

[ Please stand by for realtime realtime captions ]

We will start in about four minutes.

Yeah, let's see how the account goes.

Well maybe five minutes.

I actually pressed the record button.

Good job, Bob.

Thank you.

For those of you that are joining this webinar, we are giving it a few minutes to see if we can get some more people added to the room. We have had quite a few people register for the event. Bob, does it help if the participants mute, or is that automatic?

I will ask them to mute. It is not automatic.

Okay.

We have crossed the threshold of 40 participants.

Very good. Just let me know when you are ready to start.

Let's give it two more minutes.

Okay, that is fine.

Bob, I think we can start.

Okay. Welcome, everybody. Once again, to our first annual older Coloradans month. Which is our version of older Americans month. Which happens every May. Every day there is a theme. This year's theme is, communities of strength. So the webinar series actually builds on that theme. Our team composed of Colorado center for aging, changing the narrative, AARP Colorado, lifelong Colorado and Dr. cog exploring with you the common interest and strained civil Coloradans, in particular the 2 million of us over the age of 50. For some of us age 50 is a long time ago. For others, it awaits into the future. The primary purpose of this three webinar series is to inform and encourage each of you to engage with us, to raise voices, and to be really hard with our policy makers at every level of government, and to create new communities of strengths. Today's session focuses on age friendly communities, and what it means to us in Colorado. And then the final session we will hear from people around the state. And what they are doing to facilitate the process of aging within their communities. Be sure to tune in as well for that one. You may have seen the revolving PowerPoint. You are seeing now but it is not revolving bird with our sponsors but we think each of them for their support. Relay Colorado, the multidisciplinary center on aging, prime time news.

I am now going to introduce to you, Katie Bishop, relay Colorado. She would tell us a little bit about that organization and how it works. And how it helps the hearing-impaired and then after we will dive into today's presentation.

Katie, please introduce yourself. And then I will stop this and we will start the other one.

Thank you for having me. Relay Colorado is honored to be able to sponsor your event. My name is Katie Bishop, I am an outreach specialist with relay Colorado. We want to share a little about who we are what we do.

Okay.

Here we go. What is relay Colorado? As you can see it is a partnership between the Colorado Department of regulatory agencies, and we have a contract that we are held with T-Mobile accessibility. So relay Colorado is a statewide service that connects standard telephone uses with deaf, hard of hearing, deaf blind, speech does label dark late deafened people who use a teletype typewriter or voice carryover the conversations are relayed between the two parties between a specially trained community assistant but the services are offered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is at no cost to the consumers who live or work in Colorado. Relay Colorado is a service provided by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. It is contracted like I said with T-Mobile accessibility. And relay Colorado funded by a surcharge that is established by the CPUC.

A couple of services available or pictured here. Again no cost to individuals who live or work in Colorado and to learn more about the services is at our website. We have a lot more information. One of our services that we offer to stay connected, through telephone access, and other services is our CapTel. It stands for captioned telephone. I am not sure if you have seen the captions on TV. It is a similar concept. It is used to the phone. CapTel users will here with a here, and they will read with a mess.

Again it is a no-cost service and it helps reconnect individuals to friends and loved ones, and it gives them the independence that some individuals have lost due to hearing loss.

CapTel phones are not for -- they are for anyone who has a hearing loss. Standard phones do not have the higher decibel level. So the special CapTel phone is able to add clarity to the conversation many hard of hearing individuals become withdrawn from society, or family gatherings because it is difficult to hear

multiple conversations happening at once. They will ask others to make a phone call for them. Or they stop making phone calls entirely. They may ask to have it repeated. And then they will begin knotting an agreement as to whether or not they understand. CapTel services allow individuals to stay connected and have their independence.

Relay Colorado offers webinars. Please visit our website for more information, and/or to register. Offered monthly at no cost to individuals who join. You might be advocating for somebody who has a hearing loss or speech need, and/or someone who was working within the agency with you, or directly with the person having a hearing loss themselves can sign up for the webinar to find out about our services. We also have access with interpreters, and relay conference, happening. -- Captioning. For anyone who lives and/or works in Colorado, the services offered at no cost. Thank you so much.

Thank you, Katie. This is a very important program. I remember my own father tuning out of the world because of his hearing loss for the last several years of his life. It is good to see something like this is available at no cost to the consumer.

Yes, for sure.

Thank you again. I would like to introduce Kelly Roberts, Colorado's senior lobby. She is the moderator today. Kelly, take it away.

Thank you, Bob. For today's webinar, we are extremely fortunate to have the presenters that we have. All four of them are driving forces with programs for helping communities become age friendly, or become more age friendly. I will tell you whether you know nothing, or maybe something, or a lot about age friendly communities, I think with they are going to share with you, and their program will have something for everyone.

They are driving today's program. I am going to turn off my camera. I am going to enjoy the show once they start presenting. They are going to present some information. We have a polling activity. We have some facilitated conversations as well that they will coordinate.

I would like to introduce our driving forces. We have Jared Hughes with the governor's office. And lifelong Colorado is housed. We have Bob Murphy, state director of AARP . And we have Roberto Ray, associate state director with AARP . They will talk about their age friendly Colorado program. We have Derek Webb who was a planner with the Denver regional Council of governments. There is an age friendly program called, Boomer bond. You will hear about all of these programs.

Without further ado, I would like to turn this over to Jared Hughes.

Thank you, Kelly. I think Bob and Roberto, I will let you take it.

Thank you and welcome everyone, good afternoon and thank you for joining us today. Hopefully this will be informative and entertaining session. We will leave time for questions, answers and some polling questions later. My name is Bob Murphy, state director for AARP Colorado. Roberto is also joining for the Q&A session. All the hard ones will go to him because he does a lot of groundwork in our age friendly communities.

