

Age-Friendly
ATLANTA
Action Plan
2014-2016

The Coming of Age





KASIM REED
MAYOR



CITY OF ATLANTA

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Dear Ms. Tyler-Horton:

As Mayor of the City of Atlanta, it is my distinct pleasure to submit our city's *Age-Friendly Atlanta Action Plan*.

This plan reveals the city's efforts, both current and future, for the coming of age. Recent national studies forecast that this "coming" now reflects a massive emergence of older residents, living longer and needing services like never before. The same holds true in Atlanta. It is projected that residents in metropolitan Atlanta who are ages 65 and over will nearly triple to 1.6 million by 2040. Projections like this incentivize Atlanta to implement various age-driven initiatives with input from government, public/private partnerships, nonprofits and community organizations.

My Administration is committed to promoting policies that provide for the safety, welfare and overall positive development of Atlanta's Age-Friendly community. The city also strives to tie communities together, regardless of age, for a more prosperous and sustainable future. Whether we are celebrating longevity at our annual, high-profile Mayor's Senior Ball, providing programming for older adults at 14 recreation centers, repairing homes for aging residents or improving city streets and sidewalks for safer, easier mobility, Atlanta endeavors to be a shining example of Age Friendliness.

With vision and action, the city of Atlanta welcomes allying with its citizens and partners, like AARP Georgia, to anticipate, navigate and improve quality-of-life issues for the coming of age.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kasim Reed

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Executive Summary

From ancient times to modern civilization, virtually every era ponders this humanity benchmark: How do we treat our elders?

For today's answers, AARP evaluates how well older adults live in designated "Age-Friendly" cities nationwide, including Atlanta. AARP bases its findings on the World Health Organization's suggested key domains.

In this *Age-Friendly Atlanta Action Plan*, the report lists those domains in the following order of importance per [Atlanta's Livability Community Survey](#), taken by Atlantans ages 50 and older: Transportation; Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Community Support and Health Services; Housing; Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation; Civic Participation and Employment; and Communication and Information.

The [AARP Public Policy Institute](#) ranks each of Atlanta's domains with a livability score that ranges from 0 to 100, weighing the city's current services, policies and several other factors. The AARP PPI Livability Index then averages those scores, assigning the city an overall score – 49 – for comparison to other Age-Friendly cities and to gauge progress.

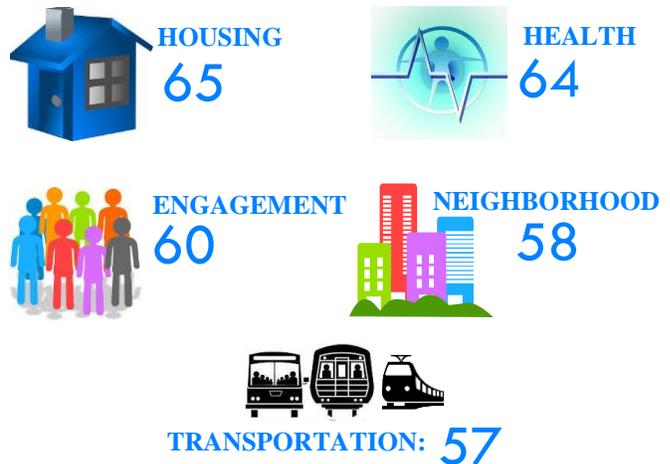
Atlanta's Key Strengths

Although Atlanta's total livability index score leaves room for improvement, findings from the AARP PPI and the Atlanta survey point to these Age-Friendly standouts:

- **Five of Atlanta's seven domain scores rank higher than the state's scores** for Housing, Health (listed within this report as "Community Support and Health Services" by the WHO), Engagement (or "Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation"), Neighborhood (or "Outdoor Spaces and Buildings") and Transportation.
- **Atlanta places in the top one-third of all national communities** for: Housing accessibility, options and affordability; Health behaviors (smoking, obesity prevalence) and quality of health care for preventable hospitalization rate; Engagement via internet access, cultural, arts and entertainment institutions; Neighborhoods' proximity to grocery stores, farmers' markets and parks, access to jobs by transit and auto, and activity density; and Transportation's frequency and costs.

Key Takeaways

Atlanta's top livability scores (out of 100)



Atlanta's lowest livability scores



Most surveyed older Atlantans:



- Plan to age where they are
- Rank Transportation as most important
- Want more job opportunities

Executive Summary/Atlanta's Key Strengths (cont.)

- **Several policies already exist**, addressing several of the domains' key components in the city. They include: having funds to develop and preserve affordable housing; providing programs that support more walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods near transit stations; allowing early/absentee/mail-in voting; implementing safe-streets strategies; and committing to plans to create more Age-Friendly communities.
- **Surveyed Atlantans consider Transportation to be *the most important*** livable community domain, followed by Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, and the other domains as previously listed. These older adults value and perceive mobility and safety to rank first: the linchpin. If they can travel conveniently and safely throughout the city, other domains – Housing, Health, etc., – are more manageable.
- **Nearly 80 percent of surveyed Atlantans believe that their community is a good place** for older people to age, and most plan not to move.

Atlanta's Key Challenges

The Environment and Opportunity categories hold the lowest-performing scores, per the AARP Livability Index. Though the Atlanta survey does not earmark environmental concerns, such as clean air and water, older survey takers categorically agree with the institute's findings about the city's lack of jobs.

In fact, both the Atlanta survey and the institute concur that **Atlanta needs the most help in four key areas**: Job Opportunities; Community Information (listed within this report as "Communication and Information" by the WHO); Volunteering and Civic Engagement (or "Civic Participation and Employment"); and Health and Wellness (or "Community Support and Health Services").

AARP Georgia and others, including the Urban League of Greater Atlanta and WorkSource Atlanta, diligently organize outreach efforts to address employment for older adults, but this growing challenge demands ongoing responsiveness and action from more organizations, government agencies and employers.

Atlanta's Goals

Age-Friendly advances to make Atlanta more livable and inclusive are unfolding. Safer, more connected neighborhoods are developing, due to infrastructure improvement programs like [Renew Atlanta](#), the Atlanta BeltLine and voters' recently approved [new sales tax](#) for expanded public transportation.

The city anticipates expanding quality-of-life efforts through: the Atlanta Housing Authority's more affordable housing and better health programs; city recreation initiatives (such as upgraded senior recreation centers and safer, more accessible parks); Atlanta Habitat for Humanity's home repair and loan programs; multigenerational activities via cultural centers, area elementary schools, universities and public libraries; and more.

Also, Atlanta, AARP Georgia and others are strategizing about how to reach more tech-savvy and nontechnically inclined older adults about employment opportunities, job readiness, volunteerism and other age-related services.

Older Atlantans' desire to stay rooted in the city as they age indicates a vote of confidence for current Age-Friendly offerings and Atlanta's willingness and actions to provide expanded age-related best practices to come.

City of Atlanta

As Georgia's capitol, Atlanta has merited different monikers: "the Capitol of the South," "the Big Peach," and because of the 100 million-plus, annual travelers using the world's busiest airport, "the Gateway to the South."

Home to Chick-fil-A, the Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, Home Depot and other major corporate headquarters, the city attracts numerous, wide-ranging industries to its center. Atlanta also entertains guests and residents equally well, playing host to the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, anchoring three major professional sports teams, showcasing world-class art in critically acclaimed museums and featuring the Georgia Aquarium, the Western Hemisphere's largest ... to name a few.

Balancing leisure with the quest for knowledge, the city boasts of several accredited public and private colleges and universities, including Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Morehouse College and Spelman College. And paying homage to its rich history, Atlanta remembers its varied struggles and celebrates its victories – most notably for civil rights leader, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.



Midtown Atlanta

All of Atlanta's accolades and assets have contributed to its growth of almost 5.5 million people, making it the ninth-largest metropolitan area in the U.S. Approximately 460,000 people currently reside within the city and are demographically diverse in many areas, including age, race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic (income) status, educational level, housing and marital status.

Although distinct variances exist among each demographic, age is one segment that is common throughout and intersects with other segments, both in Atlanta and nationwide.

Atlanta's Aging by the Numbers

America is aging, and so is Atlanta:



- About 20 percent (one in five) of the U.S. population will be age 65 or older by the year 2030, compared with 13 percent in 2010 and 9.8 percent in 1970.
- Baby boomers (people born between 1946-1964) represent 75.4 million of the ages 65-plus cohort nationally and about 15 percent in Atlanta, per the 2010 Census and 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.
- While millennials (those between ages 10 and 29) are the largest age group in the Atlanta region in 2010, baby boomers across Atlanta's 20-county region saw the largest percentage increase – almost 50 percent – between 2000 and 2010, according to the 2010 Census and the Atlanta Regional Commission. That equaled more than 1.3 million people between ages 45-64. Ages 65-plus were the second-fastest growing segment, up 45 percent since 2000.

City of Atlanta/Atlanta's Aging by the Numbers (cont.)

The following table provides a snapshot of Atlanta's age and gender variances between 2010-2014, denoting growth in all age cohorts, but particularly ages 65 and older:

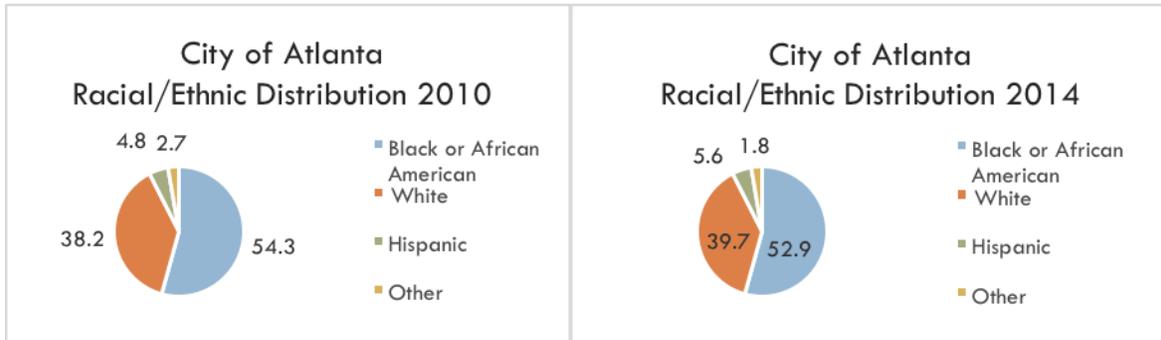
Table 1 – Total Population and/by Age and Gender (2010-14)

City of Atlanta	2010	2014	Change
Total Population	413,462	440,641	27,179 (6.6%)
Ages 19 Years and Younger	100,058 (24.2%)	100,930 (22.9%)	872 (0.9%)
Ages 50-64 Years	65,456 (15.8%)	70,077 (15.9%)	4,621 (7.1%)
Ages 65 Years and Over	40,189 (9.7%)	44,689 (10.1%)	4,500 (11.2%)
Male Total	205,715 (49.8%)	217,938 (49.5%)	12,223 (5.9%)
Female Total	207,747 (50.2%)	222,703 (50.5%)	14,956 (7.2%)
Male 65 and older	15,060 (37.5%)	17,940 (40.1%)	2,880 (19.1%)
Female 65 and older	25,129 (62.5%)	26,749 (59.9%)	1,620 (6.4%)

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate (2010-2014)

City of Atlanta/Atlanta's Racial/Ethnic Makeup (cont.)

An American Community Survey captured Atlanta's vast, diverse demographics from 2010-2014 (*see below*). Variances included racial/ethnic distribution, housing, income/socioeconomic status, education level and family/marital status. The survey also noted older adults (ages 65-plus) in most of these categories.



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate (2010-2014)

Age-Friendly Atlanta Designation

The stronger each population segment becomes, the better for all.

This premise explains why AARP Georgia and the city of Atlanta have partnered for several years in serving the growing 50-plus population. Through education, advocacy and social activities, both entities have reached thousands of older Atlantans on topics such as financial security, caregiving, technology and more.

Because Atlanta stands as one of the nation's most rapidly aging cities, AARP Georgia worked with Mayor Kasim Reed and Commissioner Andrea Boone from the city's Office of Constituent Services to devise and implement an Age-Friendly strategy that would allow Atlantans to successfully age in place.

The culmination of these efforts led to Atlanta joining a select club in 2014, recognized as one of only 75 cities nationwide to be an "Age-Friendly Community." AARP and the World Health Organization bestowed this honor, citing that Atlanta optimizes "opportunities for health, participation and security to enhance the quality of life as people age."



Getting Started, 2014

The planning phase's first goal began with building awareness and participation in the Age-Friendly initiative. Consequently, the city announced Atlanta's Age-Friendly designation in May 2014 – Older Atlantans Month – during Mayor Reed's Annual Senior Day. Held in City Hall, the event informed hundreds of Atlanta seniors to learn about the city's steps toward becoming Age-Friendly, and how they could become involved. AARP Georgia also received an Atlanta City Council proclamation at the gathering.

AARP Georgia later officially developed the Atlanta Age-Friendly Advisory Council. It consists of government agencies, nonprofits, educational institutions and community members, representing eight, WHO-specified livability domains. To evaluate Atlanta's communities, AARP Georgia consolidated the domains to seven, as listed below, based on importance per Atlanta's [Livability Community Survey](#) findings:

- Transportation
- Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
- Community Support and Health Services
- Housing
- Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Communication and Information

Not only did council membership grow, participants also helped to build local awareness by hosting community forums, speaking at the American Planning Association Conference and holding a "tele town hall" for 40,000 AARP members. The first community forum was held in Southwest Atlanta in conjunction with the mayor's Office of Constituent Services and Atlanta City Councilman C.T. Martin. Over 150 seniors attended this event and had roundtable discussions about the livability domains and their community's needs.

Council members and AARP volunteers later collaborated to raise awareness at several citywide neighborhood planning unit meetings.

Age-Friendly Atlanta Designation (cont.)

Completing Year One

The more awareness grew among community residents, the stronger relationships and support developed among the advisory council and local government leaders in 2015.

That year, AARP Georgia convened community forums with Councilwoman Yolanda Adrean in North Atlanta and Joyce Shepherd in Southeast Atlanta to help gauge residents' needs and the communities' current conditions. AARP Georgia also drew attention and support via HomeFit workshops and the Spring Home Show, where residents learned how to make their homes more suitable for aging in place.

Still striving for a greater impact in the local community, AARP Georgia hosted an Age-Friendly Walk Audit in Atlanta's Summerhill neighborhood along the Georgia Avenue corridor. This historic area is adjacent to Turner Field Stadium, the site of a large-scale redevelopment, but it suffers from lack of investment and high vacancy rates. The walk audit consisted of a diverse group of more than 60 people, including neighborhood leaders and representatives from the city's departments of Planning, the Atlanta Housing Authority, City Council, the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Age-Friendly Atlanta Advisory Council, local residents and more. AARP Georgia shared results of the walk audit with the city's Planning department to incorporate into a larger area study.

Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, the nation's largest regional interfaith TV network, also aired the walk, reaching millions of viewers.



Walk auditors tour Atlanta's Summerhill community.

Beginning Year Two

In 2016, the Age-Friendly Atlanta Advisory Council began finalizing its strategic action plan and added new council members. The council continues to host and participate in community events supporting the livability domains, such as Atlanta Streets Alive, which promoted intergenerational activity and AARP programs.

Throughout the two-year phase, AARP has implemented programs to provide education and resources in caregiving, technology, fraud prevention, driver safety and more. And, overall, the organization has expanded awareness and garnered increased participation.

Livability Community Survey

AARP Georgia conducted a [Livability Community Survey](#) in 2015, modeling the WHO's domains for Age-Friendly livable communities. The survey's goal was to help communities: 1) establish a baseline to aid older adults in aging in their community or "age in place," and 2) identify which areas require attention, according to a needs/[gap analysis](#).

AARP mailed the survey to 2,000 of its members and compiled results from 576 completed responses. These members were ages 50-plus and resided within 19 ZIP codes of southeast and southwest Atlanta.

Overall, the survey found that Atlanta residents ages 50 and older:

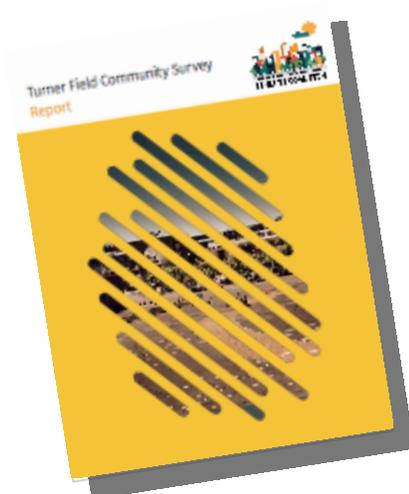
- Have deep roots. Nearly 50 percent have resided in their community for 25 years or more.
- Do not plan to move.
- Believe – nearly 8 in 10 – that their community is a good place for older people to age.
- Rated safe, reliable public Transportation and well-maintained streets as *the* most important livable community domain.
- Ranked Outdoor Spaces and Buildings as a closely related subcategory of Transportation. Significant overlap mandated Outdoor Spaces to list as the second-most important livable community domain.
- Deemed health and wellness among the top three most important livable domains. This topic correlates with the WHO's domain called Community Support and Health Services.

Survey-Identified Community Gaps

Areas needing the most help:

- Job opportunities
- Community information
- Volunteering and civic engagement
- Health and wellness

Turner Field Community Survey



A similar, but noncommissioned-AARP project, the Turner Field Community Survey, assessed residents' opinions of what should happen to their Atlanta southeast neighborhoods surrounding Turner Field Stadium. The survey, conducted in the fall of 2015, focused on Mechanicsville, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, Summerhill and parts of the Grant Park communities. The stadium is the soon-to-be-former home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team and the future site for a Georgia State University development.

With 1,783 total survey responses, residents expressed concerns similar to those in the Atlanta Livability Community Survey, desiring safety, cleanliness and convenience for their area. For information about Turner Field's older adults, please refer to the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings domain section.



Domain 1: Transportation

Vision

Regardless of the service provider, every means of transportation – from sidewalks, bicycles and pedestrian options to public transportation and decent streets for driving – aims to be safe, easily accessible and affordable for all.

In Atlanta, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority and the Office of Transportation and Department of Public Works are the overseeing Transportation entities. They collaborate to keep the city moving.

Current Conditions

Transportation is the No. 1 most important livable community domain among this report’s seven domains, according to Atlanta residents ages 50-plus who responded to AARP’s [Livability Community Survey](#).

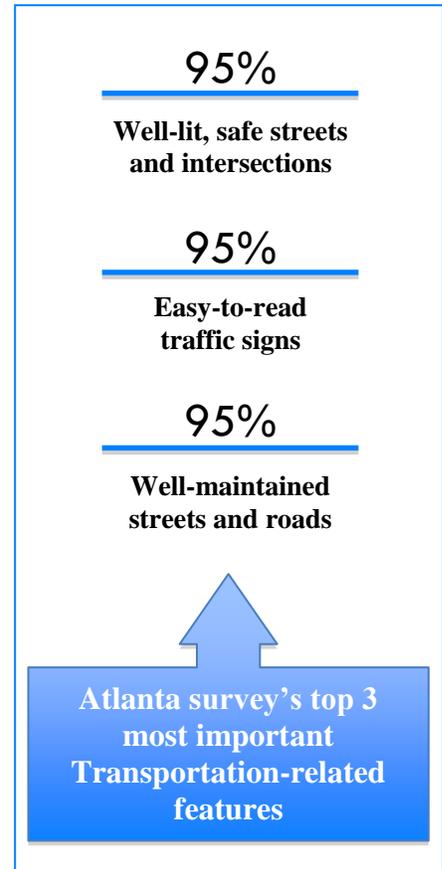
And as more vehicles flood Atlanta’s streets and highways, there is an ever-pressing concern from city officials, planners and residents about Atlanta’s infrastructure and the need for alternative transportation.

Alternative transportation solutions are particularly important for the older adult demographic, as the frequency or ability to drive a personal vehicle may lessen.

However, transitioning from driving one’s own vehicle to using other transportation modes can create fear and anxiety for aging adults, if those options are not safe, easily available, affordable or user-friendly. In addition, studies have shown that more transportation options help older adults to remain active and independent.

Fortunately, Atlanta has been making strides to determine current transportation conditions. The city will use these findings as a benchmark for subsequent improvements to serve everyone’s transportation needs.

Here is how Atlanta’s Transportation options fare, first assessing its AARP Livability Index score, followed by current key initiatives and AARP Georgia’s domain-related activities:



Transportation/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Livability Index

Livable communities provide their residents, regardless of age, with transportation options that connect people to social activities, economic opportunities and medical care, and offer convenient, healthy, accessible and low-cost alternatives to driving.

The [AARP Public Policy Institute](#) ranked Atlanta's total livability index score (comprising seven categories listed at right) at 49. However, its transportation livability index score currently is 57.

Among the various metrics that account for this score, two categories currently rank Atlanta in the *top* one-third of all national communities:

- **Convenient transportation options**

- Frequency of local transit service:

114 buses and trains per hour
vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0

- **Household transportation costs**

- \$9,354/year vs. median U.S. neighborhood: \$10,791

LOCATION	Georgia ^x	Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia ^x
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	46	49
 HOUSING Affordability and access +	49	65
 NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play +	42	58
 TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options +	44	57
 ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water +	52	19
 HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality +	46	64
 ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement +	49	60
 OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities +	42	18

AARP PPI's livability index scores for Atlanta, 2015

Two additional categories rank Atlanta in the *middle* one-third of all national communities:

- **Accessible system design**

- ADA-accessible stations and vehicles:

82.5 percent of stations and vehicles are accessible vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 81.7 percent

- **Convenient transportation options**

- Walk trips:

0.79 trips per household per day vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0.73

The following is the city's response to these and other findings:

Transportation/Current Conditions (cont.)



Historic Fourth Ward Park on the Atlanta BeltLine

Atlanta BeltLine

The Atlanta BeltLine is a development project that encompasses transit, trails and connectivity. It uses an existing 22-mile historic rail corridor that encircles the city. Pedestrian-friendly rail transit and 33 miles of multiuse trails will follow and stretch from this corridor.

The completed beltline will bring together 45 in-town historic neighborhoods and link them to the entire metropolitan Atlanta region through a collection of transit offerings, including the Atlanta Streetcar.

Atlanta BeltLine Inc. plans and implements the 50-mile Atlanta Streetcar system, connecting to the

downtown and crosstown lines and MARTA stations citywide.

This project benefits all ages with walkable spaces created near where older adults reside, allowing them to maintain a satisfactory quality of life without driving.

Atlanta Regional Commission

The ARC serves 10 counties and 70 cities for the Atlanta region and collaborates with the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, MARTA and other regional transit providers. The commission is designated as both the Atlanta region's Metropolitan Planning Organization and Area Agency on Aging.

The metropolitan transportation planning process underscores the link between improved planning and better decisions and provides the tools for comprehensive planning. These tools incorporate land use, development, environmental and transportation considerations. Significant emphasis focuses on broadening participation in planning to include stakeholders who have not traditionally been involved, including community and interest groups, members of the public, the business community and other governmental agencies.

The ARC also engages with citizens to plan for the region's future transportation needs and to assure that such plans conform to air emission requirements, an ongoing environmental concern. AARP's environment livability index score for Atlanta currently is 19, ranking the city in the middle one-third of all national communities. The city averages 12.3 unhealthy air quality days annually compared to eight for the median U.S. neighborhood. Additionally, near-roadway pollution affects 15.67 percent of Atlanta residents, placing the city in the bottom one-third of all national communities. And with a 7.44 index for local industrial pollution, Atlanta again falls within the bottom one-third nationally.

Transportation/Current Conditions (cont.)

Atlanta Regional Commission (cont.)

Such rankings indicate that high traffic, pollution and noise often are unfortunate by-products of transportation, making the following options viable for older adults with mobility and sensitive health issues:

- [Aging and Disability Resource Connection](#), a no-wrong-door center for consumers to call to access home and community services
- [Simply Get There](#) is a project resulting from collaborative ARC efforts, including software development contractors.

This computer app (with phone help also available) allows Atlanta region users to personalize their transportation plans with one click.

It is accessible to the aging population and individuals with disabilities, and meets or exceeds Section 508's requirements of the Rehabilitation Act. ([Section 508](#) is a federal law that requires agencies to provide individuals with disabilities equal access to electronic information and data comparable to those who do not have disabilities, unless there is an undue burden on the agency.)

The Federal Transit Administration's Veterans Transportation and a Community Living Initiative grant fund the project. FTA Mobility Services for All Americans is funding the project's second phase, which will allow trip transactions, including eligibility, booking, scheduling and payment.

- [Travel Training](#), help for older adults and those with lower incomes and disabilities to learn how to use the transit system

Besides the previously mentioned services, the ARC executes the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan to help improve mobility for older adults and those with low incomes and disabilities. Funds from the FTA and Older American's Act Title III provide demand-response trips, fixed route and flex shuttle services throughout the Atlanta region. The ARC uses both vouchers and volunteers for demand-response trips where there are service gaps.

The ARC's recent initiatives also include the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Community-based Care Transitions Program, which provide services for Medicare beneficiaries. These include transportation to medical appointments for up to 30 days post discharge to help prevent unnecessary hospital readmissions. Another initiative is the National Center for Mobility Management Healthcare Access Mobility Design Challenge, which examines using volunteer drivers for dialysis patients.

The ARC's pilot partners are:

Aging and Disability Resource Connection
Atlanta Regional Workforce Board
Cobb Community Transit
disABILITY Link

Georgia Commute Options
Goodwill Industries
Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Atlanta

How to Simply Get There:

- 5 public transit agencies available, including MARTA
- Carpool and vanpool
- Taxi or other private car services
- Specialized services, ideal for older adults needing door-to-door, curb-to-curb services for doctor visits, etc.
- www.simplygetthere.org

Transportation/Current Conditions (cont.)

Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority

MARTA is an integral part of the community, economy and transportation system in the Atlanta region, providing a meaningful mobility choice and an attractive alternative to the automobile. It is a safe, secure and reliable public transportation system, emphasizing customer service and cost effectiveness.

As the ninth-largest transit system in the country, MARTA operates:

- 101 fixed bus routes within the Atlanta service area, including DeKalb, Fulton and Clayton counties.
- Four rail lines (Red and Gold lines [North/South Line], and the Blue and Green lines [East/West line]), serving 38 stations over 96.1 directional route miles.
- Its Mobility program, a paratransit service for patrons with disabilities.
- All vehicles complying with the American Disabilities Act, outfitted with low floors, wheelchair ramps and kneeling features on buses. Trains are load leveling, meaning there is no height difference between the train floor and platforms for all ages' easier access.



MARTA completed a Comprehensive Operations Analysis Study in 2015, examining its existing transit services. The study recommended increased investment over the next decade to expand accessibility and improve connectivity. Additionally, voters approved a [new sales tax](#) in November 2016 for expanded public transportation.

Office of Transportation and Department of Public Works

The city's Office of Transportation is responsible for overseeing and maintaining the city's street network.



This office includes traffic engineering, street operations, traffic signals, streetlights, street signs, street maintenance, on-street parking management and capital/infrastructure improvement projects. New roads, bridges and sidewalks also are among the various capital improvements via this office.

The Capital Projects Division of the DPW Office of Transportation works with the Federal Highway Administration, Georgia DOT, Atlanta Regional Commission, Community Improvement Districts and other governmental and quasi-governmental entities to bring capital improvements to the city. This office has purview of major projects, including funding for new sidewalks, streetscapes, traffic calming and other public improvements.

Transportation/Current Conditions (cont.)

Office of Transportation and Department of Public Works (cont.)

Here are some of the capital transportation projects either planned or underway for 2016:

- [Adams Drive, SW Bridge/Culvert Replacement Project - Council District 11](#)
- [Ansley Park Streetscape Improvement Project - Council District 6](#)
- Bolton Road Streetscape (Paul Avenue to Marietta Boulevard), [Construction Plans](#)
- [Bolton Road/Marietta Road Intersection Improvement Project](#)
- [Danforth Road Streetscape Improvement Project](#)
- [Edgewood Avenue Bridge Closure](#)
- [Edgewood Avenue Detour Route - Krog Street Closure](#)
- [East Atlanta Village Phase 2 Update - June 2013](#)
- [Flat Shoals Sidewalk Installation Project](#)
- [Greenbriar Parkway Streetscape Improvement Project](#)
- [Harris Homes Streetscape Improvement Project](#)
- [Headland Drive Streetscape Improvement Project](#)
- [Howell Mill Road Sidewalk Improvement Project](#)
- [Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Project](#)
- [Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard Transportation Corridor Study Draft Proposal](#)
- [Landrum Drive Streetscape Improvement Project](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Corridor Draft Concept](#)
- [Memorial Drive Sidewalk Improvement Project |Phase II & III](#)
- [Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Project](#)
- [Simpson Road Pedestrian Improvement Project](#)
- [Southwest Atlanta Streetscape Improvement Project](#)

Renew Atlanta

[Renew Atlanta](#) is a \$250 million infrastructure improvement program for the city of Atlanta. It is the most significant investment in Atlanta's aboveground infrastructure in more than a decade and is a first step toward resolving an infrastructure repair backlog of more than \$900 million.

