



AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Grants to make communities livable for people of all ages
aarp.org/CommunityChallenge

ATTACHMENT C: EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY FUNDED COMMUNITY CHALLENGE PROJECTS BY CATEGORY

To learn more about each grantee and their project (or other Community Challenge grant projects near you), please visit the [Livable Communities Map](#).

FLAGSHIP GRANT CATEGORIES

CREATING VIBRANT PUBLIC PLACES that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities for residents (especially those 50-plus).

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Public Places	<p>Hazen, ND (2022) Hazen Public Library</p>	<p>The library basement where there are meeting rooms and where a local arts association rents space was inaccessible and underutilized for community meetings. The library used grant funds to install two chair lifts in the two stairwells to ensure residents can safely attend community meetings at the library.</p>
	Public Places	<p>Avoca, IA (2018) Avoca Public Library</p>	<p>The AARP Community Challenge grant funded the city’s new “music park” outside of the public library. The location’s oversized, weather-proof instruments require neither training nor talent to play. During the summer, Avoca closes its main street for a weekly farmer’s market. The instruments provide a stay and play area that encourages people to spend time creating music outdoors and enjoy the downtown. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Public Places	<p>Boston, MA (2019) City of Boston</p>	<p>Age-friendly benches were installed in each of the main street districts to help engage older residents and enhance local community activity. This project helped build a framework for a sustainable city-wide bench program that addresses longer-term issues of installation and maintenance. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Public Places	<p>Camden, SC (2017) City of Camden</p>	<p>Bereft of any welcoming amenities, a 120-foot-long alleyway in downtown Camden received a major face-lift. Passersby were encouraged to pop in during the “alley activation project” and make a stained-glass globe that hangs alongside new shade canopies and LED string lights to help increase multigenerational social interaction in a previously unused area. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>

<p>----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	Public Places	<p>Jackson, MS (2019) City of Jackson</p>	<p>The City of Jackson used Open Streets design practices to engage residents of the downtown community by activating new public spaces for people of all ages to interact with each other. Designing a parklet with a large mural backdrop and ground mural for safe crossing enhanced public safety by improving pedestrian accessibility. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Public Places	<p>Houston, TX, (2023) Lao American Association of Houston</p>	<p>This project turned vacant land into a community garden with eight raised beds. It focused on growing vegetables common in Southeast Asian cuisine that are hard to find in supermarkets and grocery stores in Houston.</p>
	Public Places	<p>Southport, NC (2021) John N Smith Cemetery Restoration and Preservation</p>	<p>An outdoor museum within a historic African American cemetery shared and celebrated the contributions made by Black residents. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>

DELIVERING A RANGE OF TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY OPTIONS for residents (especially those 50-plus) that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, and access to public and private transit.

<p>----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	Transportation	<p>Charleston, SC (2018) Charleston Moves</p>	<p>The West Ashley Greenway is a former rail line that has been converted into a bicycle and pedestrian trail that connects businesses, parks, schools, municipal facilities and neighborhoods. AARP provided funds for upgrading select intersections with artistic crosswalks. The goals were to slow down automotive traffic and draw attention to the safety needs of pedestrians and cyclists. With the increasing numbers of retirees and families in the neighborhood interested in nonmotorized transportation, improving the greenway has become a vital need. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Transportation	<p>Fort Defiance, AZ (2021) Navajo United Way</p>	<p>This project supported the installation of bus shelters throughout the Navajo Nation to accommodate people of all ages traveling through the vast Navajo reservation and help them get to work and school, or to attend medical appointments, shop and tend to other business.</p>
	Transportation	<p>Bismarck, Lincoln, and Mandan, ND (2022) Bis-Man Transit Board</p>	<p>The Bis-Man Transit Board provides free fixed route transit service to those 65 or older but riding public transit for the first time can be intimidating. Several videos to teach local residents about the transit system, were produced and used during transit workshops to explain trip planning, understanding timetables, paying for the trip, transferring buses, requesting a stop, and the benefits of public transportation.</p>
	Transportation	<p>Statewide, MI (2021) League of Michigan Bicyclists</p>	<p>Communities across the state received access to a bike safety lending library offering separators for protected bike lanes, bike counters, and curb extenders enabling them to pilot and test improvements in their local transportation infrastructure.</p>

