



Welcoming New Members

There are a number of circumstances that may require your aging in place group to invite new members, whether your group has been active for years or merely weeks or months. As life changes, it's common for volunteers to take a break or step away from your aging in place group. You might also decide to invite more people to join—maybe to fill a new role, like treasurer, or just to share the work and keep things running smoothly.

If your aging in place group spans multiple buildings, you may want to include representatives from each one in your group's membership. Whatever the reason for adding new members, it's a great opportunity to renew your group's energy, cohesion, and impact.

The following steps can help guide you, as you welcome new members to your aging in place group.

Inviting New Members

Existing groups have had success rebuilding by connecting with people in their community. This could be through word-of-mouth, inviting someone who already volunteers, or putting up a notice. When you let others know you're looking for new members, you might be surprised by how many are interested in joining.

Integrating New Members

New members bring fresh perspectives, skills, and dynamics. Take time to get to know each other—both personally and professionally – over the course of one or two meetings. This helps build trust and ensures smoother collaboration moving forward.

Revisiting Group Function

Even if your group is well-established, consider stepping back from regular activities briefly to focus on team-building. This is a great opportunity to update your purpose, values, set roles, and decisions for how you'll work together – making time to include the voices and ideas of any new members. Investing this time now strengthens long-term collaboration and ensures your group continues to thrive.

We recommend devoting at least one meeting (or more, if needed) to:

- Share backgrounds and interests
- Revisit and update your group's purpose statement
- Identify shared values ([Tool: Identifying Group Values & Managing Differences](#))
- Clarify roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes ([Tool: Establishing Roles & Responsibilities](#))

Bringing new people into your group is not just about filling spots—it's a chance to renew your purpose, refresh your energy, and keep your aging-in-place initiative strong and connected.