

Age Friendliness in Tiffin, Ohio

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Abstract

The Baby Boomer Generation in the United States will be over the age of sixty-five as of 2030. Furthermore, by 2034 individuals sixty-five years and older will outnumber those under eighteen. These statistics suggest that knowledge and understanding of the aging population is crucial for the future healthcare professionals, medical providers, and social services.

While the criteria of age friendly communities may vary, the components that are emphasized to great lengths are adequate housing, outdoor space, proper transportation, social services, community support, and health services.

Being aware of the age friendliness of specific communities, such as Tiffin, Ohio, allows for residents to see where they are succeeding and shed light on improvements aimed to better support and accommodate the aging population.

This comparative analysis discusses those aspects and further investigates age friendly communities in Tiffin, OH.

Housing

Tiffin has a wide range of housing options available for aging population including **assisted living, condos, apartments, as well as continuing care retirement communities**, for example St. Francis.

St. Francis CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community)

Options Available	Accessibility	Price	Access to transportation and retail	Appropriate design	Family interactions	Maintenance
Villas	Single story, handicap accessible rooms.	\$3,000-\$5,000 per month, depending on amount of care & facility chosen	5-10-minute drive. Walmart, Kroger, and Pharmacies.	Single story, accessible, one/two-bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, living room.	Family is free to visit at any time of the day	Resident responsible for utilities, service fee covers maintenance
Elizabeth Shafer Community				Single room, attached bathroom. Chair, bed, dresser, TV, nightstand		
Nursing Home/ Assisted Living	4 levels, stairs and elevators available. All own bed/bath		Transportation available: SCAT, Tiffin Cab, and St. Francis Bus -Schedule -Long wait		Family is free to visit at any time of the day - must sign in and out	Service Fee - all maintenance is covered

Outdoor Spaces

Tiffin Parks System includes pavements, pedestrian crossing, cycle paths, However they lack adequate public toilets. There is decent accessibility but there is not always pavement to amphitheater and railing.

St. Francis provides walking trails but lack sidewalk, resting spots and adequate public toilets.

Transportation

In Tiffin, there are a few options available for various transportation. For example, the Tiffin Taxi and Tiffin TreEats – a hometown take on uber/lyft. A major option is SCAT.

SCAT (Seneca Crawford Area Transportation)

Price	Reliability	Travel Stops	Age-Friendly Vehicles	Priority Seating	Trained Drivers
\$2 - within Tiffin \$3 - within 3-mile radius \$4 - within 7-mile radius \$5 - within the counties Seneca Crawford	Yes	Curb/curb or door/door as requested when scheduling	Yes	Yes	Drivers are trained for vehicles & assisting passengers – however they are in no means allowed to enter a household.

Community Support

Two unique options that are available for community support within Tiffin, OH are:

Allen Eiry Senior Center while increase community life and civic leadership through health, educational, social, and recreational activities in and around Tiffin. Their programs offer flexibility and provides new skills for individuals.

Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a program through the neighboring counties that support volunteering at food pantry, schools, and CASA.

Social Services

While this is not an end-all-be-all list, there are a several options available for elderly community members.

Social Services Examples

Options Available	Age-Friendly Services	Intergenerational Interactions	No Economic Exclusion
YMCA	Yes	No	No Economic Exclusion
Reading Volunteers	Yes	Yes	N/A
Religious Services	Yes	N/A	N/A
	St. Joseph's Catholic Weekend Masses - 5:30 (Sat), 7:30/9:30/11:30 (Sun)		
BINGO	Yes	No	No Economic Exclusion

Health and Wellness

Within Tiffin, OH, there is a decent amount of healthcare that is available - Mercy health consists of an **ER, hospital with 31 beds, therapy, endocrinologist, cardiologists, and PCPs** readily available. Many other specialties and PCP are provided within Tiffin - including **dentists and optometrists**.

However, it is not uncommon to be sent to other specialists in surrounding areas - Findlay, Toledo, BG, and Columbus. Typically individuals must find their own transportation.

Regarding groceries, several retirement communities/Allen Eiry have specific times in which they will transport individuals to stores.

Conclusion

After the comparative analysis was completed, information was gathered and assessed regarding Tiffin, OH. Overall, the community does have a great deal of amenities that benefit the aging population. However, there are still room for improvements – especially in the outdoor space category.

This was an eye-opening research analysis, with the information that was provided this will be a step in the correct direction in improving the environment for those individuals who are aging in the community.

References

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