



AGE-FRIENDLY

Franklin County & North Quabbin

What is Age & Dementia Friendly Franklin County & North Quabbin?
We make it easier for older adults to stay connected, active, and supported.
[**The Regional Action Plan**](#), developed by local partners & residents, offers a roadmap for making our community an even better place to grow older.

Age & Dementia Friendly Community Grant Awardees

Communities across our region are stepping up with creative, community-driven approaches to support older adults and people living with dementia. LifePath has awarded grants to 11 towns and community-based organizations working to make their communities more inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of residents of all ages. From rural transportation solutions to innovative social connection programs, these projects were selected by community members to implement the priorities detailed in the [**Regional Age & Dementia Friendly Action Plan**](#).

[Read the full story and learn about the awardees here...](#)

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025

May is Older Americans Month—a time to honor the contributions of older adults and reflect on how our communities support aging with dignity and purpose. This year's theme, [**"Flip the Script on Aging,"**](#) challenges outdated stereotypes and recognizes aging as a time of continued growth, connection, and contribution.

Here in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region, [**our Age & Dementia Friendly initiative**](#) is working to flip the script locally by demonstrably supporting walkable communities, accessible

transportation, and inclusive public spaces. Let's keep the momentum going by celebrating the strengths of older adults and the power of age-inclusive community design.



Mass in Motion Town Summit – May 16

Join the **Mass in Motion** Town Summit on Friday, May 16, 2025, from 12–2 PM at the Erving Public Library (2 Care Drive, Erving, MA). Enjoy lunch, hear brief updates from each MiM town, connect with peers, and take part in a small-group discussion. LifePath, FRCOG, and statewide MiM staff will also share updates. **Please register** so we can plan for food and any transportation or accessibility needs.



Healthy Aging Data Report

The 2025 Massachusetts Healthy Aging Data Report is now available, offering updated, neighborhood-level data on older adults in 386 cities and towns across the state—including every Franklin County and North Quabbin community. Produced by UMass Boston's Gerontology Institute in partnership with the Massachusetts Health Aging Collaborative and funded by Point32Health Foundation, the report provides vital insights into population trends, health disparities, and opportunities for action.



Documenting Your Story: A Workshop for Older Adults

Don't let your stories fade away—join Greenfield Community Television's oral history workshop! In this 2 session, older adults will learn the art of storytelling and receive feedback from peers. Then, they'll put those skills to work in the GCTV studio to create a one- to two-hour oral history video. These personal stories will be preserved for future generations, offering the community a glimpse into the lives of local seniors. **Click here for more information or to register.**

TRAINING

Webinar: Building a Dementia-Capable First Responder Workforce

May 21, 2025, from 3–4 PM ET, the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center will host a free webinar on developing effective dementia training for first responders. Presenters will share insights from a full-day training model that has helped over 800 police cadets improve their understanding, empathy, and response strategies when interacting with people living with dementia. **Learn more and register here.**

Community Legal Aid Info Session

Jennifer Dieringer, managing attorney of the Franklin and Hampshire County offices of [Community Legal Aid](#) will give an overview of Community Legal Aid's services and areas of practice, and will explain how folks can get legal help from CLA. Thursday May 22 1:00-2:00 PM on Zoom. [Register here.](#)



Become a Dementia Friend or Champion

Dementia Friends Massachusetts offers free, one-hour sessions to help people understand how dementia affects individuals and what small actions can make a big difference. Find a local or virtual session:

dementiafriendsma.org/find-a-session

Want to do more? Attend a Dementia Friends Champion training to lead sessions in your own community. Upcoming virtual trainings (free, 3 hours):

- May 6, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM: [Register](#)
- July 16, 1:00–4:00 PM: [Register](#)

Join just the first 75 minutes to become a Dementia Friend. Champions get access to materials in 9 languages.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant Program

Massachusetts Office on Disability (FY26 grant cycle 5/1-6/13)

The Municipal ADA Improvement Grant provides funding to Massachusetts cities and towns to improve accessibility for people with disabilities.

Funding supports updating a municipality's ADA Self Evaluation and Transition plans and making capital improvements that improve access or remove barriers in municipal programs, services, and facilities.

More information, including the application, is [available here.](#)

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

US Dept. of Transportation (applications due 6/28)

Funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2025 SS4A grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructural, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets.

This round of funding will provide a total of \$982 million, with \$580 million for capital implementation grants and \$402 million for planning

grants.

The grant notice makes several noteworthy changes from previous rounds. The maximum award amount has been changed from \$10 million to \$5 million. This may make grants more accessible for some smaller communities. More information is [available here](#).

MassVets Benefit Estimator Launched to Help Veterans Access Financial Aid

The MassVets Benefit Estimator helps veterans and families quickly determine eligibility for Chapter 115 financial assistance.

Chapter 115 provides state-funded aid for daily living expenses, medical costs, rent, and more. The 2024 HERO Act expanded benefits, preventing eligibility loss due to cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and enabling direct deposit for faster payments.

Veterans can use the estimator at vets.mass.gov and apply through their local Veterans' Service Officer (VSO). For assistance, call (617) 210-5480.

Funding for Community Transportation

Looking for funding for a community transportation service or coordination effort? [Check out these federal, state, foundation, and other funding opportunities.](#)



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Our thanks to the Age & Dementia Friendly Franklin County & North Quabbin steering committee members:

- Michael Archbald - Foothills Health District
- Jean Dodge - LifePath's Rainbow Elders
- Lynne Feldman - LifePath
- Mary Giannetti - Heywood Healthcare
- Cathy Savoy - Athol Council on Aging
- Denise Schwartz - OASIS Council at Greenfield Community College
- Meg Ryan - FRCOG
- Rachel Stoler - FRCOG
- Phoebe Walker - FRCOG



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