Most people know about AARP. They know that we are large nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization. Over 7000 members in Colorado. Most people know about the advocacy of the federal and state levels. Not so many know about the advocacy at the local level, where we often talk to city staff and county commissioners, and city councils about local issues affordable housing, mobility, transportation, zoning, that type of thing. Most people know about Abex the on healthcare, Social Security, Medicare, lowering drug prices. We certainly have been active for the last year and a half with the COVID-19 pandemic. Certainly trying to let folks know about the unfortunate situation in the nursing homes nationwide. And encouraging people to get vaccines and telling people how to be vaccinated. We support her family caregivers, over 44 million in the country, over 600,000 in Colorado other priorities are the 50+ workforce, including fighting age discrimination acknowledging and trying to leave the digital divide by providing older adults with devices, training them how to use devices, as well as supporting broadband so they can use electronic devices and the Internet. And of course encouraging people to save for retirement. But what people do not know for next few minutes I will talk about the age friendly or livable communities.

One out of three Americans is age 50 or older. By 2031 out of every five people in the United States will be 65 or older. And our AARP livable communities work based on that fact. And the question, will your community be ready?

AARP network of age friendly communities began in 2013. We now have not quite 540 members. Close to 530 members once the country including six states and one territory. The six states, Colorado, which is the third state to join back in 2018 when Governor Hicken Looper declared Colorado to be in age friendly state. It is a rapidly, expanding network.

Currently we have 19 members in Colorado, including the state. This is a slide with a lot of fine print. The point I want to make with this slide, is on the website, on the AARP livable community website there is a lot

of information. It includes very specific information about our age friendly community members. In Colorado, including application letters, and age friendly community action plans. It is a great local reference for folks to look at if they are considering embarking on age friendly or livable work.

I talked about the governor Hicken Looper declaring Colorado to be in age friendly state in September of 2018. His vision of an age friendly state was one that is composed of as many age friendly communities as possible, supported by pertinent agencies and state government. The entity that was created at that time was called, lifelong Colorado, about which you will hear much from the governor's office shortly.

So the framework, we provide the framework for communities to begin their age friendly work. The domains as we call them are listed. Let's go to the next slide in fact. It is a little easier to read. We start with eight domains of livability. Housing, transportation, certainly always top of mind when we talk about challenges, and barriers and obstacles for older adults. But certainly respect, social inclusion, social participation. Back to the workforce issue. Communication and health services obviously. And of course outdoor spaces and buildings, which implies zoning and lots of other things. These eight domains are extremely flexible. If a community is interested in beginning this work, they can choose three or four or five of those domains. They can add something that is very important to their community. It could be environmental related issue, mental health, or one of anything that is important within the community. Underlying this program the theme of flexibility. We have 500 plus members throughout the nation. And I am sure we have 530 unique models for approaching the local work. We support it.

We support many resources and publications. I encourage anyone that is interested in this work to begin by going on our website. You will begin to see everything that is available publications about improving neighborhoods, the ABCs of a DU. And creating parks within public spaces. We put emphasis on rural work. And indeed we have several members Colorado small, rural communities. Logan County just joined this year as did Chafee County.

We also have a new series of videos that debuted earlier this year but a six part series about 75 minutes long. A tremendous resource for anyone who is starting the journey. And wondering what it is about whether it is something they would like to get started. Again available on the website. Or certainly you can email Roberto and myself and we will get you these links.

Again, we try to support communities that want to get started and the first step in how you get out of the starting blocks. That is something we spend a lot of time with a number of resources to help communities. We have an introductory booklet. We have a book on the program cycle to explain the process. And this series of a five-year plan that are involved.

We have books like creating community action plan. Making plans, taking action. I think this is the last slide. I want to try to answer the ultimate question, why should you pursue age friendly work? The statistics about how America and Colorado is aging. But the underlying foundation of this is twofold. Number 1, 75% of resident survey say they want to age in their community that they call home. They want to age and the placement and the number rises to 85% Colorado and why not? Look where we live. The other principal is when policy makers and stakeholders get together, and they plan communities to truth with the age friendly lands, the result is a community that is only to people of all ages. So I think that is it. We will take questions later.

Thank you, Bob. Hello everyone, I appreciate the opportunity to be here today. Jarett Hughes, policy advisor focusing on age and older adult issues with the governor policy office. I want to put a couple of links into the chat before I dive in. -- The first link I put in is to a Google format that will put you on my email list if you would like to be on the general distribution list with emails that I sent out. I often try to send various updates related to this work. As well as, for example Governor's commission on community service, serving Colorado with the statewide needs assessment to direct volunteers and activities Colorado and AmeriCorps. For example, that is one thing that I will be sending a reminder email. There is about one week left. If you would like to get those emails, feel free to register. If you start getting them and you would like to be removed, reach out to me and let me know. I will take you off. I will try not to send out too much because we get plenty of emails.

The next thing that I want to share is a link to our lifelong Colorado State plan. This is something that I am proud to have had the opportunity to work on, put together, and it is a synthesis of a lot of the work that the strategic action plan on aging has done, as well is the Colorado commission on aging prior to it. I will put the link and now. It will take you to a PDF version of the document. You can take a look and provide feedback. We have a steering committee, for example Bob and Roberta sit on, as well as Derek who will be talking after me. A handful of stakeholders, State Department representative sent individuals from community-based organizations. We are open to feedback. This is a living document. It is modified as we move along the journey. Again, as Bob indicated, the lifelong Colorado initiative is cultivated and came to fruition under Governor Hicken Looper. One of my predecessors. And I think all of us have hit or had our fair share of

roadblocks since conceptualizing this work. The pandemic obviously uprooted everything and caused significant pivoting and resources. As we exit out of the crisis stage, of COVID-19, we can kind of return to somewhat of a new normal that we have. One of my top priorities has been to pick up lifelong Colorado and mobilizing the effort as we move forward.

As Bob also indicated, these eight domains of livability are what promotes healthy, equitable, living communities. They require policies, systems, environmental approaches that work outside of our traditional partnerships. For example, public health, research, it indicates that an individual ZIP Code is more closely correlated to health outcomes than genetics. So we talked about the social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are very closely tied to the livability. These are broad factors that impact a lifespan and they influence outcomes in later life.

One of the things that I work with, aging does not occur in a vacuum. It's environmental. It's our surroundings and social context. So to influence and take into consideration where we live, and how we live, that impacts our lifespans and our life course and outcomes.

