

America Is Living Alone: Why AlongNow Is Needed

The structural case for a Human Companionship Network

A Quiet but Profound Social Shift

The United States is undergoing a major change in how people live. More Americans are living alone, households are becoming smaller, marriage is occurring later, and adult children often live far from their parents. In 2025, the U.S. Census Bureau reported about **39.7 million one-person households**, representing roughly **29% of all U.S. households**. Fifty years earlier, the share was about 20%. At the same time, married-couple households declined from about 66% of households in 1975 to 47% in 2025.

Living alone does not automatically mean being lonely. But it does mean that millions of people do not have another person physically present in their home when they suddenly need conversation, company, practical assistance, or simply a reassuring human presence.

The Need Extends Far Beyond Older Adults

An older adult may have loving children who live hundreds of miles away. A 45-year-old divorced professional may return every evening to an empty home. A 30-year-old engineer may have hundreds of online connections but nobody available for dinner or a weekend walk. A new immigrant may have colleagues yet lack a trusted person who can accompany them to an appointment. A new mother may want an experienced person nearby for conversation and emotional companionship.

These people do not necessarily need psychotherapy, medical treatment, or a caregiver. Sometimes, **they simply need another human being.**

The Human Availability Gap

Modern technology has solved countless problems of availability. A person can summon transportation, order food, reserve a hotel, or arrange a medical appointment from a phone. Yet there is still no simple, trusted way to say: *"I need a suitable person to spend an hour with me today."*

AlongNow is designed to address this **Human Availability Gap**. A client describes what kind of companionship is needed, including time, location, language, activity, preferences, and budget. AI helps understand the request and identify suitable Professional Companions, while the actual service remains fundamentally human-to-human.

AlongNow is therefore not built on the assumption that everyone will become lonely. It is built on a demographic and social reality: **families are smaller, living alone is common, relationships are more geographically dispersed, and human time is increasingly difficult to access exactly when it is needed.**

AI can make information abundant. Human presence remains scarce.

AlongNow — AI brings people back to people.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Families and Living Arrangements (2025); Federal Reserve, Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households; Pew Research Center analyses of living arrangements and older adults.

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