



## Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and **WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 10/16/2015

### 1) COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Colorado Springs

STATE: Colorado

POPULATION SIZE: 445,830

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 14.5%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor of Colorado Springs, John Suthers

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 30 South Nevada Avenue, Suite 601, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

### 2) COMMUNITY CONTACT\* FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

*\* The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.*

[Redacted contact information]

Please describe the named person’s role in the city or community’s age-friendly initiative:

Innovations in Aging Collaborative will partner with the Office of the Mayor to take the lead on coordinating the age-friendly initiative. With advice and direction from the Mayor’s office, Ms. Claire Anderson will serve as Coordinator of the age-friendly initiative and will be responsible for managing and organizing the project. Ms. Anderson will take the lead in working with the Mayor’s office to coordinate the community advisory committee, and will also be responsible for the implementation of the working/business plan developed by the Innovations in Aging Board of Directors. Along with Innovations in Aging Board members, she will be responsible to ensure accuracy with timelines, success metrics and outcome measures. Ms. Anderson will be the contact for carrying out all community-level work including sponsorship, support, outreach and awareness. Innovations in Aging will serve as the organizational point of contact and coordination for community members involved with the community action committee. Innovations in Aging is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This summer Ms. Claire Anderson was appointed the State of Colorado Strategic Planning Group on Aging, which will bring another level of expertise, support and resources to our local Age Friendly Community planning.

(You can add an additional sheet of paper if needed.)

### 3) THE COMMUNITY'S AGE-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

Colorado Springs intends to maintain and grow a well-designed, livable community that promotes health and wellness and supports economic growth. Though our community programs, services, and policies are many, participation in the age-friendly initiative will support, strengthen and focus our attention and activities on our goal that all residents have the resources to be healthy, engaged, and maximize quality of life as residents of the Pikes Peak Region. Our community offers a variety of senior-specific transportation options, and we are working on the creation of a plan to better coordinate these efforts as well as a sustainable, viable road and bridge maintenance plan to support the ability for aging adults to “get around” our community. Colorado Springs offers excellent opportunities for civic and social engagement for aging adults through the Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs Senior Center, YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region and a wide range of nonprofit and faith based organizations. Since 2012, Innovations In Aging Collaborative has taken the lead to coordinate programs, services, education, communication and research related to aging in our region. An excellent example is the 2016 launch of our first “village” pilot in the Old North End of our community that will be a virtual intergenerational hub to support aging in place. Our plan is to launch others in subsequent years. Our community health activities include strong partners that work closely on programs and community initiatives. Both local hospitals - University of Colorado Health’s Memorial Hospital and Centura Health’s Penrose St. Francis Health Services - as well as Peak Vista Community Health Centers, Aspen Pointe (mental health services), the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Gerontology & Aging Centers and Beth-El College of Nursing, and a new VA clinic plus a myriad of private providers offer programs targeted towards older people. Our outdoor spaces, parks and trail systems are extensive and offer options for people of all ages. Our community plans to become more age-friendly by focusing on the eight domains of livability. We plan to focus on increasing the availability of: affordable and accessible housing options for older adults; access to communication and information throughout the city; access to technology; and affordable & accessible transportation. By working with local healthcare professionals, we would like to look at increasing telehealth options and the coordination of electronic health information to enable increased communication between healthcare providers. Our community will encourage civic participation through voting and volunteer opportunities. Additionally, our group plans to work closely with the Pikes Peak Workforce Center, the Regional Business Alliance and other organizations to ensure strength in availability of encore career and employment opportunities for older adults.

### 4) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

Colorado Springs is located in the Pikes Peak Region of Colorado in El Paso County. Close to a quarter of El Paso County's population is a Baby Boomer and the county is projected to experience the third largest number increase in the population over age 65 of all counties in Colorado between 2010 and 2020 with an increase of just over 40,000. Over the next 30 years (2010-2040), the State Demography Office (SDO) projects that the population age 65 and over in the Pikes Peak Region will increase from 68,000 in 2010 to 176,500 in 2040. This 160 percent increase is more than triple the 53 percent increase in the total population.

It was with an understanding of the opportunities and challenges inherent in our demographics that Innovations in Aging (IIAC) was conceived in 2009. Since that time, IIAC has held two Summits and five Convenings that have involved hundreds of people, including aging adults, in conversations focused on making our region a remarkable place in which to age. The topics addressed to date include: Lifelong Learning; Wellness and Recreation; Arts and Culture; Livable Communities; Economic Opportunities; Urban Planning and Transportation; Intergenerational Hubs (iHubs)/Virtual Villages; Workforce Issues/Encore Careers; Housing Choices/Livable Communities; Specialized Healthcare and Caregiving for Older Adults; and Connectivity using Technology.

This demonstrates that our community already has a very engaged population of all ages, especially older people, passionate about supporting age friendly community planning. To both continue and grow that involvement, our community will tap in to these already engaged stakeholders to ensure that there is appropriate representation of older people on the Community Advisory Committee. We plan to building on our history of past Summits and Convenings to hold more focus groups and events at the Colorado Springs Senior Center, local community centers and with local service groups to gain further input.

## 5) **CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION**

**Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.**

As outlined in the previous section, Innovations in Aging has a history of promoting and encouraging collaboration in our community and local senior-serving industry sectors. Its Board of Director membership includes many leaders from these organizations and agencies which have a collegial, friendly, and ready and willing to work together approach to find what's best for our community and how to get that done. We see ourselves as community trustees working together to create a better city for those who will come after us. We plan to create a Community Advisory Committee made up of local representatives who, in their current or past career or as an actively engaged volunteer, fulfill one or more of the eight domains of livability. This committee will serve as the link between different local governmental departments, nonprofit organizations and other important partners. Our community has a strong Senior Resource Council, a membership association for senior-industry professionals, where collaborative planning, communication and networking is intrinsic. Our partnership with the Mayors office and our strong connections within both city and county departments are comprehensive which allows us to build on our existing collaborations and initiatives. Finally, we work closely with our Area Council of Governments and Area Agency on Aging and share many outcomes and objectives for our community.