



Submission by **Agewell Foundation USA, Inc.**

For XI<sup>th</sup> Working Session of Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

## Education, Training and Life-long Learning

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In today's connected world, the access and use of technology by older Americans is important for building and keeping a social network. In the first national survey of its kind of learning preferences among Americans age 50 and older, researchers from AARP found that older learners prefer methods that are easy to access, require small investments of time and money to get started, and allow learning to begin immediately. Older adults are interested in learning to keep up with what's going on in the world, for their own spiritual or personal growth, and/or for the simple joy of learning something new. Older learners are most interested in subjects that would improve the quality of their lives, build upon a current skill or enable them to take better care of their health. Most want to use what they have learned right away or in the near future; very few are willing to wait longer.

Older people (50+) require support in more ways than one for better quality of life for as long as they live.

### **Educational Support**

- Education for life redesign
- Career-changing education
- Social contribution academy
- Alumni association and other follow-up management

### **Job creation & support for business start-ups**

- Job counseling and information
- Assistance for business start-ups and jobs
- Professional skills and knowledge
- Running shared offices

### **Support for Social Participation**

- Sharing talents
- Assistance for volunteering activity
- Campaigns and other related activities

### **Support for Daily Life**

- Health care assistance
- Leisure activities assistance
- Cultural and artistic activities assistance
- Communities assistance

Learning throughout life makes sense. Research shows it is good for health in old age, keeps older people engaged and increases their family's future prospects. It prolongs their independent life and enriches their quality of life. For governments, supporting learning in later life helps delay the onset of dependency among rapidly ageing populations; plays an important role in overcoming inequality and exclusion; and supports inter-generational learning, creating more resilient families and communities. More broadly, learning fosters improved well-being in old age.



**Agewell Foundation USA Inc.**

62 W 47th ST STE 707, New York, NY 10036, [agewellfoundationusa@gmail.com](mailto:agewellfoundationusa@gmail.com), [www.agewellfoundationusa.org](http://www.agewellfoundationusa.org)