



CITY OF DALLAS

Mr. Bob Jackson  
AARP Texas State Director  
98 San Jacinto Blvd., 750  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Dallas is excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Texas and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community. Dallas is committed to promoting policies and practices along with other communities to make American cities friendly to the aging population.

Dallas population consists of 1.3 million people and is ranked the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest growing community of people aged 65 and older in the country. Nearly 11% of the city's population is over age 65, and the number of pre-seniors ages 55-64 is growing fast.

To address our changing demographics and city growth, our community has adopted forward Dallas! a citywide comprehensive plan that envisions what kind of city within which Dallas residents want to live and do business. Our city has also implemented a Complete Streets manual for transit growth and is developing a Housing Plus initiative. Most recently, we have developed Grow South, an economic development plan for growth in the Southern sector of the city. These initiatives, along with the work of our Senior Affairs Commission complement the eight domains in AARP's Network of Age Friendly Communities. In partnership with AARP Texas, the City of Dallas's goal is to ensure that Dallasites of all ages have resources to be healthy, independent and integrated into community life.

As a participant of the national network of communities it is the intent of the City of Dallas to:

- Provide mechanisms to enhance the active engagement of older adults through our Senior Affairs Commission.
- Establish a plan of action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the City of Dallas.
- Commit to on-going assessment, improvements and reviewing the action plan outcomes.

We look forward to working with AARP Texas staff and volunteers to ensure our community has the appropriate infrastructure and support in place so that we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,

Mike Rawlings  
Mayor