

2023 ALASKA AND NEW MEXICO STATE WALKING COLLEGE

The Alaska and New Mexico State Walking College is a 6-month, distance-learning fellowship program for walkable community advocates, sponsored by AARP Alaska, AARP New Mexico, and America Walks.

Fellows will complete a series of modules covering leadership development, coalition-building, walkable community design, local public policy, and strategic planning. The instructional content includes online study materials, video-conferenced discussion forums with other Fellows, and community assignments. Each Fellow will receive one-on-one coaching from a Personal Mentor to assist them in developing a Walking Action Plan for their community.

The overall goal of the Walking College curriculum is to build the capacity of local advocates to advance policy, systems, and environment change to create healthy, walkable communities throughout the state.

Training modules focus on the following areas:

1. How We Got Here – *transportation policy, systemic injustice, accessible communities*
2. Developing Leadership - *inspiring others, story-telling, starting a movement, cultivating champions*
3. Organizing for Change - *strategic communications, campaigns and organizing, events and programs*
4. Designing for People - *walk audits, pedestrian infrastructure, traffic calming, place-making*
5. Shifting Public Policy - *local government, public policy, complete streets, vision zero, resisting gentrification*
6. Planning a Strategy - *strategic planning, bringing it all together, your Walking Action Plan*



Residents of Alaska and New Mexico who are interested in the program and able to commit ~ 5 hours per week (from May to September) are invited to complete [this online application form](#) by Tues., February 28th. Fellowships are limited and the application process is competitive.

Please contact AARP Alaska's [Patrick Curtis](#), AARP New Mexico's [Gary Williams](#), or America Walks' [Ian Thomas](#) with any questions.

