



## Boomer Bond Program Overview

The Denver region's population is undergoing unprecedented change. In 2003, 1 in 8 residents was over the age of 60. By 2030, that number will be 1 in 4. The longer-term change to the region's age structure is being shaped by nearer-term dynamic growth in the over-60 population. Over the next ten years the region will experience a more than 40 percent increase in the 60-plus population. By comparison, the increase in all other age categories (persons under 60) will be slightly less than 9 percent during the same time.

The growth in the older adult population will bring increased demands for aging services at the local and regional level and affect nearly every aspect of community life. The Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) program, The Boomer Bond, prepares the region and local communities for this dramatic change. The Boomer Bond aims to arm the region's local governments with strategies and tools to support healthy, independent aging, allowing older adults to remain in their homes and communities as long as they wish.

### Boomer Bond Assessment Tool

Over the past several years, with support from AARP Colorado, Tri-County Health Department and more than 100 professional and citizen stakeholders, DRCOG has developed and refined the Boomer Bond Assessment Tool. The assessment tool is a comprehensive resource local governments can use to identify local successes and challenges in supporting healthy and successful aging in their communities. The majority of the assessment focuses on four key aspects of livable communities:

- Housing
- Community Living
- Mobility and Access
- Support Services

The assessment tool is designed to be a “conversation starter” to help guide programming, policy and capital investment decisions related to building a community that supports healthy aging.

### Boomer Bond Resource Directory

The Boomer Bond is an online searchable database of best practices including policies, strategies and tools local governments can choose to implement to support independent aging. This resource is currently under development and will be available on DRCOG's website in February 2015.

The Boomer Bond Assessment Tool and Resource Directory are companion elements that allow communities to assess current circumstances and existing resources; understand community strengths and deficiencies; identify short-and long-term priorities; and confidently implement strategies that contribute to healthy successful aging.



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