



## Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities**  
and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email [livable@aarp.org](mailto:livable@aarp.org)
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 7/21/2020**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Fall River**

**STATE: Massachusetts**

**POPULATION SIZE: 89,633**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 16%**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Paul Coogan**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City Hall, 1 Government Center, Fall River, MA 02720**

### Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT for the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

- The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

[REDACTED]

**Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:**

Louise Rodrigues is an employee of Bristol Elder Services and is responsible for program development, outreach, and information dissemination regarding Age and Dementia Friendly community efforts and the related Purple Table initiative. The Manager works with community organizations and care partners of those with Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, and other disorders requiring accommodation. The Manager leads the Age/Dementia Friendly Coalition.

The person named above agrees to be subscribed to the [AARP Livable Communities Weekly e-Newsletter](#), which is one of the primary ways we share useful news and resources. To add additional subscribers, type their names and email addresses into below. Once this application is processed, a subscription confirmation message will be sent so the individual can confirm that they want to subscribe. To subscribe today, follow the link above or visit [AARP.org/Livable-Subscribe](http://AARP.org/Livable-Subscribe).

n/a

**Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS**

**1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.**

Fall River has been designated by Dementia Friendly MA as a Dementia Friendly Community. There is a strong, diverse Dementia Friendly Coalition that has broadened its partnership to extend to community groups that have age friendly interest. The group met in June 2020 and formalized its commitment toward adding age-friendly components and undertaking a needs assessment that will result in an action plan. Bristol Elder Services, the local Aging Services Access Point/Area Agency on Aging, is an open and affirming agency dedicated to being the leader in improving the quality of life for elders, people with disabilities, and their families. Bristol Elder Services hosts the Coalition, and Fall River Council on Aging is a partner. The two organizations provide programs and services targeted toward older people. Bristol Elder Services offers a comprehensive system of in-home health and supportive services that promote independent living. The COA offers outreach and a variety of supportive services, such as transportation and addressing food insecurity. The current Purple Table project offers those who need accommodation the opportunity to dine out with dignity. Having the local vocational high school as one site illustrates the philosophy in place for becoming a community accessible to those of all ages. A strength to becoming age friendly is the diversity and dedication of the Coalition, which is comprised of public and private entities as well as concerned citizens. The Mayor's designating a liaison to the Coalition ensures that Fall River will become more age friendly.

**2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?**

Bristol Elder Services, the COA, and housing authority will solicit older people's involvement. All Coalition members serve elders and will target them through social media. The Coalition intends to conduct a robust Needs Assessment process in the fall of 2020. Written surveys will be disseminated in hard copy form and online. Those receiving the survey will include older residents. Virtual listening sessions and focus groups will be publicized in places where older adults gather as well in areas for the general public. Special meetings will be held to bring seniors together to form sub-committees for further communication and engagement. Seniors will be kept apprised throughout the process, e.g., through local radio programming, websites, and newsletters, helping them to remain connected and informed throughout all stages of the City's transformation. We hope to be able to host an outside kick-off event carried as a broadcast event by the local radio station.

**3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.**

Fall River's greatest strength is the teamwork demonstrated by the Coalition. Fall River has a head start in collaboration because the Dementia Friendly Coalition set the framework, was diligent, and undertook activities necessary to become designated as a Dementia Friendly Community. In its Dementia Friendly work, organizations beyond those dedicated to seniors (the library, Y, local restaurants, the vocational high school, community college, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and churches) have been included. The group is committed to building on the model and the work to incorporate age friendly elements. Fall River continuously strives to make the City a great place to live for all residents. The enthusiasm and belief of Paul Coogan, who assumed the office of Mayor in January 2020, provides the perfect opportunity to instill energy in the effort. Fall River is recognized for having strong collaborations. Examples, such as a Supportive Housing site, demonstrate successful public/private partnerships. Those involved will continue to meet, with regularity, to discuss ways to implement plans to change policies, designs and structures to make Fall River a place where seniors want to live and younger people stay.

**Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP**

- Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

**4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?**

The City of Fall River, like so many other cities across the nation, hopes to set new standards of livability for seniors and those aging in the community. By sharing the City’s successes, and possible failures with the AARP network, and with neighboring MA communities and Age Friendly RI, we can all grow in our united mission to elevate the age/dementia-friendly status. In our opinion, the willingness to share plans, scopes of services, and initiatives is essential in strengthening the universal goal. Community health, like any other health issue, requires periodic check-ups. By creating and implementing an age friendly check-up process we can monitor our progress. Checking in and checking up will keep us on track with the master plan.

**5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?**

Fall River is a City undergoing a period of examination and renewal with the intention of successful rejuvenation and new projects to improve residents’ lives. This motivates Fall River to collaborate with AARP and the World Health Organization. Working with City departments, such as the COA, and Bristol Elder Services to lead the Age/Dementia Friendly Coalition to incorporate other domains will elevate the lives of senior residents in every possible way. To be part of a larger networking family seemed an obvious health choice. AARP’s/WHO’s vast array of resources will go far in supporting communities in becoming the most impactful places for older adults. By joining AARP and the World Health Organization Global Network, we are committing Fall River to be Age and Dementia Friendly for all residents. With an eye towards the future and the rebirth of the City, our goal is to attract and retain younger people from all walks of life to work, play, stay, and retire to Fall River.

**6) Provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community and for which you have reprint rights. The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours:**

Click here to enter text.

