

AGING IN COMMUNITY / HOUSING

Community Partners:

- New Bedford Housing Authority
- New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development
- Veterans Administration
- Fresh Start Program
- Bristol County District Attorney’s Office
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services
- MassHire
- Bristol County Community College
- Tenancy Preservation Program
- SouthCoast Fair Housing
- Coastline Elderly Services



<p>Goal: Maintain a skilled workforce to support older adults and people with disabilities to age in their community</p>	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a Housing Resources Guide with information about low-income housing properties and application procedures, homeowner’s resources, financial and legal resources. The guide was printed and distributed with financial support from the office of the Bristol County District Attorney. • Partnered with MassHire to train and offer employment to Home Health Aides and Personal Care Assistants to provide assistance for those choosing to age in place. • Hosted 7 match-making sessions to connect residents with Personal Care Attendants • Supported the SouthCoast Elder Homelessness Summit and the Homeless Service Providers Network. • Provided legal referrals to support housing stability through the COVID-19 pandemic • Supported home-bound residents during the COVID-19 pandemic with deliveries of food, medicine and essentials, as well as games and weekly wellness calls • Sponsored a Spring Cleaning event with supplies • Free groceries were distributed to coordinate with a recipe video demonstrating the preparation of a healthy meal • Coordinated the installation of raised garden beds were at Anderson Way Housing • Assisted with the monthly distribution of the Brown Bag program from the Greater Boston Food Bank
<p>Goal: Promote options that provide housing stability and preserve tenancy</p>	
<p>Goal: Support housing for New Bedford’s vulnerable older adults</p>	

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Community Partners:

- New Bedford Departments of Parks and Recreation
- New Bedford Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- New Bedford Disabilities Commission
- Mass in Motion
- Southcoast Health Wellness Walking Program
- SouthCoast Bikeway Alliance
- Marion Institute/Grow Education
- Friends of Buttonwood, Hazelwood, and Brooklawn Parks
- Coastline Elderly Services



<p>Goal: Ensure the perspective and needs of older adults in public space design</p>	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parks Department hosted a “Pedal Party” to introduce a new bikeway. • Extended senior citizens discounts to include the local fee-based dog park • Walk audits of two major parks were completed and funds have been obtained to complete ADA compliant designs at West Beach, the most popular beach facility • Represented the needs of older adults at Mass in Motion and the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan. • The Friends of Parks are working on adding benches and signage to make the parks more accessible to all ages. • Installed raised garden beds at Hazelwood, Brooklawn, and Riverside parks. • The Buttonwood Warming House Senior Center was renovated • DPI is reviewing all new work within Complete Street guidelines • Offered exercise programs remotely during COVID-19 pandemic - new adult programs include Yoga in the Park and Pickleball • Intergenerational croquet and lawn bowling programs coming summer of 2021
<p>Goal: Encourage participation of older adults in outdoor activities</p>	
<p>Goal: Improve accessibility of public areas</p>	

Transportation

Community Partners

- New Bedford Disabilities Commission
- SRTA (Southeastern Regional Transit Authority)
- SRPEDD (Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District)
- Acushnet Council on Aging
- New Bedford Council on Aging
- Coastline Elderly Services
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe



<p>Goal: Improve older adults knowledge and access to cost effective transportation</p>	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted a Transportation Training event with on-site distribution of Senior Charlie Cards • Created a travel training video for distribution • Increased weekend bus service to New Bedford beaches • Produced online map of bus routes with senior housing sites located • Reduced user fees during the pandemic • Instituted travel announcements in English and Spanish • Trained drivers on needs of older and disabled adults • Produced Spanish version of on-demand rider application • Launched new non-stop route between New Bedford and Fall River
<p>Goal: Improve ridership confidence for using public transportation</p>	
<p>Goal: Advocate for expanding transportation resources</p>	

Community Supports and Health

Community Partners

- Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
- New Bedford Department of Public Health
- New Bedford Council on Aging
- Coastline Elderly Services
- New Bedford Housing Authority
- Southcoast Health
- BU CADER Institute
- Walgreens
- Community Nurse Home Care
- YWCA
- Coastal Food Shed
- Bristol Community College
- AARP



<p>Goal: Optimize health and wellness in the community</p>	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered dental health clinics and provided information on low-cost dental services to the community • Increased access to healthy foods through mobile markets, food delivery programs, SNAP-education, USDA programs, and farmers markets • Increased access to mobile health van and expanded access to health screenings • Facilitated institutional use of food security screenings by the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center • Conducted 5 dementia training sessions for professionals and first responders • Completed BU CADER training and disseminated content • Raised awareness of Elder Abuse and Safety with videos, staff trainings, an annual conference, and distribution of posters and other print materials • Offered seminars on end-of-life planning • Provided care, respite and education for caregivers • Hosted Annual Food Security Forums at UMass Dartmouth • Facilitated creation a Food Alert app for food rescue and resources • Organized Healthy Aging Walk • COVID-19 response included food delivery and distribution events, expansion of the home-delivered meals program, facilitating transportation to COVID test sites, and identification of home-bound adults for COVID-19 vaccination appointments • Coordinated Annual Healthy Aging Fair for seniors
<p>Goal: Promote support for cognitive and emotional health</p>	
<p>Goal: Enhance older adult safety</p>	

