

COA list of possible project ideas

Conceptual Framework: Three major groups of strategies – Housing, Transportation, and Health/wellness. Two foundational groups of strategies support all others: Communications, and COA member education

Major groups of strategies:

1. Housing

Support development of affordable and accessible housing (EHHA sites expansion, new development, water issues, reduce ADU restrictions)

Support older homeowners who want to remain in their homes

**Tax abatements for older adults – ongoing work with Town Council
help establish volunteer organization in EH (for interior and grounds maintenance)**

advocate for smooth function of CT Energy Assistance program

Advocate for older residents of EHHA housing

2. Transportation

medical office and non-medical transportation

input to Senior Center van service

help establish volunteer organization in EH (for transportation)

lobby / letter to support grants for transportation non-profits serving older adults

sidewalks for pedestrian confidence and safety

3. Health / wellness

Wellness includes reducing isolation and promoting connections of older adults through programs and activities.

increase numbers and coordination of programs for seniors through monthly department heads/ Chatham Health / Health & Wellness meeting

support Senior Center budget, programs, and activities

improve health information access

support ambulance service that is prompt and professional

help establish volunteer organization in EH (for reducing social isolation)

Supporting groups of strategies:

4. Communication – point person Sali Cosford Parker

create contact list of communication preferences for older adults - for COA, Sr Ctr, and town use

monthly Rivereast updates

twice a year Town Council updates

improve COA website

outreach to Town Council, local civic and religious organizations

multi-town COA quarterly meeting share ideas / projects / possible advocacy / speakers

**improve online resources for seniors and their families / caregivers
organize presentations for older adults**

5. COA member education topics

Ageism and reframing – importance of concepts and language. Once COA trained, train other groups (communication strategy)

Elder abuse / exploitation – training video for COA, then program for community

Elder Justice Hotline– add link to COA / Sr Ctr / Town Websites

Protective Services for the Elderly – add link to COA / Sr Ctr / Town Websites

Scams preying on older adults – add link to COA / Sr Ctr / Town Websites

Encourage COA members to find and bring relevant information to the COA and communicate outside the COA

Eric Rosenberg, MD, Chair