

PRINCIPLES

Creating an age friendly community is more complex than just checking off items on a list. Checklists are great tools but before we check off these items, we need to consider a guiding philosophy that shows we *care* about *all* citizens. Through our own learning, we have come to recognize the importance of strong guiding principles that serve as a moral compass steering decisions, planning, and practices to become more age friendly. We have identified five guiding principles for becoming age-friendly, which are:

- respect and support of all citizens,
- access and inclusion for all,
- community engagement in decision making,
- livability, and
- accountability

All of the principles are listed above and you can click on each of them for a description and some examples and stories. Some of these principles may already be included in your community's or organization's mission statement, vision or philosophies. Others might be a new way to direct your communities to become more age-friendly.

If we use these principles to guide practice or decisions in our organizations or communities, what are the possibilities?