

## TRI-STATE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE ON AGING

### **Who we are**

Staffed shared learning collaborative on aging hosted by seven funders across Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Our Advisory Council, made up of six people from each state, plus our funders and officials from the state units on aging, guides our overall work and connects us directly with people in each state who can share information to deepen our learning. We also have a Community Leaders Group that plans our Community Leader's Forums.

### **What we do**

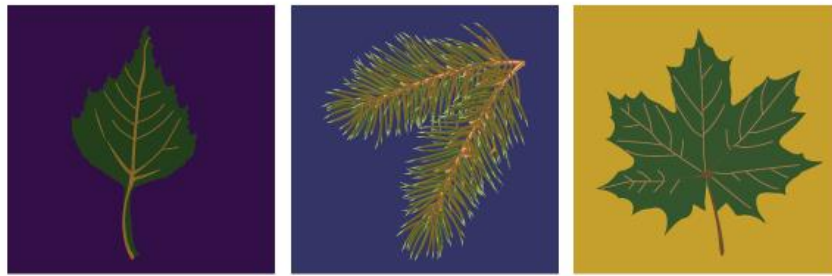
Collaborate with community leaders, providers, advocates and researchers to identify and promote effective initiatives, processes and tools that support the broad concept of "aging in place". We share this information through:

- Monthly topical webinars (housing, food, transportation, care, etc.)
- Monthly technical webinars (for community leaders)
- Regional in-person events
- Robust and current website (features communities, tools, resources and webinars)
- Interactive Google-group community leaders forum
- Periodic issues-based calls or meetings

Through this work, we're sparking, supporting and enhancing grassroots community change efforts in Northern New England.

### **What we've learned**

TSLCA has developed a set of best practices and processes based on the knowledge and experiences shared by community leaders engaged in the work. We've developed web-based content that connects people to tools, processes and models and we have profiled many of the communities in the region that are doing the work. We've learned there is no one right model or network that will work for every community, but there is a right process that will help communities engage in the work. The process involves establishing a core working group representative of your community, assessing community needs, planning to meet needs, starting with the easiest thing to accomplish and building from there. No matter what model a community is using or where they are in their process, they have something to offer about what they've learned and something to learn from others engaged in the work.



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### What our members have learned

Since our first webinar in August 2015, we've engaged more than 1,500 across Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine in our learning events; we have more than 800 people who are formal members of the TSLCA.

Most people engage with us because they share our belief that shared learning leads to collective impact. They also engage to network with others doing the work and to get new ideas and information to use in their work.

People describe our learning opportunities as valuable, relevant and useful to the work they are doing.

- 30% of the people we engage have used the information to become better informed.
- 30% of the people we've engaged have used the information they've heard to start new programs, expand or enhance existing programs, adopt new policies, and establish new relationships.
- 20% of people take the information they have learned and share it with others.

Here's what some of our participants have said about our work:

“Its focus on grass roots approaches and solutions is what is so helpful to community groups struggling with the same issues.”

“TSLCA provides my community with additional supportive information that helps provide more credibility to the programs that we are pursuing.”

“[It helped with] problem solving - Others had this same problem and resolved it, took what I learned and solved my problem.”

“Has helped me frame aging priorities that are actionable at the national, state, and community level for others in my field of public health. Often reference TSLCA resources whenever aging comes up at my volunteer public health meeting discussions, as most folks aren't aware of you. I feel that I am part of a movement, not just an individual advocate. Personally, I feel more positive about my own aging journey, having recently turned 66...”

**Join the TSLCA to find all we offer. [www.agefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.agefriendlycommunity.org).  
Contact: Jess Maurer, 207-592-9972 or [jmaurer@maine4a.org](mailto:jmaurer@maine4a.org)**