



Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging

A Nonpartisan Public Policy and Research Office of the Connecticut General Assembly

A Presentation by Alyssa Norwood, JD, MPH
Project Manager
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Smart Public Policies

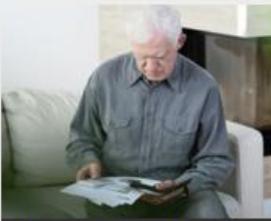
Leading the charge to create smart public policies related to our aging state and the implications for Connecticut communities.

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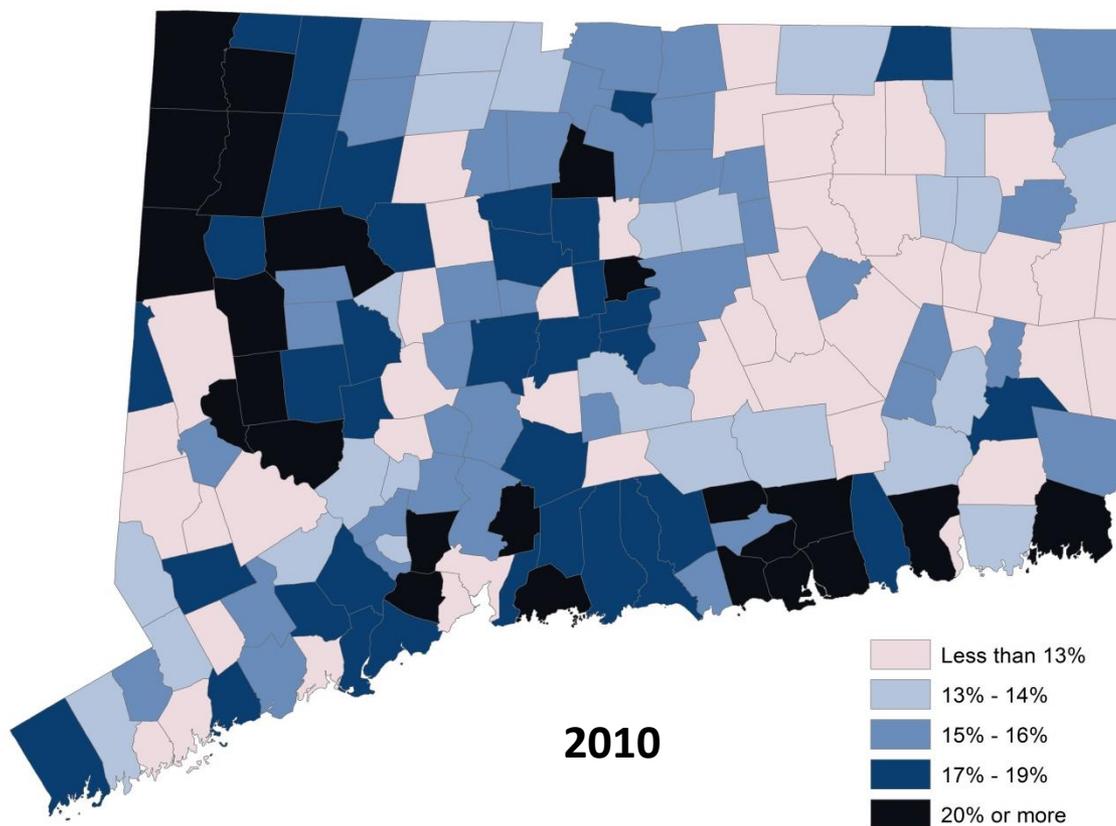


