



In Focus

Senior Housing

As we age and change, so do our housing needs. Growing older can bring challenges that are strongly connected to one's home environment, such as:

- *Need for physical accessibility, reduced risk of accidents, and ease of maintenance*
- *Need for access to care or help with daily tasks*
- *Changing relationships and social networks*
- *Changes in income and personal expenses*
- *Changes in travel options*

In a 2018 national survey by AARP, over 75% of seniors said they wanted to remain in their current homes and communities. To meet seniors' needs and personal preferences, our region must create more flexible and diverse housing options. The following examples support aging in place and expand affordable housing options without significantly changing the appearance of existing neighborhoods.



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Accessible Dwelling Units (ADUs): Secondary but independent housing unit located inside of, or on the same lot as, a single-family home. Benefits include:

- Creates rentable space, which brings in additional income for the homeowner
- Seniors can live alongside their caretakers or loved ones
- Units are smaller and easier to maintain than a typical single-family home

Homesharing: Arrangement between 2 or more unrelated people to share common areas of a home, while maintaining private bedrooms. Non-owners pay rent and/or provide help around home. Benefits include:

- Brings in additional income for the homeowner without need for renovation
- Companionship and care/assistance
- Homesharing program assists with "matchmaking"



Photo by Braxton Freeman

Renovation / Reuse of Historic Homes: Large single-family homes can be partitioned into duplexes or triplexes for ownership or rent. Benefits include:

- Earns rent or increases property value for resale
- Seniors can live alongside their caretakers or loved ones
- Units are smaller and easier to maintain
- Preserves historic structures