

2026-2031 Live Beyond Expectations Plan

Live Beyond Expectations 2026–2031 Strategic Plan

What it is: ARC's strategic plan for closing the gap in how long people live between neighborhoods.

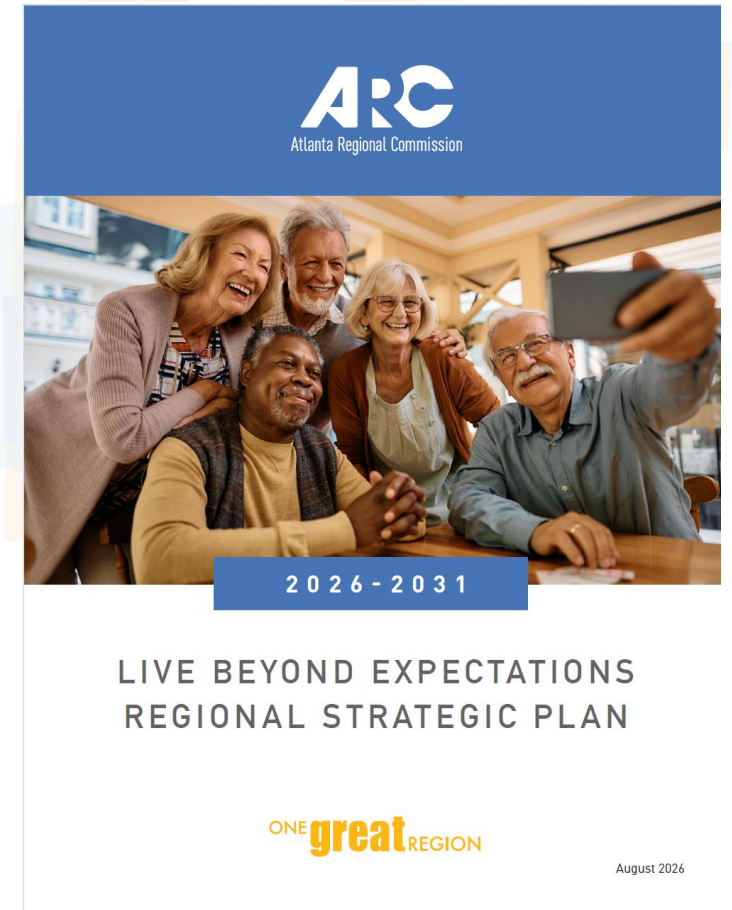
- Where you live in this region predicts how long you are likely to live
- The 2026–2031 plan:
 - seeks deeper understanding of neighborhoods with the lowest longevity
 - provides recommendations that resulted from the previous 5 years' engagement

Why it matters to you:

