

Suggested policies regarding seniors/older adults for Housing Element-Santa Clara County from the Seniors' Agenda Policy and Funding Work Team

A. Health Conditions, Equity, and Access

Strategy #4: Educate and empower individuals, employers and communities to improve population health and advocate for positive change

New policy

"HE-A.35 Senior health and wellness prevention and care

Provide education, training and information for seniors, caregivers, police, fire and other departments regarding special health needs and conditions of older adults, including falls prevention, dementia, substance abuse, violence prevention, disaster preparedness, and access to nutrition, transportation, suicide prevention and social support."

D: Active and sustainable transportation

Add to HE_D5....Traffic calming measures add the statement" implement senior center zone speed limits.

F: Healthy Eating, Food Access, and Sustainable Food Systems

Strategy #4: Reduce Food Insecurity and Hunger

Add this policy to HE-F.19 or HE-F.21

Increase older adults' access to food and nutrition by expanding food services throughout the County at congregate sites, community centers, and neighborhood locations. Provide mobile food service for seniors through Meals on Wheels, mobile vans, delivery services and other innovative means. Utilize farmers' markets, the Food Bank, and other food sources in collaborative programs to insure that the elders' nutritional needs are met, especially when seniors are isolated or ill.

H. Housing

Strategy #2: Inventory and improve housing and neighborhood-level conditions, quality, and other environmental factors that contribute to poor health outcomes.

Add new sentence to Strategy #2, HE-H.10: "Encourage universal design in new construction and renovations to accommodate access and mobility of older residents."

I. Violence Prevention and Safety

New policy

Add new Strategy #4 or combine with *Strategy #3: Prevent and reduce intimate partner violence*

“Prevent and reduce elder abuse

Strategy 2: Change to “Prevent experiences/exposures to trauma and violence across the lifespan.

Add policy

HEI.15 Health Care Screening, Implement Diagnostic and Treatment Guidelines on Elder Abuse and Neglect (American Medical Association) protocols for gerontologist internal medicine departments, Adult Protective Services, emergency personnel, law enforcement, mandated reporters and emergency rooms.