



**AARP  
COMMUNITY  
CHALLENGE**

**A GRANT PROGRAM TO MAKE COMMUNITIES MORE LIVABLE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH TANGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS THAT JUMP-START LONG-TERM CHANGE**

**\$24.3M**  
INVESTED  
in quick-action  
**PROJECTS**

**2,100**  
GRANTS  
delivered over  
**NINE YEARS**

**65%**  
OF GRANTS  
have gone to local  
**NONPROFITS**

**35%**  
OF GRANTS  
have gone to local  
**GOVERNMENTS**

Have a great project idea for your community?  
**APPLY FOR A 2026 GRANT TODAY!**

Eligible applications will be accepted from:

**January 7 - March 4 at 5:00 pm ET / 2:00 pm PT**

Learn more and apply:

[AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](https://www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge)

Since 2017, grantees have installed **45,000** tangible improvements in communities and created **nearly 8,000** resources, activities or programs, including the ones below.

**GRANTS BY LOCATION:**

**40%**   **40%**   **20%**

URBAN

RURAL

SUBURBAN

**4,861**

Events held

**301**

Sculptures/art pieces installed

**39,170**

Volunteers engaged

**369**

Murals painted

**627**

green spaces or parklets created

**205**

Transportation training programs created

**477**

Bike racks/fix-it stations installed

**1,783**

benches placed

**21,990**

On-demand or fixed route rides offered

**1,538**

Properties improved with home maintenance

**1392**

Walking paths installed

**227**

Directional/informational signage installed

**581**

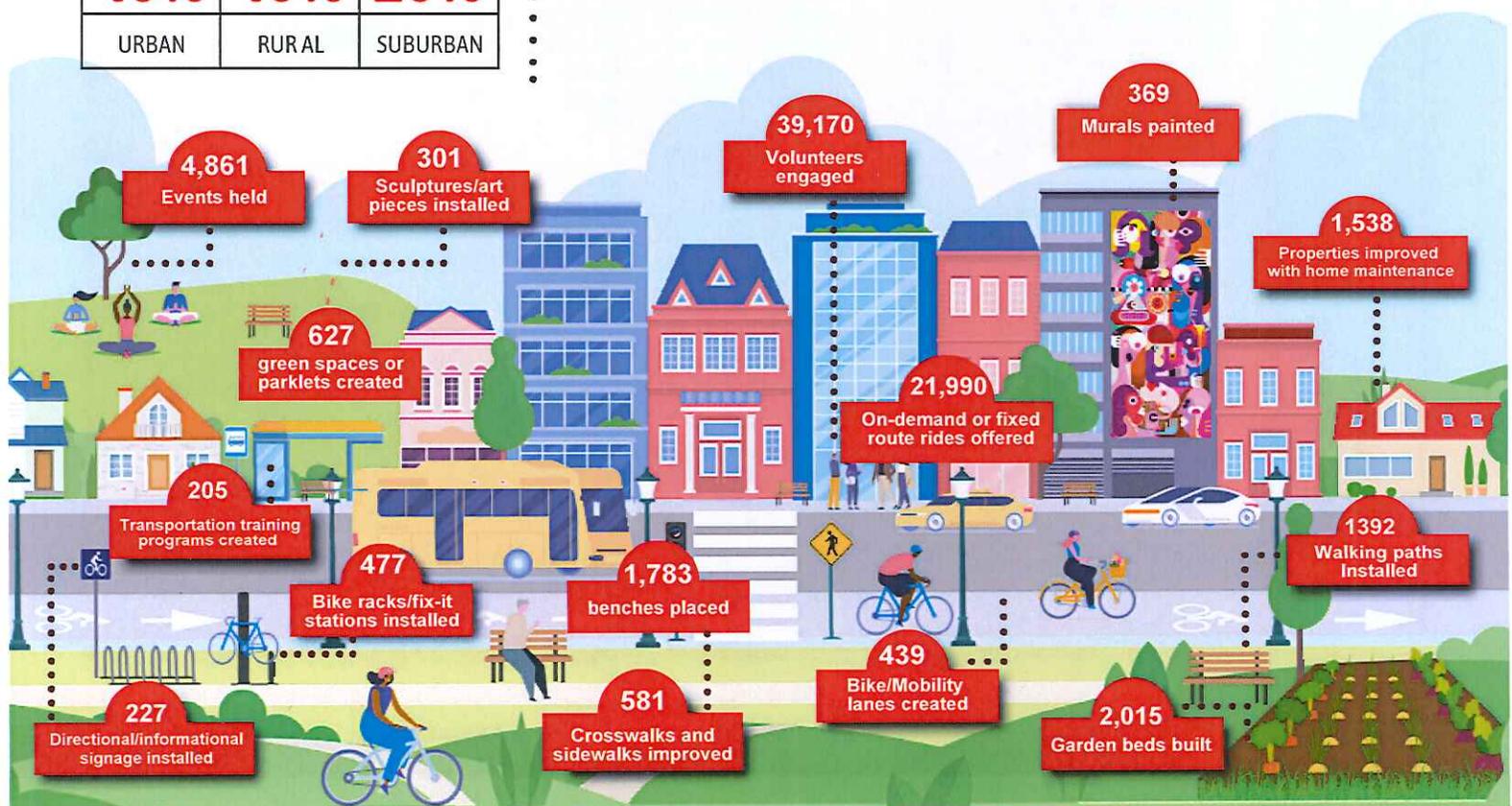
Crosswalks and sidewalks improved

**439**

Bike/Mobility lanes created

**2,015**

Garden beds built



# SMALL DOLLARS, BIG IMPACT

**50%** of grantees report that the grant helped them leverage additional funds and support from public and private organizations.

**87%** of grantees report that the grant helped to overcome policy barriers or advance change.

**100%** of grantees report that the grant led to greater awareness, engagement, and new relationships.

## GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In 2026, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities:

	FLAGSHIP GRANTS	CAPACITY-BUILDING MICROGRANTS	DEMONSTRATION GRANTS
	Flagship Grants offer a broad opportunity for communities to apply for funding across several categories.	Capacity-Building Microgrants combine grant funding with expert support and AARP resources.	Demonstration Grants encourage replication of promising local efforts in communities nationwide.
<b>GRANT AMOUNTS</b>	<p>Average grant: \$10,000-12,000 (not exceeding \$15,000)</p> <p>Flagship grants range from a few hundred dollars for short-term activities to \$15,000 for larger initiatives. Since 2017, the average grant has been between \$10,000-12,000.</p>	<p>\$2,500 grants</p> <p>Microgrants come with added support, including webinars, cohort learning, up to two hours of coaching from national nonprofit organizational partners, and AARP publications.</p>	<p>Average grant: \$10,000-20,000 (not exceeding \$25,000)</p> <p>Awards typically range from \$10,000-\$20,000, and will not exceed \$25,000.</p>
<b>PROJECT CATEGORIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Public Places</li> <li>✓ Transportation</li> <li>✓ Housing</li> <li>✓ Digital Connections</li> <li>✓ Disaster Resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bike Audits with support from League of American Bicyclists and using the <i>AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit</i></li> <li>✓ Walk Audits with support from America Walks, using the <i>AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit</i></li> <li>✓ HomeFit® Guide Modifications with support from RL Mace Universal Design Institute and using the <i>AARP HomeFit® Guide</i></li> <li>✓ Disaster Preparedness Training with support from SBP and using the <i>AARP Disaster Resilience Tool Kit</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pedestrian Safety Funding support from Toyota Motor North America</li> <li>✓ High-Speed Internet Funding support from Microsoft</li> <li>✓ Housing Design Competitions</li> </ul>

