



Woodstock, Vermont *The Shire Town of Windsor County*

TOWN-VILLAGE MANAGER GOVERNMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woodstock Selected as a 2026 AARP Community Challenge Grantee

WOODSTOCK, VT - The Town of Woodstock is thrilled to announce that we have been selected to receive a 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant. This year, only 750 grantees were chosen from 5,100 applications from across all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

With this quick-action grant, we will install five strategically placed benches to provide safe resting points for older adults traveling between housing, services, parks, and the village center. The benches will increase mobility and independence, improve access to goods and healthcare, reinforce pedestrian activity, and support traffic calming by signaling a shared community space.

Partnering with a local artist with the assistance of local non-profit Artistree, the Town will work with local volunteers to paint the benches with designs reflecting Woodstock's character. Both functional and artistic, they will enhance the streetscape and better connect the village's east end with the village center.

By integrating accessibility, safety, and placemaking, this project advances Woodstock's goal of a more walkable, age-friendly village center that supports aging in place and strengthens community vitality.

"We are incredibly proud that AARP selected the Town of Woodstock for this investment to help make Woodstock more livable for residents of all ages," stated Municipal Manager Eric Duffy. "AARP is a national leader in supporting communities to become more livable, and we are honored they recognize the value and impact this project will bring to our area."

About the AARP Community Challenge

The AARP Community Challenge grant program supports projects that improve public places, housing, transportation, digital connectivity, disaster resilience, and more. In 2026, Toyota Motor North America is funding pedestrian safety projects that aim to enhance streets and sidewalks nationwide. Microsoft is supporting digital connections projects aimed at expanding access to and adoption of high-speed internet (broadband).

These grants are part of AARP's broader Livable Communities initiative, which helps neighborhoods, towns, cities, and counties across the country become great places for people of all ages. AARP believes communities should offer:

- Safe, walkable streets

- Affordable and accessible housing and transportation options
- Access to essential services
- Opportunities for residents to engage and participate fully in community life

To explore all 750 projects funded this year – or to view an interactive map of current and past Community Challenge projects – visit [AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](https://www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge). Learn more about AARP's nationwide Livable Communities work at [AARP.org/Livable](https://www.aarp.org/Livable).