

The City of Colorado Springs Commission on Aging

2019 Budget Recommendations



The Commission on Aging



- Created April 2017 (Ord. No. 17-37)
- Charged with making budget recommendations to Mayor and Council

Age Friendly



- Age Friendly report presented to City Council March 2016
- City of Colorado Springs joined the Network of Age Friendly Cities in 2016
- Commission on Aging result of Age Friendly report recommendation
- 2019 Budget recommendations align with recommendations in the Age Friendly report



Public Process



- Silver Key Senior Services
 - May 23, 2018
- City Hall
 - May 31, 2018
- Commission on Aging Meeting-Budget recommendations finalized
 - June 6, 2018
- Top priorities: Housing, Transit, Infrastructure

Recommendation 1:

The Commission on Aging recommends that \$3 million from the general fund be dedicated to safe and affordable rental housing for residents over years of age. This money will complement the federal HOME funds the City receives (\$1.5 million in 2018) and allow for the City to partner with housing non-profits to ensure the creation of multi-family projects through providing more equity into subsidized housing and making the City and its partner non-profits less dependent on state tax credit funding for affordable housing.

Recommendation 2:

The Commission on Aging recommends that \$50,000 of general funds be dedicated to a senior and disabled displacement fund administered by Partners in Housing to assist individuals who find themselves in a displacement scenario such as an apartment building changing ownership and/or rent increase.

Recommendation 3:

The Commission on Aging recommends that funds be allocated for a comprehensive Mountain Metro Transit senior ridership study, including public input events to better understand the transit needs of seniors in the City and to assist with informed and comprehensive budget recommendations for 2020.

Recommendation 4:

Neighborhood parks are often the area of choice for both exercise and social interaction of seniors. The Commission on Aging recommends that \$150,000 of general funds be dedicated to fund the installation of senior-friendly benches (benches that have arm rests to assist with sitting and standing), paved walking paths and lighting for walking paths, with priority given to Flanagan Park, and then Panorama Park. This dedication of funds has the potential to be used in conjunction with CDBG funds to realize additional community benefits in low to moderate income neighborhoods.

Recommendation 5:

The Commission on Aging recommends that \$500,000 of general funds be dedicated in addition to PPRTA funds utilized each year to the Concrete Cost Share Program to increase the number of projects that can be completed in a year.