

Attachment C

“MetLife Project: An Indicator System for Livable Community Characteristics Phase 1”

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We faced a number of challenges during this project, many of which are relevant to discussions about research and policy priorities for an aging America.

- How do we make a strong argument to appeal to policymakers regarding the importance of creating more livable communities and helping older adults age in place? For example, aging in place not only benefits older adults and their families, but could benefit the community as a whole through the valuable contributions of older adults as volunteers, employees, neighbors, and caregivers.
- What data sources are available at the local level (e.g., city, town, or neighborhood) to measure and assess livable communities? Often, relevant data is only available at the county, metropolitan statistical area (MSA), or state level, which presents an inaccurate picture of the daily experiences of older adults in their community.
- How can we develop policy and program recommendations that take into account the unique characteristics of each community? Creating more livable communities does not require that all communities look exactly alike.
- Who has responsibility for making communities more livable for older adults (and residents of all ages)? What is the role of non-profit providers, for-profit businesses, local governments, state governments, and the federal government?