

Overview

Communities for a Lifetime is a statewide initiative, begun in 1999, that assists Florida cities, towns and counties in planning and implementing improvements that benefit their residents, youthful or elder. Communities use existing resources and state technical assistance to make improvements in housing, health care, transportation, accessibility, business partnerships, community education, employment, volunteer opportunities and recreation.

The goal of the initiative is to help Florida communities become better places for elders to live, providing all residents the opportunity to contribute to the betterment of their communities. The ongoing process of self-assessment and improvement can help a community achieve the following goals:

- To create an inventory of services and opportunities that promote the independence and quality of life for older adults in the community.
- To initiate partnerships to promote the development of senior friendly community amenities.



Communities for a Lifetime helps children grow and prosper and provides seniors an opportunity to remain independent in their communities.

The Benefits

Communities for a Lifetime helps children grow and prosper and provides seniors an opportunity to remain independent in their communities. Caregivers for those of any age then receive the support they need and elders are enabled to age in place with dignity, security and purpose.

Individuals, communities, governments and businesses benefit by:

- Coordination of transportation, community planning, universal home designs and neighborhood interaction;
- Improved physical and mental health of residents through better access to social interaction, recreation, increased activity levels; and
- Effective community planning and design, encouraging mixed-use development and co-locating the places where people live, work, learn, shop and play.

Partnerships created during the evaluation process can maximize existing funding and resources. The purpose of this initiative is to assist local elected officials, community leaders and residents in working together to plan the most effective use of existing funding to achieve *Communities for a Lifetime* goals and benefits.

