

Charge Establishing Elder Readiness Task Force

Mission

The Arlington Elder Readiness Task Force will assess the County's capacity to serve as home to the growing number of older people who will be living in Arlington. The Task Force will concentrate on the areas of housing, transportation, health care, supportive services, and recreation and leisure services.

Specific Charge

The Task Force will:

1. Review models that have been used nationally to assess a community's elder readiness.
2. Inventory existing public and private sector amenities, programs and services available to Arlingtonians. Gather information regarding the expected need and demand for such services based on anticipated senior population.
3. Assess the community to identify gaps in amenities, programs and services. Gather input from the broad community including civic associations, service clubs, church groups, sports and fitness club groups, elders themselves, adult children, and service providers.
4. Coordinate its efforts with groups that are engaged in similar planning operations, for example, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources "Flourishing after 55" effort and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission studies on Mobility Needs of Older Northern Virginians.
5. Develop recommendations by early December 2006 that will serve as a blueprint for short-term, medium term and long term actions. The goal of these recommendations will be to identify specific strategies to enable Arlington residents to age in place as integral members of our world-class urban community.

Composition

The Task Force will be composed of members of the following County advisory commissions:

- Commission on Aging,
- Housing Commission,
- Commission for Long-term Care Residences,
- Planning Commission, and
- Transportation Commission;

as well as subject matter experts (e.g., representatives of national and local aging organizations and associations) and other interested persons from the community. The Task Force will be supported by staff from the County's Department of Human Services, as well as the Department of Community Planning and Housing, the Department of Environmental Services, and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.