



# NEWSLTR

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

## AGE-FRIENDLY FLORIDA

On April 23, Governor Ron DeSantis and DOEA Secretary Richard Prudom announced Florida as the first state in the Sun Belt to receive the Age-Friendly State designation. Read more on page 2.

## PICTURED BELOW

Governor Ron DeSantis and Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom display the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities Certificate for the State of Florida.



# FLORIDA ANNOUNCED AS THE FIRST STATE IN THE SUN BELT TO RECEIVE AGE-FRIENDLY STATE DESIGNATION

On Tuesday, April 23, Governor Ron DeSantis, DOEA Secretary Richard Prudom, and AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins announced Florida's designations as an Age-Friendly State by AARP. Florida is the largest state to achieve this designation and the only one in the entire Sun Belt.

"In Florida, we are taking tangible steps to make our state more livable for residents of all ages – especially our senior population," said Governor DeSantis. "As our state continues to grow, we must ensure that we do all that we can to meet the needs of our residents. I am proud that Florida is leading by becoming

the largest state to commit to this important effort."

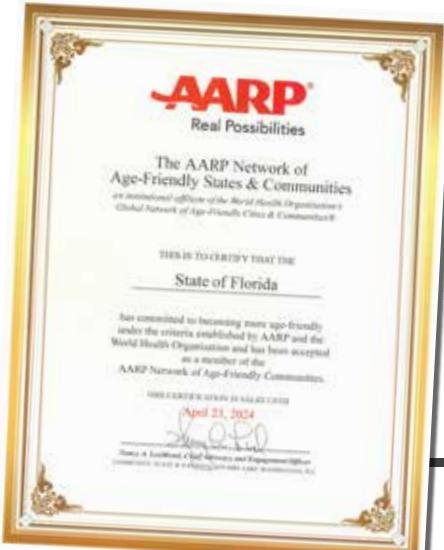
"We are proud to receive the significant designation as an Age-Friendly State," said Richard Prudom, Secretary for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. "Throughout the next decade, the population of older Floridians is expected to increase by nearly 40 percent, so it is essential that communities are prepared. Our efforts continue as we work to make Florida a place where we can all live and live well."

"This designation opens the way for important partnerships in many parts of state, city and county government, and in the

private sector, to make Florida an even better place to live for people of every age," said Jeff Johnson, AARP's Florida State Director. "For the more than 8 million Floridians age 50-plus and the 2.8 million AARP members statewide, this is a big step forward."

Florida's designation as an Age-Friendly State demonstrates Florida's commitment to building Livable Communities that enrich the lives of people of all ages. Member states develop and implement plans that address any or all of the eight Age-Friendly

domains: Transportation, Housing, Public Spaces, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Social Participation, Community and Health Services, and Communication and Information.



## JUNE IS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH:

June 15<sup>th</sup> is Florida's Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The issuance of a yearly proclamation serves as a call to action for all Floridians to work together to prevent elder abuse. The prevention of elder abuse means that our most valuable resource, elders, are safe from neglect, exploitation, and abuse.

To learn more about what events are happening in your area for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, call the Elder Helpline at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337), and ask to speak with your local elder abuse prevention coordinator.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### May 14-16

NW Florida Area Agency on Aging, Inc & Advantage Aging Solutions Regional Training Symposium in Ft. Walton Beach  
For More Information visit [nwflaaa.org/register.php](http://nwflaaa.org/register.php)

### May 14-15

AARP & The Department of Elder Affairs Sharing Symposium in Miami. For more information on the event, visit [aarp.cvent.com/2019AgeFriendly](http://aarp.cvent.com/2019AgeFriendly)

### May 16

Miami-Dade Aging Summit for more information visit <https://>

[agefriendlymiami.org/age-friendly-summit-2019/](http://agefriendlymiami.org/age-friendly-summit-2019/)

### July 27-31

N4A Conference in New Orleans. For more information or to register visit [n4aconference.org](http://n4aconference.org)

### August 19-21

Florida Coalition on Aging

Conference in Orlando. For more information or to register visit [fcoa.org/Conference](http://fcoa.org/Conference)

### September 8-11

SE Area Agency on Aging Conference in Tennessee. For more information or to register visit [se4a.org](http://se4a.org)

# CELEBRATING OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

By Secretary Richard Prudom  
Florida Department of Elder Affairs

Each year, more older adults are choosing Florida as their home. We are proud to have more than five and a half million older residents, as well as the highest population percentage of 65+ in the nation. These numbers may not sound that high to you, but they really are impressive. In fact, our senior population outnumbers the senior population of 20 other states combined, as well as the TOTAL POPULATION of Alaska, Delaware, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming.