<p>----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Miami, FL (2018) Urban Health Partnerships & the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative</p>	<p>Residents of Miami's Little Havana neighborhood use public transit three times more often than the general population in Miami-Dade County. Multiple bus routes and two free trolley routes serve the area. However, because of constraints in the right-of-way, there are few benches where riders, particularly older adults, can sit while waiting. AARP funded the purchase of 12 benches, which were installed through a pilot project with the City of Miami.</p>
	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>St. Louis and East St. Louis, MO (2017, 2021 and 2022) Citizens for Modern Transit</p>	<p>In 2017, pop-up demonstrations were used to build support for the development of improved public transit. <i>Watch the video.</i></p> <p>In 2021, grant funds were used to transform a transit station into an active space that promotes bus and light-rail use, supports creative play and celebrates the history and culture of East St. Louis.</p> <p>In 2022, accessible seating, a UV-protective shade and a mural examining local history were installed at the North Hanley Transit Center. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Whitesburg, KY (2021) Appalshop, Inc</p>	<p>A popular trail that serves as transportation and exercise for a rural town was updated with resurfacing, a large crosswalk, signage, stencil art and benches. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>West Sacramento, CA (2018) City of West Sacramento</p>	<p>Feedback from older residents in West Sacramento has targeted transportation as a key concern. However, it can be a challenge for city buses to meet all of the community's needs. Although ride-sharing apps are becoming more available, some older people aren't comfortable using the technology. AARP funding enabled older residents to receive training and a free trial use of two transit programs: an on-demand, ride-sharing car service, with a wheelchair-accessible van available, and the bikes rental program, which provides dockless, electric-assist bicycles. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>

SUPPORTING A RANGE OF HOUSING OPTIONS for residents (especially people 50-plus and their families) that increase the availability of accessible and affordable choices.

<p>----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	<p>Housing</p>	<p>Pensacola, FL (2022) Council on Aging of West Florida</p>	<p>Two "tiny houses" were constructed. While both house a low-income senior citizen, one was initially used as a model home to educate the community about the ways tiny houses can help alleviate the city's severe housing shortage. <i>Read the article.</i></p>
	<p>Housing</p>	<p>Louisville, KY (2021) Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services</p>	<p>This project helped raise awareness of Louisville's work to increase the availability of Accessory Dwelling Units for older adults and all residents. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>

<p>----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p> <p>FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	Housing	<p>Medford, OR (2021) Rogue Retreat</p>	<p>When the COVID-19 pandemic and Alameda Fire exasperated an already declining housing market, Rogue Retreat looked for ways to help. Using funds from Project Turnkey — a grant program from the State of Oregon and the Oregon Community Foundation — a vacant hotel was purchased and transformed into an accessible, temporary studio apartments for low-income people without housing.</p> <p>Rogue Retreat used their grant to hire an architect to design ADA-compliant floor plans and to convert a ground floor unit. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Housing	<p>Philadelphia, PA (2019) City of Philadelphia, Office of Community Empowerment & Opportunity</p>	<p>The AARP grant helped support the eviction prevention landlord-tenant mediation program that utilizes mediation, financial assistance, information and referrals to reach mutually agreeable solutions in landlord-tenant disputes, reduce eviction and displacement, and foster vibrant, inclusive communities for residents of all income levels. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Housing	<p>Powhatan County, VA (2021) Habitat for Humanity – Powhatan</p>	<p>Four design charrettes (workshops) were hosted to discuss the ways an abandoned, historic school building can be reimagined and renovated as housing. Charrette participants helped assess overall housing needs of the 55 and over population in Powhatan, the needs of seniors who could potentially live at the historic Pocahontas school site, the meaning of the site to former students, amenities that would be desired on the site, and any concerns with the school site.</p>
	Housing	<p>Des Moines, IA (2020) Home Opportunities Made Easy</p>	<p>In 2019, Des Moines amended the zoning law to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Grant funding was put toward the construction of the first accessory dwelling unit as a demonstration, in order to introduce ADUs as a housing alternative for the area and way to increase housing options. In 2022, the Des Moines City Council expanded the area in which an ADU can be built.</p>
	Housing	<p>Bethel, ME (2017) Bethel Area Age-Friendly</p>	<p>The grant was used to construct a display and four tool kits featuring accessories that make homes safer and help prevent falls. The toolkits were shared at community events and amongst area towns to engage with the Bethel area community. In addition, fall prevention home assessments were conducted for individuals, as well as the installation of smoke alarms and evaluation of fire escape plans.</p>

INCREASING DIGITAL CONNECTIONS by expanding high-speed internet and enhancing digital literacy skills (with a focus on the needs of people 50-plus).

<p>----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	Digital Connections	<p>Orlando, FL (2021) City of Orlando</p>	<p>Two underserved neighborhoods with limited internet access received solar charging tables and artistic shade structures equipped as wireless hotspots. The solar charging tables are designed to withstand hurricane strength winds, improving the resiliency of internet connectivity for the neighborhood. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Digital Connections	<p>Charlotte, NC (2020) North End Community Coalition</p>	<p>To help bridge the digital divide and fight social isolation during the COVID-19 crisis in this largely African American community, a Wi-Fi hotspot lending program was created allowing residents to borrow a device for up to three weeks at a time.</p>

<p>----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	<p>Digital Connections</p>	<p>Jersey City, NJ (2021 and 2022) Jersey City Housing Authority</p>	<p>The 2021 project provided Wi-Fi, smart home devices, a computer lab and digital literacy programming for older adults in a public housing development to help reduce social isolation, bridge language barriers and create sustainable, on-site digital programming.</p> <p>The 2022 project provided Wi-Fi-enabled tablets to seniors in a public housing development. College students offered one-on-one digital literacy training. Read the article.</p>
	<p>Digital Connections</p>	<p>Elko County, NV (2022) Community Health Development Foundation</p>	<p>Two centers for older adults in rural Nevada received laptops and tablets. The goal is to use videoconference technology to allow seniors to connect with family and medical teams via reliable internet service. High school-age volunteers provided instruction on the use of the technology, especially the videoconferencing.</p>
	<p>Digital Connections</p>	<p>Wichita, KS (2019) City of Wichita</p>	<p>To combat the “digital divide” and social isolation, the city developed a hotspot lending program using 60 hotspot devices that allow individuals to connect wirelessly to the Internet. Residents can check out a device at their Neighborhood Resource Center and use it at home for a certain number of days. Watch the video.</p>
	<p>Digital Connections</p>	<p>San Francisco, CA (2022) San Francisco Tech Council</p>	<p>Four neighborhood-based pop-up events were coordinated to offer free, individualized tech support in Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and English to older adults in underserved communities in San Francisco. At the pop-up events, volunteers identified technical needs and provided advice and assistance to people who had basic questions about their devices or apps, particularly on their phones, tablets or laptops. Watch the video.</p>

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE through investments that improve disaster management, preparedness and mitigation (with a focus on the needs of people 50-plus).

