CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AARP AGE-FRIENDLY APPLICATION 2022

Section 1: Community Details

Application Submission Date
04/08/2022

State: Florida

Community Name: City of Jacksonville

Total Population: 949,611 (per 2020 census)

Percentage of Residents Age 60 or Older: 19.4% 60 and older per 2020 census

Community Governance Structure (choose one): City

Borough City County Town Township Village Other (explain below)

Explain here if you selected "Other"

Community Type (Check all that apply.): Mixed

Urban Mixed Suburban (offices, apartments, and shops) Suburban (mostly residential) Small Town Rural Remote/Frontier Other (explain below) Not sure

Explain here if you selected "Other"

Elected Official Signing the Community's Letter of Commitment:

Name (elected official): Lenny Curry

Title: Mayor

Office Mailing Address: City Hall Suite 400, 117 W. Duval Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Community Contact

The community contact is the community staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work. (It is not the AARP staff member the community might be working with.)

Name (community contact): Carrence Bass and Jane Evans

Email (valid email address required to submit this form): [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Position: Executive Director, City of Jacksonville, Council on Elder Affairs, and Project Manager, Age-Friendly Jacksonville // COEA Member – CD 10, Council on Elder Affairs, and Chair, Age-Friendly Jacksonville Steering Committee

Telephone Number: [REDACTED]
Please describe the named person's role in the community's age-friendly initiative (100 words minimum): Carrence Bass, the Executive Director for the City of Jacksonville’s Council on Elder Affairs (COEA), will serve as the Project Manager of the Age-Friendly Jacksonville Initiative. She will manage the overall facilitation of the Network of Age-Friendly Communities designation process along with COEA.

The COEA’s mission is to serve as an advocate for City seniors in utilizing governmental agencies responsible for the various plans and programs designed to help them, to assist in the implementation of plans and programs selected by regional organizations as they relate to the city and its seniors, and to designate priorities among programs developed in the city by public, nonprofit and private providers concerning the seniors. Jane Evans is a member of the City of Jacksonville’s Council on Elder Affairs and currently serves as the chairman of the Age-Friendly Jacksonville Steering Committee.

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 subscribe now, visit AARP.org/LivableSubscribe. You will not be disconnected from this page. After completing the newsletter form, AARP will send an email — with the subject line "Action Required" — containing a link for you to confirm the subscription.

Section 2: Community Activities, Engagements and Collaborations

Briefly describe your existing community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people. Please identify how your community plans to become more age-friendly. (250-300 words required): The City of Jacksonville, along with nonprofit and private organizations, has been actively serving the needs of the community through a wide variety of programs and services. The City’s Senior Services Division administers community-wide social service programs serving older adults by operating 20 strategically located very active Senior Centers, an Independent Living Program, Emergency Home Energy Assistance, Volunteer opportunities and special events offering social, recreational, wellness, cultural and educational activities.

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) provides bus, van, paratransit for the disabled and elderly, and Ride Request on-demand services. The State Attorney’s Office, 4th Judicial Circuit, Human Rights Division currently serves as a Liaison to the Council on Elder Affairs on elder abuse concerns.

Aging True, a non-profit charitable organization, helps enable home-based senior independence in Northeast Florida. Nutritional and home care programs are designed specifically to serve and educate the frail, elderly and disabled and their caregivers in our region to support aging in place. Housing assistance and repair programs, such as Builders Choice, Senior Services, and HartFelt Ministries offer services for home repairs. ElderSource, a private nonprofit agency, provides seniors, disabled and their caregivers’ tools to navigate the complex web of available public and private resources, information, assistance, and support.

The Honorable Mayor Lenny Curry is committed to seniors’ health, wellness and to provide for everyone’s public safety. In order to do so, the Mayor has charged COEA to bring the many resources in our city together to become a better age-friendly community. The COEA will increase communications with and invite participation from our seniors living in the city, and with the many businesses,
nonprofits, governmental agencies, and private businesses via monthly meetings, community town hall meetings, focus groups, telephone calls, and surveys with an intent to discover our community’s assets and the senior population’s interest, and needs.

How will older adults be involved in the community's efforts to become more age-friendly? (250-300 words required): 298 WORDS The City of Jacksonville respects and values older adults’ contribution to our thriving community and intends to have seniors active, engaged and connected. The Council on Elderly Affairs (COEA) is a countywide body representative of all of the elderly people of Duval County. COEA contains a broad, informed, and representative mixture of persons to adequately represent the interest and concerns of this county’s elderly citizens over the age of 60 and are volunteers over the age of 55, appointed by the Mayor and City Council. They are to advocate for the elderly, assist in implementing plans and programs, and designate priorities. They will be the leaders in the Age Friendly Initiative.

