

Research Brief**March 2021**

ADVANCING GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING AT THE INTERSECTION OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES, HEALTH SYSTEMS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPORTANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Healthy aging is an important aspect of worldwide health as life expectancy continues to increase across the globe. The World Health Organization (WHO) supports healthy aging through its age-friendly communities initiative that includes 1,000 communities worldwide (including 500 in the US) that are committed to age-friendly principles. Specific aspects of age-friendly communities include built and social environments, age-appropriate health systems, and public health programs. Gerontological nurses are important stakeholders in all aspects of age-friendly communities due to their training and skillsets specific to supporting the unique and varied needs of older adults.

Built and Social Environment

WHO outlines these aspects of age-friendly

- Accessible, safe outdoor spaces and buildings
- Affordable transportation alternatives
- Affordable housing
- Promoting social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Encouraging civil participation
- Communication and information catered to older adults

