

**Report on the Response of the Frontier
Culture Museum to the Impact of Aging on
Virginia's Population**

November 7, 2014

Pursuant to Code of Virginia §§ 2.2-5510 and 51.5-136, the Frontier Culture Museum submits this report of its progress in addressing the impact of the aging of Virginia's population. This page should be signed by the agency head and include the submission date. Digital signatures should be used if possible. The signature page also must include the name, title, and phone and email contact information for the designated agency official responsible for reviewing policy and programs and accommodating the interests of older adults and adults with disabilities under Code of Virginia § 2.2-604.1.

G. John Avoli, Executive Director (Agency Head)

Date

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Executive Summary

The Frontier Culture Museum (the Museum) of Virginia is an outdoor museum, educational institution and agency of the Commonwealth. The Museum's mission is to increase public knowledge of the formation of a distinctive folk culture from a blending of indigenous, African, and European peoples. While the Museum does not offer programs designed exclusively for aging Virginians, its exhibits and programs are accessible to an aging population, and it offers on-site services such as mobility scooters and golf cart rentals that facilitate access to aging Virginians with diminished mobility.

Agency Description

The Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia is an outdoor, living-history museum and a Commonwealth of Virginia educational institution. The Museum currently features ten permanent, outdoor exhibits comprised of original and reconstructed farm buildings from West Africa, England, Ireland, Germany, and Virginia. The exhibits are carefully researched and documented, and many of them are original buildings that were dismantled and transported to the Museum for restoration and reconstruction. The Museum's exhibits serve as settings for interpretative and educational programs designed to increase public knowledge of the diverse Old World origins of early immigrants to America, of how these immigrants lived in their homelands, how they came to America, and how the way-of-life they created together on the early American frontier has shaped the success of the United States. The Museum is open to the public 362 days of the year, and welcomes all who wish to understand the origins and growth of the American people and their culture.

1. If your agency has undertaken any actions to respond to the current and future impact of an aging population, such as needs assessments, strategic planning, or use of best practices, please briefly describe those actions. Please indicate what assistance from DARS could help your agency as it prepares to serve an aging Virginia population. *The Museum would be open to DARS input with regard to how it can respond to the impact of an aging population beyond the steps it has already taken.*

2. Briefly describe your agency's services that are used primarily by older Virginians and the funding streams (types and amounts) that support those services. If these particular services or funding streams are provided in conjunction with other state or local agencies or other for profit or non-profit organizations, please list them. *Perhaps 20% to 25% of Museum visitors annually are aging. The Museum does not collect and track this data in the course of its operations. It offers no particular service primarily to aging Virginians.*

3. Identify current agency programs specifically designed to serve older Virginians that fall into any of the following eight categories:

- Health Care/Wellness
- Education
- Public Safety (including Adult Abuse Prevention)
- Recreation
- Housing
- Accessibility (including Livable Communities <http://www.vadrs.org/vblc/>)
- Financial Security
- Transportation

4. Is your agency able to meet all of the service demands of older Virginians for the services listed above? If there are any instances where the demand for services exceeds your agency's ability to meet the demand, please indicate the service and the extent of the unmet demand. Also, if your agency maintains waiting lists for services, please provide this information, including the waiting list numbers for each service. *The Museum does not offer a service or program designed specifically for aging Virginians.*

5. Provide the number of persons, by gender if available, who received services from the agency in each of the past five state fiscal years (FY 2010 through FY2014) who fell into the following age ranges: 60-64; 65-74; 75-84; and 85 and older. If your agency lacks specific information about the numbers of older Virginians it serves but has other evidence indicating that it is serving more or fewer older Virginians than it has in the past, please describe the basis for that estimation. *The Museum has no evidence that it is serving more aging Virginians than in the past.*

6. Referring to the services or funding you described in item two, describe any services or funding provided to older Virginians for which the accessibility or availability varies considerably in different parts of the Commonwealth. *N/A*

7. Over the next five to 10 years, in what ways do you anticipate that an aging population will impact your agency's services, funding streams, or policies? Consider the impact from an increase in the number of older Virginians and whether the needs of older Virginians will differ from those of today's older adults. Please include any anticipated impacts upon the cost of services, changes in type of services or the manner of service delivery, or modifications to agency policies, staffing needs, or procedures. *The Museum does not anticipate that an aging population will impact its services, funding streams or policies in the future.*

8. Please describe the primary steps that should be taken at the federal, state, or local levels to meet the future demands of older Virginians and to make services delivery more effective and efficient. *N/A*

9. Identify the extent to which your agency provides "customer-oriented" publications and websites that are designed to be "senior-friendly." If the information you currently provide is not readily accessible to older Virginians, please identify any steps your agency is taking to improve their access to this information. *The Museum's customer oriented printed materials and website is designed to be accessible to people of all ages.*

10. Describe any other services or programs that your agency plans to implement in the future to address the impact of the aging of Virginia's population. *N/A.*

11. Please indicate if your agency is experiencing an increase in employees retiring later and describe any actions your agency is taking or plans to take to accommodate its aging workforce with innovative practices. *It is not evident at this point in the Museum's operations that its employees are retiring later.*