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An Aging Connecticut

Percentage of People Age 65 and Older as Proportion of Total Population

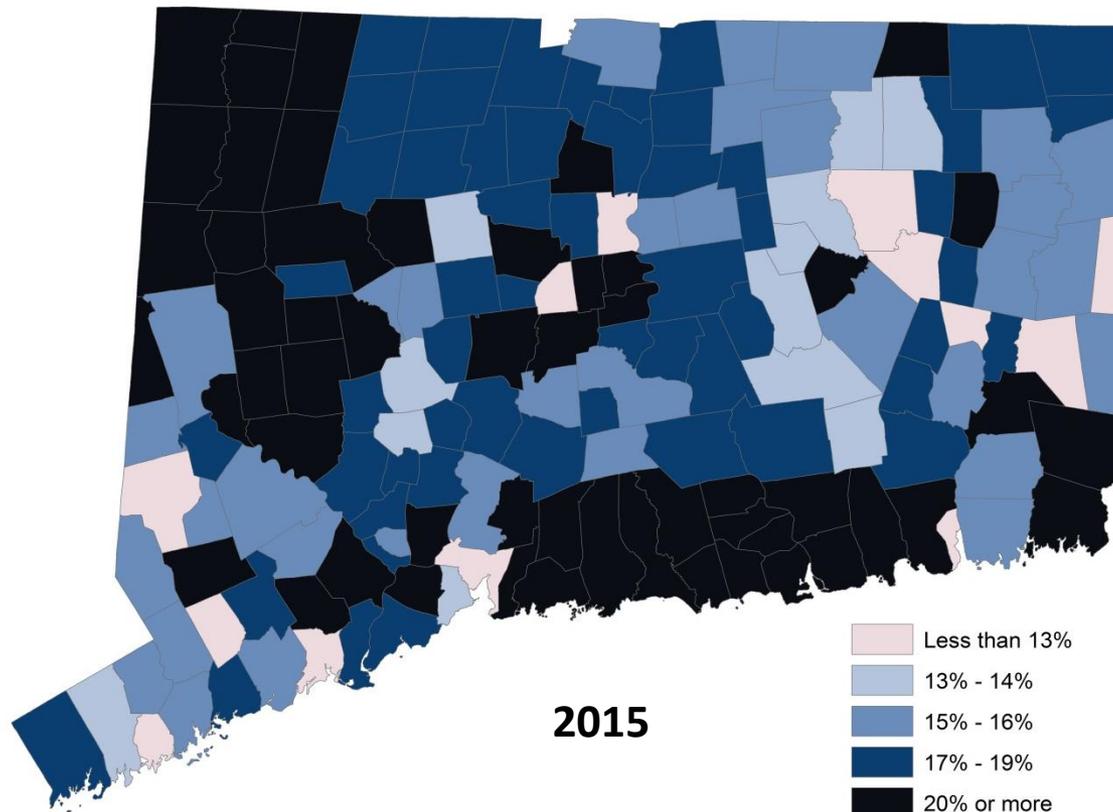


Maps created by
