City of Santa Monica

Santa Monica Aging and Disability Action Plan

SEPTEMBER 2025

City of Santa Monica

Housing and Human Services Department

Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Division

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Thank you to Santa Monica community members and partners who engaged in the needs assessment process by sharing their time, insights and feedback to shape the Action Plan.

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Santa Monica Aging and Disability Action Plan is a three-year roadmap (from 2026 to 2029) to make Santa Monica a more age- and disability-friendly community.

Background

Santa Monica began developing its Aging and Disability Action Plan in fall 2023, when the City's Housing & Human Services Department secured a grant from the California Department of Aging. This funding launched the City's effort to create a local age- and disability-friendly action plan addressing the current, emerging, and future needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. In spring 2024, the City kicked off the project, retaining a team from Elizabeth Anderson Consulting, and forming the Action Plan Advisory Committee in fall 2024.

Process

The Advisory Committee - composed of older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, subject matter experts, City staff, and commissioners - led a community-driven planning process. The group adopted core values to guide its work, analyzed community demographics, and guided the design of the spring 2025 community needs assessment using the World Health Organization's Domains of Livability as a framework. The needs assessment included a widely publicized community survey as well as a community open house event and a series of focus groups.

Community Insights

Nearly 70% of Community Survey respondents favorably rated Santa Monica as an age-and disability-friendly community - due to the City's significant investments in aging- and disability-focused work. Through the needs assessment activities, the community shared valuable insights into their lived experience in Santa Monica. A cross-cutting

theme in these community dialogues was a deeply felt sense of vulnerability across the Domains of Livability which are the community features that impact well-being, including outdoor spaces, transportation, civic participation and employment, housing, health services and community supports, social participation, respect and inclusion, and communication and information. Based on these findings, the Advisory Committee created a set of responsive goals to address the most pressing community priorities.

Action Plan Goals & Themes of Community Livability

This Action Plan identifies achievable, strategic goals organized under five themes of community livability, as follows:

1. **Mobility, Access, & Inclusive Public Spaces:** Improve streets, public spaces, and transit to support safe, accessible mobility for older adults and people with disabilities, day and night.

2. **Connected & Resilient Community:** Strengthen community by expanding social connections, volunteerism, and support systems.

3. **Coordinated Communication & Outreach:** Provide timely, clear, and multilingual information through both digital and traditional channels.

4. **Housing Stability & Affordability:** Expand affordable housing and improve access to resources that help residents of all ages and abilities to remain stably housed.

5. **Inclusive Emergency Preparedness:** Boost community resilience through preparedness education, neighborhood support, and inclusive emergency services.

These goals advance equity, access, and quality of life for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

Implementation and Next Steps

Led by the Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Division in the Housing and Human Services Department, the team will coordinate the Action Plan implementation efforts. The Division will partner with a collaborative of City and community representatives to ensure lived experience remains central to implementation. This group will identify workflow processes and resources needed to reach each goal. The community will be updated regularly on progress towards the Action Plan's goals through regular community presentations and information posted on the city website.

Equity By Design:

The Action Plan Advisory Committee

The Santa Monica Aging and Disability Action Plan is intentionally designed as a community-driven, equity-focused initiative grounded in the lived experience of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers who live and/or work in Santa Monica. To ensure the plan reflects the realities and aspirations of the community, the City of Santa Monica and its consulting team facilitated a community-centered design process from the outset.

At the heart of this effort is the 16-seat **Action Plan Advisory Committee** – comprised of community members, subject matter experts, caregivers, older adults, people with disabilities, and representatives from City departments and commissions. The Committee was formed through a broad outreach and recruitment effort to ensure diverse representation and a variety of expertise.

The Advisory Committee played a central role in shaping every aspect of the plan since their first convening in fall 2024. Members adopted shared values, reviewed demographic data, designed the community needs assessment, and engaged in deep listening to understand what matters most to Santa Monica community members. Their contributions are the vision, values, and strategic goals of the plan, providing a shared commitment to building an even more inclusive, responsive, and compassionate city—one where all people can age and live with dignity, connection, and purpose.

Values, Vision, Mission

Developed by the Advisory Committee

Values

The Santa Monica Aging and Disability Action Plan is grounded in values that shape both process and outcomes:

- **Respect** – We honor the dignity of all individuals and value diverse viewpoints and lived experiences.
- **Participation** – We support active engagement, creating space for every voice to contribute meaningfully.
- **Inclusiveness** – We commit to communication and engagement that is accessible and culturally responsive.
- **Joy in Process** – We foster connection and community by making room for joy and shared moments.
- **Care** – We prioritize compassion and mutual support as essential to building an equitable city.
- **Deep Listening** – We practice active listening, ensuring feedback leads to thoughtful dialogue and responsive action.

Vision

The City of Santa Monica is a community where people of all ages, including older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers, are respected, valued, included, and empowered to live with dignity, joy, and connection.

Mission

The City of Santa Monica honors and supports older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers by advancing inclusive policies, accessible infrastructure and a culture of respect, care, and participation. Through deep listening and community-centered investment, we strive to create a livable city where everyone thrives.

Demographics Snapshot

Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Caregivers

Today, nearly 20% of Santa Monica's residents are 65 or older, which is a higher percentage than in Los Angeles County and the State of California. Of those, nearly half are over the age of 75, and more than one-third live alone

Older Adults

Santa Monica is home to a significant and growing population of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Today, nearly 20% of Santa Monica's residents are 65 or older, which is a higher percentage than in Los Angeles County and the State of California. Of those, nearly half are over the age of 75, and more than one-third live alone—factors that increase vulnerability and highlight the need for tailored support systems. Ensuring language access is also essential for this community. Around 34% speak a language other than English at home, and nearly 18% have limited English proficiency, highlighting the need for multilingual services. Among the most common languages other than English are Amharic, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Farsi. While the older population is predominantly White (69.4%), a significant portion—about 30.6%—identify as people of color, including Latino, Asian, and Black residents. This racial and ethnic diversity, combined with language differences and varying health and income levels, shapes the diverse landscape of aging in Santa Monica.

Table 1: Demographic Snapshot of the Older Adults in Santa Monica
Percentages in parentheses reflect proportions of the older adult population age 65+.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT	SANTA MONICA	LA COUNTY
Total Population	**89,939**	**9,663,345**
Older Adults (65y+)	17,611	1,448,571
% of Total Population	19.6%	15%
White 65y+	12,222 (69.4%)	549,008 (37.9%)
BIPOC 65y+	5,389 (30.6%)	899,563 (62.1%)
65y+ in Poverty	2,941 (16.7%)	208,594 (14.4%)
65y+ Living Alone	6,410 (36.4%)	301,303 (20.8%)
Non-English Speaking 65y+	3,117 (17.7%)	524,383 (36.2%)
Female 65y+	10,038 (57.0%)	811,200 (56.0%)
Adults 75y+	8,418 (47.8%)	605,503 (41.8%)

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023)

People with Disabilities

People are living with disabilities across their lifespan in Santa Monica and rates increase sharply with age. Disability rates under age 65 hover around 13%, but this statistic is likely underreported. Roughly 18% of residents aged 65 to 74 have at least one disability, and the prevalence increases to 42% among those 75 and older. These disabilities range from mobility and sensory challenges to cognitive and mental health conditions. Approximately 70% of older adults with disabilities in Santa Monica are women, highlighting important gender considerations in service planning (ACS, 2023).

Table 2: Percent of population with a disability in each age group

AGE GROUP	SANTA MONICA	LA COUNTY
Under 5	0.0%	0.6%
5 to 17	3.5%	4.3%
18 to 34	3.6%	5.3%
35 to 64	6.0%	9.4%
65 to 74	17.6%	23.4%
75+	42%	50%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023)

Health Status

Chronic health conditions and social isolation are areas of concern as well. Data from Los Angeles County shows that Latino and Black older adults experience higher rates of diabetes, hypertension, and limited social support compared to their White and Asian peers. Additionally, the impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias is increasing across Los Angeles County - this is currently the third leading cause of death among adults 65 and older, and dementia cases are expected to nearly double by 2030. In Santa Monica, these health condition trends are present as well, especially among residents who live alone or have limited English proficiency (LA County Public Health Reports, 2020; California Department of Public Health Alzheimer's Disease Program, 2022).

> **Economic security is a growing challenge. The median income for older adults in Santa Monica is about $59,000, yet nearly 18% live below the federal poverty level—higher than the county average.**

Income and Housing Status

Economic security is a growing challenge. The median income for older adults in Santa Monica is about $59,000, yet nearly 18% live below the federal poverty level—higher than the county average. People of color, particularly Latino and Asian older adults, are disproportionately represented among older adults living in poverty. Based on state-level data, an estimated 22% of people with a disability between the ages of 21 and 64 live below the poverty line (American Community Survey, 2023). Housing cost burden is especially high among older renters and homeowners with mortgages, many of whom spend more than 30% of their income on housing (American Community Survey, 2023). Among people experiencing homelessness on the Westside, 15% are aged 60 or older, and 41% are living with a disability (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Homeless Count data, 2024).

Caregivers

Caregivers are another critical support for older adults and people with disabilities in Santa Monica. In the broader Westside region, nearly one in four adults provides care for a loved one. Many caregivers are older themselves or balancing multiple roles, such as employment and parenting. With dementia rates rising and a large percentage of older adults living alone, the need for both formal and informal caregiving support is expected to grow (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 2020).

> **In the broader Westside region, nearly one in four adults provides care for a loved one.**

Conclusion

Together, these demographic insights provide the foundation for Santa Monica's Aging and Disability Action Plan. The Action Plan's strategic goals are directly informed by this data and the voices of community members who participated in the 2025 Aging and Disability Action Plan community needs assessment.

Community Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment Process

To ensure the Action Plan goals are community-driven, the Advisory Committee developed the needs assessment to center the lived experience of Santa Monica's older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers. The needs assessment collected people's opinions, insights and experiences in Santa Monica across the Domains of Livability. **The needs assessment was conducted February - April 2025** and promoted widely through City networks, community partners and a month-long advertising campaign in the Santa Monica Daily Press, both online and in print. The needs assessment offered opportunities to engage virtually, in-person, and in multiple languages, including American Sign Language.

The following activities brought a diverse perspective of community thoughts, needs and ideas into conversation:

COMMUNITY SURVEY	COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE	COMMUNITY MEMBER FOCUS GROUP	SERVICE PROVIDER FOCUS GROUP
484 responses	**50 attendees**	**10 attendees**	**10 attendees**

Survey respondents were asked to voluntarily provide demographic information, which was reported as follows:

AGE
Average: 71.6 years
Median: 73 years

GENDER
Female: 75%
Male: 25%

RACE/ETHNICITY
White: 78%
Black: 5%
Latino/a: 7%
Asian: 7%
Native American: 3%

DISABILITY STATUS
35% indicated having at least one disability

CAREGIVER STATUS
Current caregiver:
Unpaid: 10%
Paid: 3%

Former caregiver:
Unpaid: 39%
Paid: 5%

Not a caregiver: 43%

ZIP CODE
90401: 9%
90402: 9%
90403: 24%
90404: 22%
90405: 30%
Outside Santa Monica: 7%

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME
Under $25,000: 21%
$25,000 - $49,999: 19%
$50,000 - $99,999: 14%
More than $100,000: 20%
Decline to state: 26%

HOUSEHOLD SIZE
1 person: 53%
2 people: 35%
3 people: 7%
4 people: 3%
More than 4: 2%

The framework for gathering community input for the Action Plan was designed using the World Health Organization's Domains of Livability; created to help cities become more age- and disability-friendly. The domains include key areas such as housing, transportation, social participation, and access to health services—factors that influence how well people can age and live with dignity in their communities.

Needs Assessment Findings

Nearly 70% of survey respondents rated Santa Monica favorably as an age- and disability-friendly community.

Overall, community sentiment is positive - nearly 70% of survey respondents rated Santa Monica favorably as an age- and disability-friendly community. The focus groups and community conversations provided valuable insights into what is working well, what could be improved, and what steps can help make Santa Monica even more age- and disability-friendly moving forward.

A cross-cutting theme in the focus groups and community conversations was a deeply felt sense of vulnerability. This vulnerability presented in people's stories about feeling isolated and disconnected from community life; their concerns about housing affordability and aging in the community as their needs change; and facing barriers and safety concerns related to using public transit, sidewalks, busy crosswalks and other public open spaces.

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Community Needs Assessment

Findings by Domain of Livability

TRANSPORTATION

Community Needs

The community would benefit from expanded and flexible options that accommodate diverse mobility needs, including evenings and weekends.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

Most common ways of getting around:
70% drive own car
70% walk
39% take Big Blue Bus

Public transit concerns are safety related:
61% while riding
55% at bus stops

OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

Community Needs

There is a need for well-maintained, accessible sidewalks, pathways and streets, increased public restroom availability, improved lighting, and inclusive design that supports people of all abilities.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

75% say city libraries were rated the most age- and disability-friendly city facilities

Beaches and city hall were rated as less age- and disability-friendly city spaces

74% say sidewalks meet needs
40% are satisfied with sidewalk maintenance

Key concerns about the public right of way are:
48% unsafe intersections
42% streets

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COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES

Community Needs

There is a need for more coordinated services, expanded access to in-home care, and increased support for caregivers to sustain their own health and independence as they care for others.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

98% have health insurance and a regular place for healthcare

15% find it difficult to afford food

56% have been caregivers

Top caregiving challenge is emotional stress and burnout (selected by **73%** of caregivers)

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Community Needs

Community members are seeking more culturally relevant, local, and inclusive opportunities for connection to reduce isolation and foster community belonging.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

75% reported daily social contact and **81%** feel satisfied with their current level of social contact

65% participate in community activities

34% want to participate but cannot

RESPECT AND INCLUSION

Community Needs

There is a need to promote public awareness about aging and disabilities, including dementia-friendly practices, to ensure all individuals feel seen, respected, and valued in community spaces.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

Santa Monica welcomes all: **84%** agree

Feel respected: **82%** agree

Feel included: **77%** agree

Mobility challenges is the most common disability-related barrier to participation: **66%**

CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Community Needs

The community would benefit from increased access to flexible and meaningful volunteer and employment opportunities, as well as easier pathways to civic participation.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

58% of respondents do not feel financially secure for retirement

32% are employed or looking for work

36% currently volunteer

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Community Needs

To ensure everyone can stay informed and connected, clear, simple, multilingual, and accessible communication is needed across both digital and non-digital platforms.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

Top sources of information:
65% Santa Monica Daily Press
47% SaMo News
46% word of mouth
40% internet websites

Preference for printed materials and personal outreach

HOUSING

Community Needs

There is a growing demand for more affordable, accessible, and diverse housing options that support residents to age in the community as their needs change.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

Cited as the most pressing reasons people would consider moving:
49% Housing costs
39% Cost of living

62% are not aware of aging-in-place resource

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Community Needs

Community members would benefit from inclusive, easy-to-understand emergency preparedness resources—especially those that do not rely solely on digital access.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

During an emergency:
21% need assistance from emergency personnel
30% need transportation assistance

32% are not prepared or need help preparing for a 72-hour emergency

Strategic Goals

For Santa Monica's Aging and Disability Action Plan

The Action Plan identifies achievable, strategic goals organized under five themes of community livability.

The Action Plan's strategic goals advance City Council priorities of economic opportunity and growth; clean streets and safe neighborhoods; and affordable, livable and secure housing for all.

The Action Plan also connects with interdepartmental strategic plans spanning mobility, homelessness, housing, equity and diversity, ADA accessibility, parks and recreation, behavioral health, public safety, and emergency preparedness, as well as regional and statewide initiatives like Purposeful Aging Los Angeles and the California Master Plan for Aging.

Quotes below are from community members who participated in the 2025 needs assessment activities.

MOBILITY, ACCESS, & INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES

Domains of Livability: Transportation; Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Community priorities in this area inform the focus on improving the public right-of-way and creating more vibrant, welcoming outdoor spaces and public facilities that ensure accessibility for the diversity of ways people move, rest, and navigate in these environments throughout the day and night. Additionally, there is a focus on increasing flexibility, comfort, and accessibility of transit choices while acknowledging that driving and walking continue to be an important option for older adults and people with disabilities to safely get to and from community locations.

> "I think it has the ability to be a really great age friendly city in terms of accessibility, especially [since] certain areas are so walkable."
>
> *– Community Member*

Goals:

a. **Expand On-Demand Transit -** Expand operating hours of the Mobility on Demand Every Day (MODE) transportation service for adults aged 65+ or 18+ with a disability to 8am - 6pm, seven days a week. Note: current operating hours are M-F, 8am-4:30pm; Saturday, 8:30-4pm, Sunday service is currently suspended. *Complete by Year 3.*

b. **Place Seating at More Bus Stops -** Install and maintain seating at 85% of all bus stops in the City, prioritizing high-usage routes and areas with higher concentrations of older adults and people with disabilities. *Complete by Year 3.*

> **"I need a bench every few blocks…it's not a luxury, it's how I can still leave the house without fear."**
>
> *– Community Member*

c. **Enhance Safety on Public Transit -** Big Blue Bus to continue its focus on cleanliness and safety by maintaining transit security officer hours on local bus routes. *Implement Year 1- Year 3.*

> **"You can't get across Wilshire Boulevard before the light changes."**
>
> *– Community Member*

d. **Create an Aging Lens for Equity - Informed Mobility and Safety Enhancements –** Create tools to determine and map density and location of older adults and people with disabilities. This data would be used by City departments (Public Works Department and Department of Transportation) when evaluating roadway and public right of way safety enhancements (e.g., crosswalks enhancements and sidewalk repairs)." *Complete by Year 3.*

e. **Repair Sidewalks on a Regular Basis -** Public Works Department to continue its focus on public safety and accessibility by repairing two sidewalks a month per City Sidewalk Repair Policy. *Implement Year 1- Year 3.*

f. **Increase Accessibility in City-Owned Facilities -** Propose a Capital Improvement Project in the City's FY 26-27 Biennial Budget to conduct the City's required ADA compliance audit of City-owned facilities (buildings, parks, outdoor spaces) to create an ADA transition plan, with an enhanced recommendation or wayfinding to support access and circulation *Implement Year 1; Complete by Year 3.*

> **"I would love to join a garden group, but the path there is gravel and I use a walker."**
>
> *– Community Member*

CONNECTED & RESILIENT COMMUNITY

Domains of Livability: Community and Health Services; Social Participation; Respect and Inclusion; Civic Participation and Employment

Community priorities in this area focus on strengthening community by creating social experiences, volunteer opportunities and spaces to purposefully connect older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. The focus also includes enhancing public system readiness to respond to the unique needs of this population.

> **"Just tell me where to go and what I can do. I'm not done giving back."**
>
> *– Community Member*

Goals:

a. **Enhance Social Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities -** Identify internal or external funding sources to reinstate Santa Monica Adaptive Recreation and Sports Social Club, and Explorer's Program, to create social experiences for people with disabilities ages 13+, and their friends, via weekly social connection, and monthly excursions, supported by a City staff member and volunteers. *Complete by Year 3.*

b. **Strengthen Intergenerational Connections -** Pilot four intergenerational programs at existing community hubs with potential partners to include City departments and community organizations and groups. *Complete by Year 2.*

> **"Want to go out at night? Apparently we don't. Want to go to church on Sunday? You can't get there without a car... it's hard to find someone to help."**
>
> *– Community Member*

c. **Explore Feasibility of a Santa Monica Village -** Study models and funding sources to determine feasibility of seeding a grassroots, neighbor-to-neighbor Santa Monica Village, which is a volunteer-driven organization that builds community through social programs, and coordinates support services like non-medical household tasks and transportation. *Complete by Year 3.*

d. **Increase Caregiver Support -** Expand and promote support programs for family caregivers in partnership with community organizations, with the goal of increasing caregiver participation; inclusive of support groups, trainings, caregiver check-ins, respite care, and mental health help. *Complete by Year 2.*

> **"It's a very frustrating and lonely endeavor to be a caregiver... we need a support social group where we can vent, exchange guidance, and feel heard."**
>
> *– Community Member*

e. **Reduce Isolation and Strengthen Connection to Community Services -** Complete an inventory of friendly calling programs serving older adults and people with disabilities in Year 1. Use findings to identify service gaps, inform upcoming funding opportunities, and guide updates to the City's online resource listings. *Complete Year 1.*

f. **Increase Awareness about Government Benefits -** Host annual in-person resource fairs focused on topics such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and care services at libraries, senior centers, and other community locations. Host two events annually, helping 200+ people each year. *Implement Year 1 - Year 3.*

> "It's not just about getting services — people want to be part of something. They want to feel like they still belong."
>
> *– Community Member*

g. **Host Community and Health Services Information on City Website -** Create a comprehensive listing of community and health services on the City's website to be shared with residents via a variety of communication methods. Resources to include links to City programs, non-profit agencies, social events/clubs, and other government services for older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers. *Complete by Year 3.*

h. **Enhance Police Responsiveness to the Needs of Elder and Dependent Adults -** Every two years, provide training to educate Santa Monica Police Department's sworn officers on how to best respond to and assist elder and dependent adults. *Implement Year 1 - Year 3.*

COORDINATED COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

Domains of Livability: Communication and Information; Community and Health Services

Community priorities in this area inform the focus on empowering people with easy to understand, timely, and multilingual information via channels that take advantage of technology while continuing to use traditional, printed, and interpersonal communication methods.

> "Make it bigger. Make it simple. No fancy language."
>
> *– Community Member*

Goals:

a. **Inventory of Outreach and Promotion Tactics -** Produce an inventory of existing communication and outreach tactics across departments. *Complete by Year 1.*

> "So many people I know don't use the computer. It becomes a clique – those who get the information and the rest of us who don't hear anything."
>
> *– Community Member*

b. **Standardize Outreach and Promotion Tactics -** Enhance the City's communication/outreach protocol with standardized guidance on how to promote information through tactics that connect with the range of ways people get information beyond digital, e.g. print, word-of-mouth, flyers, mail, billboards, information posted at City and community-partner locations; leverage digital accessibility standards, and provide guidance on strategies to equitably engage diverse older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers. *Complete by Year 3.*

HOUSING STABILITY & AFFORDABILITY

Domains of Livability: Housing

Community priorities in this area focus on increasing housing stability by expanding affordable options and making housing resources focused on retention easier to find, understand, and use for people across ages, abilities and incomes.

> "...I feel like I am part of the community. I have lived here. It's my community."
>
> *– Community Member*

Goals:

a. **Expand Rental Assistance** - Increase the number of older adults and people with disabilities receiving financial assistance to maintain housing or cover basic living expenses by 30%. *Complete by Year 3.*

b. **Expand the City's Preserving our Diversity (POD) Program** - Increase the number of participants in the POD program from 220 to 300 people. *Complete by Year 3.*

c. **Increase Awareness about Housing Resources** - Host three housing workshops annually with information for older adults and people with disabilities —held at libraries, parks, or nonprofit community partners—focused on resources that support housing retention and address housing crises, reaching a total of 100 attendees. *Implement Year 1- Year 3.*

> "Every year the rent goes up. I don't know how much longer I can stay where I am."
>
> *– Community Member*

d. **Develop more Affordable Housing for Older Adults and People with Disabilities** - Develop or enter into pre-development for 50 low income, 50 very low income, and 50 extremely low income units for older adults and people with disabilities, for a total of 150 affordable units. *Complete by Year 3.*

INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Domains of Livability: Emergency Preparedness

Community priorities in this area inform the focus on fostering community resilience by expanding emergency preparedness education, strengthening neighborhood capacity, ensuring support for residents with access and functional needs.

Goals:

a. **Increase Support Available to Vulnerable Populations during Emergencies -** Host four community enrollment events annually to encourage older adults and people with disabilities to register for the Santa Monica Fire Department's Community Connect – a free emergency preparedness program which allows residents to share details about their household's access and functional needs (including pets) to inform the Fire Department's situational awareness during emergencies. Goal to outreach to 1,000 households total from this target population. *Complete by Year 3.*

> **"If the power goes out, I lose my oxygen. I need to know someone will come help me."**
>
> *– Community Member*

b. **Increase Emergency Preparedness among Older Adults and People with Disabilities -** Host four emergency preparedness educational and outreach events annually with a specific focus on preparing older adults and people with disabilities. Work with Santa Monica Neighborhood Councils, places of worship, libraries, non-profit organizations, schools, and other community-based settings to promote the trainings. *Implement Year 1 - Year 3.*

c. **Support Property Manager Readiness for Emergency Evacuations -** Identify and promote existing resources that outline evacuation steps for building managers and provide to 100% of Assisted Living and Senior Housing facilities in Santa Monica. *Complete by Year 2.*

d. **Enhance City's Emergency Management Plans for Safe Evacuation of People with Access and Functional Needs –** In alignment with Local Hazard Mitigation Plan commitments, City emergency management, first responders and other service providers to create all-department city evacuation plan, focusing on wildfire, tsunami and dam inundation evacuation. Plan to include processes to support the safe evacuation of people with access and functional needs, including those in assisted living or high-rise buildings and those without access to private transportation. *Complete by Year 1.*

e. **Enhance Transit Partners Readiness for Emergency Evacuations –** As part of city's evacuation planning process, City Office of Emergency Management and Santa Monica Fire Department to convene local transit partners to contribute to city's emergency evacuation planning process. Once plan is approved, transit partners to review annually for updates (e.g., evaluating evacuation routes, potential of expanding Big Blue Bus MODE service area or services hours under emergency declaration). *Complete by Year 2.*

f. **Increase Availability of High-Rise Building Evacuation Tools -** Santa Monica Fire Department to identify and secure external funding resources to install evacuation chairs or other emergency evacuation devices (e.g., Med Sled) in 5 high-risk buildings. *Complete by Year 3.*

Next Steps

Moving from Planning to Action

The Santa Monica Aging and Disability Action Plan marks the beginning of a three-year effort to make the community even more age- and disability-friendly. With strategic goals in place, the next steps focus on **partnership, implementation, and progress tracking.**

To build community awareness and broad momentum around Santa Monica's priority to become even more age- and disability-friendly, progress towards the Action Plan goals will be shared with the community via regular community presentations, written updates to City Council, on the City website, and via social media posts. At the end of the three-year implementation, the City will assess the impact of implementing the plan and submit a progress report to AARP as part of expectations of being a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

The City is committed to transparency, deep listening, working with community partners and an adaptive implementation of the process to reach the goals of Santa Monica's Aging and Disability Action Plan.

We invite the community to stay engaged – this is your plan!

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City of Santa Monica
Housing and Human Services Department
Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Division

City of Santa Monica

Appendices: Santa Monica Aging and Disability Action Plan

SEPTEMBER 2025

Appendix A: Community Demographics Summary

Appendix B: Community Assets by Domain of Livability

Appendix C: Community Survey

Appendix A – Community Demographics Summary

Purpose

This report provides an overview of relevant publicly available data to inform the development of the Santa Monica Aging and Disability Action Plan ("Plan") which is focused on improving community livability, and planning for the current and future needs of older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers. This data summary includes information about community demographics, health status, economic conditions, and caregiving needs. Where possible, Santa Monica-specific data is cited from the U.S. Census and other sources; when needed, Los Angeles County trends are interpreted as a baseline projection for the Santa Monica community.

The forthcoming Plan is informed by a combination of the publicly available data below, and feedback from an extensive needs assessment process that engaged community members through surveys, focus groups, and a community open house.

Geography and Government Structure

Santa Monica covers 8.4 square miles on the western edge of Los Angeles County and is part of the county's Service Planning Area 5 (SPA 5), which encompasses other Westside communities, including Beverly Hills, Culver City and Council District 11 of the City of Los Angeles. SPA 5 provides regional context and data beneficial for comprehensive health and social planning.

Santa Monica operates under a council-manager form of government. The seven-member City Council acts as the city's legislative body, with policies implemented by the City Manager. This governance model supports effective administration and responsive services tailored to local needs.

Older Adult Population

Santa Monica has a significant and growing older adult population. Current estimates are detailed below:

	Santa Monica	LA County
Total Population	89,939	9,663,345
Older Adults (65y+)	17,611	1,448,571
% of Total Population	19.6%	15%
White 65y+	12,222 (69.4%)	549,008 (37.9%)
BIPOC 65y+	5,389 (30.6%)	899,563 (62.1%)
65y+ in Poverty	2,941 (16.7%)	208,594 (14.4%)
65y+ Living Alone	6,410 (36.4%)	301,303 (20.8%)
Non-English Speaking 65y+	3,117 (17.7%)	524,383 (36.2%)
Female 65y+	10,038 (57.0%)	811,200 (56.0%)
Adults 75y+	8,418 (47.8%)	605,503 (41.8%)

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023),
*Note: Percentages in parentheses reflect proportions specifically of the senior population (65+).

Racial/Ethnic Composition

Santa Monica's older adult population (65 and over) is majority White with representation from Asian, Black and Latino populations in the minority. The table below compares racial/ethnic groups for the population 65+.

Population 65y+ by Race and Ethnicity

	Santa Monica	LA County
Asian	10.40%	20.20%
Black	4.70%	8.40%
Latino	12.50%	31.00%
White	69.40%	37.90%
Other	3.00%	2.50%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023)

Language

Among Santa Monica residents aged 65 and older, approximately 6,829 (34%) speak a language other than English at home. Of these, 3,577 individuals—representing 17.7% of the older adult population—report speaking English less than "very well." Common languages spoken include Amharic, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Farsi.

Sources: American Community Survey (2023); UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

Population Living with a Disability

Data from Santa Monica and Los Angeles County show that disability rates rise sharply in older adulthood—particularly among those aged 65 to 74. In Santa Monica, 17.6% of residents in this age group report having a disability, compared to 6.0% of people ages 35 to 64.

Percent of population with a disability in each age group

Age Group	Santa Monica	LA County
Under 5	0.0%	0.6%
5 to 17	3.5%	4.3%
18 to 34	3.6%	5.3%
35 to 64	6.0%	9.4%
65 to 74	17.6%	23.4%
75+	42%	50%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023)

Types of disabilities among people ages 65+ with a disability in Santa Monica

Disability Type	Prevalence
Sensory	16%
Physical	31%
Mental	16%
Self-care	14%
Go-outside-home	24%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023)

Racial/Ethnicity/Gender

Disability prevalence by race and ethnicity is relatively consistent—ranging from 8% to 10% across Asian, Black, Latino, and White populations. However, there is a

noteworthy **gender difference - an estimated 65% of older adults with disabilities in Santa Monica are women**.

Sources: American Community Survey (2023)

Health Conditions by Race/Ethnicity (Ages 50 and Over)

Health Disparities

Health status among older adults varies significantly by race and ethnicity, particularly in Los Angeles County. County-level data serves as a baseline to estimate disparities in Santa Monica. Among people ages 50 and older, Latino and Black adults experience notably higher rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension compared to their White and Asian counterparts. Mental health and social wellbeing also show disparities—Asian and Latino older adults are more likely to report limited social support and lower levels of physical activity. Health disparities in Santa Monica may appear less pronounced than rates in LA County but remain important, particularly when intersecting with language access and living arrangements.

Health Conditions by Race/Ethnicity for Age 50+ in LA County

	Latino	White	Black	Asian
Diabetes	28.10%	13.60%	27.10%	18.10%
Hypertension	43.30%	39.90%	57.10%	43.30%
Depression	16.00%	19.30%	21.70%	11.10%
Limited Social Support	34.80%	10.90%	10.40%	39.60%
Gets Adequate Aerobic Exercise	20.20%	31.50%	29.40%	28.80%

Source: LA County Public Health Reports (2020)

Alzheimer's and Other Dementias

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias have a profound and growing impact on older adults across Los Angeles County. This is currently the third leading cause of death among adults 65 and older. Dementia cases are expected to nearly double by 2030—especially among Latino, Asian, and Black communities. Santa Monica can anticipate a similar prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementias, which should be considered in the context of other demographic data points.

Older adults with Alzheimer's or other dementias may be impacted by memory loss, disorientation, and managing daily activities. These challenges are magnified when individuals lack consistent support, which is important to consider given that 36% of Santa Monica's older adults live alone. People living alone may face delayed diagnoses, difficulties following care plans, or increased safety concerns due to isolation.

Sources: LA County Public Health Reports (2020); California Department of Public Health Alzheimer's Disease Program (2022).

Caregivers

Family caregivers are essential to the well-being of older adults and people with disabilities, often serving as the primary source of day-to-day support. In Los Angeles County, approximately 17% of adult men and 18% of adult women provide unpaid care. While city-specific data is not available, Santa Monica is part of Service Planning Area 5 (SPA 5), where an estimated 24% of adults report providing care to a friend or family member in the past 30 days. Many of these caregivers are older adults themselves or are juggling multiple responsibilities like careers and parenting.

The demand for both unpaid and professional caregiving in Santa Monica is expected to grow, driven by several intersecting factors: an aging population, a high percentage of older adults living alone, and the predominance of women—who are statistically more likely to serve as caregivers and to need care as they age. Chronic illnesses and dementia-related conditions will further intensify this need.

Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (2020)

Income and Expenses

Income and Poverty

Many older adults in Santa Monica rely on a mix of Social Security, pensions, retirement savings, and, in some cases, continued employment. However, income levels vary widely, and a significant portion of the older population lives on fixed incomes that struggle to keep pace with the city's high cost of living. The median income for Santa Monica residents aged 65 and older is approximately $59,000, which is lower than the median for older adults in Los Angeles County. Poverty is present, **17.9%** of Santa Monica's older residents live below the federal poverty level—a rate higher than the

county average. Among people with a disability ages 21-64, state-level data indicates 22% live below the poverty line (American Community Survey, 2023).

Older adults in Santa Monica experience poverty at higher rates than the general adult population. While 17.9% of residents aged 65 and older live below the federal poverty level, only 10% of adults ages 18 to 59 fall below that threshold. When poverty data among older adults is disaggregated by race and ethnicity, disparities emerge. For example, although White residents make up the largest share of the older adult population, Latino and Asian older adults are disproportionately represented among those living in poverty. The table below shows the racial and ethnic distribution of Santa Monica residents aged 65 and older who are below the federal poverty line.

Of Total Ethnic Group, Percent of Older Adults 65+ below Federal Poverty Line

	Santa Monica	Los Angeles County
Asian	3.36%	3.13%
Black	3.77%	2.70%
Latino	3.16%	1.53%
White	3.49%	2.45%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023)

Of Ethnic Group Population below Federal Poverty Line, Percent who are Older Adults 65+

	Santa Monica	Los Angeles County
Asian	32.49%	27.65%
Black	16.37%	13.63%
Latino	33.19%	9.77%
White	29.88%	25.06%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023)

While local data on labor force participation among people with disabilities is not available for this report, national trends suggest that individuals with disabilities in Santa

Monica likely experience lower employment rates and reduced income-earning opportunities compared to the general population.

Labor Force Participation Rate

	Santa Monica	LA County
16 to 19	16.4%	26.3%
20 to 24	90%	71%
25 to 29	94.4%	85.1%
30 to 34	95.9%	85.6%
35 to 44	86.7%	83.6%
45 to 54	87.7%	82.5%
55 to 59	84.9%	75.5%
60 to 64	63.3%	62%
65 to 74	38.2%	30.9%
75 +	11%	8.5%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2022)

Housing Status and Costs

Housing affordability remains a key determinant of economic stability for older adults. Cost burdens vary significantly based on housing tenure—whether individuals rent, own with a mortgage, or own their homes outright. The table below presents the total number of renter and owner households in Santa Monica, along with the percentage of occupants by age group. Overall, approximately 73% of Santa Monica households are renters, while 27% are homeowners. Noteworthy, home ownership is concentrated in the 55+ population, which represents 61.5% of all Santa Monica homeowners.

Santa Monica Housing Status by Age

Age	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied
15 to 24	0.55%	3.48%
25 to 34	6.07%	24.59%
35 to 44	13.30%	21.12%
45 to 54	18.58%	15.63%
55 to 59	10.39%	7.60%
60 to 64	10.90%	6.94%
65 to 74	21.81%	11.69%
75 to 84	12.86%	6.02%
85+	5.53%	2.94%
Total	100%	100%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS, 2023)

The tables below illustrate housing cost burdens among older adults in Santa Monica and Los Angeles County across these categories. Notably, a substantial proportion of older renters and homeowners with mortgages in Santa Monica spend more than 35% of their income on housing, indicating a high level of financial vulnerability. Even older adults who own their homes without a mortgage are not exempt from cost pressures, facing ongoing expenses such as property taxes, maintenance, and utilities. These burdens, when coupled with fixed incomes and rising healthcare costs, increase the risk of housing instability.

Housing Cost Burden by Housing Status

Older Adult Renters		
Cost Burden	**Santa Monica**	**LA County**
Less than 30%	54%	43%
More than 30%	46%	57%
Older Adult Homeowners <u>with</u> a Mortgage		
Cost Burden	**Santa Monica**	**LA County**
Less than 30%	61%	57%
More than 30%	39%	43%
Older Adult Homeowners <u>without</u> a Mortgage		
Cost Burden	**Santa Monica**	**LA County**
Less than 30%	74%	83%
More than 30%	26%	18%

Source: City of Santa Monica and LA County Housing Data (2020)

Homelessness

The challenges facing older adults and people with disabilities are even more acute among people experiencing homelessness. According to the 2024 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Point-in-Time Count, 15% of people experiencing homelessness in Service Planning Area 5 are aged 60 or older, and 41% are living with a disability. The most commonly reported disabilities include substance use disorders, physical limitations, and serious mental illness.

Sources: American Community Survey (ACS, 2022 & 2023); City of Santa Monica and LA County Housing Data (2020); LAHSA Point-in-Time Count (2024);

Appendix B - Community Assets by Domain of Livability

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

Summary: The City of Santa Monica is committed to creating safe, accessible, and inclusive outdoor spaces and buildings that support the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities. From well-maintained parks and walking paths to age-friendly public buildings and rest areas, Santa Monica prioritizes design that encourages social connection, physical activity, and ease of access. Parks, sidewalks, and buildings that are clean, safe, and easy for everyone to use.

Assets include:

- **Beach Accessibility:** Santa Monica provides beach access paths leading to the water's edge and offers electric beach wheelchairs for day use, enhancing beach accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges.
- **Pier Access:** The Santa Monica Pier is fully wheelchair accessible, including ramps and elevators, and features tactile and visual wayfinding elements.
- **Universally Accessible and Inclusive Playgrounds:** North Beach, South Beach, Ishihara Park, and Marine Park Playgrounds are universally accessible playgrounds designed for children of all abilities, ensuring inclusive play opportunities. Douglas Park Playground will be reconstructed as an additional fifth inclusive playground, with the playground opening expected in Fall 2025.
- **Community Gardens -** The City currently has five outdoor gardens that provide active living opportunities to Santa Monica residents and a way to engage in urban agriculture and create unique, biodiverse habitats that support our efforts to be a sustainable city through local food production, sustainable land stewardship, community composting, water conservation practices, and community engagement. The City is also working on two additional gardens: 19th Street Community Farm and Reed Park Community Garden. Community gardens are a source of pride for the community, and we actively look for ways to engage the greater community through our monthly programs, workshops and events. Gardens are therapeutic, energizing and an opportunity for socialization and community engagement.

Transportation

Summary: The City of Santa Monica offers a range of accessible transportation options designed to support the independence and mobility of older adults and people with disabilities. The City is focused on making transportation choices available that are safe, reliable, and convenient.

Assets include:

- **Mobility On-Demand Every Day (MODE):** Big Blue Bus has partnered with Lyft to introduce *Mobility On Demand Every Day* (MODE), the City of Santa Monica's shared-ride service for older adults and persons with disabilities. The MODE program provides members with greater options for freedom and mobility, by offering curb-to-curb, on-demand transportation - including wheelchair accessible rides, convenient payments, and much more.
- **Active Aging Program Pilot:** Supported adults aged 65 and older in utilizing various transportation options to enhance mobility, safety, and health. The program encouraged walking, bicycling, and transit use, aiming to improve older adults' quality of life.

Housing

Summary: The City offers affordable older adult housing options, including rent-controlled apartments and Below Market Housing waitlists. Additionally, organizations like Wise & Healthy Aging provide various services to support older adults in housing. The City is dedicated to helping older adults and people with disabilities find affordable housing and live comfortably as they get older or to remain living independently in the community.

Assets include:

- **Below Market Housing (BMH) Waitlist:** City-wide waitlist for affordable apartments in Santa Monica. Apartments in the BMH program are designated for households that make up to the area median income, and include units at both non-profit and market rate properties. Older adult-only buildings in the program include Magnolia Villas and Greenway Meadows, as well some apartments designated for households needing accessibility features.
- **Senior Section 8 Waitlist:** Specifically for older adults, for three affordable buildings in Santa Monica: Santa Monica Christian Towers, Westminster Towers, and Nielson Villas. (Note: the waitlist is currently closed, but is active for those with existing applications).
- **Preserving Our Diversity (POD):** Provides cash-based assistance to low-income, long-term Santa Monica residents aged 65 and older living in rent-controlled apartments, helping them achieve a minimum monthly after-rent income.
- **Low-Income Disabled Tenant Fee Waiver:** This program waives the annual Rent Control registration fee for very-low-income tenants with qualifying disabilities, potentially reducing monthly rent costs.
- **Very Low-Income Senior Fee Waiver:** This program waives the annual Rent Control registration fee for very-low-income older adults (62 years or older), potentially reducing monthly rent costs.

- **Home Access Program** - The Independent Living and Home Access Program, operated by the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC), specifically supports housing stability and community living by funding home modifications for their program participants. These modifications are aimed at helping people—particularly older adults and individuals with disabilities—remain in their homes safely and independently.
- **Continuum of Care Program**: Managed by the Santa Monica Housing Authority, the program helps people with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness secure permanent housing—either through tenant-based vouchers or referral to permanent supportive housing in the City of Santa Monica.

Social Participation

Summary: Santa Monica offers a vibrant array of programs and services to promote social participation among older adults and individuals with disabilities, fostering community connection, lifelong learning, and well-being. The City offers fun activities where people can meet others and feel part of the community.

Assets include:

- **Santa Monica Public Library Programs & Events**: Offers a variety of free programs, including author events, film screenings, concerts, and technology workshops, promoting lifelong learning and social engagement.
- **Santa Monica Reads:** One of the longest-running community-wide reading programs in the United States, offering a unique opportunity for individuals to come together, read a shared book, and participate in enriching discussions and events. This program fosters a sense of connection and community, encouraging dialogue, understanding, and a shared love of literature across diverse audiences.
- **Club de Oro para Adultos Mayores**: A weekly program at Virginia Avenue Park that provides social and cultural activities for older Spanish-speaking adults, fostering community engagement.
- **Memories & Movement Senior Club:** A bi-weekly social club for older adults held at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week focuses on something new – including exercise, socializing, and learning from guest presenters on a variety of topics.
- **Club WISE:** Wise and Healthy Aging offers a social club for older adults that provides weekly exercise classes, special community events and various workshops.
- **WISE Diner:** provides healthy lunches at the Ken Edwards Center and Reed Park in the City of Santa Monica to promote food security and social participation by older adults.
- **Farmers Markets** - Santa Monica Farmers Markets creates thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the

agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. Four weekly markets on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, bring the farmers to Downtown, Main Street, and Pico neighborhoods.

Respect & Social Inclusion

Summary: Santa Monica is committed to fostering a community where all individuals regardless of age or ability feel valued and included. Through accessible public events and inclusive facilities, as well as meaningful community engagement efforts, the City ensures that older adults and people with disabilities are actively represented and supported in shaping the services and spaces that impact their lives.

Assets include:

- **Accessible Public Events & Facilities -** City events and cultural programs are designed to be inclusive, with accessible venues, sign language interpretation, mobility support, and outreach to older and disabled residents to encourage participation.
- **Community Engagement & Representation-** Through ongoing initiatives like the citywide Aging and Disability Action Plan, the City involves residents in shaping services and their environments. Feedback from older adults and people with disabilities directly informs planning, ensuring their needs and perspectives are respected and included.

Civic Participation & Employment

Summary: Santa Monica supports opportunities for all residents to actively participate in civic life. Through inclusive volunteer programs and advisory bodies like the Disabilities Commission and Human Services Commission, the City empowers community members to contribute their voices, shape local policies, and help build a more equitable and inclusive Santa Monica.

Assets include:

- **Disabilities Commission**: Advises on policies and programs to enhance accessibility and inclusion, aiming to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica.
- **Human Services Commission**: Advises the City Council on priorities and strategies involving the well-being, equity, and needs of vulnerable residents, including older adults and people with disabilities.

Communication & Information

Summary: Santa Monica is dedicated to ensuring that all residents can easily access clear, inclusive, and accessible information. Through resources like the Santa Monica

Public Library, the City's official website, and the guidance of the ADA Coordinator, the City promotes digital inclusion, ADA compliance, and effective communication to keep the community informed, connected, and engaged.

Assets include:

- **Santa Monica Public Library Programs & Events**: Offers a variety of free programs, including author events, film screenings, concerts, and technology workshops, promoting lifelong learning and social engagement.
- **City's Official Website:** Offers comprehensive information on programs and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, ensuring accessible communication.
- **City of Santa Monica's ADA Coordinator:** Plays a key role in ensuring that the City complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and promotes accessibility and inclusion across all City programs, services, and facilities.

Community Support & Health Services

Summary: Santa Monica offers a diverse network of health and social services designed to support the well-being of all residents, with a strong focus on older adults and individuals with disabilities. Through partnerships with organizations like WISE & Healthy Aging, Meals on Wheels West, the Disability Community Resource Center, and St. Joseph Center, the City ensures access to essential services such as meal delivery, transportation, case management, and specialized care. These coordinated efforts promote independence, reduce isolation, and enhance quality of life particularly for the most vulnerable members of the community.

Assets include:

- **WISE & Healthy Aging:** A nonprofit organization offering meal services, support groups, case management, peer counseling, and referrals to promote independent living among older adults.
- **WISE & Healthy Aging Adult Day Center:** Day services for individuals who are elderly and frail with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, Parkinson's, or the vestiges of a stroke.
- **Meals on Wheels West:** Delivers meals to homebound Santa Monica residents of any age, ensuring nutritional needs are met for those unable to prepare meals themselves.
- **Disability Community Resource Center:** Center for Independent Living dedicated to supporting the equality of life for people with all kinds of disabilities. Provides financial assistance to low-income Santa Monica residents with disabilities and older adults experiencing financial hardship.
- **St. Joseph Center**: The Santa Monica Older Adults Health and Wellness Program provides adults aged 55 and older who are living in Santa Monica with

comprehensive case management to improve their economic stability, health, and wellness.

- **WISE & Healthy Aging Care Management program for vulnerable older adults**: The WISE Care Management and Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD) launched a collaborative program to address the growing challenge of non-emergency 9-1-1 calls, especially from vulnerable, older adult residents in Santa Monica. This program was designed to provide a comprehensive care management system aimed at reducing the strain on emergency services while improving the quality of life for older adults with chronic health issues, social isolation, and other complex needs.

Emergency Preparedness

Summary: Santa Monica is committed to ensuring the safety and resilience of all residents through proactive emergency planning and response. With dedicated first responders and programs led by the Office of Emergency Management and the Police and Fire Departments, the City provides vital tools like Community Connect to support effective, informed emergency response. The City is focused on ensuring inclusive preparedness and coordinated support before, during, and after emergencies.

Assets include:

- **Community Connect:** Launched through the Santa Monica Fire Department, Community Connect is a vital piece of technology that provides first responders with critical information regarding residences or businesses. This information, which the homeowner or business owner inputs, allows first responders to make strategic and tactical decisions enroute should the need arise for us to respond in an emergency. Having information such as floor plans, pets, or specific medical needs will assist responders in those critical moments when every second matters.
- **Office of Emergency Management:** Emergency Services & Preparedness (ESP) administers the implementation of extensive disaster planning, training and proactive community-based preparedness programs to ensure that the City of Santa Monica is a disaster resilient community. ESP also oversees the operation of the City's Emergency Operation Center (EOC). The EOC provides a central command center for all City departments and external response stakeholders to work collaboratively to respond to and recover from all unplanned emergencies/disaster events and large planned events within the City of Santa Monica. The Office of Emergency Management has an identified Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Coordinator as part of the City's EOC staffing to ensure that special attention is given to issues affecting various AFN communities.

City of Santa Monica

AGING AND DISABILITY ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Your voice matters – the City of Santa Monica is developing an Aging and Disability Action Plan, and we want to hear from you! This short survey will help us to understand your experiences and develop ideas to help Santa Monica become even more age- and disability-friendly.

This survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. Individual responses to the survey are confidential and anonymous. Feel free to skip any questions that don't apply to you.

Your input will help us create the City's Aging & Disability Action Plan for a more inclusive and supportive community for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. The Action Plan will be presented to the City Council for adoption in September 2025.

Survey responses are due April 1, 2025.

Thank you for helping us build a more age- and disability-friendly Santa Monica!

An **age- and disability-friendly** community supports the inclusion, accessibility, and well-being of individuals across all ages and abilities. It removes barriers and promotes equity, independence, and full participation in community life.

1. Overall, how would you rate Santa Monica as an age- and disability- friendly community?

○ Excellent ○ Good ○ Poor ○ Fair

2. Do you feel the following locations in Santa Monica are age and disability-friendly spaces?

City Hall	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
City Libraries	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
City Parks - including playgrounds, meeting rooms, restrooms, gardens, open Space, e.g., Marine Park, Reed Park, Palisades Park	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
City Community Hubs - Virginia Avenue Park (VAP) Reed Park's Joslyn Hall, Annenberg Community Beach House, Swim Center	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Other City Facilities - e.g., Santa Monica Institute (SMI), Childcare Recreation Enrichment Sports Together (CREST), Police Activities League (PAL)	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
City Beaches - including playgrounds, restrooms	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know

If there is a specific city location that you feel is not age or disability friendly, please list the location name and details:

_____

_____

3. How do you get around Santa Monica for things like: shopping, dining, errands, health appointments, socializing? (select all that apply)

☐ Walk

☐ Drive my car

☐ Taxi/Uber/Lyft

☐ Friend or family drives me

☐ Expo Line - LA Metro

☐ I do not leave my house

☐ Other (please specify):

☐ Mobility on Demand Everyday (MODE) - Big Blue Bus

☐ LA County Access Paratransit

☐ Bus- Big Blue Bus

☐ Bus - LA Metro

☐ Bike

☐ On-demand e-scooter/e-bike

4. Do these mobility-related features of the city meet your needs when getting around Santa Monica?

Accessible sidewalks	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Maintenance and repairs of sidewalks	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Accessible curb ramps	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Well-lit, safe _streets_ for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers)	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Well-lit, safe _intersections_ for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers)	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Time allotted for pedestrian crossing signals	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Transit options for older adults and people with disabilities	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Affordable public parking lots	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know
Accessible public parking payment machines	○ Yes	○ No	○ Don't Know

Other (please specify):

If you responded "No" to any of the above, please describe why:

_____

_____

5. Do you have any concerns about fully relying on Santa Monica's public transit system instead of using a car? (select all that apply)

☐ Hours of operation

☐ Difficulty boarding public transit

☐ Concerned about losing balance and falling while on transit

☐ Lack of secure wheelchair space

☐ Affordability

☐ Distance to get to the bus stop from my home or to my destination

☐ Other (please specify):

_____

☐ Not knowing available routes and schedules

☐ Reliability of transit schedule

☐ Lack of seating at transit stop

☐ Lack of shade at transit stop

☐ Safety around the public transit stop

☐ Personal safety while riding public transit

_____

6. Is the neighborhood where you live, a place where you:

Feel safe spending time outdoors during the day?　○ Yes　○ No

Feel safe at night?　○ Yes　○ No

If you responded "No" to any of the above, please describe why not:

_____

_____

7. If you were to consider moving out of your home, which of the following reasons would influence your decision? (select all that apply)

☐ **Housing Costs** - unable to afford monthly/annual housing costs.

☐ **General Costs of Living** - unable to afford costs of basic needs like housing, food, health, and transportation.

☐ **Interior Accessibility** - the interior design of my home will not support independent living (e.g., stairs within my home, narrow doorways in my home).

☐ **Exterior Accessibility** - the exterior aspects of my home will not support independent living (e.g., living on an upper floor of my building, stairway into my home).

☐ **Issues with my landlord** - e.g., related to upkeep of my building, renter's rights issues.

☐ **Wanting to be closer to family, friends or other social networks**

☐ **Needing a higher level of care or support services -** e.g., assisted living, skilled nursing.

☐ **Other** (please specify):

8. Do you know there are affordable community resources available to support independent living and aging in place in your home? (e.g., home modifications, in-home caregiving, dementia care, assistive technology)?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

If you responded "Yes" to the above, what resources have you used?

_____

_____

9. Do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Santa Monica fosters a culture of welcoming people of all backgrounds	◯	◯	◯	◯
I feel respected in Santa Monica community life	◯	◯	◯	◯
I feel included in Santa Monica community life	◯	◯	◯	◯
Community decision making and civic activities welcomes all opinions and ideas	◯	◯	◯	◯
I feel heard when I share my needs or provide feedback to inform community decision making	◯	◯	◯	◯
I know where to find information about city meetings and events	◯	◯	◯	◯

If you disagreed with any of the above, please describe why:

_____

_____

10. How do you stay informed or find information about Santa Monica community events, services, or resources? (select all that apply)

☐ SaMo News

☐ Flyers in City spaces (libraries, parks, farmer's markets)

☐ Flyers posted in businesses (coffee shops, stores, restaurants)

☐ Internet websites

☐ Community based organizations (non-profit or faith-based organizations, food pantries, recreational centers, educational insitutions)

☐ Other (please specify):

☐ Emails with digital flyers

☐ Santa Monica Daily Press

☐ Social media

☐ Word of mouth

☐ Radio

☐ Television

11. How often do you have contact with people like friends, family, or neighbors? This contact could be by phone, in person, e-mail, or social media (such as Facebook).

◯ Daily   ◯ Weekly   ◯ Monthly   ◯ A few times a year   ◯ Never

12. Is the amount of contact you have with people from the previous question:

◯ Too much   ◯ Just right   ◯ Not enough

13. Do you participate in any social, wellness, recreational or spiritual activities in the Santa Monica community?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

14. Do you volunteer with any social, wellness, recreational or spiritual groups in the Santa Monica community?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

15. Please indicate who offers the programs you participate in or volunteer with in Santa Monica:

City Recreation	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
City Arts & Cultural Affairs	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
City Libraries	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
City Parks	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
Local businesses	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
Faith community	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
Educational institutions	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
Nonprofit organizations	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
Senior centers	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
My employer	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate
Online programs	◯ Volunteer	◯ Participate

Other (please specify):

_____

_____

16. Do available opportunities for social, wellness, recreational or spiritual activities meet your needs?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

If you responded "No", please describe why not:

_____

_____

17. Are there aspects of Santa Monica community life that you would like to participate in, but can't?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

If you responded "Yes" to the above, describe the biggest barrier to participating:

_____

_____

18. In general, would you say your health is:

○ Excellent   ○ Very good   ○ Good   ○ Fair   ○ Poor

19. Do you have health insurance?

○ Yes   ○ No

20. Do you have a place you regularly go for health care?

○ Yes   ○ No

If you responded "No" to the above, please share why:

_____

_____

21. Do you have a caregiver?

☐ Yes, a paid caregiver
☐ Yes, an unpaid caregiver (e.g., family member, friend, or other contact)
☐ No, but I need a caregiver
☐ No, I don't need a caregiver

22. In the past year, have you experienced difficulty affording food to eat due to lack of money or other challenges?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

If you responded "Yes" to the above, please describe any programs you accessed for assistance: (e.g., CalFresh, food pantry or food bank, low-cost group meals):

_____

_____

23. Do you know where to find information about health and wellness programs in Santa Monica? (e.g., government benefits counseling, community health clinics, free or low-cost food, mental health, substance use treatment)

◯ Yes   ◯ No

24. In the event of an emergency or natural disaster that requires sheltering in place, do you have a plan, supplies and medication prepared to manage 72-hours on your own in your home? (select all that apply)

◯ Yes   ◯ No   ◯ Need help preparing

25. What type of assistance will you need to evacuate your home and neighborhood during a disaster? (select all that apply)

☐ As much advance warning of evacuation as possible

☐ Evacuation assistance from emergency personnel

☐ Evacuation transportation assistance

☐ Other (please specify):

_____

_____

26. Are you currently, or have you ever been, a caregiver for a family member, friend, or another individual?

☐ Current caregiver, unpaid

☐ Current caregiver, paid

☐ Previous caregiver, unpaid

☐ Previous caregiver, paid

☐ No **(If No, skip to Question #31 in "About You" section)**

27. If you are a caregiver for a person with a disability or special needs, please select the option that best describes them. (select all that apply)

☐ Child, under 18

☐ Child, 18 or older

☐ Spouse/partner

☐ Parent(s)

☐ Other Adult(s), 18 or older

28. Are you caregiving for a person who is experiencing memory problems that may be related to Alzheimer's or other dementias?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

29. What are, or were, your top challenges as a caregiver? (Select all that apply)

☐ Emotional stress or burnout

☐ Feeling isolated

☐ Getting respite care so I can take a break

☐ Concern that the person I am caring for will wander and get lost

☐ Financial burden

☐ I am a paid caregiver and the pay does not keep pace with my household expenses

☐ Lacking knowledge on caregiving strategies (e.g., dementia care)

☐ Finding reliable resources to support the independence of the person I care for

☐ Getting legal help in planning for care needs or with financial challenges

☐ Other (please specify): _____

30. Do you know where to find information about programs and resources available to support caregivers? (e.g., respite services, support groups, education)

◯ Yes　　　◯ No

ABOUT YOU

The following demographic questions will only be used to show community trends and themes for the Aging and Disability Action Plan. Individual responses are anonymous and confidential.

31. What year were you born? _____

32. What is your zipcode?

☐ 90401
☐ 90402
☐ 90403
☐ 90404
☐ 90405
☐ Zip code outside Santa Monica

33. Do any of the following factors affect your experience in community life? (Select all that apply)

☐ **Hearing** - deaf or significant difficulty hearing.

☐ **Vision** - blind or serious difficulty seeing, even with glasses.

☐ **Cognitive challenges** - Difficulty with memory, concentration, or decision-making due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition.

☐ **Mobility** - Difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

☐ **Daily activity challenges** - Difficulty with bathing, cooking, cleaning or dressing.

☐ **Community participation challenges** - Difficulty running errands alone, such as going to the doctor or shopping, due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition.

34. Which race and ethnicity best describes you? (select all that apply)

- ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native or Indigenous
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino/a
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Decline to state

35. What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Culturally Specific Identify (e.g., Two-Spirit)
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Non-Binary
- ☐ Questioning
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Decline to state

36. Are you a member of the LGBTQ+ community?

○ Yes   ○ No   ○ Decline to state

37. What language(s) are you most comfortable speaking in community settings (e.g., city events, healthcare, non-profit programs)? (select all that apply)

- ☐ English
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Russian
- ☐ Farsi
- ☐ Amharic
- ☐ Mandarin
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

38. How long have you lived in Santa Monica?

- ☐ Less than 5 years
- ☐ 5-15 years
- ☐ 16-25 years
- ☐ More than 25 years
- ☐ I don't live in Santa Monica

39. Which of the following best describes your current living situation?

- ☐ Renter
- ☐ Owner
- ☐ Homeless
- ☐ Assisted Living/Skilled nursing Facility
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Decline to state

40. How many people live in your household, including you?

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ More than 4

41. Currently I live: (select all that apply)

- ☐ Alone
- ☐ With a spouse or partner
- ☐ With family
- ☐ With friend(s)/roomates(s)
- ☐ In a group setting
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

42. What is your annual household income?

- [ ] Under $25,000
- [ ] Between $25,000 - $49,999
- [ ] Between $50,000 - $74,999
- [ ] Between $75,000 - $99,999
- [ ] Between $100,000 - $124,999

- [ ] Between $125,000 - $149,999
- [ ] Between $150,000 - $199,999
- [ ] Over $200,000
- [ ] Decline to state

43. What best describes your current employment status?

- [ ] Retired
- [ ] Employed, full-time
- [ ] Employed, part-time
- [ ] Unemployed

If you are employed part-time or unemployed, are you looking for work?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

44. If you are not yet retired, do you feel secure in your plans for retirement?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

If you responded "No" to the above, please share why:

_____

_____

Thank you for completing this survey!

Please return your completed survey to the location where you received it. For a full list of locations where you can drop off your completed survey, please visit www.santamonica.gov/aging-and-disability-action-plan or call (310) 458-2200 x. 5771

Do you have more to share?
Please join us at our Aging & Disability Action Plan Open House!

Saturday, March 22, 2025; 9:00am - 12:00pm
Santa Monica College Emeritus Campus, 1227 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Virtual participation options available

All are welcome and we kindly ask you register in advance at:
www.santamonica.gov/aging-and-disability-action-plan

Questions?
Phone: (310) 458-2200 x. 5771
Email: humanservices@santamonica.gov
www.santamonica.gov/aging-and-disability-action-plan