

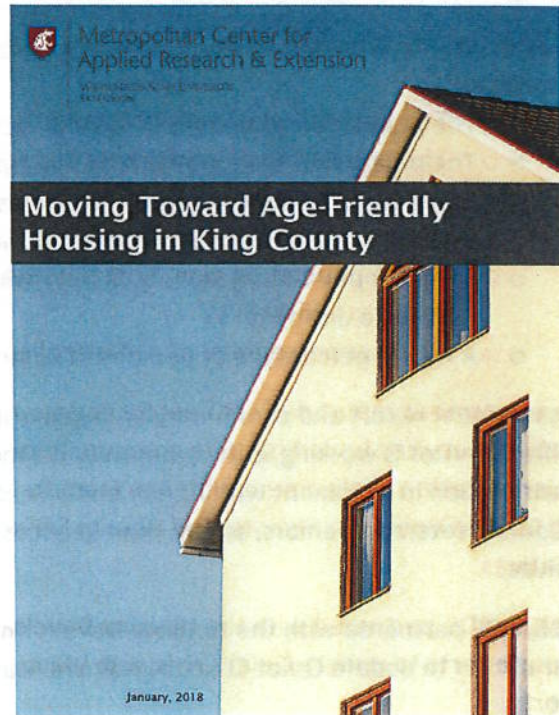
Moving Toward Age-Friendly Housing in King County

An age-friendly community promotes accessible and affordable housing for people of all ages and abilities.

Aging and Disability Services collaborates with community partners to promote age-friendly housing that meets the needs of older adults in King County. In 2017, a team of researchers from Washington State University and Portland State University created the Age Friendly Housing Assessment Report, **Moving Toward Age-Friendly Housing in King County**. The assessment, along with a complementary report summarizing stakeholder and community input, was designed to update our understanding of the housing needs of older adults and to recommend strategies to increase and expand age-friendly housing in King County. Both reports are posted at bit.ly/2FOLXUK.

Some of the key findings of the assessment are:

- Older adult households are increasing rapidly in King County.
 - In 2015, about 37 percent of heads of household were adults age 55 years and older. This percentage is projected to increase to approximately 47 percent in 2030, and 62 percent in 2050.
 - The increase of older adult households is outpacing the supply of accessible and affordable housing in King County.
- Housing is unaffordable for many older King County households.
 - A higher percentage of households with older adults live in unaffordable housing compared to households without older adults.
 - Households with older adults who rent their home are more likely to have unaffordable housing: over half these households live in unaffordable housing.
 - Among regions in King County, the Eastside has the highest percentage of older renters living in unaffordable housing.
 - Approximately 40 percent of senior households with a mortgage live in unaffordable housing.
- Low-income older adults are unable to afford housing in King County.
 - A higher percentage of households with older adults are low-income.
 - A quarter of households with older adults are unable to afford the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in King County.
 - On the Eastside, over a third of households with older adults could not afford the median rent without assistance.



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Moving Toward Age-Friendly Housing in King County, continued

- King County is becoming more diverse as the size of many historically under-served populations is increasing.
 - The population of people of color is increasing.
 - The population of immigrants and refugees is increasing.
 - While King County has one of the largest LGBTQ populations in the country, housing options that are both age- and LGBTQ-friendly are limited.
 - As the population ages, King County will see an increase in the percentage of the population that has a disability.
 - A higher percentage of persons of color have a disability.

The assessment report and community engagement report contain several recommendations. Aging and Disability Services is working with community partners to prioritize recommendations for implementation in alignment with Age Friendly Seattle, the Regional Affordable Housing Taskforce, the King County Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, and other affordable housing plans and initiatives.

In 2016, ADS partnered with the Housing Development Consortium on a Housing and Aging Forum that off our efforts to update Quiet Crisis: Age Wave Maxes Out Affordable Housing, a 2009 senior housing report.

For links to the reports, visit agingkingcounty.org/what-we-do/age-friendly-communities/#housing (or bit.ly/2FOLXUK).

Need housing? Get free, confidential housing information and referrals to local benefits via the professional advocates at Community Living Connections (communitylivingconnections.org).

