

STEP 5

➤ Develop the Action Plan's Strategies and Tactics

Now that the core team has identified its mission, vision and goals, it's time to get specific about how to achieve those goals.

The team might have several ideas for initiatives, activities and programs. Start by brainstorming which ideas will work best in the community. Try to learn more about how other communities have implemented similar ideas. Ask about what worked, what didn't; what challenges might be encountered; what the community would do differently if it could.

Sources for Best Practices

Network: Talk to people who are or have been involved in other livability initiatives. The AARP state office or state division of aging might know which communities have implemented initiatives like the one your team is planning.

Spend Time Exploring AARP.org/Livable

The website of the AARP Livable Communities initiative is a treasure trove of information and local examples.

Search the Web: The power of an Internet search when looking for information about livability initiatives cannot be underestimated.

Use Regional Resources: Some organizations address only one or a few areas of livability and cover a specific region. Senior centers, Area Agencies on Aging, hospitals and social service organizations are all good sources of information. Most social service organizations are very open and willing to talk to people interested in bettering their community, so don't hesitate to make the call and invite the organization to present to the core team or meet one-on-one with team members.

Best Practice Tactics

Identifying the following for each goal will help keep the team's work on track:

1. A statement about what needs to be achieved
 2. A list of necessary tasks or activities
 3. A time frame for those tasks or activities
 4. A date for each activity to be completed
 5. An organization or individual to be responsible for each activity
 6. A list of needed resources
 7. A discussion of potential barriers
 8. A discussion of possible solutions
 9. Indicators to measure progress
 10. A way for measuring success
- Creating the Plan

Creating the Plan

The sample action plan at right can be used as a model for creating a plan. Keep in mind:

When planning, think about the community's values and the preferences expressed by residents during the assessment.

For example: If two of the identified community values are "independence" and "minding your own business unless asked" — and older adults prefer to be recognized as the people who are making the changes they envision for their neighborhood or community — the team will want to address barriers in a way that reflects the preferences of older residents, encourages them to take the lead in the changes, and facilitates their independence.

It's never a good idea to include a goal that does not reflect what people want and need.

The *Roadmap to Livability* workbooks about livability efforts in transportation, housing, and health services and community supports include planning charts for each of the goals in the strategic action plan.