

Project 2030

Issue Area: Community Planning

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Project 2030 is a prequel to a greater community plan in Minnesota. The main objective of Project 2030 is not to redesign communities or public services, but to assess their community's position on aging. Project 2030 is a special project of the State of Minnesota coordinated by the Aging Initiative of the Minnesota Department of Human Services in partnership with the Minnesota Board on Aging. The purpose is to identify the impacts of the aging of Minnesota's population and help prepare the State's response to the baby boom generation that begins turning 85 in 2030. Over three thousand Minnesota citizens were engaged in an intensive planning process that culminated in a final report on the two-year planning phase of the project and more than fifteen related publications.



The initial study turned out a variety of information regarding the senior population. They determined that the number of citizens above sixty-five years will double and the number of citizens above eighty-five will triple by 2050. This doubling will result in 1.6 million senior citizens that make up twenty-five percent of the population. Project 2030 went more in depth in studying their older adult population, and determined that less than half of the older adult population will have a sufficient income to cover long term care costs, and that the number of senior citizens living alone will double by 2030. While all of these statistics point to problems in the oncoming population demographics, the study found that older adults have remained in the labor force at higher rates than expected. Based on these findings, Project 2030 plans on addressing four major themes:

- Increased personal responsibility to save and prepare for retirement and old age.

- Expanded emphasis on personal responsibility for long term care planning and health promotion and maintenance.
- Increased “age sensitive” physical, service, and social infrastructures at the community level, including wise land use, life cycle housing, responsive service delivery systems, and strong social ties within communities.
- Continued strong economic growth within the State, including creative use of our aging population, both in the work force and non-paid roles.

In the near future, Project 2030 is sure to provide an even greater community plan solution to resolve all the issues that the project has turned up. In the future Minnesota plans on strong and active partnerships with public and private organizations and key action by the state and city governments now to prepare for 2030.

Related Resources:

Project 2030.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/aging/documents/pub/DHS_id_005711.hcsp>.

“Maximizing the Productivity of an Aging Workforce.” Project 2030.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/aging/documents/pub/dhs_id_005428.hcsp>.

“New Wrinkle on Aging.” Citizens League. November 1998.

<http://www.citizensleague.net/html/new_wrinkle_report.htm>.

“Changing Communities.” Project 2030.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/aging/documents/pub/dhs_id_005429.hcsp>.

“Minnesota’s Population Is Aging.” Minnesota Board on Aging.

<<http://www.mnaging.org/mba/demographics.html>>.