Mayor Kasim Reed and the Atlanta City Council developed this program (*as listed below*), which contains many approved improvements, reflecting feedback from the AARP Age-Friendly [Community Survey](#) of Atlanta:

- Replace streetlights to make neighborhoods safer
 - Repair and replace bridges to connect communities
 - Upgrade traffic lights to make commutes easier and reduce congestion
 - Install a 30-mile [Complete Streets](#) and bicycle lane project for more and safer transportation options
 - Build and repair [sidewalks](#), curbs and Americans with Disabilities Act [ramps](#) for better mobility
 - Upgrade public facilities and improve parks and recreation areas and public art
- One recently announced upgrade came July 7, 2016, when the city broke ground for the new Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center. Renew Atlanta will provide \$17 million in funding for the facility, which users can access via MARTA (*see below and Outdoor Spaces and Buildings*) and the Atlanta Streetcar.

Renew Atlanta achieves other Age-Friendly [transportation initiatives](#) by collaborating with transportation partners, including engineering firm Alta, MARTA, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and the city's Office of Transportation and Public Works Department.

Transportation/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Georgia Transportation Activities

Owning and driving one's own vehicle helps to maintain an active, independent life at any age.

To keep older drivers (and those around them) safe and knowledgeable about being behind the wheel, AARP offers two programs:

- **AARP Driver Safety**

In District 11 (Atlanta's Fulton County), 16 instructors provide more classes and instruct more participants in one year, outpacing many other states, as follows:

In 2015, District 11:

- Conducted 157 classes
- Graduated 2,271 participants
- Surpassed an annual class participant goal of 87 (or 180 percent)
- Surpassed an annual graduate goal of 1,340 (or 169 percent)
- 70 percent of the instructors taught four or more classes

- **CarFit**, a free, educational program that helps drivers to adjust how they fit within their cars to reduce injuries from crashes. The American Society on Aging created the program in collaboration with AAA, the American Occupational Therapy Association and AARP.

In some instances, program participants can save on their auto insurance costs.



Adults ages 65 to 79 outlive their ability to drive safely by an average of 7 to 10 years, according to AAA.

For the first six months in 2016, District 11:

- Conducted 71 year-to-date classes
- Graduated 1,152 year-to-date participants
- Projects an annual class participant goal of 104 (currently at 68 percent)
- Projects an annual graduate goal of 1,685 (currently at 68 percent)

Transportation/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements

Vision: Regardless of the service provider, every means of transportation – from sidewalks, bicycles and pedestrian options to public transportation and decent streets for driving – aims to be safe, easily accessible and affordable for all. Various city transportation entities collaborate to keep the city moving.

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>MARTA: Reach more riders conveniently.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance connectivity to key destinations within Atlanta communities using appropriately sized vehicles. • Improve the system to allow for new circulator/connector routes that conveniently link to the bus and rail system*. • Improve MARTA Mobility (paratransit) service. <p><i>*Voters approved a new sales tax in November 2016 for expanded public transportation.</i></p>	<p>For improved bus service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgraded technologies for improved trip scheduling occurred in October 2016. More trip-planning enhancements are scheduled with the Mobile application redesign in June 2017. • GPS navigation capability was installed throughout the Mobility (paratransit) fleet in August 2016. Fixed route (bus) service will roll out new driver control units with GPS capability in 2017. • Travel Training enhancements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational outreach at senior centers and human service organizations representing people with lower incomes and disabilities, at least one per week. - Office of Mobility Eligibility working with school systems which provide functional assessments to train special-needs customers about how to access fixed bus routes and use the system. - Breeze Card technology to track customers’ travel patterns to appropriately administer resources where needed.
<p>MARTA: Provide easier access to information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for deliveries of schedules and printed information to senior centers and other locations to help the general public and older adults learn about and use nearby service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARTA coordinates getting schedules to the city of Atlanta, upon request, for the senior centers when needed.

Transportation/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements (cont.)

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>MARTA and Atlanta Regional Commission: Improve user accessibility/usage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that affected bus stops become ADA-compliant and easy to access by being involved in infrastructure bond projects and others. • Upgrade bus shelters, benches and sidewalks. • Grow volunteer driver programs • Enhance technology and data management in local human service transportation systems. • Increase provider capacity and funding through regional HST plan and investment strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA conditions (right-of-way, sidewalks, etc.,) are the city’s responsibility, unless they are on MARTA property or at a bus shelter or a MARTA-installed bench. MARTA works with and relies on the city and its contractors, collaborating on transportation and street projects. • Projections to build and upgrade shelters and benches over the next two years are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About 5 shelters, 20 benches in 2017 and 2018. - 10 shelters upgraded from brown to glass in 2017, 3 in 2018. • Volunteer driver program classes will be ongoing and the rate of participation is yet to be determined (<i>see Page 18</i>). • Increased provider capacity and funding will be determined at a future date.
<p>MARTA and Atlanta Regional Commission: Improve communication methods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade public address system in rail stations and electronic signage with enhanced audio and video displays. • Improve bus stop signage. • Ensure that ARC’s information services provide older adults with more support to make informed decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 rail stations to receive PA system and electronic signage with enhancements. Project begins March 2017. • Improved bus stop signs are in progress, involving MARTA partners with other agencies. • More information services support for older adults will occur on an ongoing basis.

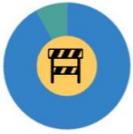
Transportation/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements (cont.)

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
Atlanta Streetcar: Expand service reach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new streetcar routes and miles of connected transit, which includes investing in other forms of public transportation to provide additional connectivity to the streetcar system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 miles of new streetcar routes and 12 miles of connected transit
Public Works and Renew Atlanta: Create better pedestrian/wheelchair mobility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue developing new and repairing old sidewalks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See related links within this domain under “Current Conditions” and estimated project completion dates.
Public Works and Renew Atlanta: Improve more streets and roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue completing the 2016 transportation projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See related links within this domain under “Current Conditions” and estimated project completion dates.
Commission on Aging: Monitor city department activities for older adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a Commission on Aging report, surveying the city’s services, including infrastructure, sidewalks and streets, facility maintenance, traffic control devices and transit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report preparation begins in early 2017 to assess services within 81 senior zones (areas with higher concentrations of older adults).

Transportation/Contributors

Alta
 Atlanta Regional Commission
 City of Atlanta Office of Transportation
 Community Improvement Districts
 Department of Public Works

Federal Highway Administration
 Georgia Department of Human Services
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 MARTA



Domain 2: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Vision

As Atlanta grows, creating and maintaining its nearly 4,000 acres of green spaces and recreational areas is key to keeping neighborhoods viable, livable and accessible for all its citizens.

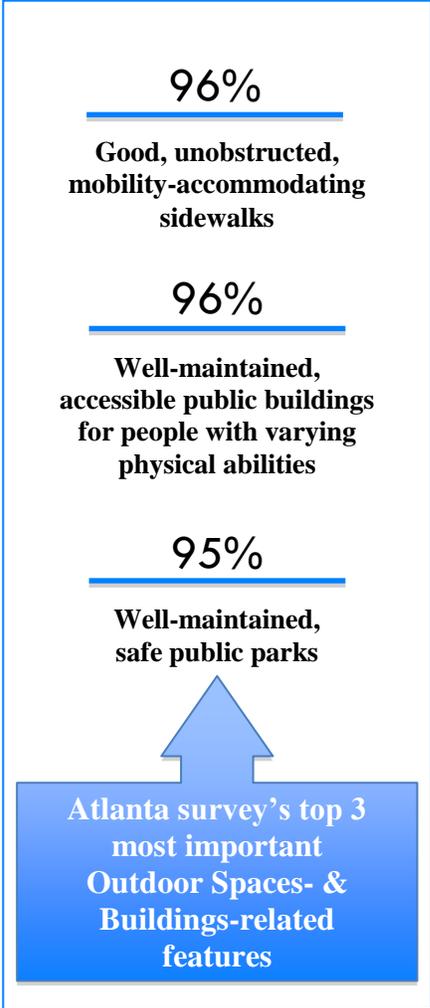
Making Atlanta the city of choice through exceptional spaces and memorable experiences, the city’s Parks and Recreation and Planning and Development departments, as well as its partners, strive to balance being “leaner and greener” with all of their resources.

Current Conditions

Atlanta residents ages 50-plus responding to the [community survey](#) ranked Outdoor Spaces and Buildings as their second-most important domain. However, as mentioned on the Livability Community Survey page, this domain is a closely related subcategory of Transportation. Significant overlap mandated this report to list Outdoor Spaces as the second-most important livable community domain.

Please also note that some data within this section also coincide with the Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation domain. Consequently, there are cross-references, where appropriate, for clarity and succinctness.

Within this domain’s features, good sidewalks and well-maintained public buildings and parks placed highly (*at right*). Survey respondents also cited having public parks with enough benches and well-kept, accommodating public restrooms for different physical abilities as being vital.



For an additional perspective, Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit group that creates parks and protects land, recently conducted a ParkScore analysis on the city. It ranked Atlanta 26th among 40 cities for the number of parks and their accessibility.

Here is how Atlanta’s Outdoor Spaces and Buildings options fare, first assessing its AARP Livability Index score, followed by current key initiatives:

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Livability Index

No definitive score or category within the [AARP Public Policy Institute](#)'s data focuses solely on Outdoor Spaces and Buildings.

However, this domain intertwines with and influences several assessed categories (*highlighted at right*), particularly the Transportation domain.

Notably, Atlanta's Livability Community Survey *does* isolate and analyze Outdoor Spaces and Buildings.

Below is the city's response to these and other findings:

LOCATION	Georgia	Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	46	49
HOUSING Affordability and access	49	65
NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play	42	58
TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options	44	57
ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water	52	19
HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality	46	64
ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement	49	60
OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities	42	18

AARP PPI's livability index scores for Atlanta, 2015

Alta

This private engineering firm partners with Atlanta to help advance Age-Friendly initiatives, providing expertise in: trails; walkable community design; [Complete Streets](#), a national project to improve roads for all users' safety; parks and open spaces; encouragement activities for active living; bike share programs; and more (*see also the Transportation domain*).

Atlanta Region Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

This master plan, recently renamed as [Walk Bike Thrive!](#), for the Atlanta Regional Commission sets the framework where all residents can safely and enjoyably walk and bike, whether for transportation or recreation. Policy, program and project recommendations guide the ARC and the city of Atlanta, using extensive community feedback and a data-driven community assessment of current conditions for people who walk and bike.

The plan was completed in May 2016, directly addressing many recommendations for Age-Friendly spaces and infrastructure. It summarizes demographic trends toward an older population, as well as the high demand in Atlanta for neighborhoods and developments where walking and biking are convenient options.



Bike Share bike station

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings/Current Conditions (cont.)

City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation

Atlanta provides programming for adults ages 55-plus at 14 recreation centers citywide (*see chart below*), all of which incorporate outdoor spaces and buildings within their program services. Asterisks indicate that three of these centers are dedicated “senior program sites.” The new \$23.5 million, 63,000-square-foot Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center also will include a senior center among numerous amenities. The Atlanta Housing Authority donated the land for this natatorium, as Parks and Recreation and Renew Atlanta will provide funding.

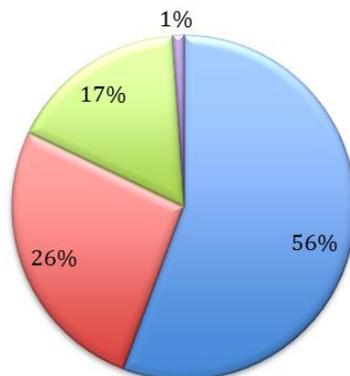
For a sample list of the centers’ programs, including those with outdoor and environmental emphasis, please see the Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation domain.

The Turner Field Community Survey also cited a need for more older adults’ recreation centers.

Adams Recreation Center 1620 Delowe Dr., SW	C.A. Scott Recreation Center* 1565 M.L. King Jr. Dr., NW	James Orange Recreation Center 1305 Oakland Dr., SW
Adamsville Recreation Center 3201 M.L. King Jr. Dr., SW	Coan Park Recreation Center 1530 Woodbine Ave., SE	Old Adamsville Recreation Center* 3404 Delmar Lane, NW
Anthony Flanagan Memorial Recreational Center 3240 W. Manor Circle, SW	Dunbar Neighborhood Center 477 Windsor St., SW	Pittman Park Recreation Center 950 Garibaldi Ave. SE
Ben Hill Recreation Center 2405 Fairburn Rd., SW	Grove Park Recreation Center 759 Frances Place, NW	Rosel Fann Recreation Center 365 Cleveland Ave., SE
Butler Park Recreation Center* 98 W.H. Holmes Borders Dr., SW	*Dedicated senior program sites	Zaban Recreation Center 241 Daniel Ave., SE

Existing Atlanta City Parks

■ Regional Park ■ Community Park ■ Neighborhood Park ■ Block Park



Many of Atlanta’s parks experience heavy usage almost year-round.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings/Current Conditions (cont.)

City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation (cont.)



Cycle Atlanta Plan

Atlanta is progressing into a bike-friendly city for all ages, thanks in part to *The Cycle Atlanta: Phase 1.0 Study*. This study represents a strategy to create a complete, connected network of high-quality bicycle facilities in the core of the city. The study is now in the implementation phase and is part of the *Connect Atlanta* transportation plan.



Atlanta BeltLine Southwest Connector Trail

Specifically, five cycling corridors will extend from the Atlanta BeltLine into the center of the city. Completing the bikeway network along each corridor will improve cycling conditions and expand route options that are desirable for a wide range of cyclists. When implemented, the improved and expanded bikeway network will enhance connections between neighborhoods, job centers, transit stations, tourist attractions, shops and restaurants, plus other daily destinations.

To develop facility concepts and route alignments, city staff, key local stakeholders and the community provided input. The *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* from the National Association of City Transportation Officials also provided guidance with adjustments made to local context and policy. To help develop routes, Georgia Tech created a smartphone [app, called Cycle Atlanta](#), to track bicycle trip information.

The study provides a five-year implementation strategy for each of the five corridors and includes cross-section treatments and planning-level cost estimates per corridor.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings/Current Conditions (cont.)

Park Patrol and Other Security

Vast green space and accommodating buildings can remain empty if residents feel unsafe using them. To increase the culture of safety, Parks and Recreation:

- Hired a safety and training officer in 2011 who instituted a training program for field personnel
- Debuted Park Patrol, a 2012 pilot program of using four, off-duty Atlanta Police Department officers
- Invested more than \$5 million since 2014, upgrading facilities to include cameras, alarms and other security features

Renew Atlanta

The city allots some of Renew Atlanta's \$250 million for upgrading [public buildings](#) to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Such upgrades include restrooms in Department of Public Works buildings and neighborhood centers.

“Sweet Auburn Living Beyond Expectations” Tactical Urbanism

The ARC's Lifelong Communities program combined efforts with *StreetPlans* and *Build a Better Block* in June 2014 to transform two blocks of Auburn Avenue in downtown Atlanta into a livable community for all ages. The temporary demonstration used “Tactical Urbanism” – affordable, easy-to-build displays (such as pop-up bike lanes, plazas, food trucks and way finding) and programmed events, such as Tai Chi and gallery openings. The local community participated in all planning and implementation, and brought attention and increased investment to a neglected section of the historic street.

