

Aspiring to age in place? Eligible homeowners could tap into \$25,000 to create an Additional Dwelling Unit.

If given the choice, 90% of Canadians and almost 100% of those aged 65 and older would prefer to age in place within their own homes and communities for as long as possible (CMHC, 2023). Grey County is committed to becoming more age-friendly and has received an Age-Friendly designation through the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2022, the County adopted an Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan. This Plan outlines a vision of creating inclusive opportunities for people of all ages to actively participate in all stages of life, and to thrive physically and economically, with dignity and independence.

Age-friendly housing is a key priority of the Plan. This includes improving awareness of housing options for all ages and supporting retrofits to ensure homes remain accessible. It is estimated that the population of Grey County will increase by 23,910 residents by 2046, and an additional 12,040 dwelling units will be required to accommodate this growth. The construction of Additional Residential Units (ARUs) is one way to support the housing needs of current and future residents. ARUs are self-contained dwelling units with a kitchen, washroom, and separate entrance that are permitted in addition to a primary dwelling.

An ARU can provide opportunities for young or first-time property owners to supplement income and/or cost-share mortgage payments. Or an ARU can support inter-generational living opportunities and permit caretakers to live on-site while allowing both parties privacy and independence. It is important that everyone - from individuals to multi-generational families, young families, and seniors who want to age in place – feel supported to live safely and independently in their homes.

The Town of Hanover permits ARUs within an existing house (often as a basement apartment, new addition, or internal modification) and within a detached accessory building (i.e. converted garage) in most residential areas. In other words, up to three units are permitted on one lot. There are property-specific criteria to consider, including lot coverage, setbacks, parking, and access to servicing per the Town's Zoning By-Law. Please contact Town Planning and Building staff at civic@hanover.ca to learn more about adding an ARU to your property. **If you live in another municipality, please contact your local municipal office to learn more.**

Whether you are renovating your house or building a new ARU, some universal design features will make it easier to age in place, including:

- Single-level or slab-on-grade style construction
- No step entry to the unit and patio area, if any
- Separate built-in wall oven and cooktop with unobstructed space underneath
- Zero threshold shower with grab bar and/or a walk-in bathtub