Again addressing these factors, it requires thinking outside the box in some regard. Cross agency partners at the state level, effective, collaborative partnership is necessary to move this forward. And those nontraditional partnerships are incredibly important in moving this work forward. We often have excellent coordination and communication, for example, with our area agencies on aging but human service providers and transfer patient providers. And our faith based communities. But there are partnerships, and opportunities for engagement outside of those typical groups. I think they are very important to move the work forward. I am not looking at the participant list right now, but I do know the last week strategic action plan on the aging meeting we had a presentation from Jefferson County and Karen Stover, doing some work fair and they highlight the importance of the nontraditional partnership focus engaging in this work.

At the state level, this work is very much closely aligned with the Department of local affairs but the division of local government. More specifically, the community development office. With that being said, I have been very intentional and proactive about bringing folks in from the department of health care policy and minuses, as well as Department of Public Health and Human Services, and working on integrating the department of transportation to a lot of these discussions.

I will talk about this more so later. That sounds very state heavy. And I just want to acknowledge that head-on. Is very much the approach and the vehicle we are using to do this aging related work in Colorado. But without local support and local leaders, and community-based organizations. Really taking the last mile and the final step. What we do in statute or state constitution does not matter that much. It really is this top-down, bottom-up approach. That is a part of the beauty and conceptualizing age friendly, livable communities and lifelong Colorado.

I put this slide into highlight a little bit around some of the nontraditional partners. I have taken very much a strong focus on community health planning, and multi generational planning. Again getting back to the alignment with the community development office and the Department of local affairs. Derek will certainly be able to share very good perspective and detail through this perspective.

For example, the American planning association at the national level recognizes that the aging of the population creates a unique opportunity, and responsibility to apply proactive planning approaches, and policy to improve communities. To address the spectrum of needs and abilities of the folks that live there. So the American planning association has been clear in their support for the creation and integration of housing, land use, transportation, economic and social service and health systems. It supports high quality of life across the lifespan.

Multi generational planning approach ensures the needs of all residents, whether eight or 80 formats and plan for. And does not come as a surprise. It allows us to be less reactive and more proactive. Talking about the nontraditional partners, again a very important piece of the puzzle. The one thing that the American planning association did a few years back, is a joint call to action to promote healthy communities. They brought together eight national organizations. Often we would not think of as players in the space. That includes the American Institute of architects the American public health association, the American Society of civil engineers. The American Society of landscape architects, as well as the national recreation and park association. The U. S. Green building Council. And the urban land Institute. So again, I just want to share to emphasize that there are nontraditional partners in the space that can impact what happens at our municipal, and county levels.

We as a state, spend around 2 billion dollars annually. Including state and federal dollars on a wide range of programs and services that fall within aging. Medicaid, financial assistance, pensions, senior property tax exemption, as well as Adult Protective Services and services against exploitation and fraud. Taken together, these programs have not necessarily reflected a clear strategy, or a set of priorities. As is often the case in policy, it is react. Something happens the legislature and are administration response converses taking of

forward-looking, longitudinal lens to the work. So from my perspective, and from our perspective, the lifelong Colorado and the associated livable communities works represent the foundation for intentional and coordinated strategy the face of Colorado shifting demographics. So these efforts are ultimately based on the idea that effective, and sustainable solutions have to include local coordination and involvement.

That is not to say that the state level involvement, what I am trying to say that it is not to say that it is all up to the cities and counties. State-level engagement is critical piece of the puzzle. If you read the literature around communities, often reference to the organization that provides direction, technical assistance, and organizational support to these community-based efforts. It is really this dynamic, interdependent work with the states, and local governments, as well as individuals and community-based organizations at the levels that can effectively move this work forward. Impacting local planning, and implementation within these eight domains of livability.

I have included this screenshot of one of the matrix, included in the lifelong Colorado plan. Prior to this work I have had a great chance and opportunity to work with the strategic aging. Much of this work that is integrated into this lifelong Colorado plan would not be possible without the work that was done by the planning group. For those of you that are familiar, as you look through this matrix and look through the language, you will see common themes, strategies, and common steps.

Again just to indicate, I really sexualized this as our baseline. As we move forward this is the foundation that I expect to be able to stand upon, to hold this workup and move forward.

This is a small list. There is no way to include everyone that is a key partner. The point is to indicate it's not just one entity, or just me and the governor's office, or AARP . It is not just the assessment. It has to be all coalition of folks. We have to come together to move this work forward.

Again I am really happy that we have submitted this lifelong Colorado state plan, approved by Governor Polis and Diane Primavera. A private by the AARP national office. We received our approval certification from them. Actually was yesterday morning. And so my next steps, at least internally for this work involve around completing best practices report. In coordination with the community development office at the Department of local affairs. And then turning toward some training opportunities and webinars focused on livable immunity planning. And cities and counties become engaged and start on the work.

I am very much turning our perspective and lends to the 2022 legislative session, thinking about what we can do and opportunities that we have to advance the work forward. This is pretty much my last slide. All in all, I just want to reiterate lifelong Colorado relies on our communities and local governments. Being engaged with the state, being engaged with AARP , and the folks who move forward. That is not to say that it is only there was once ability of local government and communities to plan and prepare for Colorado's aging population. I know, we know at the state that we have an integral role to play supporting community investments, advancing broader policy goals that support aging communities. And again, I have said earlier. This work is very much logical continuation of the direction. The strategic action planning on aging and the Colorado commission on aging. Both state and local strategies. As we transition out of the COVID-19 crisis, our communities will require intentional assessment and subsequent retooling. In order to be billed stronger and more resilient. And I think right now is the perfect opportunity to empower and mobilize local leaders, communities, and through the lifelong Colorado effort.

I will stop. I appreciate the time. Certainly, willing and able to take discussion questions after Derek. Again, feel free to register for my mailing list, feel free to reach out to me. If you have to email me twice, do not be afraid to do so. It's hard to keep up with everything. Thank you.

