

Summary of Key Discussions on Climate Resilience, Housing, and Transportation

Climate Resilience

The discussion highlighted the need for collaboration between various agencies to address air quality and the built environment. Participants noted that effective solutions require a unified approach, as air pollution cannot be tackled in isolation.

The Age-Friendly Network was suggested as a model to facilitate communication between sectors. A significant gap was identified in emergency preparedness for older adults, with many emergency services lacking specific plans for assisted living facilities.

The importance of education around community resilience was emphasized, especially in light of misconceptions about the number of older adults living in nursing homes.

Innovative solutions, such as housing-sharing programs between older adults and younger individuals, were proposed as potential strategies to enhance community support for the aging population.

Housing

The dialogue centered on the urgent need for affordable housing solutions, particularly for the aging population. It was noted that many baby boomers plan to age in place but face financial challenges, with a significant number living in poverty.

The discussion included successful examples of housing programs, such as those that charge rent based on income and emergency repair initiatives.

The need for accessible and affordable housing was a key theme, alongside the necessity of policy advocacy to reduce zoning restrictions that hinder the development of smaller, affordable homes.

Intergenerational housing solutions were also explored as a way to foster community and support for both seniors and younger generations.

Transportation

The group explored transportation needs specific to seniors, concluding that improvements benefiting this demographic would also enhance mobility for all.

Key issues identified included inadequate sidewalk connectivity and safety concerns related to bike lanes. The conversation underscored the importance of integrating planning that considers the needs of older adults, particularly in transit systems that serve as community hubs.

Participants emphasized the need for more funding focused on aging populations, advocating for leaders to champion transportation investments that improve accessibility and safety for all residents.

Conclusion

These discussions reflect a critical examination of the interconnected challenges faced by aging populations in climate resilience, housing, and transportation.

The collective insights underscore the importance of collaboration, innovative solutions, and inclusive policies to foster healthier, more resilient communities.