

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Executive Department



## Governor Tim Walz

### Executive Order 19-38

### **Establishing the Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota**

**I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

There are one million older adults in Minnesota and that figure is growing rapidly. In 2020, the number of older adults in Minnesota over age 65 will exceed the number of children under age 18. Older adults may face challenges related to financial security, housing, transportation, health care, employment, and social service needs. In addition, thousands of direct support workers and the estimated 650,000 family and friends who provide unpaid caregiving are struggling to meet the ever-increasing demand for care.

Older adults deserve to live in communities that are respectful, inclusive, and free of prejudice or discrimination based on a person's age, and to be celebrated for their accomplishments and contributions. The aging of our population impacts every community and culture, and people of all ages should feel confident that they and their families can live vibrant, purposeful lives as they grow old.

A statewide policy to promote healthy aging requires engaging with older adults as contributors to the social, economic, and civic fabric of our communities, encouraging physical and psychological health and well-being in older adults and their caregivers, and eliminating ageism. This work cannot be accomplished by any one state agency, but instead must be a collective effort that requires coordination, collaboration, innovation, and focus across state agencies.

Many older adults want to stay in the workforce, volunteer, and give back to their communities. Older adults should have the option of remaining in their communities as they age, with access to a range of public and private resources and supports to promote healthy and purposeful aging.

Minnesota's Tribal Nations and local governments are well-positioned to respond to the needs of older adults. Many are proactively creating livable and well-designed communities that promote well-being and sustain economic growth. This leads to happier and healthier residents of all ages.

A national organization for older adults and an international health organization award "age-friendly" designations to governmental jurisdictions in recognition of coordinated, multi-agency

statewide age-friendly efforts. Achieving such a designation would be beneficial for all Minnesotans. Such designations focus on eight domains of livability: outdoor spaces and buildings, housing, transportation, civic participation and employment, respect and social inclusion, social participation, communication and information, and community and health services.

The benefits of achieving an age-friendly Minnesota include coordinated public and private sector actions to address shared priorities developed with and for older adults; increased efficiency through cross-sector collaborative efforts on behalf of older adults; focused attention to improve equity and address disparities experienced by older Minnesotans; and Tribal Nations, towns, cities, and counties empowered with tools and adequate resources to make their communities more age-friendly.

For these reasons, I order that:

1. Minnesota coordinate work across sectors, including state government, non-profits, communities, businesses, and others to ensure we are an age-friendly state.
2. The Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota ("Council") is established to coordinate state and private-sector partners.
3. Each of the following agencies and boards must designate an Age-Friendly Minnesota lead to serve as a Council member:
  - a. The Minnesota Board on Aging
  - b. Department of Commerce
  - c. Department of Employment and Economic Development
  - d. Minnesota Department of Health
  - e. Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
  - f. Department of Human Services
  - g. Minnesota Department of Transportation
  - h. Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
  - i. Metropolitan Council
4. Other state agencies and boards may participate on the Council in a non-voting capacity.
5. The Governor will appoint up to six additional Council members, seeking representation from older adults in communities experiencing disparities, direct service caregivers, businesses, experts on aging, local governments, and tribal communities.

6. The Governor will designate the Chair of the Council from its members.
7. The Council will:
  - a. Elevate the voice of older adults in developing the vision and action plan for an age-friendly state.
  - b. Engage with community, including older adults, caregivers, business, experts, advocacy organizations and other stakeholders, to inform recommendations and provide stakeholders with updates on the Council's recommendations.
  - c. Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among services and state agencies responsible for funding and administering programs and public-private partnerships.
  - d. Promote equity and make progress toward equitable outcomes by examining programs, policies, and practices to ensure that they address disparities experienced by older adults in Greater Minnesota, older adults of color, and indigenous older adults.
  - e. Catalyze age-friendly work at the local level, engaging with and empowering older adults, local constituents, elected officials, and other stakeholders to create change in every community.
  - f. Establish a statewide framework that allows for local flexibility to tap into the potential presented by our aging communities and elevates aging across all of Minnesota.
  - g. Assess and examine relevant programs, policies, practices, and services to make budget and policy recommendations for the 2021 legislative session to establish, in law, an Age-Friendly Board and age-friendly policies with appropriate financial support, to ensure Minnesota continues to lead on age-friendly initiatives.
8. The Minnesota Board on Aging and Department of Human Services will provide staffing and administrative support to the Council.
9. The Council may accept technical assistance and in-kind services from outside organizations for purposes consistent with the Council's role and authority.
10. The Council will submit a preliminary action plan and legislative recommendations to the Governor by August 15, 2020.
11. The Council will submit a report to the Governor with its final action plan and recommendations for implementation of any enacted legislation related to age-friendly policies by December 31, 2021.

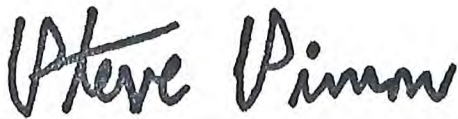
This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until January 1, 2022 or until rescinded by proper authority.

Signed on December 11, 2019.



**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Filed According to Law:



**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State