Connecticut's
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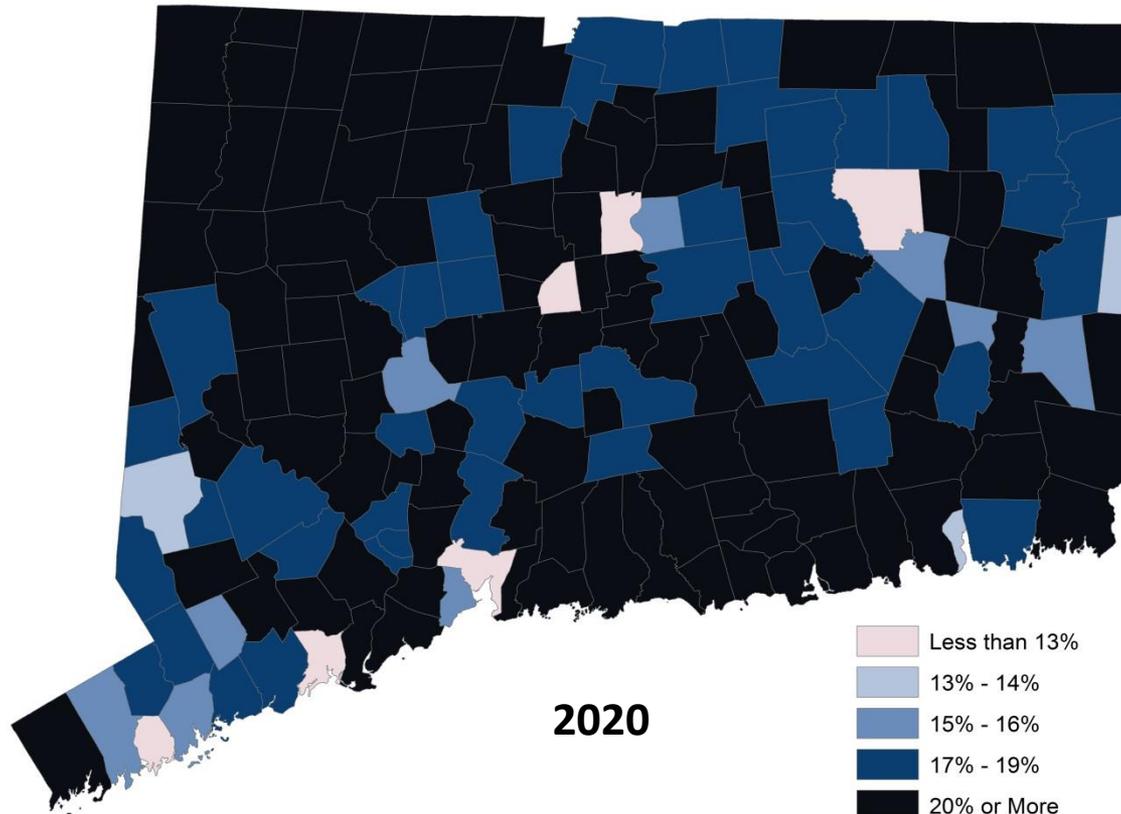
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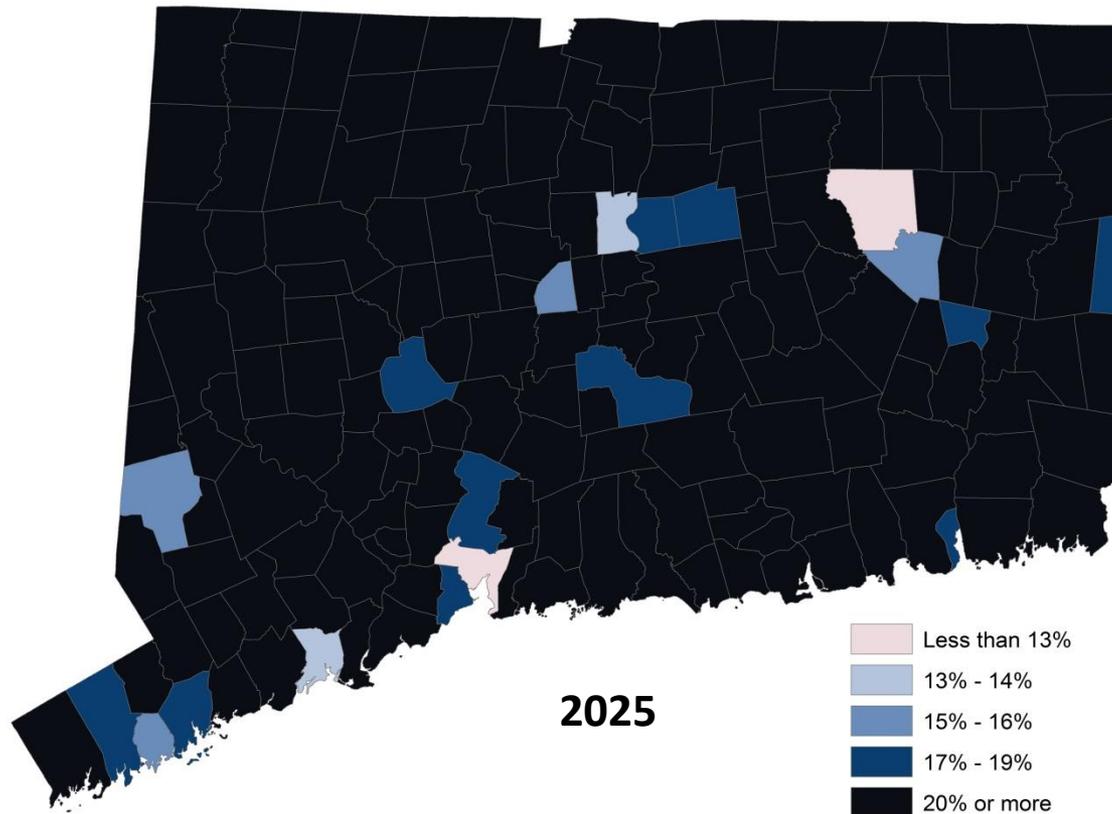


