State: Idaho
Community Name: City of Meridian
Population Size: 12955
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 16
Community Structure: City
Other:
Community Type: Mixed
Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Robert E Simison
Title: Mayor
Office Mailing Address: 33 E Broadway Ave, Meridian ID, 83642
Community Contact Name: Tim Hendrickson
Email: 
Position: Programs & Events Specialist
Telephone: 
Role: Tim Hendrickson is our Programs & Events Specialist in the Mayor?s Office with the City of Meridian. Tim is responsible to engage and be a City Liaison with the Mayor?s Senior Advisory Board (MSAB) in this role. This MSAB is currently comprised of 11 seniors from our community who work and advise the Mayor on various issues and topics concerning the City?s senior community. Tim also coordinates the Mayor?s Youth advisory Commission, which operates similar to the MSAB, with focus on the needs of youth within our community. Given the relationships that Tim has with these Boards and groups and his involvement and exposure to various demographics within the community, the Programs and Events Specialist has led the City to research and join AARP?s Age Friendly Network. Given that, he will be the liaison for our City of Meridian?s AARP Working Groups that we plan on using for this effort.

Older Adult Involvement: The City envisions several opportunities for older adults to be involved in our efforts to become more age-friendly. Currently, the City conducts a City-wide, statistically-valid community survey that is randomly distributed to citizens. This includes older adults, and there is opportunity to provide feedback on a host of services. One area that we expect examine is how the survey can be expanded to incorporate questions that will help identify future needs and wants
of various demographics, ensuring that Meridian remains a premier place for all. Additionally, the City plans on asking our MSAB group to be involved as a lead stakeholder in the program, including participation in a working group. We envision establishing the working group to help lead the review and identification of programs that will help older adults, and all demographics be more involved and engaged in the community. The working group will establish focus groups, conduct surveying, and tackle the 8 Domains of Livability from AARP. The City also plans on conducting Listening Tours focused around our Strategic Plan, and the 8 Domains. In these Listening Tours, we would pose questions to specific age-demographics to gauge how we can begin to progress next in our 5-year Plan with AARP. MSAB will also be a direct liaison to the working group to ensure that proper representation is being adhered to on all fronts. MSAB and the working group will also be engaging with the Senior Centers/Senior Living Communities that we have here in our community. Overall, through this process, the City will take direct and focused steps to ensure there is broad representation from all groups, including older adults as we gather data and feedback for the Livable Communities and Age Friendly Network program efforts in Meridian.

**Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:**

The AARP program will help Meridian continue its collaborative efforts with several agencies and internally as well. Within the City, this program will require us to coordinate internally amongst several offices including the Parks & Recreation, Community Development, as well as Public Safety Offices of Police and Fire. Additionally, the City will involve the elected officials who will provide valuable insight on programs findings, recommendations and actions. While the focus is on older adults, through our senior and youth advisory programs (MSAB and MYAC) we hope that Departments can hear feedback from a wide range of demographics and begin to see cross-over in developing recommendations that will both require and benefit multiple Departments. External community partnerships are also needed to make this project a success. Involvement from our community Senior Center, local non-profits, the Meridian Chamber and others can bring a wide range of experiences and perspectives that will help the work group develop sound recommendations. The working group will have key stakeholders from the community with expertise and relevance to the topics found within the 8 Domains & our Strategic Plan. Creating this effort will set a foundation in place that will allow the City to collaborate, and also create buy-in from those stakeholders. Ideally, this would be an opportunity to bridge together people with various backgrounds and skillsets, to achieve not only the goals of both the AARP Domains and our Strategic Plan, but also help establish inclusion early on.

**AARP Team Member Contact Info:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AARP Team</th>
<th>Member Contact Info:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>? Bill Armbruster, Senior Advisor; <a href="mailto:WArmbruster@aarp.org">WArmbruster@aarp.org</a></td>
<td>? Francoise Cleveland, Government Relations Public Policy Advisor; <a href="mailto:fcleveland@aarp.org">fcleveland@aarp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>? Dr. Tom Trotter, AARP Community Representative; <a href="mailto:doctrotter1@gmail.com">doctrotter1@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Most Instructive Area of Work:**

As mentioned frequently in this application and our letter of interest, the MSAB group is something that we have proudly established here
at the City of Meridian. This has been a program that has been established since 2015, and it has been a way for numerous members in the senior community to have their voice heard. The MSAB allows the Mayor and other elected officials to gain insight into what the senior community thinks on various issues through direct, first-hand experience and is a great concept that can be modeled in many, if not all communities. This current program is one that we would recommend to other cities to establish as an easy way to receive feedback and involve the older adults in a community.

Optional Resolution: Error in form input for this field only.
Logo or Image: Error in form input for this field only.
Website: https://meridiancity.org/
Twitter 2:
Facebook 1: https://www.facebook.com/MeridianIdaho
Facebook 2:
Additional Social Media: