



The Livability Index 2018

Great Neighborhoods for All Ages

aarp.org/livabilityindex



Overview of the Livability Index

The Livability Index is a groundbreaking tool of the AARP Public Policy Institute (PPI) that scores every neighborhood and community in the United States for the services and amenities that affect people's lives the most. Using more than 50 national sources of data, the AARP Livability Index provides the clearest picture yet of how well a community meets the current and future needs of people of all ages.

The Livability Index measures 60 indicators spread across seven categories of livability: housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity.

Goals of the Livability Index

By 2030, older adults will account for 20 percent of the U.S. population. AARP surveys consistently show that older adults overwhelmingly desire to age in their homes and communities. The Livability Index can be a powerful tool for local officials and others in adapting their cities so that residents of all ages can stay active and engaged in their communities.

The Index helps community leaders and individuals identify gaps between what people want and need and what their communities provide.

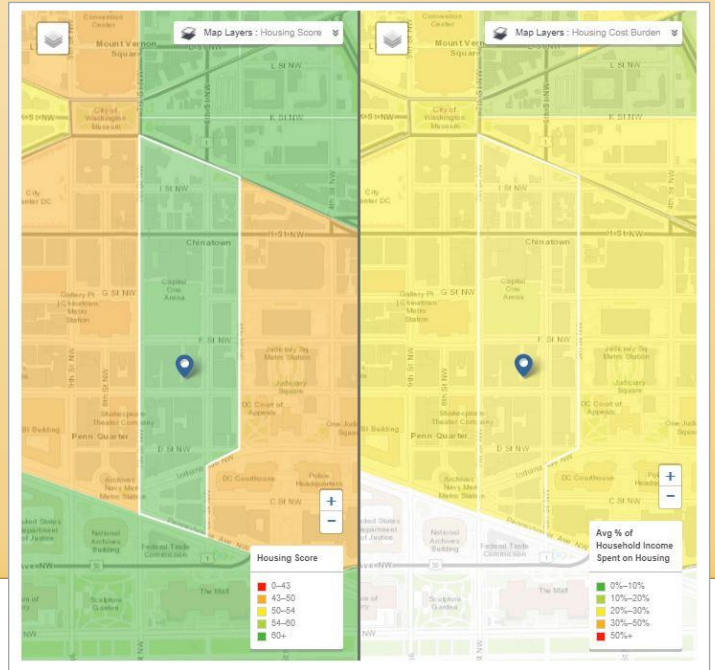
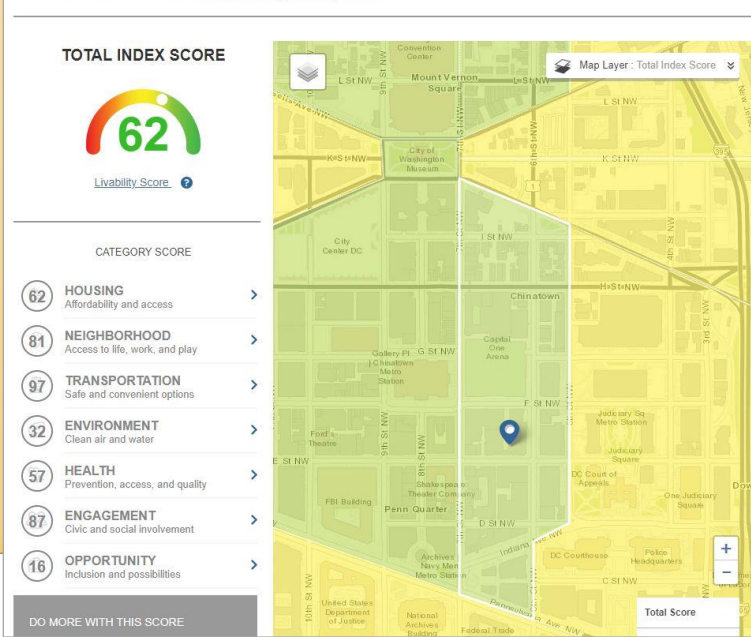
By identifying gaps, community leaders can set short- and long-term goals that support independent living through cooperation, planning, design, and services.

The Index can yield insights that will do the following:

- Help prepare communities for an aging population.
- Help people understand their communities better and encourage them to advocate for livability improvements.
- Inform key stakeholders, including public leaders, policy makers, non-profit organizations, and community advocates.
- Encourage state and local changes in policy, planning, investment, and development.
- Help prospective residents decide where to live.
- Help private and public developers identify opportunities to meet community development needs.
- Provide a gateway to AARP and other resources that support efforts in making communities great places for all ages.

A livable community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence, allow residents to age in place, and foster residents' engagement in the community's civic, economic, and social life.

To gauge the livability of communities, the AARP Public Policy Institute has developed a web-based tool, the Livability Index, to quantify the degree to which a community can meet people's needs, regardless of their age, income, physical ability, ethnicity, and other factors.



New Features in Livability Index 2018

- **Updated Data**—Visitors will see the latest indicator data for each category.
- **Track Progress**—Visitors can compare their indicator performance for the current and previous two years for any location.
- **Compare Map Layers**—Visitors can compare two map layers side-by-side for any location.
- **Share Your Score**—Visitors can share a community’s livability and category scores via Facebook and Twitter.
- **Results Page Tutorial**—Visitors will be guided through key features of the results page.
- **Send Feedback**—Visitors can share their comments, ideas and even their own data with the project team via the new Contact Us page.
- **Resources**—Visitors will find more information about the Index categories to better understand each livability topic on the redesigned page.

Index Scores

- The Livability Index scores places for their performance on **40 metrics** and **20 policies** across the seven categories of livability. **Metrics** measure how livable communities are in the present, while **policies** capture whether communities are laying the groundwork to become more livable over time. The **livability score** for a selected neighborhood, city, county or state ranges from 0 to 100. **Category scores** also range from 0 to 100.
- The Livability Index scores communities by comparing them to one another, so the **average community** gets a score of 50. Even the best-performing places show room for improvement in at least one category. For example, **overall scores range** from 22 on the lowest end to a 76 at the high end.
- For more information on Index Scoring, please visit aarp.org/livabilityindex and click “Calculating Scores” on the navigation bar.

For more information on AARP Livable Communities Resources, please visit us at:

Livable Communities: Policy and Research
www.aarp.org/livablepolicy

Livable Communities: Great Places for People of All Ages
www.aarp.org/livable