State: New Hampshire
Community Name: Town of Newport, NH
Population Size: 7858
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 26
Community Structure: Town
Other:
Community Type: Small Town, Rural
Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Jeffrey Kessler
Title: Chairman, Newport Board of Selectmen
Office Mailing Address: 15 Sunapee Street, Newport NH 03773
Community Contact Name: Christine Benner
Email: [REDACTED]
Position: Economic Development Coordinator
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Role: As Economic Development Coordinator, Ms. Benner works closely with not only residents and area businesses but visitors to our community, ensuring their concerns, desires, and needs are met and (hopefully) surpassed. Furthermore, she is responsible for spearheading the economic development and community revitalization efforts underway in Town and as such, works closely with both the Town’s Board of Selectmen, SAU 43, the Economic Corporation of Newport, and many other groups and individuals active within the community.
Older Adult Involvement: To begin, the Town will disseminate a Community Survey to area residents to gauge the needs and wants of residents of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. In this survey will be the option to join the Age Friendly Community Steering Committee which to this point will be made up of leaders throughout the community, including representation from the Senior Center, Recreation Department, area churches, non profits, and Town government. These leaders have already been noted and have expressed excitement over joining such a Committee. We will then work closely with groups active in the community to get the word out, hosting public forums, visiting monthly meetings, etc., to increase
participation and feedback for projects that need immediate and ongoing attention.

**Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:**
The key to increasing participation, coordination, and collaboration amongst the various groups and agencies throughout Town is education. Making sure every resident, every group is aware of the efforts underway on behalf of the Age Friendly Community Steering Committee. To do this we will visit with groups via their weekly/monthly meetings, disseminate information via social media posts, emails, and printed materials, and lastly, encourage everyone to provide continued feedback on the projects and initiatives undertaken by the Committee.

**AARP Team Member Contact Info:**
Todd Fahey, State Director, AARP New Hampshire, tfahey@aarp.org/603.230.4109

**Most Instructive Area of Work:**
Like so many other small towns, Newport has seen an economic shift as industry and manufacturing has moved elsewhere. However, the last few years Newport has seen great progress both on a social, economic, and cultural level. We have undertaken many grant projects that have improved the infrastructure, recreation, and market here in Town and would be happy to share those best practices with communities like ours. Moreover, we have seen the power of strong partnerships between municipal government and grassroots activism, including collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce, arts and culture, and other groups active in the community. These partnerships have resulted in some amazing projects and events that have impacted residents of all ages and backgrounds.

**Optional Resolution:**
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**Logo or Image:**
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**Website:**
[https://www.newportnh.gov/](https://www.newportnh.gov/)

**Twitter 2:**
N/A

**Facebook 1:**

**Facebook 2:**
[https://www.facebook.com/NewportNHEconomicDevelopment](https://www.facebook.com/NewportNHEconomicDevelopment)

**Additional Social Media:**
Instagram - newport_economic_development