

# Age-Friendly Minnesota awards 14 Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) Grants to advance age-friendly efforts across the state

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*August 14, 2024*

Fourteen Minnesota organizations have been awarded Age-Friendly Minnesota Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) Grants to advance age-friendly efforts across the state. The Age-Friendly Minnesota (AFMN) Council, in collaboration with the MN Department of Human Services, launched the AFMN Grants Program in 2022 to help communities initiate or advance age-friendly efforts. The Council is committed to making diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) the foundation of AFMN, including this grant initiative.

TAP Grants were originally designed to make AFMN Community Grants more accessible to a broader range of entities by providing no-cost technical assistance to applicants and grantees who have less experience or capacity to apply for and administer grant funding.

This second round of TAP Grants, funded up to \$100,00 per recipient, expands funding across six areas, including Tribal engagement, cultural community empowerment, and Minnesota's Multisector Blueprint for Aging, among others. Grant projects will run from August 2024 through June 2026.

TAP Grantees are located in various regions across the state and are a mix of nonprofit organizations, regional development organizations, for-profit businesses, and sole proprietors.

The grant recipients are:

- **All Elders United for Justice**, a nonprofit that works with elders from many cultures and communities all over Minnesota, will provide technical assistance to AFMN Community Grant applicants and Community Grantees; hold two events related to ageism and age-friendly work; and promote age-friendliness among marginalized communities to build their capacity to have a voice in decision-making on policies and services that impact their lives.

*Service Area:* Metro area and statewide

- **Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA)** is part of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, and is the Area Agency on Aging for Minnesota's seven-county Arrowhead region. Through this grant, AAAA will:

- Provide technical assistance to Community Grant applicants and Grantees; cultivate age-friendly communities efforts in Arrowhead cities and counties, including supporting incorporation of Tribal elements into those efforts; and engage Tribes in age-friendly efforts and the work of Age-Friendly Minnesota.
- Promote and support the Multisector Blueprint for Aging; offer Age-Friendly Business Training Programs; maintain and grow its Changemakers Cohort, a group of advocates trained in age-friendly frameworks who then serve as community ambassadors; advance Reframing Aging efforts focused on dismantling ageism across sectors; and advance Age-Friendly Universities, especially with the University of Minnesota Duluth.

*Service Area:* Statewide with specific emphasis on Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St Louis Counties.

- **Central Minnesota Council on Aging, Inc. (CMCOA)**, the Area Agency on Aging serving 14 counties in central Minnesota, will provide technical assistance to AFMN Community Grant applicants and Community Grantees; convene virtual collaborative community of learning sessions on the age-friendly framework and Multisector Blueprint for Aging; and host two in-person community forms focused on strategizing for advancement of age-friendly initiatives.

*Service Area:* Statewide, with specific emphasis on Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, Wright, Todd, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, and Pine Counties

- **Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging (DSAAA)** is part of the Northwest Regional Development Commission and is the Area Agency on Aging serving 21 counties in Northwest and West Central Minnesota. Through this grant, DSAAA will provide technical assistance to AFMN Community Grant applicants and Community Grantees; provide ongoing technical assistance to existing age-friendly initiatives in the region; identify and address barriers to implementing age-friendly efforts in highly rural communities; and hold educational webinars focused on a variety of age-friendly topics.

*Service Area:* Statewide, with specific emphasis on Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin Counties.

- **Farah Baig, dba Baig Aging Insights Group** will work to advance the Multisector Blueprint

for Aging in a variety of ways, including technical writing; supporting creation of a data dashboard and implementation metrics, and supporting stakeholder engagement efforts.

*Service Area:* Statewide

- **Family Service Rochester** is a community-based organization providing a variety of services, including those focused on older adults. Their grant supports efforts to cultivate engagement in the Age-Friendly University Global Network among three universities and colleges in Olmsted County; promote employer support for employees who are family caregivers; and conduct walk and park audits, in partnership with public and private sectors, to promote Multisector Blueprint goals related to multi-modal transportation and public spaces for all ages and seasons.

*Service Area:* Olmsted and Rice Counties

- **Future iQ, Inc.**, a research and consulting firm specializing in foresight and scenario-based strategic planning, will provide technical assistance to AFMN Community Grant applicants and Community Grantees; and develop and design promotional materials and messages to support rollout and implementation of the Multisector Blueprint for Aging and strengthen AFMN's work overall.

*Service Area:* Statewide

- **Gifts for Seniors**, a nonprofit organization focused on alleviating social isolation among older adults in the greater Twin Cities region, will host quarterly community gatherings for in-person engagement and relationship-building among aging services providers. Gatherings will promote best practices, age-friendly frameworks, cultural awareness, AFMN initiatives and more.

*Service Area:* Seven-county metro area as well as Wright, Sherburne, and Faribault counties

- **InTegrity Partners, LLC** will provide individualized technical assistance to AFMN Community Grant applicants and Community Grantees, in addition to technical and programmatic support for AFMN and the AFMN Council.

*Service Area:* Statewide

- **KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc.** will educate the community and promote belonging for LGBTQ+ older adults; support creation of spaces that affirm LGBTQ+ individuals; develop an age-friendly LGBTQ+ advocacy campaign; and create a report summarizing key lessons and findings to share with other partners and entities who are working to engage in similar advocacy.

*Service Area:* Itasca County

- **Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc. dba Trellis** serves the seven-county metropolitan region and will provide technical assistance to Community Grant applicants and Community Grantees in the region; plan and lead communities of practice for Community Grantees; deliver webinars on topics related to building age-friendly communities; support all metro-area municipalities undertaking age-friendly efforts; and host community workshops related to the Multisector Blueprint for Aging.

*Service Area:* Statewide with specific emphasis on Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties.

- **Minnesota Gerontological Society (MGS):** A leading interdisciplinary, membership-based organization, MGS will make age-friendly concepts, AFMN Grants, and the Multisector Blueprint for Aging a focus of its annual conference and provide scholarships to gerontology students to attend; hold two Sacred Site tours in conjunction with MN Council of Churches Healing Stories initiative; hold webinars that highlight AFMN Community Grantees and bridge research and practice.

*Service Area:* Statewide

- **Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging (MNLCOA),** an aging network non-profit, will advance age-friendly philanthropy through the Finish Strong Funders Network; conduct personalized outreach to diverse organizations related to aging and age-friendly work; hold a policy and advocacy training and State Capitol event to elevate age-friendly during the 2025 session; feature the AFMN Council in MNLCOA events and materials; and provide technical assistance to maintain an age-friendly website and via writing, graphic design, and social media management.

*Service Area:* Statewide

- **Ziag Management Consulting, LLC** will develop, curate and implement community engagement training for AFMN Community Grantees, with emphasis on diverse stakeholders, equity and inclusion. This Grantee will also provide technical assistance consulting for Community Grantees with specific needs related to community engagement work in their grant projects.

*Service Area:* Statewide