

Age-Friendly New Bedford

Creating a livable community for residents of all ages and abilities

Year Two Highlights

Since its formation in 2015, the Age Friendly New Bedford initiative has brought together New Bedford residents, city departments, and non-profit agencies from throughout the Southcoast to improve our community for residents of all ages.

The partnerships created within the Age Friendly network provided the strength and flexibility required to work through the many challenges the COVID-19 crisis has brought to our region.

The Age Friendly partners have provided extensive food relief, transportation, and wellness checks. They have distributed personal protective equipment, conducted COVID screenings, and been a source of information to community residents.



From around the community



Panelists offer self-care strategies for caregivers at the Buttonwood Senior Center.



Seniors learn how to use the bus and receive CharlieCards.



NB Counts hit the streets to ensure citizens were counted in the 2020 Census.

The New Bedford Council on Aging and Coastline are working with residents and organizations from around the city to address 7 categories of “livability.”

Housing



Goal: Support stable housing for older adults

Successes: Housing guide finalized • PPE delivery to housing • CodeRED sign-ups • Eviction counseling • Wellness calls

Transportation



Goal: Improve public knowledge of and access to cost-effective transportation

Successes: Map of bus lines from senior housing completed • Info available in Spanish and Portuguese • Transportation education fun day

Social Participation



Goal: Promote a network of inclusive social opportunities for older adults

Successes: Dementia friendly business support • Wellness calls to isolated seniors • LGBTQ bereavement group • End of life education program

Communication & Information



Goal: Increase awareness of existing community resources.

Successes: *Senior Scope* publishes COVID alerts • Coastline Facebook page connects public to community resources • Communication guidance from MABVI

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings



Goal: Include residents of all ages in parks planning and programming

Successes: Additional programs offered to older adults • Completion of Rec Plan • Bike NB Pedal Party

Community Supports & Health Services



Goal: Optimize health and wellness in the community, increase access to fresh foods

Successes: Dementia training and caregiver support • Increased home-delivered meals • Food security screening tools adopted at Community Health Center • Distribution of fresh produce to residents

Civic Participation & Employment



Goal: Connect older adults to employment resources and volunteer opportunities

Successes: Meals on Wheels volunteer recruitment • Census participation • Monthly career advice with MassHire

Get involved:

We're always looking for volunteers from the community who can share time and ideas. Contact Christine Sullivan at **508-742-9132** or **csullivan@coastlinenb.org** for more information.

Stay connected:

Follow Coastline on Facebook for updates and events in the community. Visit **www.facebook.com/coastlineNB**.