



Partnership for Age-Friendly in Larimer County Immediate Needs Grant Report www.pafclarimer.org

The Partnership for Age-Friendly Communities in Larimer County (PAFC) has a **mission** to foster leadership and strong community collaborations that will plan, design, and implement sustainable strategies to enhance quality of life for older adults in Larimer County.

PAFC's **vision** is that Larimer County is a community in which older adults flourish as they age.

PAFC works in four priority areas consisting of **Housing** so older adults have a variety of housing options sufficient to meet their individual needs and for the community support to make the options viable. **Health and Wellness** ensures that Larimer County residents can enjoy optimal emotional, physical, and spiritual health as they age. **Culture of Aging** positively impacts the attitudes, values, and behaviors in Larimer County regarding aging. **Transportation, mobility, and access** ensures that older adults in Larimer County have access to key services and quality of life opportunities. Such access can be provided through a combination of transportation options, service delivery mechanisms, community planning and other creative means.

Why the Partnership for Age-Friendly Communities in Larimer County matters –

According to Dr. Martin Carcasson-Center for Public Deliberation Colorado State University, “Our brains are not wired for the sort of tough conversations we need to have to address the complex problems we share, and as a result, we gravitate toward simple stories that often divide us and undermine the conversations we need to have. A critical counterbalance to these negative effects is organizations that bring people together across perspectives and create opportunities for more authentic engagement. These “bridging” organizations used to be more abundant in local communities, but with the internet, which makes connecting and gathering with like-minded people so much easier, they are much rarer now. Communities must work to reinvigorate existing or create new bridging institutions. The Partnership for Age-Friendly Communities in Larimer County represents exactly this sort of organization. It serves as a critical catalyst, convener, and thought leader that provides our community with the capacity to come together in productive ways to address our shared problems. Such organizations should be prized and well supported in our communities.”

The Partnership for Age-Friendly Communities in Larimer County used Immediate Needs Grant funding to mitigate lost revenues and the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including supporting operating costs in the amount of \$50,000.

PAFC continued to **employ** a full-time Executive Director and a part-time Marketing/Volunteer Coordinator.

PAFC utilized **75 volunteers** who gave over **3,000 hours**

<https://www.pafclarimer.org/volunteer-projects>

PAFC obtained a mission sponsor, two additional priority area sponsors, and held two annual fundraising events – **“Celebrating Older Adults”** and **“Colorado Gives Day”**.

Monthly **Newsletters** continued to be generated to inform the community about different aspects of the organization along with current projects being developed, community events taking place, and additional information that was of interest to older adults.

<https://www.pafclarimer.org/newsletters>

PAFC’s outreach included **7,200 emails** using Constant Contacts and **143 posts** on PAFC’s Facebook page.

PAFC Executive Director attended over **86 community stakeholders’ meetings** related to aging in Larimer County.

Intergenerational pairings of students and PAFC volunteers create opportunities for learning, collaboration, and experience working together on projects that benefit community members across Larimer County. PAFC **hosted 4 CSU students** as interns and volunteers, helping students achieve their graduation requirement to perform service learning hours in their specific field of study.

With a variety of topics, **12 Lunch and Learns** were provided to the community regarding resources available to older adults.

<https://www.pafclarimer.org/lunch-and-learn>

Missing Middle Housing is a crisis in our community. PAFC produced a video that explains the issue and viable solutions to be explored.

<https://youtu.be/78GuQerSCWAe>

PAFC continues to partner with NFRMPO's to further the **RideNoCo** project development. **RideNoCo** received **143 calls** and had **1,582 visits on the website**, distributed **4,690 Rider's Guides**, and gave or was present at **25 community presentations**.

<https://rideno.co/about/>

In partnership with NFRMPO conducted a **Walk Audit** around Foothills Mall & Midtown. Community members worked as a team to identify barriers that may exist which prevent their communities from being "walkable" by individuals of all ages and abilities. A few changes directly relating to the walk audit have been implemented by the city.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2cc173482f484f47a8c69e1314ae10da>



The Graceful Aging Insights Blog is a team of local writers who contribute to monthly columns highlighting people's experiences related to aging. **10 blogs were written with over 228 views**. **Still Wisecracking**, a team of older adults contributing to an interactive blog, commenting on the ordinary and the extraordinary, **had 15 posts with 631 views**.



In partnership with CSU's Center for Public Deliberation a second **genHerous** event was held bringing seven generations of women together in conversation to talk about their lives, share advice, and work together to build intergenerational connections with one another. This created a space for authentic stories about women's lives. This project fosters a compassionate perspective of ourselves and other women across generations. **38 women attended.**

<https://libarts.source.colostate.edu/cpd-brings-seven-generations-of-women-together-for-second-annual-genherous-event/>

PAFC launched **Sound Affects** in 2022. **Sound Affects** connects professional musicians with underserved adults living in care facilities or at home. To date has provided **650 performances to 1500 residents in 35 facilities utilizing 178 musicians and 4 Artist Residencies.**

www.soundaffectsmusic.org

Volunteers continued to build out the **Virtual Gateways Catalog**- An entire online catalog of Larimer County virtual events and activities for community members, created so community members could engage virtually. Community members from multiple age groups have opportunities to interact via the catalog in activities such as book clubs, fitness classes, special events or can start their own Zoom group. **Virtual Gateways Catalog** has **42 organizations listed 541 impressions, 283 reads with an average read time of 7:38 minutes with 172 clicks.** Developed a **Tech Buddy Support Program** that provided tech support to older adults who need support for their devices to help ensure they could participate in Virtual Gateways catalog events using technology.

<https://www.pafclarimer.org/catalog>

Volunteers continued to grow the **Tech Buddy Support Program** offering tech support to older adults within Larimer County. In 2022 we **served 30 individuals** with one on one person centered tech support and **trained two additional tech buddies.**



The Age-Friendly Workplace Initiative informs business owners and Human Resource teams about the many benefits of hiring and retaining an age-diverse workforce including increased productivity and increased profitability. **Presented to over 150 businesses.**



PAFC produced a **Larimer County Manufactured Home Resident Handbook**. Residents living in manufactured/mobile homes have unique and challenging issues that may be encountered when living in manufactured home park, this handbook helps residents find the right resources quickly and easily for assistance that is needed. **Over 5,000 handbooks have been given to these residents.**

https://issuu.com/pafclarimer/docs/2022-07-09_manufactured_housing_handbook_english?fr=sYWRINZuynzI3NzY

https://issuu.com/pafclarimer/doc/2022-07-09_manufactured_housing_handbook_spanish?fr=sYzIxNTUyNzI3ODE

The Lifelong Housing Initiative is working in cooperation with the Colorado State University Institute for the Built Environment and Volunteers of America to equip families with tools and an assessment to determine whether staying in one's home or moving into a supportive living center is best for that homeowner.

The Virtual Volunteer Pilot project helped to better understand the role of volunteering among older adults, the changing needs, and expectations of volunteers and older adults in the community. **55 people aged 50+ were impacted by the project.** The project increased PAFC's ability to support current and future volunteers with a streamlined onboarding process and increased virtual volunteer options.

PAFC provided two orientation sessions of **CircleTalk™**. **CircleTalk™** is a social engagement program designed to reduce perceptions of isolation and increase perceptions of wellbeing through a small-group, conversational model. **32 people were impacted.**