

Rodney Harrell BIO

Rodney Harrell leads a group that provides thought leadership on livable communities by developing research, policy analysis, and innovative solutions. Creating age-friendly, livable communities enhances personal independence; allows residents to age in place; and fosters residents' engagement in their community's civic, economic, and social life – the team works to ensure that all people of all ages have access to the options that enhance livability across the lifespan. Rodney's research on housing preferences, neighborhood choice, and community livability are integral to the groundbreaking Livability Index, which measures the livability of every neighborhood and community in the United States. He is also a speaker, researcher, and blogger on livable communities issues and leads AARP's [Future of Housing](#) efforts.

Rodney joined the Public Policy Institute in March 2008 as a strategic policy advisor. Before joining AARP, he worked as a research and evaluation consultant, a researcher and instructor for the University of Maryland, and a Governor's Fellow in the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development/Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

Rodney graduated summa cum laude from the honors program at Howard University; earned dual master's degrees in public affairs and urban and regional planning from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University; and received a PhD in urban planning and design from the University of Maryland, College Park, where he was a Wylie Fellow. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies.