State: Colorado
Community Name: United Way Of Weld County’s Aging Well Collective Impact Initiative (Greeley, Evans, and Garden City)
Population Size: 126635
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 16
Community Structure: Other (explain below)
Other: This application is on behalf of the cities of Greeley and Evans, and the town of Garden City
Community Type: Urban,Mixed,Small Town,Rural
Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment Name: Filbert Archuleta; Brian Rudy; John Gates
Title: Mayor, Town of Garden City; Mayor, City of Evans; Mayor, City of Greeley
Office Mailing Address: 621 27th St. Road, Garden City, CO 80631; 1100 37th St, Evans, CO 80620; 1000 10th St, Greeley, CO 80631
Community Contact Name: Shawn Walcott
Email: 
Position: Assistant Director of Household Stability
Telephone: 
Role: As an employee of United Way of Weld County (UWWC), Shawn oversees UWWC’s collective impact initiative called Aging Well. Aging Well is a strategic planning coalition made up of over 35 different community partners dedicated to serving older adults in Weld County. Shawn provides leadership to the Aging Well group as they work to build a strategic plan to improve services in Weld County for older adults. The Aging Well group will lead the age-friendly initiative work on behalf of the three cities in this application. Shawn is the primary contact point for all members of the Aging Well Collective Impact group and for each of the cities involved in applying for the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.
Older Adult Involvement: Older adults are currently engaged in driving the Age-Friendly Community efforts in the Greeley, Evans, and Garden City (The Cities) region via the work of existing advisory boards, local senior/recreation centers, and the Area Agency on Aging.
Additionally, older adults are involved in the Aging Well Collective Impact Workgroup (Workgroup). There is a robust volunteer base of older adults already working in a wide variety of organizations. The Workgroup seeks to increase the number of volunteer opportunities for this group of older adults to get involved in community change efforts. Older adults are also encouraged to serve on the various planning committees and commissions associated with the governments of The Cities and local county government when appropriate. Beyond direct involvement, we intend to engage the older adult community through assessments, including the Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults and AARP community assessments, focus groups, and presentations. There are a growing number of older adult communities in the Cities, ranging from skilled nursing facilities to patio home and independent living communities, that will be targeted for presentations and listening sessions with the goal of finding representatives from these various communities to participate directly in action plan development and implementation. In addition to targeting existing communities, we also plan to target businesses and other organizations, including dementia and minority related groups that are aligned with the Age-Friendly Community work but are not currently active or represented to the degree necessary to drive change in specific areas. The existence of the Volunteer Recruitment Initiative will also provide opportunities to increase volunteer involvement amongst older adults and increase the visibility of older adult needs in the wider population.

Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:

The Collective Impact model that guides the Aging Well Collective Impact Workgroup (Workgroup) is designed to develop collaborative efforts that encourage and increase participation in community change by public, private, and non-profit entities; involve community leaders and those with lived experience to the table; and to identify and address community needs through community collaboration. The Age-Friendly Community designation will complement the existing efforts of the Workgroup. The Age-Friendly efforts will help promote the work already being done and encourage other community members to join the efforts. It will also give opportunity to build better communication channels between the various groups doing this work. Aligning the work through shared measures of success will allow for centralized assessment of impact. And, thanks to the number of partners who are at the table, there will be clear paths of communication that will enable strategic adjustments of efforts and sharing of the results of those changes as compared to the desired results. In short, a successful model will allow all of our community partners to know how they are making a difference and how they can be even more impactful in helping build communities that support community members of all ages and abilities. The Workgroup will be the leading force in the community for collaborating, coordination, and aligning the activities with the community-wide measurable goals. A table of the goals agreed upon by the Workgroup, and how those correspond with the 8 Domains of Livability, is provided in Appendix A. It should be noted that these
are the initial goals and may be altered or re-prioritized as the work progresses.

AARP Team Member Contact Info: Robert D. Murphy State Director, AARP Colorado rdmurphy@aarp.org 303-764-5990

Most Instructive Area of Work: We believe that the Greeley, Evans, and Garden City (The Cities) region has many existing age-friendly programs that could be beneficial to other communities. The Cities have a robust arts community, including First Friday exhibits, public artwork installations, murals, and an art district. The Cities also have a public concert series, a well-maintained bike lane system, a large and well-run park system, and a summer Friday Fest program that promotes intergenerational activities. The local community mental health center, North Range Behavioral Health, is federally qualified and provides a Peer Counseling service targeting the mental health needs of older adults. Dementia Together and 60+ Ride are non-profit organizations providing excellent examples of community-based efforts to meet caregiver and transportation needs. Lastly, the Aging Well Collective Impact Workgroup (The Workgroup) itself is an example of a best practice in process and can also be shared with the Network. Not only is the Workgroup interested in pursuing the Age-Friendly Community designation, it has already taken steps to implement new and creative ideas for furthering existing age-friendly efforts. In 2020, the Workgroup started the Aging Well Volunteer Recruitment Initiative (VRI), which involves a single United Way of Weld County (UWWC) staff-member working to recruit volunteers for non-UWWC older adult serving organizations. Currently eight organizations, including 60+ Ride, Alzheimer’s Association, Community Grief Center, Greeley Active Adults Center, Habitat for Humanity of the Saint Vrain Valley, Meals on Wheels, Volunteers of America, and the Weld County Area Agency on Aging utilize this program. All eight organizations are also members of the Workgroup itself, and there are efforts underway to recruit more organizations to join the VRI. Our community has a learner’s mindset and is always looking for existing best practices to implement. This is evidenced by not just the existing age-friendly efforts, but also by programs and projects aimed at a more inclusive response to the needs of our other-abled residents and our growing refugee and immigrant communities. The Cities recently opened Aven’s Village, an all-inclusive playground geared toward people of all ages and abilities. Additionally, the High Plains Library District has worked extensively to provide access to materials for individuals with limited seeing or hearing abilities. The work of the Immigrant and Refugee Center ensures that the needs of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in the Cities are addressed practically and through policy. The process of implementation of these various activities is well documented, allowing these efforts to be replicated in other communities across the Network.

Optional Resolution: Error in form input for this field only.