The event also involved a workshop for Atlanta's civic leaders and planners to learn more temporary demonstration tactics that inspire long-term improvements to the walking and biking infrastructure.

Additional Age-Friendly Projects

Other recent initiatives impacting the built environment for people ages 8-80+ include:

- Atlanta Streetcar Design/Build
- Atlanta Downtown South Transit Station redesign
- Georgia Tech Bicycle Master Plan
- Buckhead Community Improvement District Road Restriping Plan
- Atlanta BeltLine planning and design
- GA 400 Multiuse Trail

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements

Vision: As Atlanta grows, creating and maintaining its nearly 4,000 acres of green spaces and recreational areas is key to keeping neighborhoods viable, livable and accessible for all its citizens. Through exceptional spaces and memorable experiences, the city and its contributors strive to balance being “leaner and greener” with all of their resources.

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>Parks and Recreation and Planning and Development departments: Develop exceptional spaces and diverse experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Facilities Provision Plan for entire Department of Parks and Recreation, defining the number, type and distribution of facilities, and parkland needed for residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner with Project Greenspace, a comprehensive program plan, for safety and programmatic needs. - Identify gaps and a plan for future facilities based on robust analytical data. - Ensure access to parks and event and program locations through adequate distribution, planning best practices and strategic acquisitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities Provision Plan will be developed and released at a future date.
<p>Parks and Recreation and Planning and Development departments: Improve accessibility for people with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop more Americans with Disabilities Act policy- and life skill-related training for directors, managers and staff. • Implement required ADA renovations at facilities and parks. • Create annual goals and objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See related links within this domain under “Current Conditions” and estimated project completion dates.
<p>Parks and Recreation and Planning and Development departments: Develop and maintain asset management system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create division-specific annual goals and objectives to include: annual assessment and improvements to operational plans; inventory; improve preventative maintenance and life cycle replacement; and upgrade current facilities’ and parks’ safety and quality level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals and objectives will be determined at a future date.
<p>Parks and Recreation and Planning and Development departments: Make parks safer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access and provide diverse, productive programming for youth and teens to reduce child-related crime, using well-designed, well-used facilities and the Centers of Hope, a citywide program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved park safety measures will begin at a future date.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings/Contributors

- Alta
- Atlanta Fire Rescue Department
- Atlanta Police Department
- Department of Planning and Community Development
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Watershed Management
- Eco-A Nature Walks & Photography
- Fulton County Division of Aging Services
- Humana
- JenCare
- Kaiser Permanente
- Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs
- Park Pride
- Project Greenspace
- Put Up Your Dukes Foundation
- VITAS Healthcare
- WellCare
- Winter Johnson Group
- 4Front Health Care



Domain 3: Community Support and Health Services

Vision

Helping all people to live their best life – through quality, accessible health care – is the bedrock of every health agent. Grady Health System, Emory University Hospital and the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority are such service providers in Atlanta.

Current Conditions

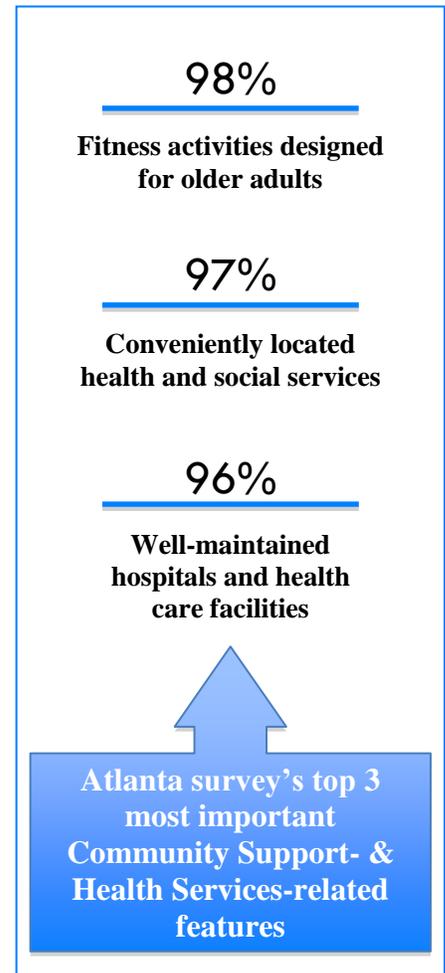
Health and wellness was Atlanta survey takers' third-most important domain, according to the 2015 [Livability Community Survey](#). (This topic correlates with the WHO's domain called Community Support and Health Services.)

The Atlanta survey indicates that older adults realize how health directly affects every aspect of life; they heavily emphasized the importance of age-specific fitness activities and having related services nearby (*see right*).

Interestingly, in a seven-way tie for third place at 96 percent, the same survey finds the following features to be important: well-maintained health facilities, various health care professionals, respectful staffs, convenient emergency care centers, understandable hospital-answering services, easy-to-find health information and a health referral service for older adults.

However, *knowing* what is important and actually *having* that feature available are two different things. According to the community needs/[gap analysis](#), Atlanta survey respondents found that health and wellness options in the city are lacking. Their unfavorable assessment, particularly regarding accessible exercise opportunities, contradicts [AARP Public Policy Institute](#)'s data found on the following page. The respondents' review is due, more than likely, to the lack of communication about wellness services provided.

Here is how Atlanta's Community Support and Health Services options fare, first assessing its AARP Livability Index score, followed by current key initiatives and AARP Georgia's domain-related activities:



Community Support and Health Services/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Livability Index

Although Atlanta residents cited significant Community Support and Health Services deficiencies in their [gap analysis](#), AARP's findings were more favorable.

In fact, the second-highest total livability index score – 64 – applies to health, according to the [AARP Public Policy Institute](#)'s data.

Among the various metrics that account for this score, three categories currently rank Atlanta in the top one-third of all national communities:

- **Healthy behaviors**

- Smoking prevalence:

16 percent of people smoke often vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 20.3 percent

- Obesity prevalence:

22.1 percent of people are obese vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 27.8 percent

- **Quality of health care**

- Preventable hospitalization rate:

46.1 preventable hospitalizations per 1,000 patients vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 62.1

Three additional categories rank Atlanta in the middle one-third of all national communities:

- **Healthy behaviors**

- Access to exercise opportunities:

91 percent of people have access vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 83.2 percent

- **Access to health care**

- Health care professional shortage areas:

5 index from 0 to 25 vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0

- **Quality of health care**

- Patient satisfaction:

64.8 percent satisfied vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 67.3 percent

LOCATION	Georgia	Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	46	49
 HOUSING Affordability and access	49	65
 NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play	42	58
 TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options	44	57
 ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water	52	19
 HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality	46	64
 ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement	49	60
 OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities	42	18

AARP PPI's livability index scores for Atlanta, 2015

Community Support and Health Services/Current Conditions (cont.)

Below is the city's response to these and other findings via the state's Division of Aging Services, Area Agency on Aging per the Atlanta Regional Commission and Fulton County:

- **Atlanta Fire and Rescue Department** – AFRD responds to fire and medical service calls, spanning 132 square miles within city limits. Additionally, stations provide free blood pressure monitoring, and during the summer, free bottled water to residents. Firefighters also assist with various community events affiliated with the Office of Constituent Services, including distributing window fans to older adults (*see also the Respect domain*).
- **Community Gardens** – Citywide community gardens provide older adults access to healthy, fresh fruits and vegetables and opportunities to remain physically and socially active through gardening.



Atlanta Fire and Rescue responds to a call.

- **Council on Aging** – This Atlanta organization focuses on older adults' health, offering educational sessions at senior centers, faith-based organizations and other community groups. The sessions emphasize healthy aging, prescription drug assistance and more. The council also distributes information about available health services and programs at community health fairs, libraries, churches and more.
- **Farmer's Markets** – The state-developed Farmer's Market Nutrition Program provides vouchers to older adults to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmer's markets. Besides healthy food options, participants enjoy walking around and engaging with others at the market.
- **Grady Memorial Hospital** – As the state's largest hospital, the city of Atlanta's public hospital and a leading Level 1 trauma center, Grady offers: [NICHE](#), Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders, a nurse-driven program in which Grady is certified to help care for patients ages 65 and older; the ACE unit, Acute Care for the Elderly, specialized inpatient and transitional care management to reduce medical complications and readmissions after hospital discharge; the [Emma I. Darnell Geriatric Center](#); and hospital and neighborhood health centers located along public transportation routes.
- **Health clinics in schools** – Emory University-led private funders have been working with local groups since 2010, opening clinics within at least four Atlanta Public [Schools](#) this year. The clinics not only provide health care services for students and staff, but eventually, the entire neighborhood. A nurse practitioner or physician's assistant with a doctor's oversight provides basic health care, while some clinics offer dental or mental health services.
- **Living Well workshops** – Stanford University developed the Living Well workshops, a suite of chronic disease self-management education programs. Program participants in Atlanta and metro Atlanta meet 2.5 hours once a week for six consecutive weeks. They learn how to manage pain, fatigue and other symptoms, enhance physical strength and endurance, and communicate with health professionals, family and friends.

Community Support and Health Services/Current Conditions (cont.)

- **Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meal programs** – These programs provide nutritionally balanced, home-delivered and congregate meal services respectively for older adults. Nutritional counseling, assessments and screenings also are available.
- **Neighborhood parks and walking trails** – The city of Atlanta has made a conscious effort to increase the number of safe, accessible parks and trails in its communities as cited in the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings and Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation domains. This presents an opportunity for seniors to engage in physical activity that ultimately promotes physical and mental health.
- **Senior centers** – These viable resources, as listed in the Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation domain, offer older adults options to become physically active, nutritionally savvy and socially connected.
- **SPARC** – Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration prevention clinics focus on preventing chronic conditions that disproportionately plague older adults.
- **University research projects and organizations** – The Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University actively engages in research and programs that promote healthy aging for Atlanta’s aging population. Students and faculty continue to support intergenerational activities and chronic disease self-management.
- **YMCA** – The YMCA provides physical fitness classes, specifically for an aging population, in all fitness levels and an opportunity for social engagement.

AARP Georgia Community/Health Services Activities



Getting healthier and staying fit not only applies to self-care, but also to those tending to others. AARP Georgia works to encourage both through:

- **Careversations**, a get-together featuring food and fellowship where caregivers can learn about caregiving resources.
 - **Living Longer, Living Smarter**, a workshop about long-term care and the benefits of planning. Participants create a comprehensive plan involving their home, health, finances and legal wishes.
- AARP encourages participants to inform their families about their preferences well in advance to make life easier later.
- **Prepare to Care**, workshops providing resources for caregivers in Atlanta, including tips on setting up a caregiving support team. Workshops also include a free [booklet](#) to help participants create a caregiving plan with their families.

Community Support and Health Services/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements

Vision: Helping all people in Atlanta to live their best life – through quality, accessible health care – is the bedrock of every health agent.

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>Grady via Community Health Improvement Plan: Improve care coordination for patients with diabetes, hypertension, prostate cancer, HIV/AIDS and behavioral health diagnoses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement Safety Net Medical Home model focused on patient care/ treatment protocols and lay health workers to improve disease management and control. ● Collaborate with partners (Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement, Westside Health Collaborative, Public Health departments, etc.) and leverage internal resources to improve care management and ensure appropriate follow-up for high-risk patients using patient navigators, increased monitoring, preventive screenings and community health workers. ● Convene and collaborate with stakeholders to support infrastructure/ policy development to streamline and promote using community health workers to serve Grady patients and the community. ● Optimize resource utilization to improve behavioral health services for Grady patients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 20 new ARCHI partners by 2019. ● 12 community health workers by 2019 (2016 baseline: 6). ● 300 patients to receive additional care coordination by 2019 (2014-2016 baseline: 200 high-risk patients).

Community Support and Health Services/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements (cont.)

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>Grady via Community Health Improvement Plan: Increase patient and community engagement in healthy behaviors to prevent diabetes, hypertension, HIV, unintentional injuries and homicide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy behaviors (smoking cessation, physical activity, healthy eating and sexual practices) among Grady patients by increasing patient engagement in care plans and providing resources, referrals, follow-up. • Collaborate with stakeholders and community partners (ARCHI, Atlanta BeltLine, Public Health departments, senior centers) to support program/policy development to promote healthy behaviors. • Partner with key education and community-based groups to prevent homicide and reduce unintended injuries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 injury prevention events by 2019 (2016 baseline: 20). • 2,000 program participants by 2019 (2016 baseline: 1,000, including older adults). • 6,000 patients to receive HIV treatment by 2019 (2016 baseline: 5,800).

Community Support and Health Services/Contributors

Atlanta Fire and Rescue Department
 Atlanta Regional Commission
 Atlanta Public Schools
 Area Agency on Aging
 Emory University

Georgia’s Division of Aging Services
 Georgia State University
 Grady Health System
 Healing Community Centers
 Southside Medical Center



Domain 4: Housing

Vision

No matter one's age, shelter is a must-have for every human being in every community. In Atlanta, the Atlanta Housing Authority, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity (along with other nonprofits) and Invest Atlanta exist to help fulfill that need.

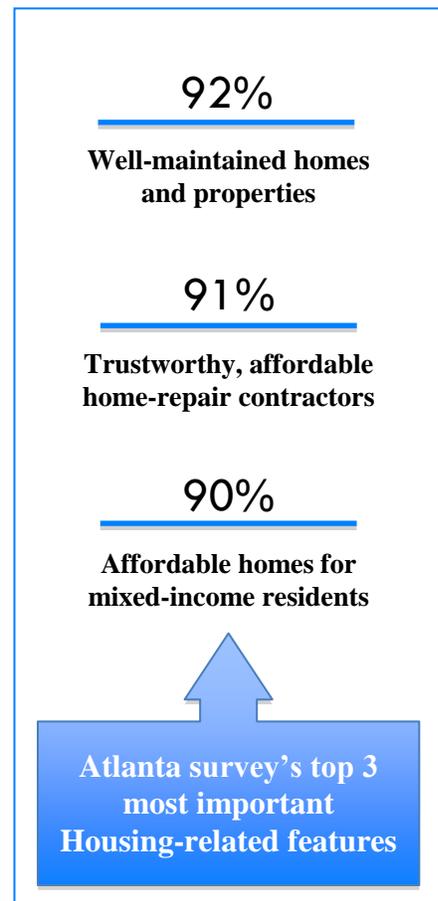
Each entity follows its own procedures, simplifying the "American Dream" of owning or living in an affordable, quality home with independence, responsibility and pride.

Current Conditions

Housing ranked fourth among the livable community domains for Atlanta [community survey](#) respondents ages 50-plus.

With almost half of the respondents living in their community for 25 years or more and most planning to "age in place," it means that home maintenance and repair help (or the lack thereof) are among their pivotal concerns (*see right*).