<p>----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----</p>	<p>Community Resilience</p>	<p>Gulfport, MS (2017, 2018 and 2019) City of Gulfport</p>	<p>In 2017, the grant was used to create Bark Park on an acre of property at the new Brickyard Bayou Park. When Hurricane Katrina nearly leveled the Bayou View West neighborhood in 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency bought out the remaining residents and handed the property over to the city, which created the park. If the area floods again, homes will no longer be at risk. Watch the video.</p> <p>In 2018, grant funding was used to create an outdoor interactive classroom with nature trails, educational play structures and a small amphitheater at the Brickyard Bayou Park.</p> <p>In 2019, the Brickyard Bayou Park added a safe weather pavilion and benches along a new bike trail system within the park.</p>
	<p>Community Resilience</p>	<p>Lajas and San Juan, PR (2022) Surando La Historia and Ponce Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.</p>	<p>The continued availability of power, drinking water and communication outlets in Lajas is ensured through improved technology. This includes a generator, battery backup system, radio communication system, and a water storage and distribution system, which came in handy during Hurricane Fiona. Emergency supplies — including a water tank, cots and first aid kits — were purchased to benefit San Juan’s Tortugo community/barrio. The Community Resilience Center serves as a shelter and community dining facility for local older adults during emergencies.</p>

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Community Resilience	Portland, OR (2022) Lloyd EcoDistrict	Older adults in the Lloyd neighborhood were taught emergency preparedness skills and connected with neighbors to create emergency preparedness plans.
	Community Resilience	Portland, OR (2023) East Portland Resilience Coalition and ROSE Community Development	The Live Well Café pop-up events in two East Portland neighborhoods brought together older adults, people with disabilities and other residents to discuss emergency preparedness, mutual aid and other important issues for community resilience.
	Community Resilience	Glasgow, KY (2023) Barren County Fiscal Court	This project funded the purchase of 15 portable generators for qualifying residents with healthcare needs to use during power outages.
	Community Resilience	Oahu, HI (2022) Hui o Hauula	The community resilience project turned an overgrown, 5-acre property into a community recreation area with walking trails, garden benches and a colorful Community Resilience mural to share the neighborhood’s vision of resilience.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT to support resident’s financial well-being and improve health outcomes (with a focus on the needs of people 50-plus).

----- FLAGSHIP GRANTS -----	Health & Economic	Chattanooga, TN (2023) Lighthouse Network Services	The project supported student caregivers and their families to grow their own food and access healthier food options.
	Health & Economic	Sheridan, WY (2023) Holy Name Catholic Church	The project helped family caregivers with instructional workshops, which paired newer caregivers with experienced ones to provide one-on-one support.
	Health & Economic	Sterling Heights, MI (2023) Chaldean Community Foundation	This project provided classes for caregivers with limited English skills to teach them about financial literacy and self-care, as well as provide budget-friendly cooking tips.
	Health & Economic	Tishomingo, OK (2023) Southern Oklahoma Library System	This project created a private space in the Johnston County Library that residents can use to access telemedicine services.

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	Health & Economic	<p>Tigard, OR (2021) City of Tigard</p>	<p>Tigard Launch Pod is a mobile food and beverage business incubator directed at lowering barriers for marketplace entry for minority entrepreneurs by outfitting two food trucks with commercial kitchens to be parked at Universal Plaza in downtown Tigard. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Health & Economic	<p>Munich, ND (2023) Munich Area Development Corporation</p>	<p>This project helped a local nonprofit grocery store, which provides fresh, affordable food to local residents, to transition to self-service operations. This enables individuals within the community to access groceries at almost any time.</p>
	Health & Economic	<p>Gloucester, VA (2022) Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic</p>	<p>A food pantry and vegetable garden were created at the clinic, affording patients better access to healthy foods.</p>
	Health & Economic	<p>Jackson TN (2022) City of Jackson</p>	<p>Two "blessing boxes" — stand-alone refrigerators in wooden frames — were positioned outside a local church and a substance-abuse facility. They were initially stocked by the city, later by donations.</p>
	Health & Economic	<p>Hazard, KY (2022) University of Kentucky Research Foundation</p>	<p>Workbenches, a 3-D printer, pipe benders and a drill press were some of the equipment purchased to bolster a program in which volunteers refurbish used medical equipment and adapt toys to aid people with disabilities. <i>Read the article.</i></p>
	Health & Economic	<p>Winston-Salem, NC (2023) Age-Friendly Forsyth</p>	<p>The project trained 100 volunteer Aging Services Ambassadors to provide information about local services for older adults.</p>

CAPACITY-BUILDING MICROGRANT CATEGORIES

NOTE: The projects listed below are projects that AARP has funded previously that align with the grant categories. Some of the projects were funded before a given Capacity-Building Microgrant category was made available, but are meant to serve as inspiration for 2024 applications.

