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Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America

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From University of Texas Press : Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding review of policies and programs for housing for aging in America By David Hoicka This is an outstanding overview of policies and programs for housing and community for aging in America by 29 seasoned experts. "Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America" edited by Henry Cisneros, Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain and Jane Hickie, is a thorough and detailed discussion of all aspects of aging in America, focusing on housing and community issues. Subdivided into 6 sections, 20 chapters, introduction and conclusion, and 336 pages, with numerous charts, graphs, and color photographs, it is like an encyclopedia in its scope. The topics covered are shown below, according to the table of contents. These topics show

the breadth of the comprehensive coverage of this volume. I also found it fascinating to read about the writers, and their short bios at the end of each chapter. These are experts who have more than "been there, done that", and are leaders in their fields in creatively seeking solutions to providing homes and neighborhood care for our aging population. Henry Cisneros is a former Secretary of HUD, four-term mayor of San Antonio, Texas, is also executive chairman of CityView. He is a member of the advisory boards of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Broad Foundation, and was president of the National League of Cities. Laura L. Carstensen, founding director of the Stanford Center on Longevity, is professor of psychology at Stanford University. She is a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on an Aging Society. Jane Hickie is senior research scholar and director of the Politics, Scholars, and the Public Program at the Stanford Center on Longevity.

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Foreword, by John W. Rowe

John W. Rowe is a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. Previously, he was chairman and CEO of Aetna Inc. and president and CEO of Mount Sinai NYU Health. He was professor of medicine and founding director of the Division on Aging at Harvard Medical School, as well as chief of gerontology at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. Currently, he leads the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on Aging.

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Conclusion: Aging in Place, by Henry Cisneros

"Independent for Life" is an important and useful addition to the professional library of housing and community practitioners, and is a new classic. The many authors are to be commended for their hard work and excellent presentations on this important topic, providing hope for good housing and community as all age in America.

Reviewed by David Hoicka

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A must read for both the young and the aging!

By Patsy Brundige

Anyone who plans to live beyond 55, or those who have made that passage...this is a book for you, and for me! It is factual, challenging, and inspirational. Each chapter can stand alone, and is written by authorities on the subject and includes detailed source notes. Living independently for all of life is the goal, with the necessary components discussed in reader friendly fashion. This is a life-changing, life-enriching book!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By Barbara

One of the best books on senior housing and strategies for making it happen written.

Do you want to age independently in your own home and neighborhood? Staying home, aging in place, is most people's preference, but most American housing and communities are not adapted to the needs of older people. And with the fastest population growth among people over 65, finding solutions for successful aging is important not only for individual families, but for our whole society. In *Independent for Life*, former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros and a team of experts on aging, architecture, construction, health, finance, and politics assess the current state of housing and present new possibilities that realistically address the interrelated issues of housing, communities, services, and financial concerns. *Independent for Life* covers a wide range of smart solutions, including remodeling current housing and building new homes for accessibility and safety, retrofitting existing neighborhoods to connect needed services and amenities, and planning new communities that work well for people of all ages. Case studies show how the proposals can be implemented. The authors offer action plans for working with policy makers at local, state, and national levels to address the larger issues of aging in place, including family financial security, real estate markets, and the limitations of public support. Lists of essential resources, including a detailed "to do" list of aging in place priorities and an individual home assessment, complete the volume.

About the Author

Henry Cisneros, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and four-term mayor of San Antonio, is Executive Chairman of CityView, a company that specializes in urban real estate, in-city housing, and metropolitan infrastructure. Cisneros is the author of several books, including *Interwoven Destinies: Cities and Nation and Our Communities*, *Our Homes: Pathways to Housing and Homeownership in America's Cities and States*. Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain is Senior Research Scholar and Managing Director at the Stanford Center on Longevity. Jane Hickie is Senior Research Scholar and Director of the Politics, Scholars, and the Public Program at the Stanford Center

on Longevity.