



AGE-FRIENDLY

Franklin County & North Quabbin

LifePath Secures Major Grants to Support Age- and Dementia-Friendly Initiatives

by Lynne Feldman, Associate Executive Director, LifePath

LifePath has recently received two significant grants totaling \$690,000 to further our work in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region. The first grant, a \$190,000 award from Point32Health Foundation, spans three years and supports LifePath's ongoing efforts to create age- and dementia-friendly communities. The second, larger grant, amounting to \$500,000 over five years, comes from the Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds. This funding will help the Age- and Dementia-Friendly Franklin County and North Quabbin initiative across 30 towns, in collaboration with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and local resident-led working groups.

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Statewide Age-Friendly Plan Feedback

In July, FRCOG and LifePath hosted a listening session to gather input into the Commonwealth's State Aging Plan. Representatives from multiple agencies, and the general public attended and worked together to answer questions posed by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs as they seek to create state-wide recommendations for the coming 5-10 years. The three top policy priorities identified by attendees were: improving access and affordability to transportation and mobility services, increasing housing options for older adults, and increasing home and community-based care.

[Read a summary of the event \(scroll down to links section\).](#)

If you missed the event, you are welcome to [submit feedback electronically](#).



Trainings and Resources

- [Dementia, Caregiving and Transportation Publication](#)
- [Enhancing Community Accessibility through an Age-Friendly Lens](#) - September 10, 2024 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM (ET)
- [Integrating an Age-Friendly Lens into Your Climate Change/Disaster](#) - October 8, 2024 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM (ET)
- [Partnering Across the Age-Friendly Ecosystem](#) - November 12, 2024 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM (ET)
- [2024 AARP Livable Communities Workshop: Designing for People of All Ages](#) - October 16-17 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (ET)

Outdoor Adventures: Accessible Nature Trails and Parks

There are many different types of accessible trails in Massachusetts state parks. Any rail trail offers you a paved, level experience for access to natural areas and exercise. Several parks also offer accessibly-designed hiking trails in scenic, natural settings. These accessible trails are either paved or made from stone dust and are usually under a mile long.

For more information about accessible trails, please visit the [Department of Conservation and Recreation website](#).

Volunteer Opportunity: Community Grant Reviewer for the Massachusetts Service Alliance

As part of its commitment to an accessible and inclusive grant making process, the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) is looking for Community Grant Reviewers for its 2024 AmeriCorps grants process. Community Grant Reviewers play an important role in identifying and prioritizing critical community needs across the commonwealth. Your feedback will play a critical role in determining which

AmeriCorps programs are funded. MSA is looking for reviewers from a diverse range of backgrounds and perspectives across the commonwealth. This cycle, reviewers will make recommendations on which applicants advance to the federal grants competition AND will provide feedback to help applicants strengthen their proposals.

[Learn more](#)

We offer thanks for the continued dedication from the Age-Friendly Franklin County & North Quabbin project 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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