



# *Age Well in Community*

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## **Prince George's County Village Connection**

Congratulations on taking the first step towards building a stronger support network for older adults in Prince George's County! Hopefully today's session has left you excited to begin the process of establishing a Village for your community.

Prince George's County Village Connection is here to help get you off the ground, and this sheet will give you some next steps and resources to get you started. But first, a few reminders:

- **What is a Village?**

Villages are not buildings or retirement communities, they are locally formed, grassroots organizations where neighbors help neighbors age well in the community they know and love. They provide activities, companionship, practical support, and volunteer opportunities.

- **How are Villages formed?**

Villages are built by the communities they serve. They may have support from a municipality, civic association, or faith community, but they come together to understand and meet the specific needs of older adults in that community.

- **What do Villages offer?**

Each Village offers supports and activities that match with what its community needs and what its volunteers can provide. This typically includes social and educational activities, local transportation, support with some home and yard tasks, and support in identifying services and resources.

- **How does a Village operate?**

Villages organize based upon the need and capacity of their community. They organize volunteers (many of whom are also members of the Village) to both provide services to members and to manage the Village's day-to-day operations. Financial support can come from a variety of sources, including member dues, grants, and support from local governments or other organizations.

## Next Steps

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- **Identify others who can help build a Village.** This can begin as conversations with friends and neighbors, but you want to find a group of people with the interest, time, and expertise needed to begin organizing a Village. Make sure you can all get along and work well together, and identify your early leaders.
- **Do your research.** You want an idea of how a Village will work in your community.
  - Consider what geographic area your Village can serve.
  - What are that area's demographics in terms of age, income, and household size?
  - What gaps in services or other needs can a Village fill?
  - Are there volunteers in the community who will want to get involved?
  - Are there other groups in the area working on related issues (age friendly groups, senior centers, mutual aid, etc.)?
- **Join the Prince George's Aging in Place Working Group.** As your group begins its work and you identify a volunteer to lead the organization, email [PGCVC@m-u-g.org](mailto:PGCVC@m-u-g.org) to be notified of the working group's meetings. They are held virtually each quarter and bring together the county's Villages with other public agencies and people focused on aging in the county.

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*For a free Village consult via Zoom (30 minutes) from The Maryland Umbrella Group, contact Christal Batey at [PGCVC@m-u-g.org](mailto:PGCVC@m-u-g.org) or call 301-968-7816*

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## Resources

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### **Prince George's County Village Connection** — [www.PGCVC.org](http://www.PGCVC.org)

Information about and links to all of Prince George's County's Villages, along with other helpful resources and tools.

### **Washington Area Villages Exchange** — [www.WAVEVillages.org](http://www.WAVEVillages.org)

WAVE unites Villages from across the DMV, providing resources and connections.

### **Village-to-Village Network** — [www.VtoVNetwork.org](http://www.VtoVNetwork.org)

The national Villages association.

### **The Village Guide** — <https://shorturl.at/ejAIV>

(look under "Village Development and Sustainability Documents")

The Guide provides some helpful questions and guidance for building a Village.

More questions? Visit [www.PGCVC.org](http://www.PGCVC.org) or email [PGCVC@m-u-g.org](mailto:PGCVC@m-u-g.org)