State: Ohio
Community Name: Washington Township
Population Size: 61684
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 32
Community Structure: Township
Other:
Community Type: Suburban (mostly residential)
Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Sharon Lowry
Title: President, Board of Trustees
Office Mailing Address: 8200 McEwen Road, Washington Township, OH 45458
Community Contact Name: Uriah Anderson
Email: [redacted]
Position: Adult and Senior Enrichment Supervisor
Telephone: [redacted]
Role: Uriah is a Washington Township employee responsible for overseeing enrichment activities and services for adults and seniors.

Older Adult Involvement: Numerous needs assessments of the community’s older population have been conducted over the years. The most comprehensive occurred over the course of eighteen months and resulted in Create the Vision?, a comprehensive plan for Washington Township and the City of Centerville that continues to guide community development to this day. A 34-member committee representing diverse community organizations and neighborhoods designed a plan based on community input regarding land use, community services, education and learning, transportation, utilities, parks and recreation, economic development and community appearance. It was noted in the plan that, as the older population in the community continues to grow, specific offerings for seniors will be critical. An age-specific objective was identified as expanding recreational offerings for senior with a strategy to establish collaborative efforts among senior service organizations including government, non-profit and for-profit entities to provide facilities and programs that specifically target seniors. This has been accomplished with Washington Township’s leadership. The most recent needs assessments were a statistically-valid survey of 400 township households conducted as part of the 2021 RecPlex
Strategic and Business Development Plan and a senior programming survey targeting enrichment center patrons conducted in 2022. Other needs assessments have included focus groups, feasibility studies, daily interaction with patrons, and monthly Township Trustee and quarterly Recreation Advisory Board meetings with opportunities for public comment. These assessments have provided a bedrock for the creation of Township supported community services for active older adults and those needing assistance for almost 40 years. Having conducted assessments in the past, the Township is comfortable in meeting the AARP requirement to conduct an assessment, implement an approved plan and provide periodic updates.

**Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:**

Washington Township’s collaboration and coordination with relevant community agencies has grown steadily over the years. This year, Washington Township renewed a Statement of Cooperation with the Centerville-Washington Park District, to strengthen collaboration and program development between parks and recreation for all ages, including seniors. It also embarked on a joint venture with another public entity, Washington-Centerville Public Library, to create a Makerspace at the recreation center for all ages, with ancillary enrichment programing directed at older adults. It has long-standing arrangements with Centerville Public Schools for shared services; Kettering Health for enrichment center programming; Sinclair Community College for educational classes at the enrichment center; and Senior Resource Connection for senior meal service. In addition, every local senior living community and senior services provider is invited to get involved at the enrichment center, resulting in hundreds of services being offered to community older adults at the center by relevant outside organizations each year. The President & CEO of Bethany Village, a premier retirement community in Washington Township, serves on the Recreation Advisory Board, as do representatives from the City of Centerville, Centerville City Schools, Dayton History, Washington-Centerville Library and the community-at-large who have a vested interest in meeting the needs of older adults in the community. This preponderance of partnerships to serve its older population is unique to Washington Township. As interaction with these organizations will continue indefinitely it is expected that additional needed services will be identified and addressed jointly, just as they have in the past.

**AARP Team Member Contact Info:**

Not applicable.

**Most Instructive Area of Work:**

Washington Township’s STAR Program is unique in this region and the result of identifying unmet needs among those older adults isolated in their homes and joining forces with the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office to initially implement it with an active duty sheriff’s deputy. Since his retirement, the program has come under the auspices of the township and the former deputy is now a Township employee. Both management models can be replicated in other communities in order to assist their most vulnerable.
residents. In addition, the Township’s success in developing substantial partnerships with divergent organizations with a common goal to serve older adults can also be imitated in other communities.