Membership Application

Join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

AARP Livable Communities

When a town, city, county or state joins the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, it is joining a global effort to be a more livable and age-friendly community.

The AARP network is an organizational affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. (Communities wishing to join the global network instead of or in addition to the AARP program can find application information on the WHO website.)

To enroll your community in the AARP network, please complete and submit the application below.

Note: Since content added to this form cannot be saved, we advise that you review the questions in advance, gather the materials and information you'll need, and draft the narrative responses offline for later pasting into the applicable fields.

Section 1: Community Details

Application Submission Date

6/24/2021

State

Georgia

Community Name

City of Fort. Valley

Total Population

9,125

Percentage of Residents Age 60 or Older

28%
Community Governance Structure (choose one)

- Borough
- City
- County
- Town
- Township
- Village
- Other (explain below)

Explain here if you selected "Other"

Community Type (Check all that apply)

- Urban
- Mixed
- Suburban (offices, apartments and shops)
- Suburban (mostly residential)
- Small Town
- Rural
- Remote/Frontier
- Other (explain below)
- Not sure

Explain here if you selected "Other"

Elected Official Signing the Community's Letter of Commitment

Name (elected official)

Barbara Williams

Title

Mayor

Office Mailing Address

204 W. Church Street, Fort. Valley, GA 31030
Mayor Barbara Williams is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to aging populations. City of Fort Valley has developed a strong framework to build upon in addressing the World Health Organization’s 8 Domains that help influence the health and quality of life of older people. Our goal is to ensure our aging residents have the resources to be healthy, independent and integrated into community life.

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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 subscribe now, visit AARP.org/LivableSubscribe. You will not be disconnected from this page. After completing the newsletter form, AARP will send an email — with the subject line “Action Required” — containing a link for you to confirm the subscription.
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)

The Peach County Recreation Dept. establishes and oversees programs, activities, events and facilities for the engagement of all residents. The park also has blueberries, pecans and chestnuts for public parking and use, and home to the Senior Citizen Center. Park provides an assortment of activities and facilities including picnic shelters; walking trails; tennis, basketball and volleyball courts; horseshoe pits and sports fields.

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

City of Fort Valley intends to include active engagement of older adults; securing a Council Resolution to work towards becoming age-friendly; establishing a Plan of Action that responds to the needs identified by other adults in the community; committing to measuring activities, reviewing Action Plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

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

The City of Fort Valley has been honored as one of 10 Georgia's "Cities of Excellence" and recognized as one of the State's best managed and most livable cities. The Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Trend Cities Of Excellence Panelists took good management; new ideas; old-fashioned values; job creation; putting business practices in government; a better quality of life for its residents of all ages - all of these were taken into consideration.

Section 3: Network Membership

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

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

City of Fort Valley is excited about joining AARP Georgia and its global network of communities to give older residents the opportunity to live, rewarding, productive and safer lives. Fort Valley is well known as the Peach Capitol of the world and center of Georgia's largest peach producing area. It is home to many accolades including the headquarters of Blue Bird, one of the largest manufacturers of school buses in the nation; the only 1890 land grant university - the Fort Valley State University and HBCU in Georgia providing an educational experience of exceptional quality as the 2nd largest public university in the state. Fort Valley is also home to the American Camellia Society, one of the world's finest collections of camellias that fills a 9-acre property.
City of Fort Valley MainStreet strives to preserve the city's rich heritage and culture and ensures its future as a vibrant center of commerce, development and community activity for people of all ages. The city seeks to revitalize downtown Fort Valley through economic restructuring; cultural tourism and promotional events planning for multigenerational audiences in concert with public and private sector partners. The Downtown Development Authority uses the MainStreet approach to revitalize downtown and is one of 41 cities in Georgia to have this designation.

**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.

**Website URL**
https://fortvalleyga.org/

**Section 5: Social Media**

Provide the most applicable Twitter handle(s) and Facebook account(s) for your community (i.e. an age-friendly coalition, the local government, key elected officials and/or local partners).
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.

Submit your community’s application to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

Receipt of the application will be acknowledged by AARP within 24 hours of submission or during the next business day.