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
APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: Click here to enter a date.

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Westerly

STATE: Rhode Island

POPULATION SIZE: 17,553

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21.8%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Sharon Ahern, Town Council President

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Westerly Town Hall 45 Broad Street  Westerly RI  02891

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: Laurel Holmes

POSITION: Director, Community Partnerships + Population Health, Westerly Hospital

EMAIL ADDRESS: [Redacted]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [Redacted]

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

Laurel Holmes leads the multi-sector community collaborative that implements the community health improvement plan in greater Westerly. As a representative of Westerly Hospital/Yale New Haven Health, Ms. Holmes ensures that the voice of the community is reflected in the plan and that there is broad representation in strategies implemented. Data from the most recent community health needs assessment highlighted an imperative to address the needs of older residents in Westerly and one of two priority areas identified was to focus effort on that population. In the fall of 2019, and with the support of Age Friendly Rhode Island, Ms. Holmes spearheaded the launch of Age Friendly Westerly and shortly received a grant from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation to begin carrying out the Age Friendly plan. Since that time, many of the initial strategies identified have been implemented and currently new strategies to support older residents in Westerly are under development.

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.

Click here to enter text.
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.

Please see attached Age Friendly Westerly Plan

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

All of the work related to Age Friendly Westerly seeks to include and involve the older residents of the community. Through our many partners, including Westerly Library, the housing and skilled nursing facilities, social service providers, the police department, and community organizations, we are continually involved in outreach to engage older residents. One effort that has been particularly fruitful is community conversations and coffee hours (virtual to date) in partnership with the Westerly Public Library. Our work to create a Westerly Village, in conjunction with The Village Common of RI, has resulted in many new people joining the effort to create a more supportive community. The PSA video series featuring community professionals discussing issues of importance to older residents provides a way for older residents to hear about our work and potentially become involved.

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.
We have been meeting regularly as a multi-sector collaborative and engaging in joint planning since the fall of 2019 through Age Friendly Westerly. The participants in this effort represent a broad spectrum of the community both organization representatives and residents. Subgroups working to address housing concerns have sprung from the larger Age Friendly Westerly collaborative. The group meets monthly to monitor our community plan, develop new strategies, share updates on ongoing efforts, and network. The email distribution list now includes over 50 people and provides a way to communicate news and resources to the group.
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?

It would be Westerly’s hope to be able to share successes and lessons learned, including strategies that we have found to be particularly successful. We would also look forward to learning from other communities.

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?

Data from the 2019 community health needs assessment (currently being updated) pointed Westerly in the direction of focus on its older residents. These data indicate that Westerly trends older than other communities in the county and that there are particular needs of older residents that require addressing. From this sprung Age Friendly Westerly and a community health improvement plan that follows the AARP domains of liveability. To date, Age Friendly Westerly has accomplished many of the strategies outlined on that plan.

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.