Older adult participants throughout the city will be surveyed to discover needs and interests, along with City Government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. The City’s older adult population will be offered various volunteer opportunities throughout the project to keep them actively engaged. Age-Friendly Jacksonville’s goal is to introduce this initiative in Fall 2022 with a community-wide Age-Friendly Festival.

Age-Friendly Jacksonville will offer public service announcements, news and TV show appearances which will disseminate information on how Age-Friendly Jacksonville will impact older adults and the community. Mail and email announcements through the many senior residences and facilities, neighborhood homeowner associations, churches, FarmShare food distribution events, and nonprofit organizations that provide programs and services to seniors will be offering marketing materials to include a QR code for the community to directly access the online information and survey. In addition, community outreach will be offered in the forms of listening sessions, town hall meetings, workshops on health, fraud awareness and protections, housing, technology, community resources, civic engagement, workplace skills for seniors, and caregiver support. Having community-wide participation in the Age-Friendly Jacksonville Initiative will result in a community built for all ages.

How will the efforts to become more age-friendly increase collaboration and coordination among relevant community agencies and departments? (250-300 words required): 270 WORDS Age-Friendly Jacksonville represents a collaborative multi-sector approach that connects people, business, nonprofit, government, and media to build a community for all ages. Our Age-Friendly efforts will involve a broad range of organizations and sectors and strive to reach communities of different cultures, faiths, ethnicities, racial identities, socio-economic statuses, and gender identities. The focus will be on inclusiveness to ensure and allow for a diverse representation and assure as many stakeholders as possible are involved with this important project.

The Council on Elder Affairs (COEA) Age-Friendly Steering Committee has a goal of recruiting a minimum of thirty representatives consisting of elected officials from the City Council, staff representation from the City’s Mayoral Administration, local government agencies, professional organizations, nonprofits, for-profit businesses, and faith-based communities to participate in the monthly meetings of the COEA standing committees. These standing committees include Neighborhoods and Transportation, Health and Wellness, Legislation and Public Safety, and Resources and Technology committed to working together.
These advocates will engage with each other to learn about community resources and current assets, identify needs and interest of the community and energize and involve those who are not yet on board with this effort to lend their thoughts and talents. Over time this collaboration will strengthen as an advisory organization ensuring leadership, advocacy, planning and coordination of the age-friendly focus. The overall outcome of each activity, program or service that was implemented and the impact that the initiative has had on the community will be evaluated through surveys, reports, interviews, and public data. This collaboration and coordination will lead the city to success as a great community for people of all ages.

Section 3: Network Membership

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your community's membership in the age-friendly network and enable AARP to better understand how to support the network.

1-a. What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (100 words minimum): 129 WORDS With an acknowledgement of the rapidly growing senior population and greater awareness of their needs, the City of Jacksonville is committed to becoming more Age-Friendly by expanding existing programs, providing better communications, and implementing new and innovative AARP livability ideas for seniors. Jacksonville recognizes the value of the AARP framework that will help this growing city to be recognized as an Age-Friendly community and one that is committed to continuous improvement that will enable each of our residents to optimize their quality of life as they age.

We want Jacksonville to be known as an easy city to live in, age in, and enjoy. By joining the AARP’s network of Age-Friendly Communities, we will continue to pave the way for all ages, but especially our senior population to thrive.

1-b. If you have consulted with an AARP State office or the national AARP Livable Communities team to discuss enrollment, please provide that person's name, title and e-mail address or phone number.: Laura Cantwell, Associate State Director of Advocacy and Outreach, AARP Florida, [contact information], and Justine Conley, Associate State Director for Outreach, AARP Florida, [contact information]

2. What aspect of your community's current or intended age-friendly work could be useful to other communities in the network? (100 words minimum): 127 WORDS The city of Jacksonville is the largest city by area in the contiguous United States as of 2020 and geographically the largest city in Florida. It is also the most populous city in the state of Florida, home to nearly 1 million residents with 14.5% 65 years or older. By 2030, one of every five people in the U.S. will be 65 years or older, and by 2035, the number of adults older than 65 will be greater than the number of children under 18. We have diversity in race, age, income and must address a multi-faceted population. The number of programs that the city offers will be useful as examples to other members in the AARP network. We look forward to sharing our challenges and successes.
Section 4: Required Materials

1-a. Letter of Commitment: Emailed Livable@AARP.org

Provide a digital file (PDF preferred) of the signed document.

1-b. Resolution or Proclamation (optional): Proclamation (Resolution by City Council in progress.) Emailed Livable@AARP.org

If your community issued either document in addition to the commitment letter, provide a digital file (PDF preferred) here.

2. Logo or Image: Emailed Livable@AARP.org

Provide a digital file (JPG preferred) and/or a link to a downloadable logo or other image that represents your community and for which you have reprint rights and permission to provide for use by AARP and the World Health Organization.