Thank you thank you everyone for the opportunity to talk to you today. My name is Derek Webb, I am a planner. By training. Working at the Denver regional Council of government. I am here specifically to talk about the Boomer bond program. I will also get into a little bit of what we have seen in supporting communities as they work through the Boomer bond. Some outcomes of it and where we are headed next or hoping to head next with the tool itself.

First I want to give you a quick overview. You may be familiar with drcog . I want to highlight pieces. It is a membership organization. Made up of the local governments throughout the Denver region. I think we are approaching almost 60. We have throughout the Denver region. We respond to complex regional issues, aging related issues, planning issues, those types of things. We collaborate to address unmet needs, to figure out how we can work together as a whole to meet needs. The plan for future needs. Mainly in the spaces of aging, transportation planning, and land-use coordination amongst and throughout the region. We help to improve the quality of life in the region. You can see in our logo is we make life better. I do not think I speak to myself when I say that we hope we make life better for those in the region.

We have the area on aging. And we are on the main side of things but I tackled the work for the [ Indiscernible ] organization. We also do aging on the agency. But the largest division within drcog 's there to help people age better you may be familiar with the area agency on aging. They provide information

services, community service, identify fill gaps in services and plans for future needs. In the advocate on behalf of older adults and their caregivers.

They are there to support and provide information services and that type of thing for aging residents throughout the region. I would note that drcog also houses transportation planning and operations division which is really focused on kind of the funneling, or the identification of transportation projects, and federal funding for transportation projects throughout the region. My shop specifically on the regional planning development side focuses on the overarching vision for the region. And how the region can work together to solve land-use issues, transportation grenades, and that type of thing. But as a planner, housed within the organization, I work with the area agency to think out communities can better plan support for aging residents.

Typically my presentations about Boomer bond, typically it is a pitch. It's a pitch about why you should think about using an assessment tool, or drcog assessment tool specifically. At this point before I get to this slide, it's usually highlighting the reasons why you should be focused on the aging population. And typically, a whole set of demographics, and slides about the trends we see within the aging population. And how rapidly the aging population is growing. But I felt like this presentation today is being given to a group of like-minded individuals. So I think you were there and you understand the needs and the reason why we need to focus on how to plan for a better supporting aging residents. I am going to jump right into what the drcog Boomer bond program and assessment tool is. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in the demographics can't reach out to me directly and I will provide what it looks like from the state to region to local level type demographic information.

I will jump in. Before I get into the tool and what it looks like, I want to provide some information about our motivation. It boils down to a multipronged approach. Through the area agency on aging we have all of these ways to advocate for increasing funding, supporting and expand aging resources, identifying again increasing awareness about the aging population. The needs of the aging population. But we identify the highlighted one, I need to engage local governments. There is always so much we can bring to the table. And it is this top-down, bottom-up approach. In tandem and or partnership to affect change, or positive change in the way that we support older adults.

Boomer bond itself. There are two key elements but a community assessment tool that is set up to facilitate local dialogue and identify priorities. I will dig deeper in a minute. And it is coupled with the idea to couple it with a comprehensive inventory to assist with future development of policies, plans and strategies. On the left hand side you have the Boomer bond assessment tool. And then on the right is the resource directory, which is always available and constantly evolving as new and innovative things pop up at the resource directory is where you use the assessment tool to find gaps, opportunities, that type of thing. And then you can use the resource directory to find solutions to deal with those issues that are coming up. They are resource directories like code, ordinances, case studies, best practices, those types of things to potentially help communities address ways in which they can better support the older adult population.

Why an assessment tool? It is set up to provide a means to start a conversation at the local level. This is not just with persons or local government staff, it includes partners potentially supporting the local jurisdiction or area. Or the region as a whole. It is set up to provide structure to what can be an overwhelming conversation. We have found that working through the assessment tool provides the rails on what the conversation should focus on, and how to navigate those types of conversations. You can imagine getting into a conversation, of what conversation about aging issues within your community. And it can become pretty overwhelming very quickly. It is set up to build on and improve staff to staff and staff to stakeholder relationships. It is set up help, as I mentioned with the conversation starter. The more people start talking about what they are doing and how what they do addresses or has the potential to address some of the issues that we see at the local level, and this cross pollination happens when resources and support starts to get linked to more efficiently. It helps focus efforts to engage the public. It is an internally focused local, -- local government assessment. It is not the type of tool you would use for a public meeting on the on separate this tool is what the local government staff would use, division by division, or as a group of division heads. To talk through how they currently support older adults and where the gaps lie. Using that information to start a larger conversation with the public.

It's to identify challenges and opportunities which I have already mentioned. So the Boomer bond communities you can see on the map throughout the Denver region. We have 21 Boomer bond communities in the cohort. I would add that about -- I have been with drcog for about 6 years. I think we completed about eight. Within the last 6 years we have jumped quite a bit up to 21. We had several in the pipeline. Gearing up and ready and interested. We have had initial conversations about the process and what it would look like for interested communities. And obviously the pandemic K and that shifted a lot of focus and a lot of resources. So currently we are gearing up and ready when everything starts to feel safer to get back together.

Ultimately, the assessment process is a hard conversation to have through Zoom. It's a very intimate conversation. So we are ready and waiting.

I know the most recent three that have been working through the assessment process itself, the city of Boulder, Castle Pines, and Edgewater. They just finished up and published the results and implemented a few ideas. The city of Boulder has completed the assessment and currently working through conversations together the piece of next steps. And Castle Pines was working on -- specifically working on completing the assessment to provide an update for their comprehensive plan. A specific aging section in the plan to guide their future efforts. Very excited about the growth within the region. And the link that provides the building a cohort of age friendly communities throughout the state.

