The city of Waupun has a strong history of collaboration, as evidenced by the creation of REACH Waupun, a non-profit dedicated to addressing the needs of disadvantaged youth, and a community initiative to forge a partnership with Agnesian Healthcare to prevent the closing of the city’s only skilled nursing facility. This same strong spirit of cooperation is already evident in the creation of a cross-functional Waupun Community Coalition on Aging, dovetailing nicely with 2018 city strategic planning initiatives to direct budget resources to support an aging in place strategy and develop a plan to achieve Dementia Friendly Community status. Waupun is leveraging strong relationships already in place, between local government, healthcare institutions, and the business community, including financial institutions, small business and industrial enterprise, and sees the Waupun Community Coalition on Aging as a natural extension of community infrastructure already in place.

A particular challenge for Waupun is an aging housing stock. A majority of homes (nearly 60%) were built prior to 1970, and need modifications to accommodate older adults. There are very few alternative housing options to meet the long-term needs of Waupun’s income-restricted and aging population.