



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

May 1, 2014

Mr. Michael Festa
AARP MA State Director
1 Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Festa,

The City of Boston is excited about the opportunity to join the AARP/World Health Organization's Age Friendly Cities Network. We are committed to being an inclusive and accessible city where older residents have the necessary supports and opportunities to age in an active way.

The City of Boston is growing older and more diverse. In 2010, Boston had a total population of 617,594. At that time, a full 25% of Boston's residents, or 152,458, were age 50 and over. From a recent study we know that the population of Boston residents age 60 and over is increasing significantly. In 2010 we had 88,070 people over 60 in the city, and projections show that by 2030, the 60 and over population will be close to 130,000 people. Also, we know that the senior population in Boston is becoming more and more diverse. In 2010, 59% of residents 60 and over were White and 41% were another race, while 10% were Hispanic or Latino. We will continue to become more diverse as the population ages. In 2010, 51% of residents age 45-59 were white and 49% were another race, while 16% were Hispanic or Latino.

From 2003-2008, Boston participated in the Community Partnerships for Older Adults program funded through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. During that 6 year period, we convened a partnership of older adults, community organizations, and academic institutions to assess, plan, and implement in 12 focus areas. The Age Friendly Cities initiative will build on our previous community work and focuses on similar domain areas.

As a participant in the Age Friendly Cities Network, the city of Boston makes a commitment to:

- Convene an Advisory Council representing Boston residents age 50 and older, academic partners, community organizations, and city departments
- Assess the needs of Boston residents age 50 and over, create a plan of action with measurable outcomes, and implement the action plan, and
- Commit to measuring progress and reporting outcomes publically

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to partnering with AARP Massachusetts staff and volunteers and Boston residents age 50 and over on this important community project.

Very truly yours,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston