

# Massachusetts

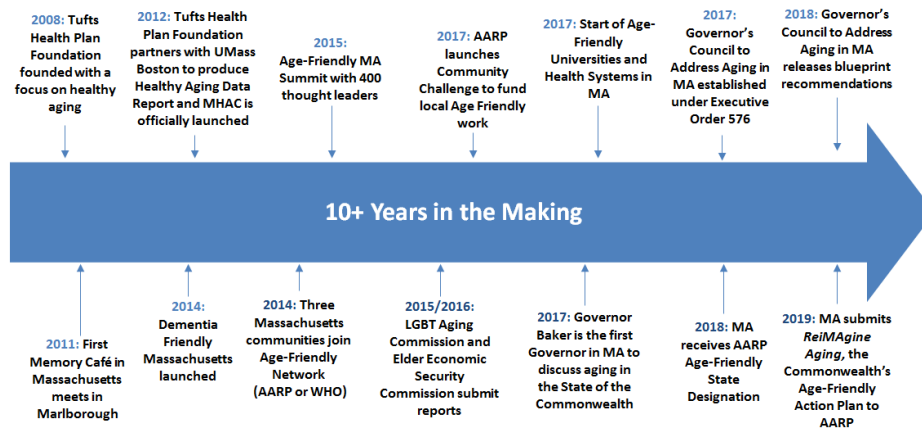
Enrolled in AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities: January 2018

*“We need to think differently about aging in Massachusetts. This isn’t just about acknowledging a shift in demographics; it’s about being intentional in our planning to ensure that those who grew up here, raised families and built communities, can continue to contribute their energy experience and talents where they live and make Massachusetts the most age-friendly state.”*

- Governor Charles D. Baker, 2018 -

## A MOVEMENT, NOT A MOMENT

For the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, coordinating and aligning age-friendly into a statewide movement represents the natural progression of grassroots work that started over 10 years ago. The strength of the commitment to make the Commonwealth age-friendly comes from over a decade of foundational work laid by municipalities, philanthropic, and community-based organizations. In the Commonwealth, the pursuit of age-friendly is a **movement, not a moment**.



## MISSION

To **amplify, align and coordinate** local, regional and statewide efforts to create a **welcoming and livable Commonwealth** as residents grow up and grow older together.

## VISION

**Aging in Massachusetts is reimagined.**

The Commonwealth is an accountable partner in supporting communities, embedding aging in all policies and empowering residents with opportunities to age meaningfully in the communities of their choice.

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/age-friendly-massachusetts-action-plan>  
Plan in Development – Subject to Further Review and Changes

## AN OPPORTUNITY - DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT

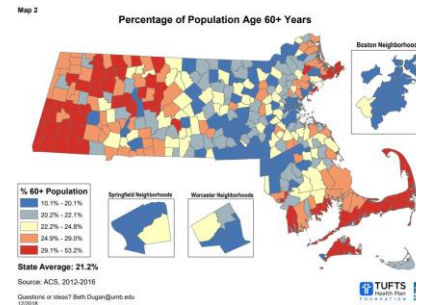
Total Massachusetts population: **6,742,143**

Population over the age of 60: **1,428,144**

Percentage of population over the age of 60: **21.2%**

**Massachusetts now has more residents over the age of 60 than under the age of 20.**

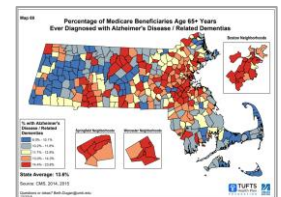
### Percentage of Population Over 60



### Residents Living With Dementia

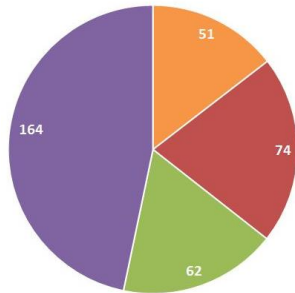
2016  
**138,268**

2025  
**150,000**



## COMMUNITY-LED AGE- AND DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY EFFORTS

Age-Friendly Communities  
Status of the 351 Municipalities in MA  
January 2019



■ Active ■ Emerging ■ Informed ■ Opportunity

**51 Municipalities are Active Age-Friendly Communities**

**74 Municipalities are Emerging as Age-Friendly**

**160 Municipalities are Engaged in Dementia Friendly Activities**

## PARTNERS AND INPUTS

Massachusetts is fortunate to have leaders in multiple sectors – housing, transportation, business, technology, healthcare, philanthropy, education, local government, and aging services – committed to the age-friendly mission.

The statewide age-friendly initiative will amplify and strengthen local and regional efforts through enhanced coordination and collaboration. There have been considerable inputs that have led to the creation of the mission, vision, values and goals of the statewide effort.



## VALUES

- To **honor and build** on the priorities communities have already identified
- To **integrate initiatives and leverage existing work** where possible
- To emphasize **access, equity and inclusion** in all elements of assessment, planning and execution
- To **embed the voice and perspective of residents and communities** in all decisions and plans
- To **facilitate collaboration** at the state and community levels to identify barriers, address gaps and align resources
- To **share** data, information, resources and disseminate knowledge
- To encourage advocacy, policy and practices that **embed aging** within and across a broad range of issues and sectors
- To leverage **innovation and technology** where possible

## GOALS

1. **Community** – Deepen and strengthen age- and dementia-friendly efforts to be inclusive of all communities and populations
2. **Information and Communication** – Communicate information in an accessible and user-friendly manner to residents, organizations, and municipalities
3. **Reframing** – Change the conversation about aging from a “challenge” to an “asset”, increase literacy about issues related to aging, and eliminate ageist images and expressions in language and across social, print, and other media
4. **Policy and Practice** – Encourage the adoption of age-friendly policies and practices in all sectors
5. **Economic Security** – Take specific actions to improve economic security of older adults and caregivers
6. **Sustainability** – Leverage existing structures to sustainably guide and support the work of Age-Friendly Massachusetts and partner initiatives

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