Section 1. Community Details

Date: October 11, 2021

State: Florida

Community Name: City of Miami Gardens

Population: 113,363

Percentage of Residents Age 60 or Older: 14

Community Governance Structure: City

Community Type: Urban

Elected Official Signing the Community's Letter of Commitment: Robert Stephens, III

Title: Councilman

Office Mailing Address: 18605 NW 27th Avenue, Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Community Contact: The community contact is the community staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work. (It is not the AARP staff member the community might be working with.)

Name (community contact): Thamara Labrousse and Cameron Floyd

Email (valid email address required to submit this form): [Redacted]

Position: Thamara - Director, Live Healthy Miami Gardens; Cameron - Legislative Analyst

Please describe the named person's role in the community’s age-friendly initiative (100 words minimum)

Thamara will oversee the development of the AFI Action Plan. She will take the lead on contacting city department heads for the input and feedback on the City of Miami Gardens’ AFI Action Plan. She will also develop a brief questionnaire to fully assess and capture what services and programs each department is currently implementing to ensure a full picture of current AFI efforts. Community members will also be solicited for feedback on the action plan. Cameron
will take directives from the city council, with Councilman Robert Stephens, III as the lead, to help support the implementation of the action plan.

Section 2: Community Activities, Engagements and Collaborations

Briefly describe your existing community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people. Please identify how your community plans to become more age-friendly. (250-300 words required)

Currently the City of Miami Gardens has several existing community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older adults. These include a brand new senior center; The Weatherization Assistance Program; The Senior Home Beautification Program; The Sidewalk Pressure Cleaning Program; The Senior Hours Retail Resolution; The Senior Nutrition Program; Silver Sneakers Seniors Fitness; participation in AARP’s Senior Community Service Employment Program; The Elder Abuse Awareness Fair; the annual Senior Health and Resources Fair; and a resolution for the allocation of land to build a new senior housing development.

How we plan to become more age-friendly: Miami Gardens will continue our efforts to include and engage seniors in the 8 Domains of Livability. There is senior housing coming to our city which will increase the availability of housing for seniors. We will update the City of Miami Gardens Mobility Plan to reflect the needs of seniors, including availability of safe bike routes. We will assess our current transportation to enhance the needs of seniors. This will include looking at public transportation including buses and the City's trolley service. We will develop recreational programs targeting seniors to help combat isolation and enhance physical agility.

We will develop a program with guidance from the city council to ensure youth and older adults can learn from each other. We will continue to participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program. We will share the AARP Livable Communities e-Newsletter with our seniors. Live Healthy Miami Gardens newsletter will create a Seniors Corner to provide information and resources to older adults. The Public Affairs Department will continue to share information with seniors on pertinent issues that impact them including the listserve, newspaper, radio programming, town hall meetings, social media platforms, etc. Live Healthy Miami Gardens will continue to implement programming around its 5 Health Impact Areas: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD), Physical Activity, Nutrition, Primary Health care and Mental Health targeting seniors.

How will older adults be involved in the community's efforts to become more age-friendly? (250-300 words required)

We will utilize our existing Elder Affairs Advisory Committee to help plan and implement age-friendly strategies. In 2006 the Miami Gardens City Council determined there was a need for an elderly affairs advisory committee to advise and make recommendations to the city council.
with regard to matters pertaining to senior citizens residing in the city. The Elderly Affairs Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members, with each city council member appointing two members to the elderly affairs advisory committee and the mayor appointing three members to the elderly affairs advisory committee. Previously the Elder Affairs Advisory Committee has worked with the city council to conduct workshops on topics relevant to older adults and their caretakers such as healthcare, Medicare, and health and wellness. Their input will be vital to the development and implementation of our AFI Action Plan. There are a variety of methods and venues we will employ to engage our older adult population in the city’s efforts to become more age-friendly. Community gatherings such as community fairs will provide a means to talk to individuals one-on-one about the services our city provides as well as gain insight on what services and programs residents believe are missing that can improve the quality of life for our older adult residents. Activities and town hall meetings will also be utilized to gather input from older adult residents and cultivate buy-in and participation in existing age-friendly programs and services. Information obtained from our older adults will be incorporated into our Action Plan and the 8 Domains of Livability.

How will the efforts to become more age-friendly increase collaboration and coordination among relevant community agencies and departments? (250-300 words required)

Currently the city’s health initiative (Live Healthy Miami Gardens) works with 68 organizations and over 100 individuals through a coalition that focuses on improving health outcomes in Miami Gardens. This coalition is part of the city’s strategic and systemic effort to reduce health disparities and poor health outcomes and improve the health of Miami Gardens residents. We accomplish this by engaging and involving residents in the process of improving public health indicators. The Five Impact Health Areas of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD), Healthy Eating and Improved Nutrition, Mental Health, Physical Activity and Primary Healthcare all impact older adults. We will partner with these organizations to implement our age-friendly action plan. The city also works interdepartmentally to ensure planning and strategy implementation is holistic. Our efforts will be coordinated to ensure collaboration. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with our stakeholders and grow our capacity to collaboratively plan and collectively lead strategies to make Miami Gardens a city where older adults can live and age with dignity. Each city department head will be surveyed to assess current policies, programs and services in place that impact or service older adults. Gathering this information will help all departments know what is being offered by our city to improve the quality of life for our older adults, a measure that can help reduce duplication of programs. Our community partners will attend meetings (virtual and in person) to provide input on our action plan to ensure activities best reflect the needs of our older adult population.

Section 3: Network Membership
1-a. What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (100 words minimum)

Miami Gardens has historically prioritized its senior population. Being part of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities will further build our capacity and enhance our abilities to meet the needs of our growing senior population. The 8 Domains of Livability nicely align with the vision we as a city collectively share and our desire to ensure our seniors have the support, information and resources they need in order to age in place. While the city currently has many programs and policies in place to enhance the quality of life for our older adults, we recognize that as the world changes and becomes more advanced we must do more to ensure our older adults continue to thrive.

2. What aspect of your community's current or intended age-friendly work could be useful to other communities in the network? (100 words minimum)

The City of Miami Gardens has done a lot of work to ensure the needs of our seniors are met. It is our intent to develop a comprehensive approach that will include multiple strategies and activities. For example, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Delta variant, our city council passed a resolution encouraging city business owners to dedicate at least one hour of their shopping hours to older adults and disabled individuals. The Senior Beautification Program eases some of seniors' burdens with property maintenance. The Senior Silver Sneakers Program provides a safe means for older adults to engage in physical activity and meet new friends.

Section 4: Required Materials

1-a. Letter of Commitment
Provide a digital file (PDF preferred) of the signed document.

1-b. Resolution or Proclamation (optional)
If your community issued either document in addition to the commitment letter, provide a digital file (PDF preferred) here.

2. Logo or Image
Provide a digital file (JPG preferred) and/or a link to a downloadable logo or other image that represents your community and for which you have reprint rights and permission to provide for use by AARP and the World Health Organization.

Please email attachments of items 1-a, 1-b and your community’s logo or image to Livable@AARP.org.
Section 5: Social Media

Website: www.miamigardens-fl.gov

Twitter: @cityofmiagarden

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/miamigardensfl

Instagram: @cityofmiamigardens

Section 6: Agreement

I have read and understand the requirements for my community to become a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, including the need to conduct a community assessment; develop and acquire approval of an action plan; implement the plan; submit an annual best practice and provide periodic updates, including a five-year progress report.

Yes, I understand the requirements.