All projections tell us that our population of older Floridians will continue to grow – by more than 38% in fact – over the next decade. Our seniors drive what we do every day at the Florida Department of Elder Affairs as we work to help them age with dignity, respect, and independence. We

are striving to make Florida an Age-Friendly state full of Livable Communities where we all can live and live well, and we take the opportunity this month to celebrate and recognize those residents who make our state so great.

As volunteers, employees, employers, educators, mentors, advocates, parents, and grandparents, older Floridians offer insight and experience that benefit the entire community. That's why Older Americans Month (OAM) has been recognizing the contributions of this growing population for more than 50 years.

Led by the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) each May, OAM provides resources to help older Americans stay healthy and independent, and resources to help communities support and

celebrate their diversity.

This year's theme, Connect, Create, Contribute, encourages older adults and their communities to:

**Connect** with friends, family, and local services and resources.

**Create** through activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment.

**Contribute** time, talent, and life experience to benefit others.

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs will celebrate OAM by promoting ways that Floridians of all ages can take part in helping our communities thrive. We encourage you to connect with us and your local Area Agencies on Aging or Councils on Aging to learn more about the resources available to help

you and your family live and live well. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more updates on our programs, projects, and goals. We want to inspire you to create through art, social media, or even an oral history project with your family, and we hope that you will continue to contribute to your communities and our great state.

Communities that support and recognize older adults are stronger. I invite you to join DOEA in strengthening our communities this May and throughout the year.

Visit our Department website at [elderaffairs.org](http://elderaffairs.org), as well as the official OAM website at [acl.gov/oam/2019/older-americans-month-2019](http://acl.gov/oam/2019/older-americans-month-2019), for ideas and inspiration and to learn more about how we are working to make Florida an Age-Friendly State.



## THE CITY OF CUTLER BAY



Secretary Prudom and DOEA's Elder Rights team enjoyed meeting with the City of Cutler Bay Vice Mayor Sue Ellen Loyzelle and Town Manager Rafael Casals (pictured above). Cutler Bay has been a long-standing partner and an Age-Friendly participant through AARP's Network of Livable Communities. Their community leaders are strong advocates for all of Florida to become Age-Friendly, and we are happy to work together on this important initiative.

Save the Date | May 14-15, 2019 | Miami, FL

## Sharing Symposium



## PLEASE JOIN US!

By sharing best practices, the event will provide you - and your community - with opportunities to:

- Learn from others who are advancing age and dementia-friendly efforts statewide and nationally;
- Connect with leaders from Florida's Aging Network, including the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agencies on Aging;
- Collaborate and align efforts for greater impact across the state's Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

In addition to hearing from other communities across the state, we are thrilled to present several renowned speakers including:

- Sandy Markwood - CEO of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) and author of *Making Your Community Livable for ALL Ages* - will discuss how current aging network programming advances Age- and Dementia friendly efforts for all persons;
- Richard Prudom - Secretary of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs - will inform and inspire your work to better

serve aging Floridians;

- Jennifer Johnson - Interim Deputy Secretary, Florida Department of Health - will report on a statewide effort to create an Age-Friendly Public Health system that will benefit the health of all Floridians;
- Danielle Arigoni - Director of Livable Communities at AARP - will share insight across the nation's 350 + Age-friendly Community Network and discuss ways to propel collective efforts;
- Jeff Johnson - State Director, AARP Florida - will provide the latest information about our growing statewide network and discuss exciting next steps!

You will also hear from other community efforts and leaders who have much to share that can further enhance your community AND our state's age-friendly efforts.

We look forward to seeing you on May 14-15<sup>th</sup> in Miami!

