



## 10. We are all aging - and many rural communities are aging relatively faster

The types of people living in rural areas are changing. In general, the proportion of elderly people is increasing, youth are leaving, and, in some communities, adults with young families are moving in. In some cases the ethnic composition of rural places is also shifting.

**Implications:** The types of services needed to serve local citizens is changing - fewer playgrounds and more community transportation facilities. The pool of people for voluntary groups is changing, as well as the values for community, the environment, and economic development.

### Strategies to consider:

a) Develop scenarios of the community demographic profile in ten years and invest in services to meet this scenario

b) Develop strategies to attract and support strategic target populations.  
c) Use and maintain your community diaspora.

### Questions to ask:

a) What is the demographic profile of the community and how is it likely to change over the next few years?  
b) What types of people are most important to attract under conditions of population aging?  
c) What are the most important demands of an aging population?  
d) Where have the outmigrants gone?  
e) What ties do the outmigrants have to the community?  
f) How can we maintain contact with those people who have left the community?