.

This designation commits us to making Massachusetts more livable and welcoming for older adults and people of all ages through a diverse network of partners and communities.

# Age-Friendly State

## What Does Age Friendly Mean?

Age-Friendly describes a movement to make communities more welcoming and livable for older residents and people of all ages. It describes efforts we can take together to create places where people can grow up and grow old together. AARP has identified eight areas for communities throughout the country to focus on improving:

1. Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social Participation
5. Respect & Social Inclusion
6. Civic Participation & Employment
7. Communication & Information
8. Community & Health Services



# Age-Friendly State April 11<sup>th</sup> Celebration Event