Here is how Atlanta's Housing options fare, first assessing its AARP Livability Index score, followed by current key initiatives and AARP Georgia's domain-related activities:



AARP Livability Index

A total livability index score of 65 by the [AARP Public Policy Institute](#) ranked Housing first in Atlanta.

Three of the following five metrics used to calculate this score rank Atlanta in the top one-third of all national communities:

- **Housing accessibility**
 - Basic passage (wider doors and hallways; no steps between rooms; main-level bedroom and bathroom):

3 percent vs. median U.S. neighborhood:
2.6 percent

LOCATION	Georgia	Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	46	49
HOUSING Affordability and access	49	65
NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play	42	58
TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options	44	57
ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water	52	19
HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality	46	64
ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement	49	60
OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities	42	18

AARP PPI's livability index scores for Atlanta, 2015

Housing/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Livability Index (cont.)

- **Housing options**

- Multifamily housing (*not* single-family, detached homes, often older adults' preference):

55.5 percent of units vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 18.8 percent

- **Housing affordability**

- Subsidized housing availability

267 units per 10,000 people (*more than twice the national median average*)
vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 124 units

Atlanta scores poorly – in the bottom one-third of national scores – in two areas: \$1,297 for monthly mortgage or rent and 22.8 percent spent from residents' household budget. The median U.S. neighborhood data are \$999 and 18.4 percent respectively.

Below is the city's response to these and other findings:

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity

Atlanta Habitat assists older adults who are first-time homebuyers with area median incomes ranging between 36 to 80 percent or fall within certain exceptions. They, like other Habitat homeowners, live in energy-efficient, green, modest, single-story homes and lower-priced rehabbed houses with the same standards. Wide doors, ramp access and handicap accessibility are among the amenities.

In addition, Atlanta Habitat provides:

- **Repair With Kindness**, a program for lower-income Atlanta homeowners, including older adults.

This program is available to households with up to 80 percent AMI with no minimum income requirement. Atlanta Habitat offers up to \$20,000 in critical repairs and weatherization.

Although the household pays nothing, there is a sweat-equity requirement (meaning, homeowners must volunteer with Atlanta Habitat), and a forgivable second mortgage secures the repair costs for five years. After five years, the loan is forgiven. Currently, Atlanta Habitat has limited funding for this program.



Atlanta Habitat Features

- \$800 good-faith deposit
- Free will and testament service to protect homeowners' assets
- \$0 closing costs
- 0% interest mortgage
- 0 mortgage sells
- House payments < \$650
- Staff support to homeowners during loan's lifetime

Housing/Current Conditions (cont.)

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity (cont.)

- **Brush With Kindness**, a program for Atlanta Habitat homeowners with 30 to 80 percent AMI, who have lived in their homes for at least 10 years and are current on their mortgage payments. If selected, Atlanta Habitat paints the home free of charge, but the homeowner must make all necessary repairs and power wash the house beforehand.

Current ages for Atlanta Habitat homeowners show that:

- 33 percent (or 392 residents) are over age 55; 17 percent of whom (or 208 residents) over age 60.
- 67 percent are under age 55.

In 2016, Atlanta Habitat plans to build 50 new houses and partner with five more households to sell them rehabilitated houses that meet its handicap-accessible, energy-efficient standards.



Atlanta Falcons head coach Dan Quinn and the Arthur Blank Foundation volunteers paint for homeowner Dorothy Stephens (right).

Atlanta Housing Authority

As Georgia's largest public housing agency, AHA continued advancing several programs in 2015, providing quality, affordable housing. Creating market-quality, mixed-use, mixed-income, amenity-rich communities allows the authority to combine several strategies, including:

- **Aging in Place and Aging Well Program**
This program encourages and empowers older adults to actively age in place, addressing the "Seven Dimensions of Wellness" (spiritual, physical, environmental, vocational, emotional, intellectual and social) through activities and support services.

To promote greater social and emotional connections, AHA has invested over \$20 million in enhancing its high-rise buildings' common areas, including:

- Physical improvements: computer rooms, exercise facilities, open common spaces, walking trails and community gardens.
- Service enhancements: computer instruction and support, aerobics classes and health education seminars. Service providers assist residents, including Emory University Fuqua Center for Late Life Depression for mental health stabilization services and property management staff training.



Affordable Auburn Pointe housing for 324 older adults

Housing/Current Conditions (cont.)

Atlanta Housing Authority (cont.)

AHA also hosts events for assisted residents, such as the annual Senior Farmers Market where fresh produce and healthy cooking classes support physical well-being, and the Annual Senior Health and Wellness Resource Fair, offering nearly 300 older adults access to free health screenings and more.

- **AHA-owned residential communities***

AHA operates 13 public housing-assisted residential properties: 11 high-rises and two small-family communities (*listed below*). Residents living in high-rises are ages 55 and older or adults with disabilities.

AHA's private property managers operate each community comprehensively, including waitlists, admissions and daily operations. At each property, resident services coordinators support residents' growth in line with AHA's Aging Well program.

- **Housing Choice Voucher Program**, also

known as "Section 8." It offers families the greatest mobility and broadest range of choices in selecting where they live. With the voucher, families may identify quality housing anywhere in or beyond the Atlanta city limits, without paying more than 30 percent of their adjusted income toward rent and utilities. AHA pays the portion of rent that families do not cover.

- **Mixed-income communities**, consisting of two types of housing opportunities: subsidized and market-rate units. AHA and its partners have transformed former public housing communities to create these 16 master-planned communities** (*listed below*), blending rental housing, schools, green space, retail and other amenities. Under its Project-Based Rental Assistance program, AHA encourages private-sector owners of multifamily developments to reserve a portion of their units as affordable. AHA provides rental assistance for eligible residents of the affordable units.

- **Supportive Housing Program** provides at-risk populations with stable housing, which includes intensive case management and support services. At-risk populations include homeless individuals and families, people with physical, mental or developmental disabilities, military veterans, families separated due to the lack of housing and youth aging out of foster care. AHA also offers an affordable, assisted-living facility, providing an alternative to costly nursing home care for older residents to age in place.

* AHA-owned residential communities: Barge Road High-rise; Cheshire Bridge Road High-rise; Cosby Spear High-rise; East Lake High-rise; Georgia Avenue High-rise; Juniper and Tenth High-rise; Marian Road High-rise; Marietta Road High-rise; Martin Street Plaza; Peachtree Road High-rise; Piedmont Road High-rise; and Westminster

** AHA master-planned communities: Ashley Courts at Cascade; Ashley Terrace at West End; Auburn Pointe; Capitol Gateway; Centennial Place; College Town at West End; Columbia Commons; Columbia Tower at MLK Village; Columbia Village; Magnolia Park; Mechanicsville; Scholars Landing; Villages at Carver; Villages at Castleberry Hill; Villages of East Lake; and West Highlands



HUD secretary Julian Castro (at podium) announces Atlanta's Westside as a Promise Zone designee in June 2016, while Atlanta Mayor Reed (right) applauds. AHA's Choice Neighborhoods is redeveloping 566 units in that area slated for federal aid.

Housing/Current Conditions (cont.)

Invest Atlanta

Invest Atlanta is the official economic development authority for the city of Atlanta. The mayor chairs this agency and a nine-member board of directors governs its work, focusing on developing and fostering public/private partnerships to create jobs, grow the economy, revitalize neighborhoods, attract investment, spur innovation and encourage entrepreneurship. To achieve these goals, Invest Atlanta leverages the benefits of bond financing, revolving loan funds, housing financing, tax increment financing and tax credits.

Since 2013, Invest Atlanta has approved/closed 10 affordable developments (*see below*), totaling over 1,300 units (more than 1,000 of which were for older adults' housing) where residents pay less than 30 percent of their income for housing. Invest Atlanta also approved bond financing on July 21, 2016, for elderly assisted living/ memory care. The funding will finance 118 units with 20 percent set aside for residents with incomes less than 50 percent of area median income.

Projects Approved/Closed Since 2013	Total Units	Affordable Units	Invest Atlanta Investment	Leverage Investment	Rental Assistance
Abernathy Towers	100	99	\$8,300,000	\$8,895,557	*HAP Contract
Boynton Village	43	43	\$800,000	\$6,859,499	HAP Contract
City Lights	80	80	\$8,100,000	\$7,782,713	HAP Contract
Gateway Capitol View	162	162	\$14,500,000	\$8,738,156	**AHA Contract
Oasis of Vine City	105	105	\$8,250,000	\$6,387,948	AHA Contract
Piedmont Towers	208	207	\$13,000,000	\$7,953,409	HAP Contract
The Remington	160	160	\$10,120,000	\$10,833,409	AHA Contract
Reynoldstown Senior	70	69	\$5,500,000	\$11,741,993	HAP Contract
Trestletree Village	188	188	\$11,940,000	\$12,298,372	AHA Contract
Wheat Street Towers	208	208	\$11,500,000	\$12,549,187	HAP Contract
TOTALS	1324	1321	\$80,510,000	\$81,491,056	

*Housing Assistance Payments

**Atlanta Housing Authority

Housing/Current Conditions (cont.)

Other Housing Initiatives

Besides Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, these citywide nonprofits also provide limited, minor repairs for free or low cost for older adults or those with disabilities, including: [HouseProud Atlanta](#), [HopeWorks](#), [Meals on Wheels](#), [Rebuilding Atlanta Together](#) and [Senior Connections](#).

Additionally, the [Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation](#) provides funding for these Atlanta housing initiatives:

- [Westside Roots](#) – The Westside Roots Home Repair, Rehabilitation and Stabilization program began in 2016, partnering with Invest Atlanta and The Home Depot Foundation. The \$200,000, one-year grant provides Westside homeowners in the English Avenue, Vine City and Castleberry Hill neighborhoods with targeted home repair and legal services. Homeowners must have resided in the neighborhood for at least three years.
- [Georgia Appleseed](#) – Via a \$140,000, one-year grant, Atlanta’s older adults and other long-time homeowners living in Atlanta’s Westside can obtain pro-bono housing legal services. These services will allow them to remain “housing stable” and access financial assistance.

AARP Georgia Housing Activities

As the Atlanta community survey indicated, most older adults plan to “age in place.” To help them plan for independence, choice and dignity, AARP Georgia offers its own HomeFit program. It teaches participants how to navigate all types of living spaces, including their own homes, should stairs or assistive devices become concerns. AARP Georgia provides citywide, free workshops and resources, such as the [HomeFit Guide](#) and HomeFit Assessments, to the faith-based community, businesses and community groups.

Housing/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements

Vision: No matter one’s age, shelter is a must-have for every human being in every community. Each Atlanta housing entity exists to help fulfill that need, following its own procedures and simplifying the “American Dream” of owning or living in an affordable, quality home with independence, responsibility and pride.

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>Atlanta Habitat for Humanity: Make a more effective impact with home repair and painting programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Repair With Kindness projects in the same neighborhood (Dixie Hills and the Westside) versus individual homes scattered throughout the city. • Complete Brush With Kindness painting projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 25 RWK projects in 2016 in Dixie Hills and the Westside versus individual homes scattered throughout the city.* • Complete 15 BWK painting projects in 2016. <p><i>*Atlanta BeltLine also plans to repair 16 homes over the next year.</i></p>
<p>Atlanta Habitat for Humanity: Simplify where homeowners get information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a list of home repair programs and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate home repair programs/resources list at AARP’s HomeFit workshops.
<p>Atlanta Habitat for Humanity: Make home improvement loans more affordable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a zero percent interest loan for qualified AHH homeowners, allowing them to make significant home repairs or more handicap-accessible improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a zero percent interest loan by December 2016.
<p>AHA: Continue the Aging Well Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with resident services coordinators on programs promoting the “Seven Dimensions of Wellness.” • Ensure that the Service Providers Network includes senior- and health-focused service providers. • Organize the Senior Farmers Market. • Partner with Quality Living Services to host the Health and Wellness Resource Fair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinators meet monthly to access needs/outcomes regarding community support services. • The AHA Service Providers Network meets quarterly to encourage and allow providers to organize, implement and access services.

Housing/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements (cont.)

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>AHA: Preserve and expand affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue upgrades to AHA-owned residential communities and high-rises for older adults. • Expand PBRA affordable housing opportunities citywide. • Open the Housing Choice Voucher waiting list. • Continue developing new, affordable units at Scholars Landing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the next 10 years, all high-rises in AHA-owned residential communities are scheduled for upgrades. • Over the next four years, current plans provide an additional 1,161 affordable housing units, scheduled citywide for older adults.

Housing/Contributors

Atlanta BeltLine
 Atlanta Habitat for Humanity
 Atlanta Housing Authority
 Home Depot Foundation
 HopeWorks
 HouseProud Atlanta

HUD
 Invest Atlanta
 Meals on Wheels (home repairs)
 Public/private/nonprofit partnerships
 Quality Living Services
 Volunteers



Domain 5: Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation

Vision

Unlike the previous report sections, this domain underscores some of life’s intangibles: respect, social inclusion and social participation. At its core lies this unequivocal fact: People want others to hear, see and appreciate them. Aging adults are no different.

To help give voice, direction and resolve to older adults’ concerns, Atlanta designates the Department of Parks and Recreation, the mayor’s Office of Constituent Services, the Atlanta Police Department and Atlanta Public Schools.

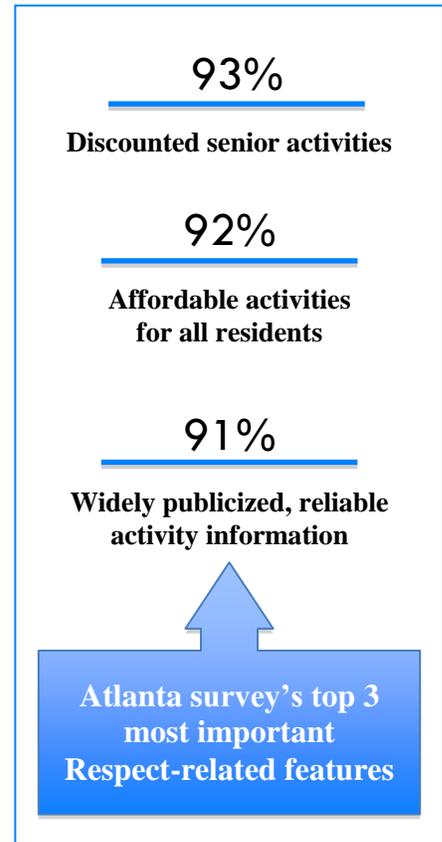
Current Conditions

In the Atlanta [community survey](#), residents ages 50-plus ranked Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation as the fifth-most important domain.

What is most telling about this domain’s top features (*at right*) is that older adults not only want to remain active, they also wish to stay informed, particularly via local schools, for some of those activities.

Please also note that some data within this section also coincide with the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings and Civic Participation and Employment domains. Consequently, there are cross-references, where appropriate, for clarity and succinctness.

Here is how Atlanta’s Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation options fare, first assessing its AARP Livability Index score, followed by current key initiatives.



Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Livability Index

Within the [AARP Public Policy Institute](#)'s data, two categories correlate to Atlanta's Respect domain: Engagement and Opportunity.

Among the various metrics used to calculate their scores of 60 and 18 respectively, the following categories rank Atlanta in the top one-third of all national communities:

- **Internet access**

- Broadband cost and speed

27.2 percent of Atlanta residents have high-speed, low-cost internet service vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0

- **Social engagement**

- Cultural, arts and entertainment institutions

1.5 organizations per 10k people vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0.6

The following two categories rank Atlanta in the middle one-third of all national communities:

- **Civic engagement**

- Opportunity for civic involvement

7.2 organizations per 10k people vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 7.3

- **Civic engagement**

- Voting rate

56 percent vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 55.6 percent

The following category ranks Atlanta in the bottom one-third of all national communities:

- **Multigenerational communities**

- Age diversity

0.78 index vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0.87

LOCATION	Georgia	Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	46	49
HOUSING Affordability and access	49	65
NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play	42	58
TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options	44	57
ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water	52	19
HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality	46	64
ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement	49	60
OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities	42	18

AARP PPI's livability index scores for Atlanta, 2015

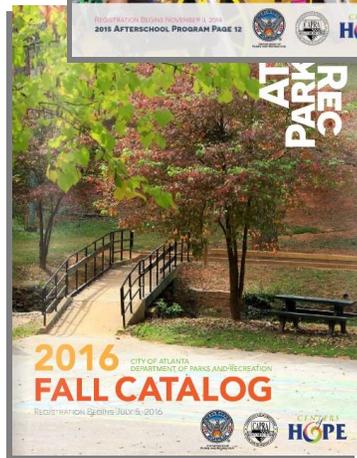
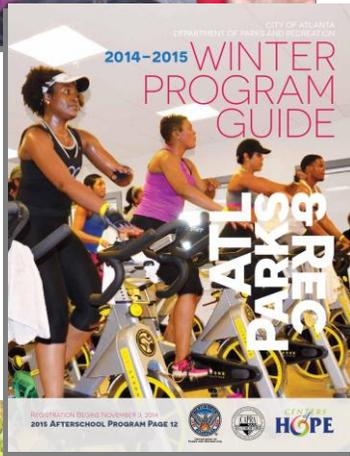
Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation/Current Conditions (cont.)

Office of Constituent Services (cont.)

- **Support 14 recreation centers** (listed on Page 24, sample activities on Page 47) in providing senior programming. Three of these centers are dedicated “senior program sites.”

Department of Parks and Recreation

To meet the city’s diverse, Age-Friendly needs, this city department addresses fitness, nutrition, technology, cultural enrichment and environmental opportunities for adults ages 55-plus via:



- **Camp Best Friends for Seniors**, a free summer camp for Atlanta residents ages 55-plus. The camp, which offers table games, dance, lunch and more, operates two to five days a week.
- **Golden Age Clubs**, department-supported groups serving 298 dues-paying, older adults. Begun in 1957 for retirees, the clubs meet at 14 recreation centers once a month and take two trips annually with the department.
- **Prime Time Seniors**, a recreation initiative that helps older adults stay physically and mentally fit at no cost. Activities and events, ranging from computer labs to kickboxing to meals and snacks, provide fun and active choices for Atlanta residents. Currently, 1,115 older adults participate in this program.
- **Senior Athletic Pass**, a \$65 annual fee allowing older residents unlimited access to all of the city’s recreation centers with athletic amenities. Currently, 314 older adults enjoy gyms, exercise/weight rooms, racquetball courts, natatoriums, outdoor pools and free public programming.
- **Year-Round Senior Programming**, free, daily, year-round activities offered one to five days a week. Events include field trips, movies, gardening, book club, cooking classes and board games.

Youth community organizer (top) and spin class meet at city recreation centers (middle), and the latest catalog is now available.

Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation/Current Conditions (cont.)

Department of Parks and Recreation (cont.)

Table 2 – Sample of Age-Friendly Recreation Center Activities*

Names	Activities
Grove Park Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Open Lab (Computer): Tue, Thu, 10-11 a.m. • Senior exercise: Tue, Thu, 11 a.m.-noon
Adamsville Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior aerobics: (Mon, Wed, Fri) Noon-1 p.m. • Senior yoga: Wed, 6-7p.m.
Coan Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line dancing: Mon, 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Bingo: Mon, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Jewelry making: Mon, 1-2 p.m. • Computer classes: Tue, 10-11 a.m. • Walking exercise group: Fri, 10-11 a.m.
Rosel Fann Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tue: Sassy Seniors group, senior field trips, 10 a.m.-noon
Ben Hill Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tue: Bridge Club, 6-10 p.m. • Tue, Thu: Aerobics, 8-9 p.m. • Fri: Line dancing, 7-8 p.m. • Mon-Thu (Jan.-May): Computer classes, 10 a.m.-noon
C.A. Scott Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior exercise, Tue & Thu 10-11 a.m. • Senior computer classes: Tue & Thu, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Grant Park Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: Walking for Wellness, 10:30-11:30 a.m. 50+ Zone, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sr. physical ed. class, 1-2 p.m. • Tue: Walking for Wellness, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Craft class, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 50+ Zone, 12:30-2 p.m. • Wed: Cultural field trips or interest group, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. • Thu: Walking for Wellness, 10:30-11:30 a.m. 50+ Zone, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sr. physical ed. class, 1-2p.m. • Fri: Field trip, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Old Adamsville Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tue: The Atlanta Voices Choir, Noon-2 p.m. • Wed: Senior Activity Day: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., includes fun and fitness, nutrition awareness, live music, lunch

*Source: City of Atlanta Office of Recreation/all times and activities are subject to change

Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation/Current Conditions (cont.)

Higher Education

The University System of Georgia provides [reduced or free tuition for senior citizens](#) who desire to further their education. Atlanta Metropolitan College, located within the city of Atlanta, is part of this offering.

Also among the state's higher-learning institutions is Georgia State University, located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, which offers [GSU-62](#). Eligible applicants who are at least age 62 may register for college-level courses for credit or audit to begin or resume their college education, space permitting. Waivers for tuition and fees are available for qualifying GSU-62 students.

**Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation/
Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements (cont.)**

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
Office of Constituent Services: Decrease social isolation while growing ethnic diversity and civic participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage veterans to support the Office of Immigration with its Citizenship Test. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the Commission on Aging and others to support one Citizenship Test with hopes of increasing Office of Immigration interactions by 5 percent.
Department of Parks and Recreation and Office of Constituent Services: Encourage legacy, communal connection and multigenerational discussion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for historical markers in all city parks and facilities to reflect neighborhoods' character, contributions, roots, etc., and stimulate conversation among all ages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue possible commitment to Vine City (Mims) Park (soon to be renamed Rodney Cook Sr. Park). Private fundraising will occur for the Rev. Dr. C.T. and Octavia Vivian Archives and Museum at this park. The venue will house the civil rights leader's extensive library, featuring statues of civil rights heroes. As a new effort, activity increase will be 100%.
Office of Constituent Services: Monitor city department activities that relate to older adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a forum for older adults, through the Commission on Aging, where members from each district can share and exchange their perspectives and ideas about the city's future and development. Prepare a Commission on Aging report, surveying the city's services, including infrastructure, sidewalks and streets, facility maintenance, traffic control devices and transit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report should be available by summer 2017 to assess services within 81 senior zones (areas with higher concentrations of older adults).

Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation/Contributors

Alzheimer's Association of Atlanta
Atlanta Public Schools
Atlanta Regional Commission
Atlanta Workforce Development Agency
Children- and veterans-oriented nonprofits
City of Atlanta Mayor's Office
Commission on Aging
Higher education institutions

Morehouse School of Medicine
Pain 2 Wellness Center
Public libraries
Respire Massage and Spa
Sevananda Natural Foods Market
U.S. Social Security Administration
WNBA Atlanta Dream



Domain 6: Civic Participation and Employment

Vision

Everyone has at least one ability to offer society. And Atlanta, like all municipalities, endeavors to combine that contribution with an opportunity that improves all aspects of public life.

Capitalizing on opportunities via volunteerism and employment not only reflects the city’s vision, but residents’ hope.

Invest Atlanta works to attract economic opportunities to the city, while the WorkSource Atlanta and the Urban League of Greater Atlanta strive to ready unemployed people for the jobs that follow.

Current Conditions

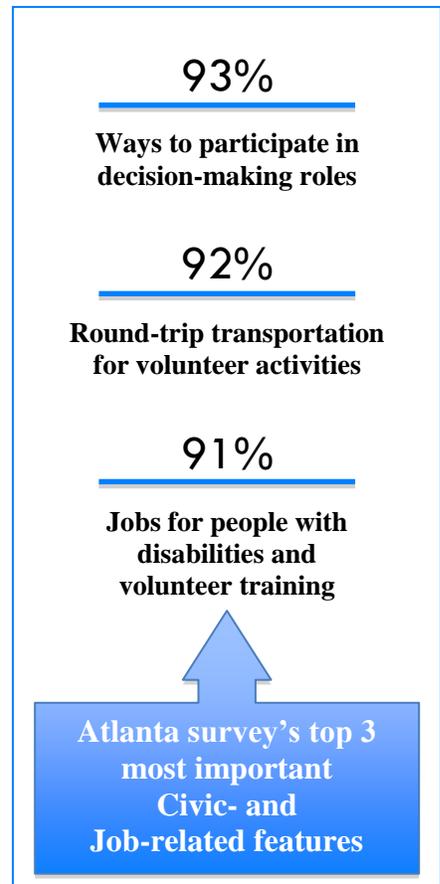
In the Atlanta [community survey](#), residents ages 50-plus ranked Civic Participation and Employment as the sixth-most important domain. They also cited Employment in the community needs/[gap analysis](#), especially job training for older adults and jobs for people with disabilities, as needing the most attention in their community.

Much like the Respect domain, the Civic Participation and Employment domain shows that older adults especially want activities and their opinions to count. And for those who need or desire to work – for pay or pro bono – strong appeals for jobs and training for the aging population are paramount.

What is most telling about this domain’s top features (*above, right*) is that older adults not only want to remain active, they also wish to stay informed, particularly via local schools, for some of those activities.

Please also note that some data within this section also coincide with the Respect domain. Consequently, there are cross-references, where appropriate, for clarity and succinctness.

Here is how Atlanta’s Civic Participation and Employment options fare, first assessing its AARP Livability Index score, followed by current key initiatives and AARP Georgia’s domain-related activities:



Civic Participation and Employment/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Livability Index

Within the [AARP Public Policy Institute](#)'s data, the same two categories that correlate to Atlanta's Respect domain also reflect the Civic Participation and Employment domain: engagement and opportunity. Please refer to the Respect domain for those details.

Among the various metrics used to calculate the Civic Participation and Employment domain scores, Atlanta's lowest total livability index score – 18 – applies to opportunity (or employment), according to the [AARP Public Policy Institute](#).

The neighborhood index score of 58 (*at right*), which contains job-related data, ranks Atlanta in the following top one-third of all national communities:

- **Proximity to destinations**

- Access to jobs by transit

13,139 jobs vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0

- **Proximity to destinations**

- Access to jobs by auto

245,241 jobs vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 55,312

The following opportunity category ranks Atlanta in the middle one-third of all national communities:

- **Economic opportunity**

- Jobs per worker

.72 jobs per person vs. median U.S. neighborhood: .75

The following opportunity categories rank Atlanta in the bottom one-third of all national communities:

- **Equal opportunity**

- Income equality

.54 index vs. median U.S. neighborhood: .46

- **Education**

- High school graduation rate

54 percent vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 81.3 percent

LOCATION	Georgia ×	Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia ×
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	46	49
 HOUSING Affordability and access +	49	65
 NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play +	42	58
 TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options +	44	57
 ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water +	52	19
 HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality +	46	64
 ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement +	49	60
 OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities +	42	18

AARP PPI's livability index scores for Atlanta, 2015

Civic Participation and Employment/Current Conditions (cont.)

Below is the city's response to these and other findings:

Urban League of Greater Atlanta

ULGA provides support and resources to adults ages 55-plus through:

- **Computer skills workshops** that include training for Microsoft Office specialist certification in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access.
- **Pathways to Empowerment** for classroom instruction and coaching to unemployed and underemployed adults. These tools help them to gain employment and career readiness skills, identify high-demand career pathways and employment opportunities, and re-enter the workplace or upgrade their employment.

P2E workshops include support for: exploring careers and mapping their pathways, interviewing, computer and customer service skills, résumé development, job sustainability and applying transferrable skills to help get and keep a sustainable living wage. Participants also receive supportive services to ensure program involvement, completion and retention.



For its fiscal year ending in June 2016, the Urban League of Greater Atlanta served 671 older adults, including support via P2E workshops as shown here.

- **Sustainable Homeownership Housing Program** to educate and counsel renters, first-time homebuyers and individuals who may lose their homes to foreclosure.
- **The Entrepreneurship Center** for business coaching, management counseling and training services to help entrepreneurs: develop business plans, start and grow profitable businesses, obtain business financing, preserve or create jobs, and more.

In addition, ULGA employs older adult staff members (including some of its placements) and participates in AARP's [Senior Community Service and Employment Program](#) (see next page).

WorkSource Atlanta

Formerly known as the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency, WorkSource Atlanta serves as the workforce system for the City of Atlanta, providing career, education and training services. It also assists long-term unemployed Atlanta Housing Authority residents to return to work. Additionally, this agency collaborates with business leaders to recruit and develop personnel to meet labor needs.

Civic Participation and Employment/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Georgia Civic Engagement and Employment Activities

To help older adults enter the workforce while simultaneously providing employers with trained, motivated, mature personnel, AARP offers:

- **The AARP Foundation:**

- [Senior Community Service and Employment Program](#), providing temporary job training and placement in Fulton County for unemployed, low-income people, ages 55 and older. Eligible enrollees receive training for 18 hours per week at the prevailing minimum wage. SCSEP currently assists 80 Atlanta residents, 40 to 45 percent of whom become permanently employed each year. The program plans to increase its diversity among Asian-Pacific Americans over the next three years.

The Georgia Department of Labor, Quality Living Services, Nobis Works, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation, Lowes, U-Haul, A.G. Rhodes Health and Rehab, Kennesaw State University and Atlanta Technical College partner with the program.

- [Back to Work 50+ VCN](#), an initiative with the Virtual Career Network, where older adults can search for job leads. The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, under the leadership of the American Association of Community Colleges, sponsors this effort, along with the AARP Foundation.
- **Encore Entrepreneur**, a series of free workshops and “tele town hall” meetings in July through August, in partnership with the Small Business Administration Georgia District Office and SCORE. These “summer of mentoring” events have reached 1,374 Atlanta residents who are interested in home-based businesses, financing and more.

