

**AARP Network of Age- Friendly States and Communities Application**

**Section 1: Name of Community:** *City of Mount Airy*

**State:** *North Carolina*

**Population Size:** *10,388*

**Percentage of Residents Above The Age of 60:** *26.6%*

**Name and Title Of The Elected Official Signing The Official Commitment:** [REDACTED]

**Section 2: Community Contact for the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities:**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Position:** [REDACTED]

**Email address:** [REDACTED]

**Telephone Number:** [REDACTED]

**\*\* Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age friendly initiative.**

[REDACTED] *will be the contact for the City of Mount Airy. He and his department along with [REDACTED] and the Tourism Department Authority will lead these efforts that will align with the Parks and Recreation Departments Mission Statement- To build a healthy community through parks, programs and partnerships.*

**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 City of Mount Airy is a small, vibrant rural community nestled in the foothills of North Carolina with approximately 10,000 residents and is committed to serving people of all ages. Mount Airy is a Certified Retirement Community through Retire NC and has improved its efforts to assisting the active adult population which consists of 26.6% seniors. Mount Airy offers 30 miles of sidewalks, 6.6 miles of greenway and 7 community parks that assist Mount Airy in becoming a more walkable and bikable community. Mount Airy has a diverse recreation department that encourages programs, activities and facilities for people of all ages. The biggest strength for our department is partnerships. We continue to partner with the Surry County Senior Center to maximize our services for active adults that include walking clubs, fitness classes and social opportunities. The recreation department continues to honor multiple insurance programs that includes AARP, Silver Sneakers and Silver & Fit that offers free services for recreation and fitness activities at Reeves Community Center. Downtown living continues to develop with apartments and lofts becoming more available that are located in extremely walking and biking friendly areas.*

- 2. How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?** *Mount Airy has a Retirement/Relocation Committee that meets quarterly to discuss the needs of our community for retirees and individuals wanting to relocate to our area. We continue to utilize our local newspaper, social media outlets and website to promote offerings including programs and facilities for the active adult population. Mount Airy is committed to serving the active adult population and will look to improve on these efforts.*
- 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.** *The City of Mount Airy is the lead agency for bringing together these collaborative groups which includes representation from the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, Mount Airy Tourism Development Authority, Tourism Partnership of Surry County, Surry Realtors Association, Northern Regional Hospital, Surry County Economic Development Partnership, and we are engaging partners as well as Surry Community College, hospitality and tourism industry business, Downtown Mount Airy and various other organizations in and around Mount Airy and Surry County. Mount Airy has a Retirement/Relocation Committee that meets quarterly to discuss needs, recommendations and planning for our community. Mount Airy also has a Greenway Master Plan and Sidewalk Master Plan that we utilize for planning efforts for the future.*
- 4. How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly State and Communities and World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?** *The City of Mount Airy continues to research and look for ways to improve our community for active older adults. One of our goals would be to advertise and promote the offerings Mount Airy has for active older adults and join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly State and Communities. We feel this will be a great marketing asset for Mount Airy to be part of a national network and continue to model after the needs for older adults. Mount Airy is a major tourist destination and is known as “Mayberry”, the birthplace of Andy Griffith. If Mount Airy were to be added to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly State and Communities it would be a great marketing tool for AARP as well.*
- 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?** *Mark Hensley, Associate State Director of Community Outreach and Advocacy has been a great resource for Mount Airy with its goals of being part of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly State and Communities. Mount Airy is committed to serving the entire community and will continue to focus on the essential needs with future development. Mount Airy is a North Carolina Certified Retirement Community and we are engaged in the process of encouraging retirees to retire and move to our area. As members of AARP and AARC our City and committee want to be engaged to achieve goals to better serve our community.*

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.

