



Clarifying Housing and Community Preferences

When considering your potential future housing options and the community where you may reside, you face many choices. Living smart by making good decisions involves answering questions such as: Where do I want to be? Who do I want to live with and/or be near? What are the key elements I want or need in my home and community? You also need to be aware of the values that color your preferences. This checklist can serve as a starting point for clarifying the kind of housing and community you want to move toward. When you have completed the exercise, share it with family or friends, and identify new questions that move you even closer to making these major decisions.

My Next Home and Community					
	Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	I'm neutral	Somewhat important	Extremely important
GEOGRAPHIC aspects of my community					
Coastal setting					
Mountain setting					
Desert setting					
Forest setting					
Valley setting					
Other:					
CLIMATE PREFERENCES					
Changing seasons					
Moderate temperature and seasonal changes					
Hot and arid					
Tropical					
Lots of snow					
Other:					
LOCATION of my community					
Near walking trails and bike paths					
Walking distance to places I frequent					
Has easy-to-use transportation system					
Has easy access for those with disabilities					
Exists in an urban setting					
Exists in a suburban setting					
Exists in a rural, sparsely populated setting					

Near a major airport					
Near my job or places where I could be employed					
Near a college or university					
Near arts and culture					
Near my religious institution					
Near good shopping and restaurants					
Is in a very safe area					
Is in a very affordable area					
Other:					
HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES					
Is located near a hospital					
Has a public health clinic					
Has fitness/recreation facilities					
Offers home-based assistance for aging in place (Meals On Wheels, home modification services, a “village” organization, etc.)					
Has community wellness programs					
Has senior-friendly features (well marked pedestrian crossings, readable street signs, benches, etc.)					
Has affordable door-to-curb transportation for those who can’t drive					
Other:					
SOCIAL/SPIRITUAL RESOURCES					
Is near immediate family members					
Offers home-sharing with friend for social and economic support					
Is near my “tribe” – those with whom I share similar interests					
Includes mostly people my own age					
Includes a variety of generations and ages					
Includes the friends I have <i>today</i>					
Includes cultural diversity					
Other:					
HOUSING TYPE					
Single family home					

Multi-family home (duplex, apartment)					
Mobile home					
Town home					
Co-Housing community					
Active adult community					
Independent/assisted living community					
Continuous Care Retirement Community (CCRC)					
Other:					
HOME/PHYSICAL SPACE					
Has outdoor space (patio or deck or garden, etc.)					
Has privacy					
Outside is maintained by property management					
Has garage					
Has ample storage space					
Includes space for overnight guests					
Has <i>Universal Design</i> elements – curbless entry showers, wider doorways, lower countertops, etc.					
Is ready “as is” – needs no major repairs or modifications					
Has a full kitchen					
Other:					
COSTS – relative to my current residence					
Monthly rent or mortgage					
Utilities (water, electricity, gas, trash removal, lawn maintenance, cable, phone, etc.)					
Taxes					
Additional Services					
Other:					
INHERITABILITY – an asset I can leave to family					