Civic Participation and Employment/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements

Vision: Everyone has at least one ability to offer society. And Atlanta, like all municipalities, endeavors to combine that contribution with an opportunity that improves all aspects of public life via volunteerism and employment.

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>ULGA: Increase outreach/communication to adults ages 55-plus, while increasing awareness of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta’s programs and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide program information via flyers, emails, social media and presentations in health, senior housing, community and medical centers, and religious institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate services quarterly and as new training, workshops and community events become available.
<p>ULGA: Offer web-based training options and coaching/ counseling via Skype or FaceTime for greater access to ULGA’s job readiness, entrepreneurship, housing/homeownership, health and civic engagement programs for older adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create training content and secure resources for topics of interest to older adults that align with ULGA’s platform for onsite and remote classes. • Acquire computers and other resources for remote counseling and coaching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a needs assessment to determine frequency of workshops. Communications for civic engagement programs will be ongoing, based on opportunities.
<p>ULGA and WorkSource Atlanta: Increase volunteerism within the ULGA for older adults and surrounding communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore program and organizational areas that may need assistance. • Invite adults ages 55-plus to volunteer orientations and assign them to departments that match their skills, talents and interests for civic engagement, administrative projects and program support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ULGA: Usually there is a need for one volunteer, based on the program and volunteer’s skills.
<p>ULGA and WorkSource Atlanta: Provide career pathways for older adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with employers and trainers, the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and AARP to create more job opportunities for people over age 50 and/or with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ULGA: Continue this ongoing effort as employer relationships develop. • WSA: Contact potential employers daily and incorporate “asks” for employment and appropriate job-based training for older adults.
<p>WorkSource Atlanta: Make Career Coach and the OneStop Center more accessible to older adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly schedule Career Coach stops at senior recreation centers, partnering with other agencies. • Provide computer, résumé writing, work readiness and job leads classes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit each senior center monthly.

Civic Participation and Employment/Contributors

A.G. Rhodes Health and Rehab
Atlanta Technical College
Atlanta Workforce Development Agency
Georgia Department of Labor
Georgia State University
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation

Kennesaw State University
Lowe's
Nobis Works
Quality Living Services
U-Haul
Urban League of Greater Atlanta



Domain 7: Communication and Information

Vision

Within Atlanta’s city limits reside prestigious colleges and universities, world-renowned Fortune 500 headquarters, first-rate health and nonprofit institutions and other bastions of industry. And the city works with them all to be a trusted, leading provider and distributor of knowledge, sharing its benefits with residents to improve the quality of their lives.

Current Conditions

Atlanta respondents for the [community survey](#) ranked Communication and Information as the seventh-most important domain.

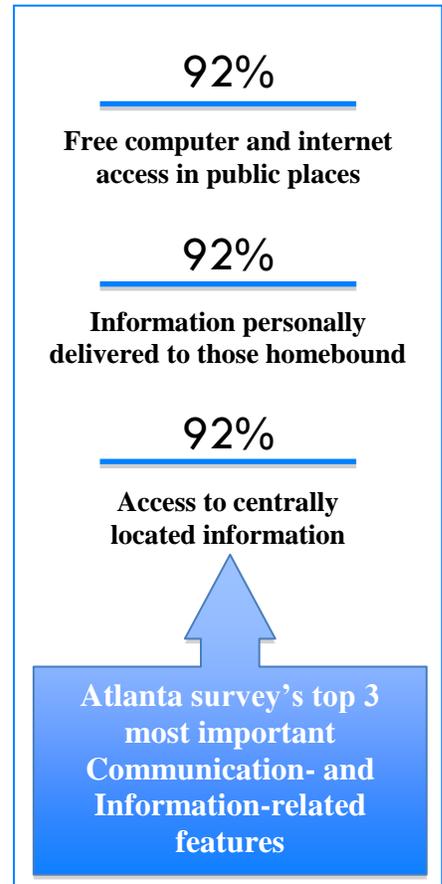
Though in last place, the survey indicates residents value knowledge and have a willingness to stay connected, as similarly shown in the Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation domain.

While this report primarily highlights the top three most important features in each domain (*see right*), a fourth feature also ties at 92 percent: clear, large print for community information.

However, the community needs/[gap analysis](#) shows that 77 percent found that readability was absent in their community, ranking it as the second-most important issue – behind job opportunities – requiring attention.

Please also refer to the Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation domain, as some of it relates to this domain.

Here is how Atlanta’s Communication and Information options fare, first assessing its AARP Livability Index score, followed by current key initiatives and AARP Georgia’s domain-related activities:



Communication and Information/Current Conditions (cont.)

AARP Livability Index

No definitive score or category within the [AARP Public Policy Institute](#)'s data focuses solely on Communication and Information.

However, within the neighborhood category (*right*), the following information ranks Atlanta in the middle one-third of all national communities:

- **Proximity to destinations**

- Access to libraries

0.2 percent of libraries are within a half-mile or walking distance of an Atlanta neighborhood vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0

Within the engagement category (*right*), the following information ranks Atlanta in the top one-third of all national communities:

- **Internet access**

- Broadband cost and speed

27.2 percent of Atlanta residents have high-speed, low-cost internet service vs. median U.S. neighborhood: 0

Below is the city's response to these and other findings:

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library

This library system is Georgia's largest with 34 libraries and more than 2.5 million items. Touting itself as "The People's University," the library also hosts various classes and seminars for library users of all learning and interest levels.

For patrons ages 55 and older, the library offers these services:

- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program**, a partnership among various local agencies providing support to those who are raising their grandchildren. About 20-30 grandparents participate each month at the Mechanicsville Library.
- **Metro Atlanta RSVP**, a collaborative effort at various branches where participants (including those with disabilities) can learn about maintaining independent, healthy lifestyles and sustaining lifelong communities.
- **Tax preparation assistance**, via AARP, at nine branches.

LOCATION	Georgia ×	Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia ×
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	46	49
 HOUSING Affordability and access +	49	65
 NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play +	42	58
 TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options +	44	57
 ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water +	52	19
 HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality +	46	64
 ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement +	49	60
 OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities +	42	18

AARP PPI's livability index scores for Atlanta, 2015

Communication and Information/Current Conditions (cont.)

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library (cont.)

- **Visual impairment aids**, which consists of large-key computer keyboards, large-print materials and reading assistive machines throughout the library system, for any patron.

Channel 26

Older adults who do not have cable can access [Channel 26](#) using the internet to learn about happenings throughout Atlanta. Information includes news stories about annual activities, such as the health fairs, balls and recreation centers. Coverage also focuses on public service announcements, nutrition, transportation, arts and culture, Older Atlantans Month, fan giveaways, warming shelters' and cooling stations' operation hours and more.

AARP Georgia Communication and Information Activities

In Atlanta, residents can gain online learning through several, free [AARP TEK](#) – Technology Education and Knowledge – workshops. Participants may either use their own laptops in class or those that AARP provides.

The chart below indicates the level of participation for TEK workshops held in the city:



Year	Participants
2014	1,093
2015	645
Grand Total	1,738

Communication and Information/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements

Vision: Within Atlanta’s city limits reside prestigious colleges and universities, world-renowned Fortune 500 headquarters, first-rate health and nonprofit institutions and other bastions of industry. The city works with them all to be a trusted, leading provider and distributor of knowledge, sharing its benefits with residents to improve the quality of their lives.

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
MARTA: Reach more riders conveniently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve bus service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Training enhancements include educational outreach at senior centers and human service organizations representing people with lower incomes and disabilities, at least one per week.
MARTA: Provide easier access to information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for deliveries of schedules and printed information to senior centers and other locations to help the general public and older adults learn about and use nearby service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARTA coordinates getting schedules to the city of Atlanta, upon request, for the senior centers when needed.
MARTA and Atlanta Regional Commission: Improve communication methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade public address system in rail stations and electronic signage with enhanced audio and video displays. • Improve bus stop signage. • Ensure that ARC’s information services provide older adults with more support to make informed decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 rail stations to receive PA system and electronic signage with enhancements. Project begins March 2017. • Improved bus stop signs are in progress, involving MARTA partners with several other agencies.

Communication and Information/Summary of Goals, Steps and/or Recommendations, Measurements (cont.)

Lead Agency/Goals	Steps and/or Recommendations	Tracking Measurements
<p>Grady via Community Health Improvement Plan: Increase patient and community engagement in healthy behaviors to prevent diabetes, hypertension, HIV, unintentional injuries and homicide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy behaviors (smoking cessation, physical activity, healthy eating and sexual practices) among Grady patients by increasing patient engagement in care plans and providing resources, referrals, follow-up. • Collaborate with stakeholders and community partners (ARCHI, Atlanta BeltLine, Public Health departments, senior centers) to support program/policy development to promote healthy behaviors. • Partner with key education and community-based groups to prevent homicide and reduce unintended injuries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 injury prevention events by 2019 (2016 baseline: 20). • 2,000 program participants by 2019 (2016 baseline: 1,000, including older adults). • 6,000 patients to receive HIV treatment by 2019 (2016 baseline: 5,800).
<p>Atlanta Habitat for Humanity: Simplify where homeowners get information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a list of home repair programs and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate home repair programs/resources list at AARP's HomeFit workshops.
<p>Commission on Aging: Monitor city department activities for older adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a Commission on Aging report, surveying the city's services, including infrastructure, sidewalks and streets, facility maintenance, traffic control devices and transit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report preparation begins in early 2017 to assess services within 81 senior zones (areas with higher concentrations of older adults).
<p>ULGA: Increase outreach/communication to adults ages 55-plus, while increasing awareness of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta's programs and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide program information via flyers, emails, social media and presentations in health, senior housing, community and medical centers, and religious institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate services quarterly and as new training, workshops and community events become available.
<p>WorkSource Atlanta: Make Career Coach and the OneStop Center more accessible to older adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly schedule Career Coach stops at senior recreation centers, partnering with other agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit each senior center monthly.

Communication and Information/Contributors

Atlanta Business Chronicle
Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
Atlanta Regional Commission
Cascade Patch
[City Channel 26](#)
City of Atlanta on Facebook

City of Atlanta on Twitter
MARTA
Mayor Reed on Facebook
Mayor Reed on Twitter
[New LifeStyles](#)
Operation HOPE
NBC's WXIA-TV ([11Alive](#))

Acknowledgments



Compiling the *Age-Friendly Atlanta Action Plan* required a massive network of experts, contacts, supporters and resources, working in tandem with Atlanta’s AARP Georgia office to share findings wherever they led.

Particular appreciation goes to Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Commissioner Andrea Boone of the Office of Constituent Services and their staffs for welcoming the recognition of being and the challenge of improving as an Age-Friendly city.

Tremendous gratitude also extends to the Age-Friendly Atlanta Advisory Council (*some of whom are pictured above*). Whether serving from the report’s inception or for shorter terms, their valuable counsel helped to shape the action plan. Spearheaded by AARP State Director Debra Tyler-Horton and AARP Associate State Director Charima Young, council participants included: Sondra Rhoades-Johnson, AARP Executive Council; Daniel Calvert, Rodney Milton, City of Atlanta Office of Housing; Roz Tucker, Atlanta Regional Commission; Melissa Klein, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity; Cynthia McDonald, Atlanta Housing Authority; Ian Sansom, Alta Planning + Design; Toni Thornton, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority; Vanessa Manley and David McCord, City of Atlanta Office of Constituent Services; Jessica Lavandier and Nathan Carson, City of Atlanta Department of Planning and Development; Corliss Davenport, Carla Kalip and Daniel Calvert, City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation; Amy Ellison, Renew Atlanta; Ketisha J. Kinnebrew, Atlanta Public Schools; Krystle Jones and Nancy Johnson, Urban League of Greater Atlanta; Lillie Madali, WorkSource Atlanta; Kent Spencer, Invest Atlanta; Jacque Thornton, LeadingAge Georgia; Elizabeth Burgess and Chivon Mingo, Georgia State University; Katie Mooney, Grady Memorial Hospital; Joe Grooms, City of Atlanta Watershed Department; Michael Frierson, City of Atlanta Department of Public Works; Kerri Norris, The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority; and AARP volunteers Danielle Nix and Eunice Glover.

AARP Georgia also thanks the Georgia Department of Economic Development Digital Library.

Appendixes*

AARP Georgia References



The Atlanta City Council presented AARP with an Age-Friendly proclamation (right) May 5, 2014, for its dedication and services to older adults.



Appendixes (cont.)

Age-Friendly Atlanta Walk Audit Summerhill Summary Notes



Age-Friendly Atlanta Walk Audit Summerhill Summary Notes

On May 28, 2015, PEDS, the City of Atlanta and AARP of Georgia held a walk audit on historic Georgia Avenue in the Summerhill neighborhood. A diverse group of more than 60 people attended the walk audit, including neighborhood leaders and representatives from the City of Atlanta departments of Planning, Atlanta Housing Authority, City Council, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and Atlanta Age-Friendly City committee members. The Georgia Avenue corridor is adjacent to Turner Field, the site of a large-scale redevelopment, but suffers from lack of investment and very high vacancy rates. However, many historic buildings remain and as the commercial heart of Summerhill, Georgia Avenue is poised for a resurgence.

The purpose of the walk audit was two-fold; 1) develop ideas for improving intergenerational activity, neighborhood vibrancy and walkability of Georgia Avenue, and 2) discuss ways to ensure the Turner Field redevelopment enhances the existing neighborhoods of Summerhill and Peoplestown – areas that have historically been neglected. The walk audit analysis and feedback will be incorporated in the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) neighborhood plan, scheduled for adoption in 2016.

The walk audit included three parts;

- 1) **The Presentation** (what is an Age-Friendly Community, what makes a community walkable)
- 2) **The walk audit** (approximately 1 mile along Georgia Avenue between Hill St. SE and Hank Aaron Dr. SE)
- 3) **Group breakout sessions** to discuss challenges and opportunities found on the walk, and develop an action plan

Along the walk, a few key issues emerged.

Appendixes (cont.)

Age-Friendly Atlanta Walk Audit Summerhill Summary Notes (cont.)

Speed/traffic calming

The area near the Georgia Hill Senior Living Facility is designated as a “Senior Zone.” However, speed limits are set at 30 mph – too high for safe pedestrian crosswalks. PEDS recommends narrowing the travel lanes to 10 feet wide and adding bike lanes along the full corridor, as well as crosswalks at all bus stops and intersections.

The commercial section of Georgia Avenue between Martin St. and Fraser St. has 1 west-bound travel lane and 2 east bound travel lanes. The existing road design encourages speeding. Given the low traffic volumes, PEDS recommends establishing a streetscape plan for this section, with the southernmost east-bound lane replaced with on-street parking, wider sidewalks, curb bulbouts at intersections to shorten crossing distance, stop signs at Martin St., and street trees. A good example with a similar right of way that has been improved is Candler Park, near the intersection of McLendon and Clifton streets in Atlanta.

