



Speaking Points: Hubs and Spokes Town Hall Meetings August 2021

Purpose of speaking points: Create common talking points and sound bites for villagers to use during the hubs and spokes input process

What Villages are:

Villages are intentional communities of older adults that connect people to the resources, services and supports they need to age well in the places they call home.

Villages are included in the Master Plan for Aging's Implementation Objectives, #90 "*promote and adapt village models of volunteerism and services to reflect the strengths of California's diverse communities*" and is part of Bold Goal #3: Equity and Inclusion, Not Isolation.

The infrastructure of villages is ready to scale up to meet the needs of California's growing older adult population (12 year track record in CA and US, 50 in California, 350 nationwide, 10000+ members and volunteers in CA and growing). Village Movement California is leading this work.

Village Movement California is working hard to adapt the village model for LGBT older adults, and those of a range of racial and ethnic identities. VMC takes the Master Plan "charge" very seriously!

What Villages Do:

- provide the infrastructure for social care, the services and supports that address the social determinants of health
- mobilize volunteers to help members with activities and challenges like; reliable transportation to medical appointments, fall risk reduction, grocery shopping, laundry, technology support, de-cluttering and downsizing, technology support
- help older adults and their families prepare for the transitions of aging
- provide information and referral to vetted, reliable services
- build social connections in the face of an epidemic of social isolation
- build purpose and meaning through volunteer opportunities, educational and social programming, facilitating new relationships
- engage members in community enterprises, like Age Friendly Cities efforts
- Your village – what does it do?

Why Villages Matter:

Social integration, purpose and meaning keep people healthy and alive, and are antidotes to the epidemic of social isolation.

Villages provide a safety net for the forgotten middle – people who will not be able to afford housing and health care – and who could place exponential demands on the public service sector.

Villages are a strong social force for changing the way we regard, and engage, nearly one third of our population. The entire family and community are healthier when older adults are engaged, connected and cared for.