Social Participation

Community Partners

- AARP
- Mass Senior Action
- South Coast LGBTQ+ Network
- YWCA
- ARAW (Association for the Relief of Aged Women)
- New Bedford Council on Aging
- Coastline Elderly Services
- Mashpee Wampanog Tribe



<p>Goal: Create and promote a network of social engagement opportunities for older adults</p>	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased opportunities for LGBTQ+ Seniors to socialize at supper clubs, café events, movie nights, art festivals, wellness walks, yoga classes and more • Offered intergenerational art and computer classes at the Immigrants' Assistance Center • Completed series of MCOA Aging Mastery classes
<p>Goal: Support a culture of and age friendly and inclusive community through intentional learning and partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported behavioral health outreach through Mass Council on Aging Elder Mental Health Outreach Team • Expanded the number of Memory Cafés in the region and opened the state's first all Portuguese Memory Café • Hosted learning sessions on end-of-life decision making • Offered support and self-care sessions for caregivers • Paired UMass Dartmouth students with seniors experiencing loneliness and social isolation for weekly phone calls • Increased participation in neighborhood meetings

Civic Participation and Employment

Community Partners

- MassHire
- Workforce Investment Board
- Bristol Community College
- Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Volunteer South Coast (United Way)
- UMass Dartmouth
- One Southcoast Chamber
- Coastline Elderly Services
- New Bedford Counts

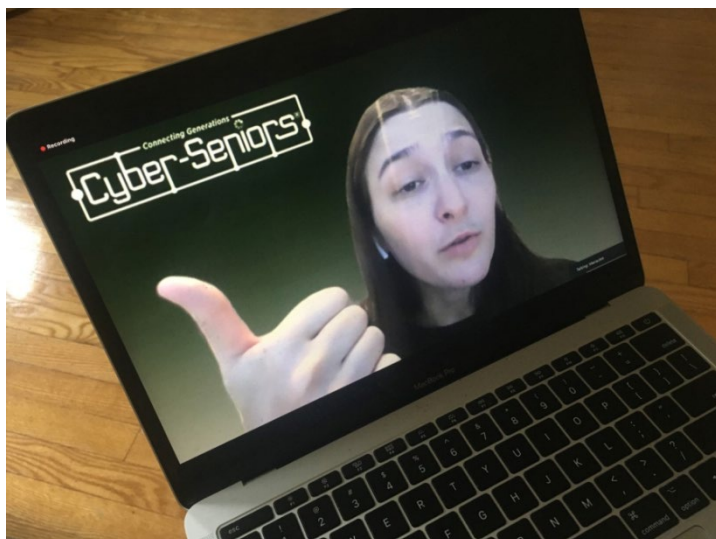


<p>Goal: Better connect older adults to employment resources and opportunities</p>	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered monthly classes at MassHire for older adults seeking employment • Provided technology training for older adults • Attended job fairs and connected seniors with employment opportunities • Promoted employment opportunities with New Bedford Departments of Parks and Public Schools • Utilized Volunteer Southcoast to promote opportunities for volunteering and mentorship • Transported seniors to volunteer fair hosted by UMass Dartmouth • Transported seniors to State House Lobby Day • Collaborated with community partner to train and designate local businesses as Dementia Friendly • Worked with New Bedford Counts to ensure participation of older adults in census count • Supported employment of Foster Grandparents through the pandemic
<p>Goal: Identify and promote volunteer and mentorship opportunities for older adults</p>	
<p>Goal: Ensure the inclusion of older adults in civic affairs and development of workplace initiatives</p>	

Communication and Information

Community Partners

- Coastline Elderly Services
- New Bedford Mayor’s Office
- Mass Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (MABVI)
- Southcoast Health
- New Bedford Council on Aging
- Mass Senior Action
- Alzheimer’s Association



<p>Goal: Review and determine best practices to better reach our aging population and increase awareness of existing community resources</p>	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed an Age Friendly website hosted by Coastline • Distributed Senior Scope newspaper statewide • Promoted news and events in timely manner via Coastline’s Facebook page • Published Spanish and Portuguese translations of health news in partnership with Southcoast Health • Produced and shared transportation, cooking, and elder safety videos • Shared and adopted best practices of the Massachusetts Association of Blind and Visually Impaired with our community-based partners
<p>Goal: Develop a senior communication plan</p>	