What is the assessment tool? The assessment tool specifically consists of four different topic areas. We do not have the eight domains, but they are currently collapsed and/or combined into these four specific areas. Or topic areas. The process itself takes about 4 to 6 months to complete. Honestly it often takes longer. And largely depends on the size of the community. The city of Boulder, the city of Denver, those size of communities definitely take the one year plus mark. Whereas I am thinking of Frederick cup in the north east part of the Denver region. We completed the process within five or six months. It consists of 145 comprehensive questions that work through each of these four topic areas but it's not 145 comprehensive questions per but total. Often times folks will reach out and ask for the assessment tool, which I am always happy to provide. If you are interested, please reach out and I am happy to share it with you I always respond with the caveat, the person requesting the tool itself should not get overwhelmed. When you start flipping through it it looks like a ton of information and a lot of work to do. But I think in many conversations as we think through, and we talked to interested individual and/or community about using the tool, we can start to work through the process and what it looks like, and to map out the timeline. And it starts to look a little more approachable.

Boomer bond results. These are some broad examples. I have some other slides that talks about specific outcomes. Or implementation strategies that came out of community assessment. There are things like new accessory dwelling unit ordinance in a community with severe housing shortage. Specifically it identifies the ability to support housing options for older adults. Throughout the stage of their aging within place, or aging within the community. And the need for potential use to support it. The activation and increase effectiveness of local senior commissions. If you have ever been involved in a senior commission, you know they definitely differentiate, in terms of effectiveness, and what they get task with. And have a support city councils and/or town councils. Sometimes out of an assessment, comes the need to develop a plan or some sort of work program for local senior commission. Other things like updated site plan review criteria. The development of a community-based resource center/guy for older adults is something that came out of the Edgewater assessment tool they jumped on it on the hotel and and they updated the website putting together a local city of Edgewater specific resource guide. Also reconsidered previous decisions that were barriers to delivering the best service. Identifying they did have transit to support residence, older adult residents no longer interested and/or comfortable driving to get to things like the grocery store, the hair salon, what have you. In their local jurisdiction. But there were rules as to where they can go. If someone was being picked up and into another jurisdiction wasn't easier job to get to the grocery store, they may have to take the person across town to get to a different grocery store, a different bank. So reconsidering the decisions and understanding the impact they were having. Although unintended but something that came out out of the assessment process.

Here is one local highlight. The city of Sheridan. We received a grant support a smaller community assessment. They were one of those first ones that signed up. We were able to help. They recently applied and received funding through DRCOG program designed to support small planning, it is called [ Indiscernible ] and they are currently working through -- they are out to bid for a contract to do the work at the Boomer bond assessment process. They were actually able to complete and put together a comprehensive inventory of the bus stop amenities that we needed. They have also during the process noticed some of the improvements made by transit. So this is definitely a situation that does not necessarily affect older adults but anyone in the community that may need to use the transit stop. Things like lack of transit amenity, or in some cases somebody put a plastic lawn chair so someone would have somewhere to sit. Ultimately, the project was awarded funds to upgrade 32 of the 39 bus stops within the community. The much better transit amenity for the folks throughout the community using transit.

I also want to highlight that currently we are in the process of thinking through how to update the assessment tool itself. Throughout the last eight to 10 assessments, we have definitely noticed some differing needs based on community size. Who is at the table, and who was actually participating in the process itself. Listed are some of the observed needs for an updated tool. Sporadic and/or limited staff capacity and involvement. Reliance on external stakeholders in some cases. As I mentioned in the presentation, the tool

itself is geared toward local government staff. Very specific questions about the subject matter zoning. Sidewalk. Policy, and ordinances, that type of thing. And in some cases some of the assessments have had to rely on external stakeholders. Sometimes residence in order to get enough of a diverse voice in the room. And to really understand the needs of the community, or the local jurisdiction to provide support. And the tool itself cannot really obtain enough information the way it is currently written.

I alluded to the second bullet point so I will skip over for time sake. Input gathered during discussion meetings versus survey instrument itself. In some cases the survey instrument -- we always talk about -- let me back up for a second but the assessment tool itself is the assessment tool it the discussion that happens for each section of the tool. And the wealth of information about what is going on comes out in the discussion. But what happens a lot of the time, is a lot of the answers to the assessment tool itself or N/A, not sure, not my department type of thing. We had to do this on-the-fly facilitation during the discussion meetings. To really pull the information out so the assessment tool was not providing enough information to dig deeper into the discussion meetings. It was taking a lot of extra facilitation during the discussions. So that was another observed needs. And just a minute ago, we mentioned the need for backbone organization. Having a back organization to support successful processes. The work throughout the state or in general. In many cases throughout the use of the Boomer bond tool, DRCOG has supported helping manage the process. And how weak community would do that without a back long organization. This is not to say every community needs handholding in this area, but some do quite a bit because it comes down to staff capacity. If staff is focused constantly changing on different fires to put out, for lack of a better term, it's hard to make this a priority to get managed and support a local jurisdiction to move through the assessment. Without someone's providing that backbone support.

To confirm. I went from observed to confirmed need for an updated tool. Among other things. We had a fantastic research assistant from Denver. One of her first assignments was to help provide retrospective analysis of the experiences in communities that have previously completed the Boomer bond program. She managed to obtain feedback from interviews with 21 staff members from 17 of the 18 Boomer bond communities. The conversation focused on tool structure, preparation for the assessment, the process, post assessment support. She came out of that with a lot of feedback, and ideas on how DRCOG could think through updating the tool and updating the process in general.

We have been working through -- during COVID-19 . Not a lot of communities have the capacity at the moment to take on the assessment itself. We took the time to think through what a new workshop model would look like. These are some screenshots from the early planning phase. But it is boiled down to this idea of a day one, or a day two, or one full day workshop. In person workshop. Just to get everything out, and to help participants get through the ideas, all of the issues they foresee. Then start thinking for some ideas on how to address those issues.

It really relies on a lot of best practices that are already out there. Whether it is mind mapping, empathy mapping, or mapping out the problem space. It is set up in a way to get all the information completed in a one or two day workshop. But we are kind of stuck because we need to find a guinea pig, for lack of a better term to test it out, willing to test it out to see where it goes and what tweaks need to be made to the new model to make it as effective as possible.

That is it for me. I can go on for days about the tool, and what we have seen, what we have not's, and all that type of stuff but I will stop for time sake. I think we are at the right time for questions.

