

**Research Brief****March 2021**

## **ADVANCING GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING AT THE INTERSECTION OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES, HEALTH SYSTEMS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **IMPORTANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Healthy aging is an important aspect of worldwide health as life expectancy continues to increase across the globe. The World Health Organization (WHO) supports healthy aging through its age-friendly communities initiative that includes 1,000 communities worldwide (including 500 in the US) that are committed to age-friendly principles. Specific aspects of age-friendly communities include built and social environments, age-appropriate health systems, and public health programs. Gerontological nurses are important stakeholders in all aspects of age-friendly communities due to their training and skillsets specific to supporting the unique and varied needs of older adults.

### **Built and Social Environment**

WHO outlines these aspects of age-friendly

- Accessible, safe outdoor spaces and buildings
- Affordable transportation alternatives
- Affordable housing
- Promoting social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Encouraging civil participation
- Communication and information catered to older adults