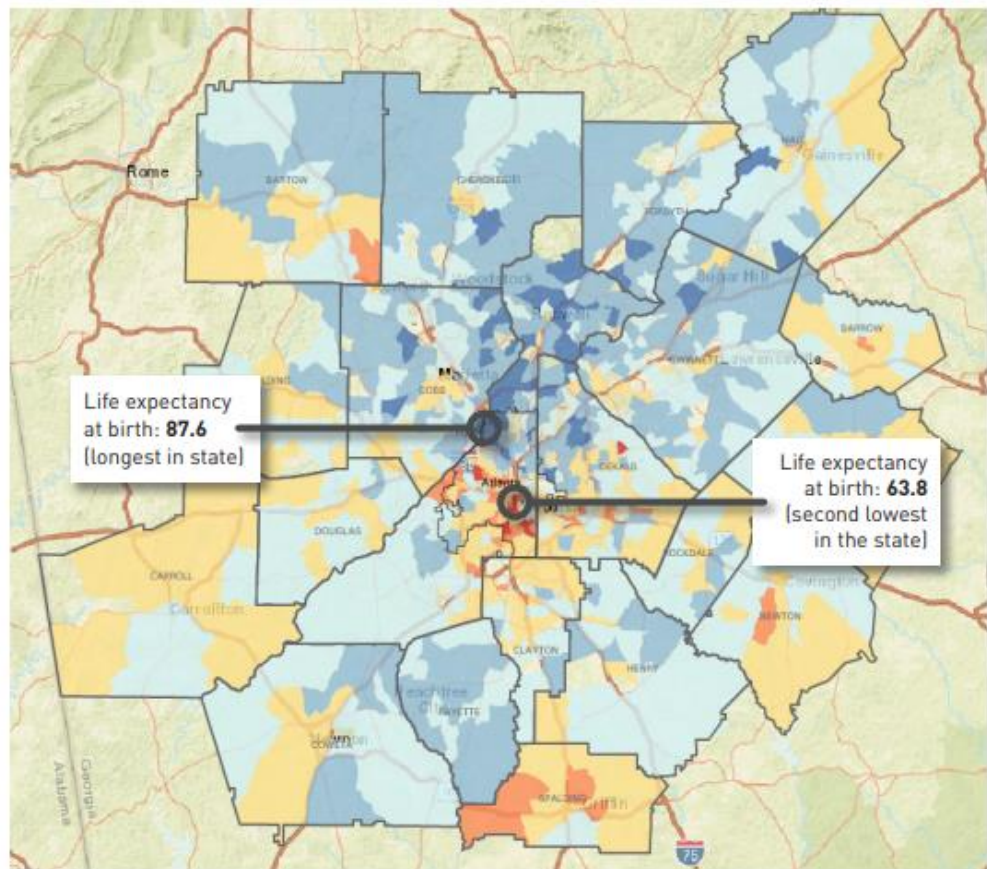
- The recommendations are written for your jurisdictions and partners, not only for ARC.
- 2020-2025 insights are available at the [county level](#).

Today: adopt the plan and confirm it aligns with the April Board work session.

Presented by Becky A. Kurtz, Senior Managing Director, Aging & Independence Services



The work began with a map: life expectancy at birth ranges from 63.8 to 87.6 years inside our region — nearly 24 years apart



Credit: U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, 2010-2015

Figure 1: Varying Life Expectancies in the Atlanta Region

87.6 years — the longest life expectancy in Georgia

63.8 years — the second lowest in Georgia

- 2019** – ARC's Research Office mapped life expectancy at census tract level.
- 2020** - This Board approved Live Beyond Expectations 2020–2025
- 2025** - Five years of deeper understanding of the communities with the lowest average life expectancy, and of steering resources to them.

