

Preface

How this Toolkit complements the first Viable Futures Toolkit, “Sustainable Communities for All Ages”

Community Planning for Boomers is the second in a series of Viable Futures Toolkits (VFT). Both VFT #1 and VFT #2 ask the question: How can communities plan for a growing elder population in ways that work for *all* generations? VFT #1 provides tools for a comprehensive planning process and describes over 100 concrete strategies to answer this question. This Toolkit expands that reach. Here you can instantly access 100 more new ideas and – thanks to hyperlinks* – connect to a host of supplementary tools and resources that further expand what’s available. Since VFT #1, we’ve learned from users that many communities aren’t “starting from scratch.” You already have coalitions in place and want guidance on how best to build on your current initiatives. VFT #2 is designed to be useful, no matter where you are in a planning or coalition-building process. It can easily stand alone, or it can be used in conjunction with VFT #1.

Our bottom line message is this: through intentional planning using what we call “a new math”, we can capitalize on the challenges presented by the coming age-wave -- the doubling of the senior population (65+) over the next twenty years. Demographers predict these boomers will live longer and remain in better physical condition than any predecessor generation. While many now must work longer than expected, large numbers are still likely to begin rolling in waves out of the work force. This massive demographic shift is redefining what retirement and later life mean. Many in this generation are already stepping up through active volunteering, recognizing that they can leave the world a better place for their children and grandchildren. This next age-wave will benefit from what’s been learned from previous planning for elders, and it will usher in innovations that both the boomer cohort and these challenging times require. Together VFT #1 and VFT #2 provide over 200 strategies for community decision-makers to plan for a growing elder population in ways that work for *all* generations.

*All links were active as of May 1, 2010. Please notify us at info@viablefuturescenter.com if a link is found to be inactive.

Table of Contents

Preface



I. Setting the Stage

- A Viable Future -- the key drivers
- Using a new math: examples from communities
- How to use this toolkit



II. Tips on *Where* You Can Make a Difference

- Lifelong Learning and Civic Engagement
- Community and Economic Development
- Individual and Family Wellness
- Affordable, Quality Housing
- Land Use, Transportation, and Natural Resources



III. Tips on *How* You Can Make a Difference

- Why do something different now?
- Why share resources in such tight times?
- Where do I start?
- Who should lead a viable futures effort?
- How to get Board and Staff buy-in?
- Who will make good partners?
- How do I get the public on my side?



IV. Additional Resources

Index of Cited Examples by State