Thank you, so much to the panelists. Wonderful insights. The questions that are coming in are results of your grade presentation this is going to be a great dialogue but I want to remind everyone, if you have a question you can put it into the chat. Some of you have been using it throughout. Please continue to do so. As well is the Q&A session, you can put in an idea or if you need someone to clarify what was discussed today.

Before we get started with the questions, this is probably for Roberto. Can you provide examples of some of the communities that have been involved in the age friendly community work? What have they achieved? Do you have any concrete examples of some good work happening within those communities?

I will start. I put up a list of the 19 communities that are members of the network. And certainly there are many concrete examples. The first one that comes to mind is the Carbondale collaborative in Carbondale. The Eagle County and Pitkin County members of the community. They are working together on issues that were particularly highlighted during the pandemic. Outreach to older adults about COVID-19 and how to get vaccinated in particular, outreach to the very populace Latino community in the Valley. That is an important sample that comes to my mind.

Terrific.

There are commonalities among the communities. Somebody mentioned ADU, Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins. They have passed the ordinance. This is something that is for older homeowners making more

of their property and to increase flexibility for other community members looking for affordable housing. In the area of parks and trails, a lot of communities, pretty much every single one of them have worked on increasing walk ability by better signage and trails. Building new walking and biking trails. In the case of Larimer County, they have instituted transportation, information and coordination center geared toward helping residents in the more rural areas. Who can no longer drive. No longer having access to transportation services. So those are commonalities. But pretty much every community does address what is the driving key issue within their community.

Thank you.

I would like to jump in real quick. Not necessary offer a specific example but address another question the chat. Examples of community led efforts versus local government led efforts. In its purest form, I think a lot of the examples Roberto highlighted, Larimer County, Colorado Springs and the other areas. Those all started with community volunteers and folks at the ground level, picking up efforts and moving them to a level where the local government acknowledges and buys into. And then implements the outcome and policymaking decision-making. So I admitted during my presentation, it would be state and government heavy word and that is where I sit. So that is where it will happen. Ultimately, it is communities and volunteer groups in Larimer County, it is an excellent example.

Terrific. You touched on housing. That is a very hot topic and a big issue for the state. It seems like there was construction happening on every corner. Housing developments, condos, apartments. But yet none of them seem to be tailored for older Coloradans. Do any of you have any insight about the work being done, so we can encourage housing that is older, lighting appropriate?

-- I would refer everyone to the Colorado sun article. It is by Kevin Simpson. It directly addresses this issue and the difficulty of older adults finding a down sows housing product. Is a multifaceted problem. Inventory that is not being built. It has to do with pricing. It is a consistent problem. Urban and rural, small town County, big-city. It is everywhere.

I would like to add, there are a couple -- this might get at some of the questions indicated in the chat there are a few bills going to the state legislature right now. I am sure they are on many folks's radar. The house bill, 1271. Which would direct the Department of local affairs, the division of housing to develop, and coordinate with the local governments on promoting the development of innovative affordable housing strategies. Also, the house bill 1117. I can put this in the chat as well. It really deals with the ability of local government to promote and develop new housing units within existing land-use. I bring up both of those. The 1117 very much has AUD focus. And then the house bill 1271, it involves a lot of rulemaking and developing the options on what they look like on the backend. I think at a broader policy level, I have fallen a bit guilty of this in the past. But focusing more so on the front end of the policy, focused on the development of legislation, getting it passed the Senate and House and signed into law. But the work starts after that. That is where there is a lot of efficacy. And opportunity to apply this older adult lens to the rules and implementation. Admittedly, it is hard on the front end of policy to do age specific things. I will throw that out there. But when we look on the backend, opportunities to engage, there is a real opportunity there. And to some extent it is a missed opportunity. Certainly I know there is a lot of folks on the call that a very much familiar, and deeply ingrained in the Colorado policy world. I would be interested in their perspective as well. I think that has an entire network of individuals that spent time thinking about aging, and older adults, the best way to plan communities. And to have policies that work for everyone Colorado for all. That is what we talk about the office a lot. We have to make sure we are actually doing that on the back end of the policy.

Any opportunities right now for these two bills that are for advocacy? Folks might be interested in lending their voice. What do you recommend? How can they get more involved with the bills?

1117 is on its way to the governor sometime soon. It has passed through the house and senate. And it has gone into -- 1271 is currently in Senate appropriations. After the Senate appropriations will go to the floor and there will be some work done. There is still time. Time to engage with legislators on those bills. After the division of housing of the Department of local affairs will be the work of the group on that bill. On the backend. That will happen over the summer. And so certainly something that I am very much intending on being involved. And I think there is a very community advocacy and voice of many of the folks on the call, very much hurt and seen by the state government. It is about persistence and constantly reaching out. Almost pestering folks. That's kind of how it works.

That is even more important for the folks on the call. Who are interested in this work to get on the email list. The Google form. It is included in the chat I encourage you so you can stay up to date. You can find ways to get more involved. Bob Murphy, anyway to get the link that we can put in the chat about the article?

I have placed it.

Okay, thank you for doing that. Changing gears a little bit back to the governor's office. Taking gave Paul's check on older adult issues. You hold a very important office within the capital, working side by side with the governor. Are you seeing changes more toward supporting older adults issues across the state? Is there a general shift among legislators? I know we all have a lot of work to do. Is there any sort of momentum building under the dome?

I think so. I say that -- I have been in this position -- this week is actually six months. And so it feels like eternity but it has gone by in a blink of an eye. I think in this short amount of time, being able to generate a great deal of support. And I think it has relied on the consistent, logical pathway to move this work forward. And so having the governor called the Lieutenant Governor to sign up for the letter of support. It does not mean it is done. That is the first step. We do not have -- I do not have millions of dollars a -- at my disposal to implement these efforts. But taking the one foot after the other fortunately, things do not happen as fast as we like but it's small win and building up to have a foundation to build on. I very much do think that we have been able to get a lot of progress around this work. Building momentum so we can move forward. I am very opened -- I keep up very closely around this work. And willing to have them China and offer their perspective.

