



# Membership Application

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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 4/28/2015

## 1) COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Evanston

STATE: Illinois

POPULATION SIZE: 74,486

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 17.3%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 2100 Ridge Evanston IL 60201

## 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:

Christina has been overseeing this initiative in the Evanston community since 2013. The City Manager asked Christina to research the community's demographics and determine whether the municipality was prepared to serve the aging population. She learned about the age friendly movement at the Aging in America conference in Chicago in March 2013. She recommended the implementation of the age friendly initiative to the City Manager, Mayor and City Council. She interviewed the staff at Portland State University, Northwestern University and the City of Chicago. She coordinated community meetings, volunteers and the task force members. She continues to work with the residents and the task force members on this initiative. She continues to network with the City of Chicago and Northwestern University staffs to discuss best practices and exchange information. When Christina began this journey she was the Senior Services Manager for the City of Evanston. Currently Christina serves as the Assistant Director of Community Services.

(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.

[www.cityofevanston.org/agefriendly](http://www.cityofevanston.org/agefriendly)

The City of Evanston has a wide variety of organized aging services as listed on [www.cityofevanston.org/senior-services](http://www.cityofevanston.org/senior-services). These include a Commission on Aging, Ombudsman Program, handyman program, aging well annual conference, prescription discount program, snow shoveling program, etc. There are street lights with countdown-timer signals; signs at crosswalks warning drivers that state law requires them to stop; buckets of bright red flags for pedestrians to wave while in a crosswalk; audible crosswalk gives a verbal command to cross an intersection; subsidized taxicab program; five recreation centers, Women Out Walking program is a 12 week walking program designed to encourage women in Evanston to lead healthier lifestyles and become more physically active; three farmers markets in the community, Erie Family Health Clinic, two local hospitals; 26,000 square foot senior center with fitness room, exercise classes, library, computer lab, etc. two senior nutrition sites and a summer lunch program; Deposit Book Collections at two subsidized senior housing facilities and two longterm care facilities; website lists volunteer opportunities and help make Evanston a better place to live and work [www.VolunteerEvanston.com](http://www.VolunteerEvanston.com). The City of Evanston's 311 Initiative, which includes a call center and an online citizen support center, went live on March 1, 2011 other methods of communication with residents: website ([www.cityofevanston.org](http://www.cityofevanston.org)) text alerts, printed information; File of L.I.F.E. program (Lifesaving Information for Emergencies), a nationally-recognized program, is a plastic pouch with a bright red sticker, containing an information sheet for residents to indicate their medical history, prescriptions, allergies and emergency contacts. This pouch is placed inside the individual's freezer where emergency response personnel have been trained to look when responding to medical emergencies.

### 4) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

In May 2013, this initiative was presented to the Mayor and City Council; in October 2013 there were four community meetings held to educate residents and professionals about age friendly initiative; in October 2013 a printed and electronic survey was distributed community-wide regarding satisfaction of senior services to begin the baseline assessment; in December 2013 the Mayor appointed the "Age Friendly Evanston!" taskforce; in December 2014 the City of Evanston was named among the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities by the World Health Organization ; since January 2014 the taskforce has conducted focus groups, formed working groups, and held roundtable discussions with professionals in the aging field; in April 2015 a community meeting was held to update the community about the progress of the initiative and a discussion held with community members; in May 2015 an additional survey will be distributed throughout the community to assess age friendliness in Evanston. It is anticipated that an action plan will be prepared no later than December 2016; there are close to 120 residents & professionals working on this initiative each month which includes a taskforce of 9 older adults leading the charge; 425 satisfaction surveys were completed in print and electronically; each community meeting has yielded almost 70 attendees; a parks assessment is being planned to assess signage, benches, lighting, paths, etc. The task force meets each month and reports on their progress. The webpage is consistently updated.

### 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.

Roundtable discussions have taken place with professionals in the aging field. Many of these individuals are employed by senior service providers in the community. Meetings have taken place with local hospitals and the clinic, home healthcare agencies, social service agencies, senior living communities, local university and local municipal government staff. Discussions are held regarding current services, gaps in service, potential services, collaborative efforts and reviewing all city plans through an aging lens. All full time City staff was mandated to attend a LIVABLE COMMUNITY training to educate the staff about what that means and how age friendly communities are part of that.