

“JumpStart the Conversation” Grant – Wichita Interim Report
Best Practices Symposium
March 5, 2010

Grantee:

Wichita Educational Foundation

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Grant Outcome Summary:

- A committee of Older Adult Alliance Members was formed to determine the time and place of the best practice symposium. It was determined that it would happen at the anniversary of the initial workshop sponsored by n4a and Partners for a Livable Community.
- A draft plan for the June 2010 event is developed including keynote speakers, panel presentations of successful statewide initiatives and roundtable discussions of the JumpStart the Initiative Grants. The event will be 4 hours in length.
- Keynote speakers are being secured from n4a and Wichita State University.

Grant Narrative:

The Older Adult Alliance is energized by the momentum of the JumpStart grants and will hold a second workshop to continue the discussion of Livable Communities. We will highlight the successes of not only the JumpStart projects, but other successful initiatives in our region. Our plan is to give opportunities to the passionate planners and developers of these efforts to tell their stories and inspire others to dream and make plans of their own. We also see this as a great opportunity to bring some of our original keynote speakers back for additional information and to help celebrate the progress.

A committee of Older Adult Alliance Members met and will continue to meet regularly to determine the time, place and format of the best practice symposium. It was determined that it would happen around the anniversary of the initial workshop sponsored by n4a and Partners for a Livable Community. An exact time and place has not been finalized pending confirmation of n4a to participate.

The organizational plan for the event is to begin with a keynote speaker who will acquaint the audience with the principals of Livable Communities and Aging in Place and give a national perspective. Our next Keynote speaker, Dr. John Wong of Wichita State University will give part II of his presentation on developing livable communities for the future. Committee members are contacting known Livable Community efforts statewide to help determine our panelists.

The panel of regional representatives for initiatives will include projects such as the Downtown Redevelopment plan as it relates to empty nesters, College Hill Redesign district, a community project to beautify and protect the river and a bike path developed in a Harvey County.

Finally, those projects that are not represented on the panel will present at roundtable discussions. The audience will be invited to move from roundtable to roundtable to ask detailed questions of the JumpStart grant recipients.

CPAAA and Wichita Visioneering Older Adult Alliance will develop and promote this event through the invitation list developed for the June 23, 2009 workshop. Many of the invited individuals could not come and this will be a second chance to reach them. We advertise the event with a press release and article in Active Aging. We will be targeting city planners, key stakeholders, city administrators, future funders and other potential leaders in our region through E-Mail.

By highlighting the JumpStart grant recipients and local successes and efforts, we hope to show how educational efforts and meaningful dialog around planning for the future through changes in design, planning, and approach can be successful, and beneficial to people of all ages.

We hope to sustain this initiative for many years and hope to hold future Symposiums. In future years, we would have the option of taking it to a state conference such as the Governors Conference on Aging.