Roberto or Bob? Do you have anything to add?

Within our communities, we encourage them to become more involved in advocacy. There are a number of bills as Jared mentioned before the legislature. They will impact the ability of communities to address issues that they face. One of them is related to the ability of communities to do inclusive zoning. With a can require developers to include portable housing as a part of the developments, which is currently not a power the local communities have. That is something that AARP supports and we encourage members to get involved. It gives communities greater flexibility in the area.

Thank you. This is geared toward the assessment tool. We have a question about who has completed the tool. And maybe more insight as to what they got out of it and/or feedback. If you can do a deep dive into the tool, and some of the work being generated as a result.

That is a big question. So the map I showed, detailing the 21 communities completing the assessment tool. I can run you through the list. If you would like. Communities like the Idaho Springs, Frederick, to Kona, they did a combined assessment is there basically across street from each other the city of Denver. City of Boulder. Which I mentioned. The only County that completed the tool so far is Arapahoe County. Very involved with senior services group. Sheridan, I did highlight a few during my portion of the presentation. I think Roberto mentioned a little bit ago, they all have similar needs. And seeing similar issues. To the degree in which they feel effect by them is definitely related to community size and resources. Housing obviously is a big issue and just to point done the -- I highlighted the fact that many times, the adoption of the AUD ordinance comes up with the implementation of one comes out. While that tends to be the go to, this could work for older adult population. A lot of equity invested in their homes within the communities. We rarely see this large uptick when a AUD ordinance is adopted and then they are building it on the property. Even though the ordinance may say that the AUD is allowed. There is still a lot of hoops to jump through. And a lot of -- hesitation on the lending side on how to even build one. So we are not seeing a ton the specific example that I highlighted in the presentation was one of the first communities. [ Indiscernible ] and the one thing that came out of the assessed was the housing need. And the thought that AUD ordinance would help. But I think even close to 10 years, since the assessment, only a handful have been built. And maybe not necessarily specifically to support an older adult resident.

Typically, what comes out of the assessment process is a large list. Upward of 65 types of recommendations. And when we are specifically involved we try to help communities prioritize the implementation strategy, or recommendation list into a low hanging fruit and things that can potentially be done low-cost, no-cost, and things that can take five to continues to implement. Some of the smaller things, something that came out of the Frederick assessment. The general overlapping support between the two communities. The one thing was just a snow buddy program. It turned out that Frederick actually had a program a lot of residents basically across were requesting services. So just general coordination between the two communities. At the staff level helped increase the efficiency and the effectiveness of the program between the two communities for the residence. It could be things like website updates, creating a very specific page for older adults to navigate and find resources sometimes with good intentions, local governments will put the information on the website but make it difficult to find. And then older adults generally go to other resources. So making it more present is definitely something that comes out. It spreads the gamut of things like communities can do. I hope that gives some insight. I can go on and on.

If folks need Derek to dive deeper or give another example, you can put your question into the chat and we will make sure he addresses it.

One of the advantages of communities participating, both the Boomer bond and age friendly network, is to get to learn from each other and share the best practices. The work on AUD is a good example. There are a lot of barriers that are not obvious when you first start working on it. One of them is the issue of accessibility, a lot of AUD or not really that compliant with universal design principles. One good example of an initiative to address, which I think would have statewide implications, is in Fort Collins. The group is working with the University on the lifelong homes project. Very specifically looking at the changes that can be made to AUD to bring them in greater compliance with universal design principles. Which would then be popularized, and apply throughout the state. I think the area of travel training, is something where communities have learned from each other. They have copied the model were a lot of times, older adults need building of a comfort zone and using available public transportation options, to get from one city to the next. A lot of communities have gotten involved.

Terrific before we go want to Samara questions, -- some more questions. I believe a poll was going to be done. And then we will come back and wrap it up with a few additional questions.

Sure. I will share my screen and I will bring it up.

Okay, thank you.

This is an online tool for engaging people virtually. Basically it is super easy. Go to the Manti.com. All the information is at the top of the screen. The only thing you will see is a request for a call. It's the nine digit code. Enter the code and you should be able to answer the question. We are looking for to gauge who we are talking to. There are only four questions. It should be pretty quick.

If you have any issues, feel free to type it into the chat. I assume we can help you through that too.

The larger the word, the more people. I think we have upwards of 50 folks joining. We will give it another minute. I see Frederick, Colorado Springs and Castle walks the chat. -- Castle rock.

Should we move on? Should we give it another minute? We can go to the next one.

General question if your community has completed an assessment, and/or developed a plan to better support older adults? This will show the distribution of the group.

Do you want the answers in the chat?

At the top of the screen we have this Manti.com. Enter the code. It will let you respond.

We will go to the next question. This question is about which domain of livability is most important to you? As folks answer it should populate. This is asking for the single most important. I think we all understand that one is probably not.

I will give it another minute. I have one more question. This should be -- you can type whatever you would like. What top three needs to use senior community? I would expect to see a lot of housing. There may be others that come to mind as well.

I want to complain about your survey because it cut you off at about 10 characters. Control of outside investing outside of our -- [ Indiscernible ]

My apologies about the character account. Thank you for jumping in. -- Think you.

that is probably it. Thank you for working through the survey with us. I just wanted to get a pulse on your thoughts. And it kind of helps us think through, as we work through lifelong Colorado, and individually within our organizations. We can definitely focus our efforts. Thank you.

Housing was right there with transportation, number 1. It did not disappoint. Question from -- having key stokers -- key stakeholders collaborating. How do they continue to do what? Thank you Bob Murphy for putting in a little bit about the conference that is hosted, as well as the brand-new portal. I am not sure if everyone has seen it. Can you explain that platform that you have for that exchange of ideas through Colorado Center For Aging ?

-- AARP .

It's a brand-new [ Indiscernible ] it's an opportunity for members of our age friendly network, policymakers and stakeholders, to engage in conversations, share best practices, research what is being done around the country. It is something we are trying to vamp up and encourage people to get involved. We can only do so many statewide conferences in one year. And in some way, shape or form we have done half a dozen in the last year, and two with the plan for this year. This enables folks to engage every single day.