Parks and Greenspace

There is abundant park space along Georgia Avenue including Grant Park and Phoenix Parks II and III. While Phoenix Park II appears to be well used, Phoenix Park III is underutilized. This may be a good space for establishing a **Grandparents Park**, as there is a middle school currently under construction and a Georgia Avenue Highrise, senior living facility, across the street. Programming the space with intergenerational activities and active uses can bring the park to life and create a quality community gathering place.

Economic Development/Activating Vacant Spaces

The former commercial district along Georgia Avenue is now defined by abandoned (but structurally sound) historic buildings covered with colorful murals, vacant lots, and parking lots for Turner Field. While this presents challenges, it also creates opportunities for defining the future based on community needs.

The Turner Field redevelopment will bring new residents and an infusion of resources. An Economic Development Plan and Community Benefits Agreement can ensure that Georgia Avenue is a prime component of the area’s revitalization. Temporary demonstration projects and cheap improvements like pop-up retail shops, community gardens, and food truck parks can bring more people to the area and spur long-term investment. Neighborhood cleanups and other events can help build a sense of community pride.

Appendixes (cont.)

Age-Friendly Atlanta Walk Audit Summerhill Summary Notes (cont.)

Action Plan Ideas from group breakout sessions

During the group breakout sessions, participants were asked to identify immediate (< 1 month), short term (< 2 years), and long-term (> 2 years) action items.

Immediate

- Turn vacant lots into community gardens
- Add benches to street
- Regular neighborhood cleanups
- Small popup businesses
- In-street crossing signs at crosswalks
- Chalk art/artistic crosswalks
- Prune trees in sidewalk
- Remove “street traffic barriers” in sidewalk
- Movies in the park
- Food trucks &/or “Rolling Grocery”
- More meetings like this – community engagement
- Litter pick-up
- Clipping of shrubs/trees on sidewalk
- Outreach to Senior Housing from community organizations

Landscape

- Trim Vegetation
- Tree Planting (& protection)
- Mulching

Streets

- Repair push buttons
- Repair lights
- Remove hazards on sidewalks

Events

- Summer Hill Neighborhood Reunion
- National Night Out
- Atlanta Streets Alive

Greenspaces

- Remove Fence on ARS Field/Phoenix Park I
- Intergenerational Park on Phoenix Park III

Appendixes (cont.)

Age-Friendly Atlanta Walk Audit Summerhill Summary Notes (cont.)

Short term

- Add more crosswalks on Georgia Ave
- Add bike lanes on Georgia Ave w/parallel parking near businesses
- Grocery store (at GA Ave & Hank Aaron)
- Allow businesses to set up in vacant lots
- Dog park in vacant lot
- Bike/walking path around Phoenix Park II
- Historic markers
- More benches and gazebo in park
- Wayfinding signage – 5 min walk to...
- Rezoning
- Streetscape plan
- Paint streets w/crosswalks and add on-street parking and bike lanes or sharrows
- Crosswalk = mural w/paint (light colors for visibility for drivers)
- Atlanta Streets Alive on GA Ave
- Community garden in vacant lot
- Community garden
- Community policing/safety
- Better street signs and more visible lighting
- Add street parking
- Remove obstructions from sidewalks
- Add bike lanes
- Widen sidewalk
- More stores – grocery, convenience, clothing, pharmacy, restaurants w/outdoor seating
- More community programs – art, sports, intergenerational

Long term

- On-street parking on Georgia Ave
- Wider sidewalks
- Remove/change curb cuts
- Farmer's Market
- Georgia Ave economic redevelopment plan
- Widen sidewalk on Hank Aaron
- More commercial businesses on Georgia Ave
- Build a Senior Center
- Build a Teen Center/indoor recreation space
- Affordable housing/senior mixed use development
- Create natural amphitheater out of park
- Multigenerational space in Phoenix Park III

Appendixes (cont.)

Age-Friendly Atlanta Walk Audit Summerhill Summary Notes (cont.)

- Consider reopening MLK Elementary School
- Beautiful parks as focus – water features, sculptural benches, sports equipment/circuit, playground, solar panel charger

Appendixes (cont.)

General Senior Service Resource References

AgeWise Connection

Atlanta Regional Commission's AgeWise Connection is the first stop in the Atlanta region for information about services and programs for older adults. Services available include: senior centers, housing, transportation, information and assessment, referral counseling, senior employment, county board aging programs, in-home and community help, health and wellness programs, and Medicare counseling. AgeWise counselors are available 24/7 for resource referrals.

404-463-3333 Atlanta Regional Commission <http://www.agewiseconnection.com/> Eligibility: Metro Atlanta. Eligibility for programs depends on individual providers. Cost:

Atlanta Regional Commission: 40 Courtland Street, NE Atlanta, GA 30303-2538

Services database: <http://www.georgiaservicesforseniors.org/>

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

Resources include: tax preparation assistance, assistance finding and applying for benefits (for benefit search assistance, call 877-659-0967 or visit AARP.org/quicklink), and a work search/career center (for employment resources, call 877-872-5627 or visit AARP.org/worksearch).

888-687-2277

<http://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/find-help/>, or visit the GA specific page at <http://states.aarp.org/region/georgia/>

Eligibility: Seniors age 50+

Cost:

999 Peachtree Pl., NE Atlanta, GA 30309 (404) 877-1265

Date Modified: 2/9/2016

Appendixes (cont.)

General Senior Service Resource References (cont.)

Department of Watershed Management Senior Discount

Senior Citizens are eligible for a 30 percent discount on water and sewer bills. Applications are available by mail (call office), at Fulton County Senior Citizen Facilities, Atlanta libraries, City of Atlanta recreation facilities and the Customer Service Office at 55 Trinity Avenue, 1st Floor, City Hall.

404-658-6500 City of Atlanta

<http://www.atlantawatershed.org/custsrv/senior.htm>

Eligibility: Must be 65 years or older, have a maximum household income of \$25,000 or less, be the primary titleholder on the property subject to billing, and must be a City of Atlanta water and sewer customer

Cost:

Call Center Hours: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.- 6 p.m.

55 Trinity Ave, 1st Floor, City Hall

Fulton County Office of Aging

Services include: case management, adult day care, homemaker services/respice program, nutrition program and services, transportation assistance, home delivered meals, neighborhood senior centers, volunteer services, senior advocacy, and a care giver support program. For more information, call the STARline, 404-613-6000.

404-613-6000 Office of Aging <http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/fchhs-divisions-and-programs/office-of-aging>

Eligibility: Fulton county residents over 60

Cost: Varies

Date Modified: 2/9/2016

Appendixes (cont.)

General Senior Service Resource References (cont.)

Fulton County Tax Assessor

In addition to the basic homestead exemption, there are additional tax exemptions for residents ages 62 and older and/or disabled and disabled veterans. They must apply for these exemptions in person.

(404) 612-6440 (press #4) <http://www.qpublic.net/ga/fulton/programs.html>

Eligibility: Must be age 62 or older, property owner

Cost: Free

Fulton County Government Center 141 Pryor St., Suite 1056 Atlanta, GA 30303

Georgia Council on Aging Office

Advocates with and on behalf of aging Georgians and their families to improve their quality of life; educates, advises, informs and makes recommendations concerning programs for the elderly in Georgia; serves in an advisory capacity on aging issues to the Governor, General Assembly, Board of Human Services and all other state agencies. Primarily an advocacy organization on policies related to aging. Possible source of additional resources or information related to aging issues

(404) 657-5343 Mary F. McCarthy (mamccarthy@dhr.state.ga.us) <http://www.gcoa.org>

Eligibility:

Cost:

2 Peachtree St., NW, Suite 32.270 Atlanta, GA 30303-3142

Georgia Senior Legal Hotline

Provides brief, legal advice and referrals to economically and socially vulnerable older Georgians and their families

404-657-9915 or 88 through the Atlanta Legal Aid Society
<http://www.georgialegalaid.org/organization/georgia-senior-legal-hotline>

Eligibility: Georgians 60 years and older

Cost: Free

Appendixes (cont.)

General Senior Service Resource References (cont.)

Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

Repairs homes inhabited by children up to age 13 and can include roofing, plumbing, electrical and more

wbrooks@tcwfi.org, Center for Working Families, Wesley Brooks tcwfi.org

Eligibility: Based on income requirements

Cost:

Hope Works (formerly Resource Service Ministries)

Cares for the physical needs of low-income, older adults through home weatherization services, furnace and appliance repairs, and general home maintenance assistance. Other programs include Youth Works, Prayer Works, Volunteer Works and Partnership Works.

404-872-0167 Michael Kimsey (mkimsey@rsmin.org) <http://hopeworks4us.org/>

Eligibility: 60+

Cost: Free

751 Rice Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318

House Proud

House Proud provides no-cost home repairs to keep low-income seniors and/or disabled homeowners warm, safe and dry. It partners with existing community organizations to provide home weatherization services, home repairs related to issues of safety and accessibility and other necessary renovations.

404-465-5950 House Proud, Al Shugart

<http://www.houseproudatl.org>, email program manager: Al.Shugart@HouseProudAtlanta.org

Eligibility: Must live in NPU V, T, K, or S, be at least 60 years old or disabled, low income
Eligible seniors must then provide: proof of income and basic homeowner's insurance; one utility bill; identification

Cost: Free

410 Englewood, Atlanta, GA 30315

Appendixes (cont.)

General Senior Service Resource References (cont.)

Lead Safe Atlanta

Provides lead hazard controls for homes built before 1978 if housing children under the age of 6. To apply, visit <http://www.tcwfi.org/Data/Assets/GHHI/p-program-leadsafe-forms.html>

404-223-3303

The Center for Working Families esirk@tcwfi.org <http://www.tcwfi.org/Data/Assets/GHHI/p-program-leadsafe-forms.html>

Eligibility: For families or caretakers of children up to age 6; available through the City of Atlanta

Cost: Free

477 Windsor St, Suite 101, Atlanta, GA 30312

Meals on Wheels Atlanta

Works to support senior independence through meals, shelter, education, and community. Services include: meal services, home repair, senior centers, adult day health, and senior companions.

Senior Citizens of Metro Atlanta, 404-351-3889; Meals, 404-351-8103; Home Repair, 404-351-3889 x. 303; Adult Day Health, 404-352-1897; Senior Companions, 404-574-2294

<http://mealsonwheelsatlanta.org/>

Eligibility: Metro Atlanta residents, ages 60+, a Fulton County resident and low income

Cost:

1705 Commerce Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30318

Appendixes (cont.)

General Senior Service Resource References (cont.)

Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program

Assists low- to moderate-income individuals who need repairs to their home. Rehabilitation work is limited to City of Atlanta Housing Code violations and improvements to failing mechanical systems (i.e., HVAC, plumbing, electrical and structural).

404-330-6390 City of Atlanta

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=478>

Eligibility: Individuals who are disabled and/or ages 62 or older, must reside in and own the property within the appropriate target areas to qualify for assistance

Cost: Deferred-payment loan

68 Mitchell St, Suite 1200, Atlanta, GA 30303

Project Healthy Grandparents

Strengthens grandparent-headed families by providing social work and health services, support groups, legal assistance referrals, transportation assistance, parenting classes and early intervention for developmental delays to grandparents. PHG evaluates the unique situation of each family from a strengths-based perspective and works with the grandparents to devise goals for facing their challenges. The staff coordinates their efforts by using a team approach. Transportation is provided to monthly meetings. After one year of intensive involvement, PHG encourages grandparents to continue attending group activities.

404-413-1126 Georgia State University <http://phg.snhp.gsu.edu/>

Eligibility: Contact for eligibility requirements. Cost: Free for one year

Date Modified: 2/9/2016

Quality Living Services

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides services for citizens of Atlanta over age of 50. Includes educational, creative arts and physical wellness programs, a Travel Club, a Men's Healthy Living Group and other social events throughout the year.

404-699-1686 www.qualitylivingservices.org

Eligibility: Age 50+ Cost:

4001 Danforth Rd., Atlanta, GA 30331

Appendixes (cont.)

General Senior Service Resource References (cont.)

Rebuilding Together Atlanta

Does home repair and renovation, including carpentry, electrical work, plumbing repair, painting, cleaning, weatherizing, roofing, trash removal and yard work. Low-income older adults, families with children, veterans and disabled homeowners who are unable to maintain their homes in Fulton County, Georgia, are eligible for assistance. Applications must be received by March 1st of the year before repairs are to be done (in other words, applications received before March 1, 2013 will be considered for 2014 repairs).

Application: http://www.rebuildingtogether-atlanta.org/new/wordpress/?page_id=23404-505-5599
www.rebuildingtogether-atlanta.org

Eligibility: You must own your own home, be current on homeowner's taxes, liens must be satisfied/in current status, demonstrate a need for repairs, income must not exceed HUD standards and live in target area

Cost: Free

P.O Box 44884, Atlanta, GA 30336

Senior Community Service Employment Program--SCSEP

Helps participants to gain skills, work experience and self-confidence to succeed in their job search. Based on their needs, abilities and interest in learning new skills, the staff: assesses job skills; helps set job goals; connects participants with training to learn new skills at a nonprofit or public agency host organization; helps update résumés and with learning job search skills; connects people to employers who value mature workers; and provides temporary income while participants train.

404-892-4446 American Association of Retired Persons, Win Roshell, wroshell@aarp.org (AARP)
www.aarp.org/foundation

Eligibility: Age, income and residency requirements, ages 55 or older, must live in county served by AARP SCSEP office; low or limited income

1718 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 991 South, Atlanta, GA 30309

Cost:

Appendixes (cont.)

General Senior Service Resource References (cont.)

Senior Connections

Offers home-delivered meals, nutrition counseling, in-home care, home repair (including weatherization, furnace repair, plumbing, electrical, roofing, and water heater repair) and classes on health and wellness.

770-455-7602 Neighborhood Senior Centers: 25 Warren St., Atlanta, GA 30317

<https://www.seniorconnectionsatl.org/>

Eligibility: Services available to people ages 62 or older in Metro Atlanta, including Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, Cherokee, Clayton, Douglas, Fayette, Henry and Rockdale counties. Qualification depends on income, age and county of residence.

Cost: Subsidized or no-cost services may be available

Date Modified: 2/9/2016

Transportation References

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=891>

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=898>

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=159>

<http://renewatlantabond.com/projects/>

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=16650>

<http://www.atlantaregional.com/transportation/overview>

http://documents.atlantaregional.com/tcc/2016/2016_UPWP-ARC_Adopted_12-2-2015.pdf

<http://beltline.org/about/the-atlanta-beltline-project/atlanta-beltline-overview/>

<http://beltline.org/progress/progress/project-history/>

<http://beltline.org/2012/07/11/providing-connectivity-and-walkability-for-senior-citizens-in-atlanta-beltline-neighborhoods/>

<http://www.theatlantastreetcar.com/>

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=159>

<https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/search#Atlanta+GA+USA>

** Other pertinent links are available within report sections.*