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4 Alternatives to Aging in Place for Independent Seniors

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What do you do when you want to age in place but your house is ill-equipped for senior living? Whether due to safety, location, or cost, your home isn't the best fit for your senior years. However, that doesn't mean you have to move to assisted living.

You might not be able to stay in place as you age, but you can still remain independent. If you're in search of independence, affordability, and community throughout your senior years, consider one of these alternative senior living options.

Are you or your senior loved one in need of supportive care at no cost? [Golden Gate Hospice Care](#) provides services to terminally ill patients with a wide range of diagnoses. Find out more today! (747) 282-1515

Get a Roommate

Medical Xpress points out that living in dense neighborhoods is [good for seniors](#), who are more likely to stay active and engaged when their communities are walkable. However, the high price of downtown housing isn't always compatible with seniors' budgets. To keep urban living affordable, get a roommate. Some people opt for a senior roommate for cost-sharing and companionship, while others recruit younger housemates who offer extra help in exchange for reduced rent.

If your housing budget keeps you in the suburbs, plan for your [transportation needs](#). A roommate may help you run errands and buy groceries, but medical appointments, which tend to fall in the middle of the workday, are harder to coordinate.

Choose Independent Living

Independent living offers all the freedom of your old home with senior-friendly amenities like lawn service, fitness centers, and social opportunities. And since independent living is filled with other active seniors, it's easy to form connections. In independent living, seniors buy or rent a private unit and pay association fees for communal spaces and amenities. On average, independent living costs less than assisted living. However, since personal care services aren't included, seniors who need in-home care must [pay for it](#).

Keep in mind that moving will be another expense, so choose among the [best moving companies](#) in your area by searching an online service directory like Angi. When narrowing your search, ask if the company is experienced with [senior moves](#), which does require a special touch. If they're a member of the National Association of Senior & Specialty Move Managers, better yet, as they will come with expertise in saving money and reducing stress, plus you're assured they will carry liability insurance.

Join a Co-op

Cooperative housing functions similarly to independent living. Co-ops are member-owned, which means each resident is also part-owner. Member-owners pay dues and make decisions affecting the community. The price of co-op living varies widely depending on location and the amenities that particular co-op funds. You can find [senior co-ops](#) at SeniorLiving.org, but be aware you may not find one in your state.

Connect with a Village

If a multigenerational community is important to you, consider joining a village. The [village model](#) is a grassroots initiative designed to connect the aging population with the resources and social opportunities they need to age successfully. As a member-based support network, villages support seniors through volunteer services and community engagement activities. Check if there's a village in your area by using the Village to Village Network's [Village Map](#).

A village-to-village network can give you access to services and, in turn, let you use your skills to help others. You might, for example, need someone to clean the gutters but can help another senior prepare their taxes. Similarly, some networks use the collective buying power of their members to secure discounts on things you want and need. You may also have a group of folks that can check on you throughout the week if you live alone. This is an excellent option for healthy seniors that wish to age in place.

Conventional wisdom tells older adults that they have three options for senior living: aging in place, assisted living, or nursing homes. However, today's retirees are turning traditional senior living on its head and carving out new opportunities for independent aging. These options are ideal for those requiring [hospice care](#) as well. If you need to leave a home that's no longer right for you but you aren't interested in assisted living, research the alternative senior living opportunities available in your area. Finally, if you ever need supportive care for any healthcare concerns, you can always reach out to [Golden Gate Hospice Care](#) and their team. They even have a full staff that speaks Spanish for families who need the extra care.