WALK AUDITS – Implement walk audits to enhance safety and walkability in communities (especially for people age 50-plus) with support from [America Walks](#) and using the [AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit](#).

----- MICROGRANTS -----	Walk Audits	<p>Northfield, VT (2021) Northfield Common Connections</p>	<p>Using the Walk Audit Tool Kit, volunteers observed pedestrian activity and solicited community feedback. Based on the studies, the group determined where a protected pedestrian path would benefit the community the most. The community then hosted a community paint day for the path, adding delineators, benches and signage, which were put to instantaneous use by young and old alike, once the paint dried.</p>
	Walk Audits	<p>Chicago, IL (2023) Good City Group</p>	<p>This project conducted walk audits in a busy commercial district and staged a community workshop to identify potential locations for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. Particular attention was given to an intersection where a new Metra commuter rail station is being built.</p>
	Walk Audits	<p>Harahan, LA (2023) City of Harahan</p>	<p>The city conducted walk audits along a state highway to identify potential locations for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. This project recruited volunteers from a local senior center to participate.</p>
	Walk Audits	<p>Houston, TX (2023) Citizens Transportation Coalition</p>	<p>This project conducted walk audits along Washington Avenue, a busy commercial district surrounded by residential homes. There were two training sessions and a final in-person community meeting.</p>

BIKE AUDITS – Implement bike audit assessments to enhance safety and bikeability in communities (especially for people age 50-plus), with support from [League of American Bicyclists](#) and using the [AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit](#).

NOTE: The projects listed below are projects that AARP has funded previously that relate to bikeability. However, for this grant opportunity, we expect all applicants to conduct bike audits as a part of their project.

--- MICROGRANTS ---	Bike Audits	<p>Lynn, MA (2023) Bike to the Sea</p>	<p>This project conducted three audits to assess challenges that older adults face when accessing a shared-use trail. The organization worked with local stakeholders and city officials to advocate for improvements to increase accessibility and use.</p>
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-- MICROGRANTS --	Bike Audits	<p>Providence, RI (2022 and 2023) Providence Street Coalition</p>	<p>In 2022, a parking lane was turned into a temporary urban trail to assess safety, build community support and affect the permanent redesign of Hope Street.</p> <p>The 2023 project supported the "Walk, Talk & Chalk" series, which conducted six audits of local neighborhoods and engaged community members by using sidewalk chalk to mark recommended infrastructure improvements.</p>
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HOMEFIT® MODIFICATIONS – Implement education, simple home modifications and/or easy home safety and accessibility solutions to make “lifelong homes” (especially for people age 50-plus), with support from [RL Mace Universal Design Institute](#) and using the [AARP HomeFit® Guide](#).

----- MICROGRANTS -----	HomeFit Modifications	<p>Honolulu, HI (2021) Age-Friendly Honolulu, Honolulu Department of Community Services, and Palolo Chinese Home</p>	<p>The SafeHomes4Kupuna campaign raised awareness about home safety modifications for aging in place and provide exterior home modifications to older homeowners.</p>
	HomeFit Modifications	<p>Hopi and Navajo Reservations, AZ (2022) Red Feather</p>	<p>Selected elders were provided with home modifications such as ADA ramps, grab bars, HEPA filters and (if the home had no running water) handwashing systems.</p>
	HomeFit Modifications	<p>Berwick, ME (2023) Town of Berwick with Berwick for a Lifetime</p>	<p>The town created a Handy Helper Tool Collection to enable residents to try out tools for everyday activities and household chores. The displays, hosted at the Library, introduced residents to new products before they make purchases. Products included wireless doorbells, night lights, kitchen tools, and more.</p>
	HomeFit Modifications	<p>North Conway, NH (2023) Gibson Center for Senior Services with Mount Washington Valley Age-Friendly Community</p>	<p>This grant supported the Safe and Smart Home Expo, which included a Smart Home on Wheels (SHOW) that demonstrated technology that can enable older people to age in place safely and in comfort.</p>

DEMONSTRATION GRANT CATEGORIES

NOTE: The projects listed below are projects that AARP has funded previously that align with the grant opportunities. Some of the projects were funded before a given Demonstration Grant category was made available, but are meant to serve as inspiration for 2024 applications.