Venue: Marriott Miami Dadeland  
Date: May 14<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 4:00 P.M.  
& May 15th 8:00 - 2:00 P.M.  
RSVP: <https://aarp.cvent.com/2019AgeFriendly>

## ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS OF OLDER FLORIDIANS

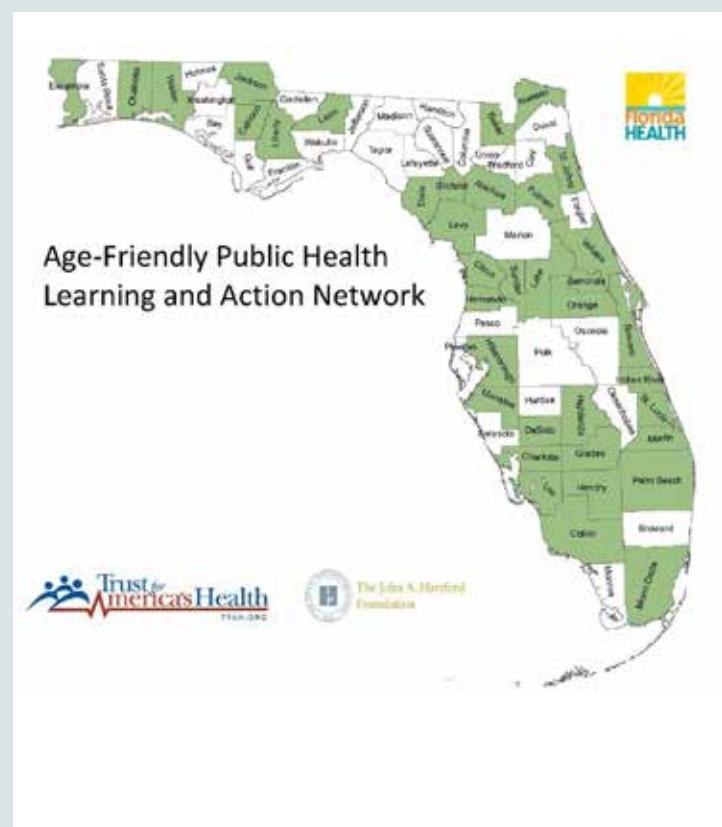
By Emily Imboden and Jennifer Johnson  
Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health is pleased to announce that 37 counties (see map below - counties in green) are participating in the Florida Age-Friendly Public Health Learning and Action Network, facilitated by Trust for America's Health (TFAH) with generous funding from The John A. Hartford Foundation. DOH and TFAH aim to identify and enhance the role of public health in improving the health and well-being of the older adults in Florida.

In October 2017, TFAH brought together 30 experts in public health, aging, research, and policy in Florida to explore how public health could contribute to the health and well-being of older adults. Convening participants developed a [Framework for Creating an Age-Friendly Public Health System](#) to advance public

health's role in addressing the challenges and opportunities of an aging society at the local, state and national levels.

Through the Florida Age-Friendly Public Health Learning and Action Network, DOH has been working with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and community partners to identify priority health issues among our older adults. Each county health department will receive tools, training resources, and technical assistance based on the particular needs of their community. TFAH will be sharing the results of this initiative with public health stakeholders and policymakers across the country. This collaborative effort will help Florida meet the unique public health needs of older adults.



## CITY OF ORLANDO WAS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> COMMUNITY TO JOIN IN 2019!

The Network of Age-Friendly Communities is currently at 26 enrolled communities, and 3 communities have an approved action plan! The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities is a collection of communities that have committed to actively work together to make their town, city, or county livable for people of all ages. The network helps participating communities become great places by adopting such features as walkable streets, better housing, transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities. Visit [AARP.org/AgeFriendly](http://AARP.org/AgeFriendly) to view an update on each community.

## FLORIDA'S AGE-FRIENDLY NETWORK

### FLORIDA:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 21.3 million

### ALACHUA:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 266,944

### CORAL GABLES:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 50,815

### CUTLER BAY:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 44,321 | [Action Plan](#)

### DUNEDIN:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 35,321

### FORT LAUDERDALE:

Joined: 2017 | Population: 176,013

### HALLANDALE BEACH:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 38,270

### HOLLYWOOD:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 140,768

### LAKELAND:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 102,507

### LONGWOOD:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 13,657

### MIAMI:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 432,622

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 2,600,861

### MIAMI LAKES:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 31,087

### MIAMI SHORES:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 10,649

### NEW PORT RICHEY:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 14,911

### ORLANDO:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 280,257

### PALMETTO BAY:

Joined: 2017 | Population: 24,000

### PEMBROKE PINES:

Joined: 2017 | Population: 154,750

### PINECREST:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 19,088

### PINELLAS COUNTY:

Joined: 2017 | Population: 921,000

### POMPANO BEACH:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 109,393

### SARASOTA COUNTY:

Joined: 2015 | Population: 390,429 | [Survey](#) | [Action Plan](#)