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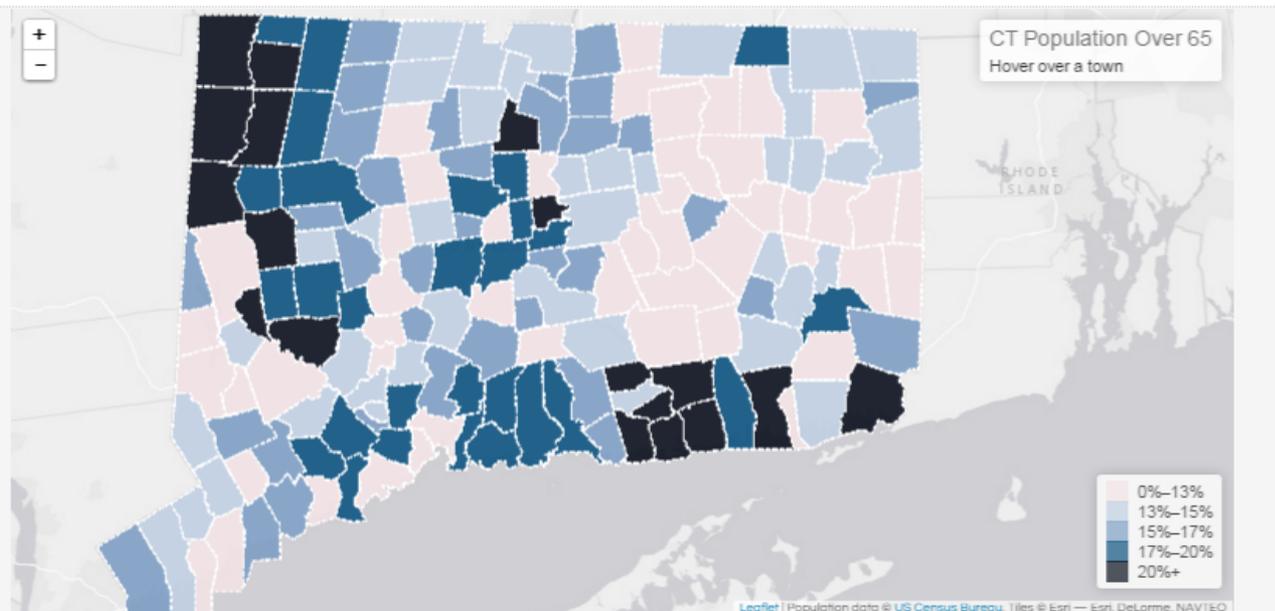
Our Interactive Data Story

Living in an Aging Connecticut

We're Getting Older, Town by Town

These maps show the percentage of people age 65 and older in each Connecticut town, beginning in the year 2010 showing changes in five-year increments. By 2025, older adults will comprise at least 20% of the population of almost every town in Connecticut.

Who are those two beige outliers in 2025, remaining at less than 13%? They're Mansfield and New Haven, home to Connecticut's two flagship universities (University of Connecticut and Yale University, respectively), with large transient student populations, partially masking the growth of the older adult population.



YEAR 2010 2015 2020 2025

Play

Moving Toward Aging-Supportiveness?





What's Possible



Livable Communities Initiative

Legislatively empowered to lead this initiative by **Section 17b-420a** of the Connecticut General Statutes



COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT



HEALTH
SERVICES



HOUSING



PLANNING
& ZONING



PUBLIC SPACES



SOCIAL



TRANSPORTATION





Our Values

Accessibility:

Every aspect of community design and life ought to be accessible and promote the engagement of its residents.

Choice:

Communities should promote personal dignity and functional independence across the lifespan by creating a broad array of choices to meet evolving needs.

