



Community Generated Tip Sheet

To start or sustain an aging in place initiative, it is important to gain the support of the management in your building, as well as any other resident-run groups that have similar mandates. This might be a co-op board, a condominium board, property managers, tenants association or social committee. Getting the support of these stakeholders is important to ensure that your efforts will be supported, and more importantly, that they are not actively blocked or seen as stepping on any toes.

Here are the top pieces of advice shared by our speakers and participants on May 9th.

Research & Planning

- **Research and Understand:** Volunteers should first research Aging in Place programs to understand the various aspects involved, such as accessibility modifications, health services coordination, social support systems, etc.
- **Engage with Residents to Ensure Right Fit of Your Program for Your Building:** Start by engaging with fellow residents to assess the level of interest and need for Aging in Place initiatives. Conduct surveys or hold meetings to gather input and feedback. This will help management and boards ensure your initiatives will serve the entire community.

Communications and Messaging

- **Consider Taking an Intergenerational Approach:** Management and boards aim to serve all residents. By creating initiatives that are inclusive to ages, abilities, and experiences, as well as cultivating communities of those who are not yet retired, you are more likely to garner support from governing bodies.

- **Make Management's Job Easier:** Try to think like a Property Manager or Board member! By anticipating and finding solutions for issues that may come up, including liability. This will help you build a trusting relationship.
- **Clear Messaging Around Roles and Boundaries:** Ensure management or boards are aware that your Aging in Place group is not, and does not want to be, a parallel, decision-making body similar to management or a board. Clarify that your aging in place group is unelected and has no authority or responsibilities defined by law. Emphasize the value of your group in bringing initiatives to the building that support social connection, health and overall wellbeing, creating a win-win narrative for all parties in the building's ecosystem.
- **Educate the Board Early and Often:** Arrange meetings with the governing body of your building to present the concept of Aging in Place programs. Provide research, case studies, and examples of successful initiatives from other communities to demonstrate the benefits.

Collaborating and Iterating

- **Work Together:** Collaborate closely with management and boards to ensure alignment with existing policies, regulations, and budgetary constraints. Seek their support in implementing the proposed programs.
- **Implement Programs Slowly and Collaboratively:** Let management know that you will start small with short term programs to test the feasibility and effectiveness of different initiatives, then touch base with community, management and boards. Gather feedback from participants and adjust accordingly.
- **Management and Boards May Be Able to Help You Sustain and Expand:** Work towards sustaining the programs long-term by securing ongoing support from the board, management, and residents. Management and boards may be able to fund initiatives, waive fees for space use, etc.