Is there anything on the Boomer bomb side that encourages this collaboration and sharing of ideas?

We are specifically thinking about ways to engage and stay connected with the Boomer bomb cohort and/or communities growing in the list. Sharing best practices. Also trying to understand they all tapped. It is definitely an issue. And how often we engage them and to survey them, trying to figure out what they are up to. And stuff has been implemented and if they are still thinking about Boomer bond and the massive list I talked about. Things to do. And while it has been hit or miss, we do have it in the work plan for the upcoming year to think through how to specifically engage but nothing really formal at this point. But there is a community type discussion informal community discussion right now.

Terrific. We have an interesting question. Has the state itself completed the Boomer bond assessment?

Not that I am aware of.

They need to get on that.

That would be a heavy lift.

But to that point, I think it is very much the direction we are trying to take with the Department of local affairs. And comprehensive planning, municipalities, Kaiser required to do and integrating pieces into the existing structures. Everything takes additional resources but it is not something you add on without funding, human capital, human resources. So very much that is a goal. And I think the reality is, the last 2 years we have been significantly hampered as to what we can spend money on statewide. Next year, I think we are stepping out of that. Hopefully moving forward, we are at a place where we can spend more money. In the grand scheme of things, the legislature is always going to be able to have a little bit more of that flexible funding. The governors budget will be introduced in November and then money set aside for legislature to work with. Obviously last year was not one of those years. We had to cut \$2 billion out of the budget. The long term, very much looking to integrate these types of assessments into cities and counties and what they already do.

Terrific. Another question. The legislatures diverting funds away from housing and affordable housing a few years ago. What is happening at the local level? The aging resource center in Littleton. Any news or updates about that work?

It is open to all of the panelist.

I can jump in. Very familiar with the aging resource center, definitely a model we promote when working through the Boomer bond. When that type of situation arises, or that type of recommendation arises. Often when it comes to affordable housing or housing in general, often in the session about to strengthen the local jurisdictions with the relationship with the Housing Authority. And how to support the housing authority. Also tried to influence Housing Authority efforts on affordable housing in the older adult or senior housing space. I have not specifically seen anything productive or any new development come out of that type of conversation. But that has been across the board, those types of conversations have eluded to.

Terrific. For the panelists, we have some other suggestions. Before you leave us today, make sure you look at the chat room. We have had great discussion around Medicaid, and other topics. We connect get through them today and this particular forum, but as we see across the state it is good to know some of the feedback that is coming in, as well. Also for all of the attendees, please take a quick peek at the chat room. There are a number of resources that we have talked about through today's discussion. They have been posted. Make sure you hop on the link before you log off today also included in the chat is an evaluation for today's session. It literally takes less than 30 seconds. Four or five questions at most. Before you jump off please fill that out. That is a huge help. It will direct us for future programming. And what it is you want to hear, see and learn. Particular leaders across the state that you would like to hear from. If you can take a quick minute to visit that link, as well.

As a reminder, older Coloradans month webinars. Next week on May 26, the same day, the same time, on next Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.. This is a great way to end our webinar series. We are actually going to have representatives from different parts of the state. They will take a deep dive as to what is happening regionally within their areas. What is working. A number of questions today about providing examples of communities, where this is working, what is working. So our panelists provided a few examples for us today. We will have leaders that represent different parts of the state, taking us on a tour of what has worked for it and what has not worked. And what we still need to address those areas as well as updates. Ensuring that this is a great place to age well.

Those are the resources in the chat. The link to register if you have not already for next week's session is also there a can be found in addition to the Colorado Senior lobby website. If there are no further questions, it does not look like any more come into the chat. A huge thank you, big thank you for our panelists today. Taking time out of your very busy schedule to share with us your insights, your perspectives, your expertise on how we can continue this momentum building in age friendly community. Again, thank you very much for at this time I will hand it back over to Bob Brocker .

Thank you. Katie Bishop, if you are still on. Do you want to briefly talk about what has been going on in the background with relay Colorado, as we spent the last hour and 45 minutes or so?

Yes. We are continuing to do as much outreach as we can statewide. Each state has a relay Colorado system set up. We focus specifically on Colorado. Making sure individuals, who are aging, having hearing loss or deaf or hard of hearing can stay connected through phone access. We are trying to do our best to be as far-reaching as we can in all corners of the state. We are trying to focus on remote areas. And getting information now is much as we are able. We are honored to be able to connect with different organizations such as many of you who are here. I can put my email in the chat as well if anyone has any questions, or

needs to contact me. We would love to share more about the webinars that we have. You can go to [relay Colorado.com\webinars](http://relaycolorado.com/webinars) to access and register. It is at no cost to individuals who attend. We also are able to hopefully now that the doors are kind of opening, we will be able to get back out within the community. And we will share information as to how we can best service individuals, and their needs. Whether CapTel phone. The relay conference captioning. We also have a speech to speech service. As well as our 711 connect. We have a lot of different resources that we would love to share. When given the opportunity.

Thank you, Katie. Just to wrap it up real quick, it has been very encouraging to see all the activity that has been going on across the state. With these different different communities. Boomer bond, lifelong Colorado, the work that AARP has been doing, and DRCOG . I know there have and some significant changes made. In every community they focus on different issues. And that is actually a good thing. It gets everyone the opportunity to learn from one another.

I would like to close with a quick reminder. Remember, as our 50+ population is growing, the average age of our legislature is growing younger. So with a few very notable exceptions, they are not naturally drawn to think about the issues of aging. So that is our job. It is our duty to keep the issues in front of them, to bring ideas for solutions and to advocate for those ideas. And as Jarett said , their work begins after the legislation is passed. And when he gets into the different agencies. That is an opportunity to influence how that particular legislation is actually implemented but the implementation is everything.

Please tune in next week. We would love to see you again. Again thank you for joining today. Thank you again to all the panelists. And the moderators. We will close out just a little bit early. I am sure that will not bother anyone. Have a great day, and thank you very much. Take care.

[ Event Concluded ]