



Elderly Living Environment & Conditions in Dola / Dunkirk, Ohio

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ABSTRACT

In today's society, the elderly population is continuing to be involved in the community and the work place as they pass the retirement age of 65. While people age, they often have to make changes in many aspects of their life to become more comfortable. With that comes many challenges that each community has to concur to ensure that it is a safe and reliable living environment. Many communities often assume that the elderly will adapt to the environment around them but in reality, the community should be adapting to meet the needs of its citizens. Overall, it's important to address age friendly standards such as having a source of public transportation, local food supply, and work places within that community. The purpose of this study is to determine if the villages of Dunkirk and Dola Ohio are a suitable living environment for those over the age of 65.

Environment

For the elderly to get physical activity we have the option of:

- A paved bike / walking trail
- Community park

Some of the stores a workplaces that we have are:

- Bank, ice cream shop, pizza shop, library, post office, bar, and a gas station.

Health and Wellness

In Dunkirk, we have a local food pantry that can be easily accessible as long as you don't live in the country. While being a very rural community, there are a lot of individuals who live in the country and do not have access to a ride into town. We do have a mobile dentist and a health screening bus that comes to town once a month. This is a great opportunity to those who cannot travel outside of town to get a general idea on the status of their health. We also have volunteers which drive a van and pick up the local veterans and take them to Columbus for their health needs. I would also like to mention Kenton (15 minutes away) as a local source. In Kenton, we have a small hospital, wellness center/ YMCA, chiropractor, dentist and an eye doctor.

Transportation

In Dola, we have very limited transportation options. The HATS program comes through on occasion but it is not on a regular basis.

It is very important that our community establishes a source of transportation due to the fact that we have very limited options of how to get food. We have a Dollar General just outside of town that you still need a vehicle to get to. The nearest "full" grocery store such as Walmart is 15 minutes away.

Community

If you drive about forty-five minutes away you will be in Lima, Ohio. This is the closest area where there are skill building sessions available at the Apollo Career Center and the OSU Lima campus. Also, there is the opportunity of being involved with "Senior Corps" that is based out of both Allen County (45 minute drive) and Hancock county (30 minute drive). This organization is one of the largest career networks in the nation for those who are over the age of 55.

Housing

In our community, we do not have any housing for the elderly. Kenton has two nursing homes. One nursing home is across the street from a cemetery which just looks like a very depressing place to live. The other one across town is much nicer. These two homes are about 15 minutes from Dola.

In Ada, there is one very nice nursing home just outside of town. This is also about 15 minutes from Dola.

Conclusion

Overall, the Dola / Dunkirk area is not very suitable for the elderly. For it to be a suitable environment for everyone we need to implement a regular transportation system, a safe living and housing environment, and a closer activities system to help keep our elderly involved in the community.