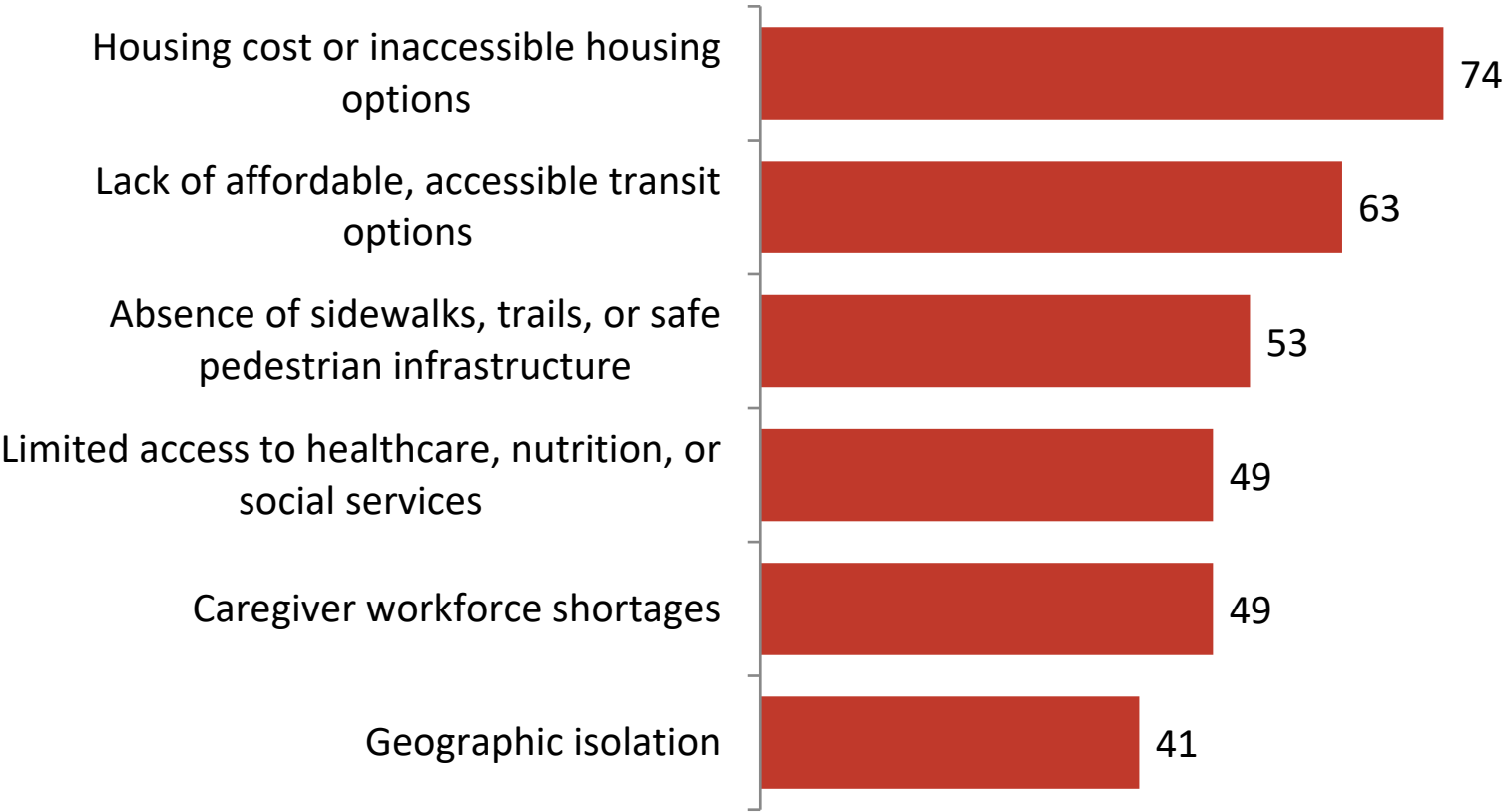


RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY

2026 Aging Innovations Award from USAgings, the national association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Life expectancy at birth — the average number of years a newborn in that area would live at current death rates; estimated by census tract (a neighborhood-sized statistical area of about 4,000 people) by the U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, 2010–2015

In April you told us what stands in the way of aging in place: housing cost and transit access lead the list



THE PATTERN

The top three barriers are the built environment:

- housing
- transit
- sidewalks

The question — "In your jurisdiction, what is the most significant barrier to aging in place and community mobility for older adults?" — asked of Board members at the April 2026 Board retreat **Total score** — combined ranking points across Board responses; higher means a bigger barrier **Aging in place** — growing older in one's own home and community rather than moving to a facility

Proposed Recommendations



HOUSING

- **Engage community members**
 - Include the disability and aging communities in housing policy-making and zoning.
- **Encourage a mix of housing types at a variety of sizes and price points**
 - Zoning that allows diverse housing; build and preserve homes near services; room to downsize within the same community.
- **Support older adults remaining in their homes**
 - Reduce the cost of home modifications and the tax burden for low-income older people.
- **Increase the supply of affordable, accessible housing**
 - Incentivize it near services; give landlords data and education about rental-assistance vouchers.



TRANSPORTATION

- **Engage community members**
 - Include the disability and aging communities in planning; understand local transportation culture.
- **Research and identify geographic areas of need**
 - Where residents lack options to meet daily needs, and what options fit.
- **Expand and improve active transportation and transit**
 - Physical infrastructure plus social supports like discount fares; technology; cross-jurisdictional coordination.
- **Expand transportation options and funding**
 - Volunteer driver programs; bike share with accessible, inclusive options.



COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

- **Engage community members**
 - A variety of perspectives in decision-making; community advisory boards; help pre-retirement residents plan ahead.
- **Build physical infrastructure with healthy community design**
 - Street connectivity, safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities, public transit access.
- **Modify zoning and land-use policies**
 - So neighborhoods can support residents of every age.
- **Create and sustain strong social infrastructure**
 - Resident ties, intergenerational events, formalized volunteer groups.

The 2026–2031 plan goes deeper into the neighborhoods with the least longevity — and asks two things of you today

WHAT THE PLAN DOES

- **Finds new ways to measure longevity and health outcomes in our neighborhoods**
 - Life expectancy is not currently tracked at the census-tract (neighborhood) level.
- **Engages the identified neighborhoods**
 - Communicate the recommendations
 - Steer resources to each neighborhood's needs.
- **Continues advisement from two standing groups**
 - Lifelong Communities Steering Committee (a multi-sector advisory group for this work) and
 - Advisory Committee on Aging (ARC's standing advisory body on aging services).
- **Supports and aligns with the Age-Friendly Region Action Plan adopted earlier this year**
 - The region's plan under AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.
 - Age-Friendly works region-wide;
 - Live Beyond Expectations goes deep in the neighborhoods with less longevity.

HOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE BUILT

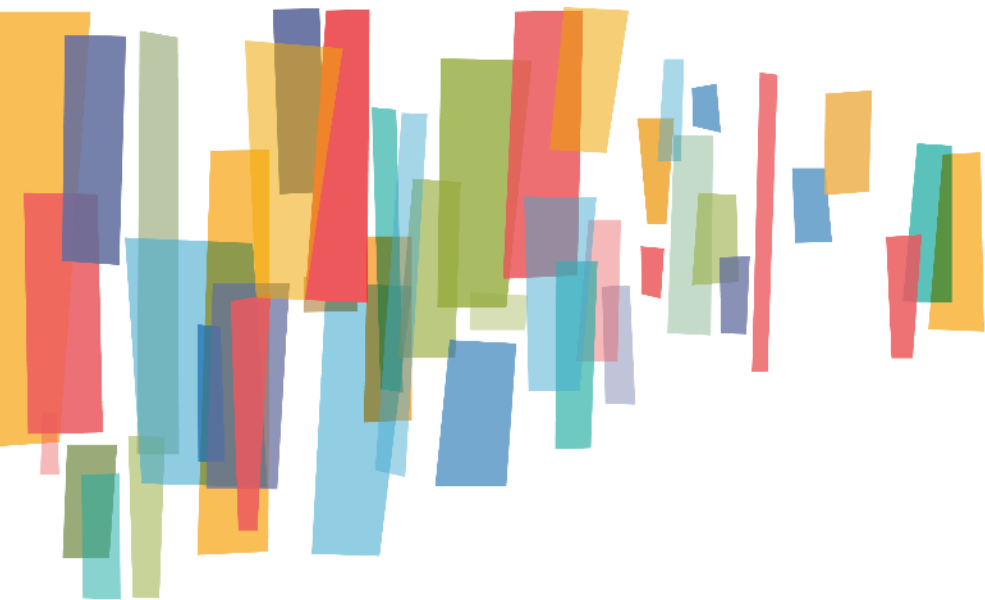
- Neighborhood conversations
- Lifelong Communities Steering Committee
- ARC Board work session (April 2026)
- Advisory Committee on Aging (August 2026)



WHAT WE ASK OF YOU TODAY

1. Adopt the Live Beyond Expectations 2026–2031 Strategic Plan — support for continuing the next phase of this work.
2. Confirm the plan's recommendations align with the April Board work session discussion.

The recommendations are not only for ARC to implement — they are for use by your jurisdictions and by other stakeholders and policymakers.



Discussion or Questions?

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[Live Beyond Expectations Webpage](#)