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
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Gainesville

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE:

STATE: Georgia

POPULATION SIZE: Gainesville - 42,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: Gainesville 27%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: C. Danny Dungan, Jr., Mayor.

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 300 Henry Ward Way, Suite 303 – P.O. Box 2496 - Gainesville, GA 30503

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. NAME: Pamela Elfenbein

POSITION: Director, UNG Institute for Healthy Aging

EMAIL ADDRESS: ************

TELEPHONE NUMBER: ************

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

Dr. Pamela Elfenbein is the Director of the University of North Georgia Institute for Healthy Aging. The UNG Institute for Healthy Aging led the University of North Georgia initiative to become an Age-Friendly designated university, currently the only AFU designated university in the State, and initiated discussion regarding working toward an Age-Friendly Community designation.

Dr. Elfenbein will provide collaborative network oversight and work with university faculty, staff and students to provide a 'home' for Age-Friendly Community initiative administration and documentation, and assure continuity among individual work-groups and assist with the facilitation of their tasks, as we work towards becoming a great place for persons of all ages.

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.
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.

The Gainesville 2030 Community Assessment and Comprehensive Plan [https://www.dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/gainesville_ci_community_assessment_plan_2012-2030.pdf](https://www.dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/gainesville_ci_community_assessment_plan_2012-2030.pdf) and the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce’s Vision 2030 [https://www.vision2030.org/](https://www.vision2030.org/) will be used as templates to further develop age-friendly policies, programs, and services for older adults in our community. The 8 Domains of Livability - Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Housing; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information; and Community and Health Services - are already incorporated into both documents. Our network partners are actively engaged in each of the domains of livability. The University of North Georgia has initiatives and programs in place that address social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, and communications and information dissemination. Legacy Link, our Area Agency on Aging, hosts the largest older adult worker training program in the State of Georgia, hosts an active communication and information web presence, advocates for the respect and social inclusion of seniors throughout the region, is a provider of home health services designed to support older adults to maintain independence, and maintains an active mailing communications with community dwelling older adults. Vision 2030 keeps the community’s aging population in mind when working on initiatives such as healthcare, transportation, downtown development, greenspace, and even public art. Wisdom Project 2030, a vibrant non-profit that started within Vision 2030 and continues to be an important part of their Board of Directors, Wisdom Project 2030 hosts a work-group addressing Housing issues, and birthed and spun-off an earlier initiative, ITN Lanier, a membership transportation network for Hall County older adults. The Gainesville-Hall County Service Center is an advocacy organization and oversees senior services and transportation for the county.

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

The collaborative network that came together to work towards the Gainesville-Hall County Age-Friendly Community designation is comprised of community organizations whose leadership positions are held by older adults, including Phillipa Moss, Gainesville-Hall County Community Service Center Director; Carol Hanlon, President of Wisdom Project 2030, Inc.; Robert Horne, Wisdom Project 2030, Inc. and Hall County Council on Aging Board member; Elizabeth Higgins, Executive Director of Vision 2030; and Dr. Pamela Elfenbein, University of North Georgia Institute for Healthy Aging Director. And, it is important to also add that our collaborative network and strategic planning processes include persons of all ages, Melissa Armstrong, CEO of Legacy Link - the Area Agency on Aging for the Northeast Georgia Mountain Region and Jessica Dudley, CEO United Way Hall County are Millennials. University of North Georgia students will support the ongoing work of the initiative.

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.

As a relatively small community we have strong ties and alliances already in-place among stakeholders in our city and county. And, our community’s age-friendly leaders and champions include persons from all sectors of our community, including academic institutions, governmental agencies and elected officials, nonprofit organizations and foundation leaders, our Area Agency on Aging, community coalitions including the Wisdom Project, Inc., the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses, area residents, and community advocates and volunteers of all ages. The ties and collaborative relationships already in-place led to the development of this application, and will be particularly important as we begin the planning and implementation phases of our work. Phillipa Moss, the Gainesville-Hall County Services Director will lead the facilitation of this work with our elected officials, City government, and local non-profit organizations. She will also facilitate the work of this initiative with the Chamber, community coalitions and stakeholders. Robert Horne will oversee assessments related to our work.
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 WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (the Network) was established to foster the exchange of experience and mutual learning between cities and communities worldwide, and our goal is to contribute to the exchange of experiences and mutual learning. Multiple strategies for sharing our work are being anticipated, including dissemination by each of our collaborators.

The University of North Georgia faculty will present the work of the Age-Friendly Community collaborative yearly at a regional or national conference. And, should the next international conference on aging take place as planned in 2021, an abstract will be submitted for presentation to the international audience. Our Area Agency on Aging partner will present our work at regional and/or national meetings of the Area Agencies on Aging networks. Wisdom Project 2030 members, called Wisdom Keepers, network with stakeholders throughout our community in support of initiatives designed to improve livability and quality of life for our community, and will use opportunities as they arise to bring awareness of the Age-Friendly initiative and inform others of our ongoing work. Additionally, Wisdom Project 2030 in partnership with the University of North Georgia, hosts annual older adult leadership training program, offering us another opportunity to contribute to the exchange of experiences and mutual learning.

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?

Achieving the Age-Friendly University designation brought the University of North Georgia in direct contact with an international network of colleagues with particular interest in broadening the engagement of older adults in all aspects of society, with many working with their local communities to improve the lives of older adults. As we reflected on our own community, our Community Advisory Board took note of the good work that is already being done community-wide, and that the champions of the work cut across all sectors of society, and that this work has been of long-standing. In 2005 when the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and Vision 2030 gathered community members to create their big ideas of what they wanted Gainesville-Hall County to look like in the year 2030, supporting an age-friendly environment and life-long learning opportunities were included.

Bringing the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities to the attention of our Institute for Healthy Aging Board resulted in an overwhelming desire to join with the network as a way to further support and enhance the good work already being done in our community to make Gainesville-Hall County great place for persons of all ages.

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 add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send a JPEG, PDF or PNG of your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.