



On behalf of the statewide Village community, I urge you to support budget item 315 #11h that provides funding to expand the availability of Villages statewide. This amendment, sponsored by Delegate Krizek, will help thousands of older Virginians safely age in their homes through the social connections and practical supports that Villages provide. Villages are an effective way to counteract the negative cognitive and physical health impacts of social isolation, the second highest concern (after housing insecurity) among Virginia's Aging Network professionals.

This funding will support the growth of existing Villages and help start new Villages in underserved areas, such as your district. It will help fill the gap in available services for the growing numbers of older Virginians and their caregivers with limited financial means who are not eligible for government support. This request is supported by the Northern Virginia Aging Network and Aging Together. See attached "Funding Request to Reduce Social Isolation Among Older Virginians by Expanding Villages."

In 2023, Virginia Villages engaged more than 5,000 older adults, volunteers, and family caregivers; delivered more than 2,000 social programs; and logged over 43,800 hours of volunteer service, valued at nearly \$1.5 million. The Virginia Villages Collective is an informal collaboration of Virginia's 18 Villages. Our mission is to increase awareness of the Village model and its benefits, to promote the development of new Villages, and to foster the growth and sustainability of existing Villages. See attached "VVC Flyer" for more information about Villages and the Collective.

Please support this funding request that will extend the benefits of Villages to the older Virginians and their caregivers in your district and thousands more across the Commonwealth.