Intergenerational:

Intergenerational communities can leverage strengths across the lifespan by linking the needs and skills of

different age groups, rather than pursuing age-segregated solutions.

Cooperative:

Creating livable communities requires partnership across a wide array of sectors, within-town collaboration across departments, and regional collaboration.

Equity:

Everyone deserves the ability to live in one's home and community safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, income or ability level.



Our Partners



2015 Partners Summit



Providing Resources and Inspiration



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Working together for LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Communities across Connecticut all want to be thriving places for people to grow up and grow older. Connecticut for Livable Communities, an initiative of [Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging](#), provides information and inspiration for community leaders to prepare for the changing demographics of our state.

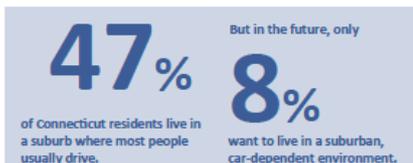
This website shines the proverbial light on ideas and innovations across Connecticut, the nation and the world. It also demonstrates where and how to begin to make these community changes. Our [partner list](#) is growing, and so too is the urgency, as our population of older adults soars. Join us in shaping more [livable communities](#) for Connecticut residents across the lifespan.



Identifying Data Gaps

Transportation Policy Brief: How Can We Best Support Residents' Transportation Needs Across the Lifespan in Connecticut?

Quick Facts:



*Please note that these statistics refer to percentage point changes, not percent changes.

Housing Report: Connecticut Adults Want Affordable Housing in Walkable Neighborhoods of Opportunity

Older adults generally want to live at home in a familiar community environment. As Connecticut's population ages and lives longer, demand for a broad range of accessible, affordable and creative housing options is increasing. Connecticut is the 7th oldest state in the nation. It also has the third longest life expectancy of 80.8 years for residents born in Connecticut today.¹

Towns are encouraged to be proactive in ensuring that their policies and practices support the housing needs of Connecticut resident across the lifespan.

Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging, together with the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Capitol Region Council of Governments, commissioned a statewide survey, conducted online by Harris Poll in the first quarter of 2015 among 1,011 Connecticut adults (see page 9 for detailed methodology), using an existing national tool, created by the American Planning Association.² The purpose of the Connecticut survey was to learn what residents have to say about how communities can best prepare to support residents across the lifespan. This report on our housing results analyzes survey responses to help inform housing policy in Connecticut. This is the second in our topical series, following the transportation report.³

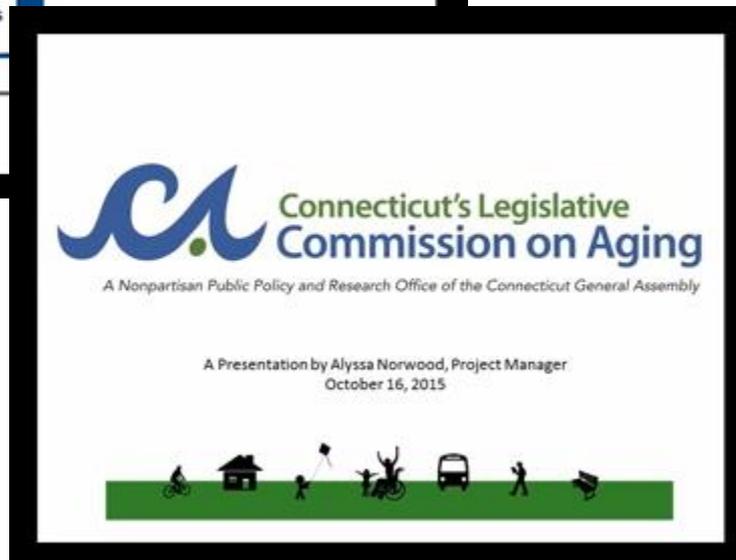
The key theme to emerge from survey results analyzed in this report is that Connecticut adults want affordable housing, with adequate space to share, and in walkable neighborhoods of opportunity.

Towns are encouraged to assess the extent to which their zoning codes, plans of conservation of development, and other policy tools advance development that supports housing affordability, community walkability, choice and other needs of Connecticut residents across the lifespan.