ENHANCING DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY TO PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO DISASTERS for residents (especially those age 50-plus), the importance of which is discussed in the [AARP Disaster Resilience Tool Kit](#).

-- DEMONSTRATION --	Digital and Disaster	<p>Lake Charles, LA (2023) Greater St. Mary Community Development Foundation</p>	<p>African American churches created cooling centers powered by in-ground generators and expanded their digital hubs to provide safe, cool places for residents to digitally connect with recovery resources and get assistance during weather emergencies. Satellite-based internet connectivity was also expanded via wireless mesh and radio to exterior areas and adjacent neighborhoods.</p>
-- DEMONSTRATION -	Digital and Disaster	<p>Gualala, CA (2023) Gualala Community Center</p>	<p>This project provided mobile phone solar chargers to older residents and others in need. The devices are especially important during wildfires, earthquakes, and weather-related electrical outages in rural, hard-to-access areas.</p>

FACILITATING EQUITABLE ENGAGEMENT TO RECONNECT COMMUNITIES that have been divided by infrastructure (with a focus on people age 50-plus), as highlighted in AARP's award-winning [Before the Highway](#) article series.

-----DEMONSTRATION GRANTS -----	Equitable Engagement	<p>Rochester, NY (2021) Hinge Neighbors</p>	<p>This project created programs and events to help reconnect and introduce residents of two communities that had been one neighborhood before it was divided and displaced by an expressway constructed in the 1950s. <i>Watch the video.</i></p>
	Equitable Engagement	<p>Philadelphia, PA (2022) Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation</p>	<p>To help reconnect Chinatown neighborhoods divided by the creation of the Vine Street Expressway, the organization held a pop-up event to reimagine the public space and sought older residents' input.</p>

IMPLEMENTING HOUSING CHOICE DESIGN COMPETITIONS that increase community understanding of the benefits of a variety of housing options including [accessory dwelling units](#), [Missing Middle Housing](#), tiny homes and other housing solutions (especially for people age 50-plus), and encourage implementation of policies that enable greater choice in housing.

-----DEMONSTRATION GRANTS ----- Housing Design	Houston, TX (2021) City of Houston Planning and Development Department	<p>The grant funded a design competition, an ADU/HOU website, several workshops, the ADU/HOU how-to design guide and a master set of preapproved construction documents for Double-House, the grand prize-winning design by Rice University architecture students. The competition included multiple categories, including Detached, Resilient, Sustainable, Affordable, Garage, and Student. <i>Visit the ADU Design Competition website.</i></p>
	City of Tucson, AZ (2023) City of Tucson Planning and Development Services Department	<p>This project developed a design competition to promote accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and create a model plan catalog featuring ADUs that support a variety of needs, including for older adults and multigenerational families. <i>Visit the Casita Model Plan Competition website.</i></p>
-----DEMONSTRATION GRANTS ----- Housing Design	Lexington, KY (2018) City of Lexington Division of Aging and Disability Services	<p>To build interest in ADUs and provide locally-imagined examples for the publication, the University of Kentucky School of Design hosted an ADU design competition for students and alumni. Cash prizes were given to the first, second and third place winners from each group. <i>Visit the Lexington ADU website. Read an article.</i></p>
	Fresno, CA (2023) USGBC Central California	<p>This project supported a competition that invited local students and the design, construction, and engineering community to design a sustainable accessory dwelling unit that can be used in a multigenerational setting. <i>Visit the ADUs For All Ages website.</i></p>