**AARP Community Challenge**

(Requirements will not change for 2023)

The **AARP Community Challenge** provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages.

Applications will be accepted for projects to improve public spaces, housing, transportation and civic engagement; support diversity, equity and inclusion; build engagement for programs under new federal laws; and pursue innovative ideas that support people age 50 or older.

**Important Dates in 2022**

* **January 25:**Application window opened
* **February 17**: Webinar Q&A about completing the application
* **March 22:**Applications were due by 5 p.m. (ET)
* **Mid-May:** All applicants were notified by email of their status
* **June 29:** [**Public announcement of the selected grantees**](https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2022/2022-grantees.html) — and work on the projects begin!
* **November 30:**All funded projects must be completed
* **December 31:** Deadline for after-action reports

Applicants and others with questions can email ***CommunityChallenge@AARP.org***.

**Eligibility**

**The program is open to the following types of programs:**

* 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits
* Government entities
* Other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis

**The following projects are *NOT* eligible for funding:**

* Partisan, political or election-related activities
* Planning activities and assessments and surveys of communities without tangible engagement
* Studies with no follow-up action
* Publication of books or reports
* Acquisition of land and/or buildings or a vehicle purchase
* Sponsorships of other organizations’ events or activities
* Research and development for a nonprofit endeavor
* Research and development for a for-profit endeavor
* The promotion of a for-profit entity and/or its products and services

**The selected projects are designed to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:**

* Create vibrant **Public Places** that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities
* Deliver a range of **Transportation and Mobility** options that increase connectivity, walkability, bike ability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements
* Support a range of **Housing** options that increases the availability of accessible and affordable choices
* Ensure a focus on **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** while improving the Built and Social Environment of a community
* Support communities’ efforts to **Build Engagement and Leverage Funding** available under new federal programs through laws including the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and more
* Increase **Civic Engagement** with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of inclusion
* Other community improvements, including **Health Services**, **Community Development**, and **Coronavirus Pandemic Recovery**

**Oklahoma**

* **Cheyenne:**[**The Rook**](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftherook)This project will turn a temporary wood wheelchair ramps into a permanent wheelchair access for the lower level by installing a mechanical lift.
* **McAlester:**[**City of McAlester**](http://www.cityofmcalester.com/)A tennis court at William P. Mullen Park will be converted to two pickleball courts with the help of local players.
* **Nowata:**[**Nowata CAN, Inc.**](https://www.facebook.com/Nowata-CAN-Community-Advancement-Network-205320492828807)An alleyway previously adorned with several murals will receive further enhancement with ADA-compliant benches, tables, lighting, planters and a small stage.
* **Wellston:**[**Town of Wellston**](http://www.wellstonok.gov/)AARP funding will contribute to the upgrading of the park area, which will gain a walking trail, tables and benches, games, and improved pavilion restrooms.