COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The First Suburbs Coalition (FSC) and the KC Communities For All Ages initiative developed the Communities For All Ages Recognition Program to recognize communities that have taken steps to become more welcoming to residents of all ages and, in the process, more vibrant, healthy and prosperous. A community can earn one of three levels of recognition representing the extent of its work in becoming a Community For All Ages: Bronze (Awareness), Silver (Assessment) or Gold (Implementation).

On June 5, 2018, the City partnered with the Mid-America Regional Council and the Clay County Senior Services to become a Bronze Level Community For All Ages.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES?

A community for all ages is one designed to be more welcoming to residents of all ages. It is a community that is more vibrant, healthy and prosperous. The KC Communities For All Ages Program helps municipalities facilitate conversations on how demographic shifts will impact their community and understand what actions they should take to prepare for the future.

The Kansas City region is projected to experience a dramatic demographic shift over the next 20 years including the doubling of the older adult population, fewer families with children, more millennials and more people of color.

North Kansas City will also see an increase in the 65+ population.
SILVER LEVEL — ASSESSMENT

In order to achieve the KC Communities For All Ages Silver Level, program participants are required to complete a self-assessment workbook. The City Council directed staff to work with the Planning Commission to complete this assessment. This level is the most comprehensive phase, as staff is asked to complete an audit of city policies and actions through six different categories:

- Public outdoor spaces and buildings
- Housing and commercial development
- Transportation and mobility
- Social inclusion, communication, and participation
- Civic participation and employment
- Community and health services

The Planning Commission, Mid-America Regional Council and City staff conducted work sessions with community partners to complete the Silver Level checklist. On October 3, 2019, the Planning Commission issued the draft NKC Communities For All Ages Silver Level Executive Summary and Workbook. The Planning Commission recommended that the audit findings be presented to the City Council.

FUTURE STEPS

City will submit an application for the Silver Level designation of the KC Communities For All Ages. A joint First Suburbs Coalition and KC Communities for All Ages committee will review applications and certify those communities that meet the criteria. Official recognition announcements will be made in January 2020.

The Gold Level of the KC Communities For All Ages program includes applying an ‘All Ages’ lens to a major local plan, such as a comprehensive plan, strategic plan or park plan. Staff will apply an ‘All Ages’ lens to the Bicycle Master Plan currently under development.