



# MILKEN INSTITUTE

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William O'Brien  
Chairman  
Office of the Board of Supervisors, County of Stanislaus, California  
1010 10th St Ste 6500  
Modesto, CA 95354-0884

Dear William:

I'm delighted to share with you our new report, *Best Cities for Successful Aging*.

This index is the first of its kind, providing vital information to policymakers, the private sector, citizens and the press in assessing responsive social structures for the demographic shift transforming the United States. There are no more important issues for our society than the challenges and opportunities posed by our aging population. Across the country, many leaders are responding to the implications of this shift with commitment and creativity. For those leaders who are actively focused on the needs and aspirations of seniors, and for those leaders who can and should do more, this index becomes a vital new resource.

*Best Cities for Successful Aging* compares and ranks the performance of 359 metropolitan areas in enabling successful aging, utilizing 78 indicators that determine the overall quality of life for seniors. Our research work was aided by the wise counsel of our advisory committee of noted experts in the field.

Our report challenges many common preconceptions about the best places for aging and retirement. We hope the findings spark national discussion and, at the local level, generate virtuous competition to galvanize improvement in the social structures that serve aging Americans.

The Milken Institute plans to continue to inform this debate through our insights and expertise. As part of our larger Aging Populations Initiative, we also intend to update and publish *Best Cities for Successful Aging* on a periodic basis.

I hope you find this report of interest; you can access the full study, and the accompanying database, at <http://milkeninstitute.org/successfulaging>.

We welcome your feedback on the myriad issues addressed by our report, and we look forward to your participation in the ongoing conversation.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Irving  
Senior Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer  
Leader, Aging Populations Initiative