

# HEALTH

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## Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts awarded grant

SPRINGFIELD – The Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts has been awarded a two-year grant for \$200,000 from Tufts Health Plan Foundation to create and implement an action plan to address housing and transportation needs of older people in Springfield. This is one of 15 new community investments totaling nearly \$1.9 million that reflect the Foundation's commitment to advancing poli-

cies and practices that support healthy aging, including addressing gaps in food access, housing, transportation and community safety.

This grant supports efforts that align with Live Well Springfield's (LWS) Age-Friendly City Project, and builds on engagement by the organization with hundreds of older people on housing and transportation concerns. With leadership from

LWS, the City of Springfield was accepted into the AARP Age-Friendly Network earlier this year.

Live Well Springfield is convened by the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts.

"Each community has its own unique needs. Tufts Health Plan Foundation focuses resources in communities that want to achieve age-friendly practices that are relevant, focus

on under-represented communities and engage older people in the process," said Nora Moreno Cargie, president of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation and vice president of Corporate Citizenship for Tufts Health Plan. "We are proud to support organizations that are responding to the needs of older people in their communities."

According to Jessica Collins, executive director of the Public

Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, "Creating environments and infrastructure that support healthy aging is essential. We heard from the community during our assessment work that housing and transportation are key areas for enhancement for our aging community members. This funding will deepen our work with senior residents and important stakeholders in our region."