### SATELLITE BEACH:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 10,418

### ST. PETERSBURG:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 253,700 | [Survey](#)

### TALLAHASSEE:

Joined: 2015 | Population: 188,107 | [Survey](#)

### WILTON MANORS:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 12,682

### WINTER HAVEN:

Joined: 2015 | Population: 35,531

For more information, contact: [AARP Florida](#), 866-595-7678, [flaarp@aarp.org](mailto:flaarp@aarp.org)

## MIAMI SAFE STREET SUMMIT

The Department of Elder Affairs Staff attended the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Safe Streets Summit in Miami. This event started back in 2013 with only 50 people, and this year they had over 500 in attendance. After they conducted a poll during the summit, it was determined that over 60% of the participants attended by bike, walk, train, or metro-mover. The focus of the summit is to explore how we can engage communities to look at alternative means of transportation within their community. The keynote speaker, Anthony Fox ended his session with a key message. Anthony Fox stated, "The key to community success is community input".

## CAR FIT FOR THE OLDER DRIVER

CarFit is an educational program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. To find out more information and to promote safe mobility for all, visit [car-fit.org](http://car-fit.org). Find our Event Map at [car-fit.org/carfit/EventMap](http://car-fit.org/carfit/EventMap).



**CARFit**

Helping Mature Drivers Find Their Safest Fit

**AARP**

Driver Safety



# DEMENTIA CARE AND CURE INITIATIVE

## TALLAHASSEE

The Tallahassee DCCI Task Force has been providing free dementia sensitivity training to local restaurants in Leon County. So far, five (5) restaurants have become Dementia-Caring, and they are:

- Island Wing Company
- Maple Street Biscuit Company (Killearn & FSU locations)
- The Bagel Market & Bistro
- McGowan's Hops and Grapes
- Wharf Casual Seafood (Mahan & Bannerman locations)

## FT. MYERS

The Ft. Myers DCCI Task Force will be honoring the Cape Coral Police Department in a DCCI Decal Ceremony on Wednesday, May 8th. The Cape Coral Police Department became Dementia-Caring after taking part in a weeklong series of dementia sensitivity training offered by the Ft. Myers Task Force, with over 200 officers and police personnel becoming trained.

## GAINESVILLE

In partnership with a local educational video production company, the Gainesville DCCI Task Force created a video version of the DCCI dementia sensitivity training to be used throughout their service area. The two leaders of this Task Force facilitate the video and guide viewers through a tour of DCCI with an overview of dementia, signs and symptoms to looks for, communication techniques, and local resources.



## BREVARD

The Brevard DCCI Task Force held an art class for people living with dementia and their care partners to design the artwork for their Task Force decal. An anonymous vote by Task Force members selected the winning design, which was painted by a man living with Alzheimer's disease. (pictured right)

## JACKSONVILLE

The Training and Education subcommittee of the Jacksonville DCCI Task Force is working on piloting a program at a local hospital to distribute community resource toolkits upon discharge. These toolkits will be for individuals living with or recently diagnosed with dementia and will contain information about local resources for the person with dementia and their care partner(s).

## TAMPA

The Tampa DCCI Task Force and Hillsborough County Commissioner Murman will be presenting the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners with a proclamation announcing the month of June 2019 as "Dementia Care and Cure Initiative Community Month". This presentation will take place on Thursday, June 27th during the Commission's Quarterly Awards Ceremony.

Pictured below: Johnnie Jones and Jana Unislawski with the Greater Gainesville DCCI Task Force.



# Elder Update

The Elder Update is a bi-monthly news publication produced by the Department of Elder Affairs. It is distributed for free to more than 50,000 Floridians including seniors, caregivers, policymakers, and elder-care service providers. Click the "subscribe" button below to sign up.



DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS  
4040 ESPLANADE WAY  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399

PHONE: (850) 414-2000

TDD: (850) 414-2001

EMAIL: [DCCI@ELDERAFFAIRS.ORG](mailto:DCCI@ELDERAFFAIRS.ORG)