



# What is the Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative?

The **Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative (KERI)** seeks to develop information and provide support to Kentucky's communities so that elders and their families are provided with the opportunity to age in place and enjoy the highest possible quality of life for the longest time.

Kentucky's demographics will begin to change rapidly as Baby Boomers begin entering retirement. People are living longer, healthier lives and have needs and wants that have implications across all aspects of society including; health care, recreation, transportation, education, economy, housing, and business.

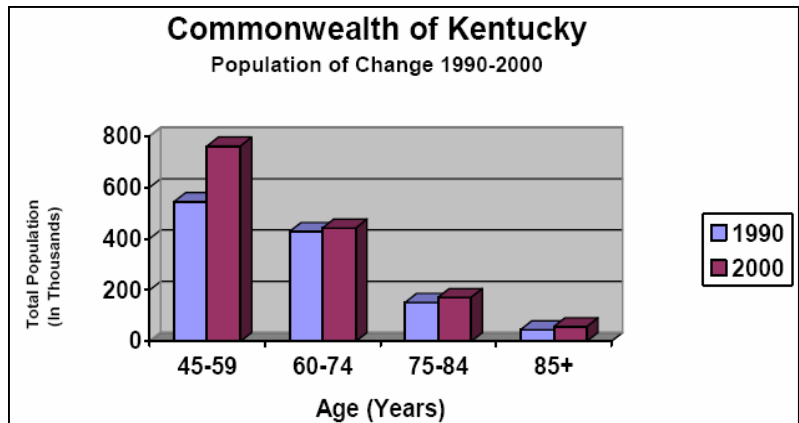
## Growing Better Communities

To meet the needs of communities experiencing an increase in the number of elders, the KERI initiative brings together local organizations, community leaders, and citizens, to form partnerships and collaborations in an effort to:

- Identify community strengths and weaknesses with respect to preparedness for the aging of the Baby Boomer generation.
- To assist Area Development Districts in creating local grass-roots solutions that enhance the ability of individual communities to provide age-appropriate outcomes with respect to:

Community resource profiles  
 Health and Safety  
 Life Quality  
 Community Involvement

- To empower communities to create sustainable projects and programs that support elders and their families.



## Bringing People Together

The KERI project will bring together representatives from:

- Aging Services
- Local and State Government
- Faith Communities
- Recreation
- Social Services
- Housing
- Transportation
- Health Care, Safety
- Economy
- Business

Focus groups and regional forums will be held throughout the Commonwealth and will serve to build local collaborations, and provide a means for self assessing the material and social capital of communities in meeting the needs of senior citizens.

Information from the meetings will be used to help local communities and state officials prioritize needs and make recommendations for improvement.

## Some questions to think about...

1. Would you be happy and comfortable living in this community after your retirement?
2. To what extent is your community ready to accommodate the challenges and opportunities that will be provided by the pending retirement of the Baby Boom generations?
3. In what areas/domains do you consider your community to be deficient or unprepared?
4. What do you consider to be the *primary strengths* and *weakness* of your community with respect to resources (e.g. housing, transportation, recreational opportunities, community services, long-term care) for dealing with the retirement of the Baby Boom population?
5. What do you consider to be the key health and safety-related issues confronting your community with regard to the well-being of elders? How might these issues be addressed?
6. What is the quality of life for elders in this community and how might it be improved?
7. To what extent are elders in your community actively involved in processes of community planning and charting of their own futures? How might they be more fully involved?