Raising Awareness



Above: Alyssa Norwood (right) is interviewed on WTIC AM Radio by Julia Evans Starr (Executive Director of the Legislative Commission on Aging) about livable communities on the Commission's monthly show. **Below:** Alyssa Norwood (middle) participates in a panel conversation on transportation.





Shaping Public Policy

Public Policies and Livable Communities

State-level legislation and public policies can support and inspire the critical local and regional initiatives and opportunities needed to realize livable communities that support aging in place.

Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging works with members of the Connecticut General Assembly and various partners to identify and promote innovative and wide-ranging legislation related to livable communities and aging in place. Areas range from telehealth to economic security to countless initiatives in between.



Legislative Highlights

2015:

Public Act 15-41 improves bicyclist safety and transportation options in Connecticut.

Public Act 15-57 expands tax increment financing (a special funding tool that promotes investments in downtowns), allowing municipalities to create a defined district and plan, and then use the tax revenues generated within the district for investment within the area.

Public Act 15-1 (Section 229) allows a nonprofit organization contracted by the Department of Rehabilitative Services to administer the grant program authorized by **Public Act 14-98** (see description below under "2014").



Providing Consultative Support

Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 8-23(e)(1)(I)

(e) (1) **Such plan of conservation and development shall** (A) be a statement of policies, goals and standards for the physical and economic development of the municipality, (B) provide for a system of principal thoroughfares, parkways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, multipurpose trails and other public ways as appropriate, (C) be designed to promote, with the greatest efficiency and economy, the coordinated development of the municipality and the general welfare and prosperity of its people and identify areas where it is feasible and prudent (i) to have compact, transit accessible, pedestrian-oriented mixed use development patterns and land reuse, and (ii) to promote such development patterns and land reuse, (D) recommend the most desirable use of land within the municipality for residential, recreational, commercial, industrial, conservation, agricultural and other purposes and include a map showing such proposed land uses, (E) recommend the most desirable density of population in the several parts of the municipality, (F) note any inconsistencies with the following growth management principles: (i) Redevelopment and revitalization of commercial centers and areas of mixed land uses with existing or planned physical infrastructure; (ii) expansion of housing opportunities and design choices to accommodate a variety of household types and needs; (iii) concentration of development around transportation nodes and along major transportation corridors to support the viability of transportation options and land reuse; (iv) conservation and restoration of the natural environment, cultural and historical resources and existing farmlands; (v) protection of environmental assets critical to public health and safety; and (vi) integration of planning across all levels of government to address issues on a local, regional and state-wide basis, (G) make provision for the development of housing opportunities, including opportunities for multifamily dwellings, consistent with soil types, terrain and infrastructure capacity, for all residents of the municipality and the planning region in which the municipality is located, as designated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management under section 16a-4a, (H) promote housing choice and economic diversity in housing, including housing for both low and moderate income households, and encourage the development of housing which will meet the housing needs identified in the state's consolidated plan for housing and community development prepared pursuant to section 8-37t and in the housing component and the other components of the state plan of conservation and development prepared pursuant to chapter 297, and (I) **consider allowing older adults and persons with a disability the ability to live in their homes and communities whenever possible. Such plan may:** (i) Permit home sharing in single-family zones between up to four adult persons of any age with a disability or who are sixty years of age or older, whether or not related, who receive supportive services in the home; (ii) allow accessory apartments for persons with a disability or persons sixty years of age or older, or their caregivers, in all residential zones, subject to municipal zoning regulations concerning design and long-term use of the principal property after it is no longer in use by such persons; and (iii) expand the definition of "family" in single-family zones to allow for accessory apartments for persons sixty years of age or older, persons with a disability or their caregivers. In preparing such plan the commission shall consider focusing development and revitalization in areas with existing or planned physical infrastructure. For purposes of this subsection, "disability" has the same meaning as provided in section 46a-8.



Above: Courtney Hendricson (Assistant Town Manager of Enfield), Pat Linehan (Member of the Enfield Commission on Aging), Julia Evans Starr (Executive Director of the Legislative Commission on Aging), and David Goyette (Chairperson of the Enfield Commission on Aging)



Putting Connecticut on the Map

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Innovations and Ideas





Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging

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