CITY OF SANTA FE

Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan Summary

The Age-Friendly Santa Fe Action Plan is a three-year, City-led roadmap for a more livable, inclusive, and connected Santa Fe for residents of all ages. Approved by City Council, it aligns existing City efforts rather than building a separate system.

Why and how

Mission. The plan advances a coordinated, all-ages approach to aging well by aligning City policies, programs, and partnerships; elevating Senior Services as a strategic partner in City governance; and leveraging existing City efforts.

The commitment. In February 2024, Resolution No. 2024-5 committed the City to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and a five-year process: needs assessment, action plan, implementation, and evaluation.

Why it matters here. Santa Fe's median age is 46.4, compared with 39.9 statewide and 39.2 nationally. About 26% of residents are 65 or older, compared with 20% and 18%. An estimated 17% live with a disability, compared with about 13% nationally.

Who took part. The City received 562 survey responses, and 260 residents joined workshops, listening sessions, and community forums. Materials and activities were available in English and Spanish, with interpretation at in-person events. Survey respondents were older and less Hispanic than the city overall: their average age was 68, and 76% identified as White and 15% as Hispanic, while about 54% of residents are Hispanic or Latino.

What the survey found. About 67% of respondents rated Santa Fe a good or very good place to age. More than 90% said staying in their home and living independently are important or very important.

What residents said in person. Eight themes came through the listening sessions, workshops, and forums:

1. Moving through the city feels increasingly hard and risky.
2. Transportation is the link between resources and daily life.
3. Housing works best when it is affordable and close to daily needs.
4. Access to Santa Fe's cultural life is uneven for full-time residents.
5. Staying connected requires energy, access, and opportunity.
6. Being active is essential, but not always easy.
7. Access to information and communication is unclear and inconsistent.
8. People feel heard in these conversations, but less so elsewhere.

Advisory Committee members, resource providers, and community leaders added that services are valued but often experienced as fragmented rather than as a coordinated system.

Priorities and framework

Healthcare, transportation, housing, and employment showed the largest gaps between what survey respondents consider important and how they rate those areas today. Both are rated on a 1 to 5 scale. A priority score is the gap between them, so a larger number signals a larger gap.

Priority area	Importance	Current rating	Priority score
Healthcare, fitness, and wellness	4.84	2.40	**2.44**
Transportation	4.33	2.10	**2.23**
Housing	4.17	1.95	**2.22**
Employment and work opportunities	4.11	2.21	**1.90**

The six focus areas draw on the full needs assessment, including the survey, in-person sessions, and partner input. Employment is addressed under Social Engagement and Participation.

Focus area	What it aims for
Transportation	Safe, reliable ways to reach healthcare, services, work, and community life
Housing	Staying safely, affordably, and comfortably at home through life's stages
Communication and Information	Information that is easier to find, understand, and navigate
Health and Wellness	Access to care, wellness, and prevention across the lifespan
Social Engagement and Participation	Connection, belonging, civic life, and economic participation at all ages
Safety and Public Spaces	Public spaces that are safe, accessible, and usable

Guiding principles: apply an all-ages lens, build on existing work, integrate early, strengthen collaboration and shared responsibility, improve navigation and clarity, and support sustainable capacity.

Cross-cutting strategies: shared leadership and resident involvement, Senior Services as a coordinating and advocacy hub, age-friendly priorities in existing City plans, and stronger communication and feedback loops.

The actions

The plan names 46 actions as an initial roadmap, which may change with continued community engagement and evaluation. They are shortened here; Appendix A of the full plan has the complete wording, partners, and indicators.

Timeline key: short-term is 1 to 2 years, mid-term is 3 years, and ongoing means continuing or recurring.

Action	Timeline
Cross-cutting	
Establish an Advisory Committee or Task Force	Short-term
Explore a dedicated age-friendly staff position	Short-term
Host regular livability meetings and workshops	Ongoing
Gather input at senior centers and libraries	Ongoing
Create a pathway for resident input to City Council	Short-term
Engage City planning processes, such as the General Plan and Santa Fe Forward	Mid-term
Integrate age-friendly language into City plans	Mid-term
Position Senior Services as a planning partner	Ongoing
Transportation	
Bring community insights to planning bodies	Short-term
Increase participation in transportation planning	Short to mid
Host transportation listening sessions and events	Short-term
Identify gaps in parking, routes, hours, destinations	Short to mid
Improve access to community destinations	Mid-term
Promote transportation reporting systems	Short-term
Improve coordination with transit providers	Mid-term
Raise awareness of street-issue reporting	Short-term
Housing	
Bring insights to housing planning bodies	Short-term
Increase participation in housing planning	Short to mid
Host housing listening sessions and events	Short-term
Expand awareness of City housing resources	Mid-term
Educate property groups on universal design	Mid-term
Communication and Information	
Build an Age-Friendly website clearinghouse	Short-term
Distribute printed resource guides	Short-term
Launch a commitment and recognition program	Mid-term
Improve information sharing across aging services	Ongoing
Maintain a coordinated calendar of events	Short-term
Strengthen promotion of CONNECT 211	Mid-term
Host an annual Age-Friendly fair or event	Annual
Add an Age-Friendly feature to Senior Scene	Ongoing

Action	Timeline
Expand bilingual information and resources	Ongoing
Expand Spanish- and Native-language partnerships	Ongoing
Health and Wellness	
Offer healthy aging workshops	Short-term
Train City leaders and staff on aging and ageism	Short-term
Expand intergenerational senior center programs	Mid-term
Expand programs at Pasatiempo and Luisa centers	Mid-term
Social Engagement and Participation	
Expand programs through libraries and schools	Mid-term
Support older adult entrepreneurship and work	Mid-term
Strengthen senior centers as connection hubs	Ongoing
Raise awareness of diverse family structures	Short to mid
Expand coordination of volunteer networks	Mid-term
Promote the Age-Friendly University Initiative	Mid-term
Safety and Public Spaces	
Improve awareness of safety and ADA reporting	Short-term
Add feedback loops to City reporting systems	Short-term
Engage neighborhood associations on safety	Ongoing
Promote aging-in-place villages	Mid-term
Expand the Neighborhood Watch program	Mid-term

Questions about the plan:

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