

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



*Department of Elder Affairs staff members are available to help your community organize and facilitate the Communities for a Lifetime process.*

## **Where can communities get assistance?**

Department of Elder Affairs staff members are available to help your community organize and facilitate the *Communities for a Lifetime* process. Communities can take advantage of the resource of technical assistance and information available from statewide agencies such as the Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Community Affairs, Department of Transportation, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Department of Health, Department of Children & Families, Department of Environmental Protection, Agency for Workforce Innovation and Enterprise Florida.

Some of the other areas in which the Department of Elder Affairs may assist communities include:

- Conducting special events with the Governor and/or Secretary of the Department of Elder Affairs participating, when possible and appropriate;
- Providing a *Communities for a Lifetime* Blueprint (this document) and a variety of information, materials and resources (local and state) to assist the community in the self-assessment process. Items include the *Communities for a Lifetime* logo, sample proclamation and a facilitator's guide;
- Awarding recognition certificates;
- Hosting conference calls and providing training opportunities for communities involved in the process of assessment;
- Coordinating state level efforts and assistance in setting priorities on specific issues;
- Providing training, recognition and state support of local efforts;
- Identifying strategies and best practices of participating communities that promote senior independence and care; and
- Maintaining the *Communities for a Lifetime* Web site with contact and resource information.

The Department of Elder Affairs *Communities for a Lifetime* bureau will assist your community in connecting with information and resources. The bureau includes professionals from the fields of health and wellness, volunteerism and intergenerational programs, transportation, housing, employment, and community relations.

# COMMUNITY PROFILE

As you begin the self-assessment process, it may be helpful to begin with a broad overview by taking a look at some general informational issues pertaining to the community.

1. Describe your community's geography, economy and population trends.
2. Describe a few of the community's unique features that provide a high quality of life for residents.
3. Find out what organizations produce a directory of services for older adults. How is it made available to residents?
4. What do you hope to accomplish with the process?
5. How can Communities for a Lifetime improve existing community planning efforts?

## Discussion Notes