



Membership Application

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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 9/2/15

1) COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Montgomery County

STATE: Maryland

POPULATION SIZE: 1,016,677 total population

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 19%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Isiah Leggett, County Executive

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor, Rockville Maryland 20850

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.*

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

Ms. Ahluwalia and Mr. Albornoz are Co-Chairs of Montgomery County Isiah Leggett's "Subcabinet on Senior Vital Living," which is comprised of department directors from major departments serving seniors (i.e., Housing, Transportation, Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Office of Consumer Protection, States Attorney's Office, Public Information Office, Public Libraries, Economic Development, Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Permitting Services, Planning Department, Health and Human Services, Recreation, Office of management and Budget and the Office of CountyStat) and the Chair of the Commission on Aging. The purpose of the Senior Subcabinet is to provide a coordinated and collaborative County-wide approach to planning, delivering and evaluating services to seniors to ensure that Montgomery County is truly "an inclusive community for a lifetime" (see "Senior Agenda" enclosed). Ms. Ahluwalia and Mr. Albornoz report directly to the Montgomery County Executive this shared leadership role.

(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.

Since 2008, Montgomery County has undertaken a large-scale effort towards becoming more age-friendly. The effort, known as the Senior Initiative, began with a Director's Retreat convened by the County Executive in May 2008. This led to the formation of the Senior Sub-cabinet, which comprises eight workgroups that align almost one-to-one with the WHO Age-Friendly Cities topic areas. Following the formation of the Senior Sub-cabinet, the County Executive organized and held a Senior Summit in November 2008. This brought together seniors from across the County with government officials and other community stakeholders to discuss ongoing and future plans for ensuring that the County is an age-friendly community. The initiative, known as the Senior Initiative, has been ongoing since 2008. It has led to age-friendly accomplishments in the areas of communication and outreach, housing and zoning, transportation and mobility, health and wellness, civic and social engagement, home and community support services, safety, and employment. For instance, due to the Senior Initiative and the work of the Commission on Aging, the County has recently added two new full-time staff positions (Transportation and Mobility Manager and a Village Coordinator). These positions engage with seniors on a daily basis to understand what age-friendly initiatives are the most important to them and determine how best to meet their end goals.

4) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Older people have thus far been involved in every stage of the Senior Initiative. The Chair of the Commission on Aging is a member of the Senior Sub-cabinet leadership, and seniors serve on all of the eight workgroups that comprise the Senior Sub-cabinet. The County is currently conducting Focus Groups targeting ethnic minority and limited English proficient (LEP) seniors and soliciting input via an electronic survey (over 1,000 responses to date) to ascertain their satisfaction with the County as a place to age and understand their priority concerns in making the County an age-friendly community for a lifetime. The input gained from the focus groups and survey will constitute the agenda for the December 3, 2015 "County Executive's Summit on Aging in Montgomery County." The priorities, goals and objectives that result from the Summit will serve as the basis for the Executive's three year strategic plan.

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.

The Senior Initiative is a unique, cross-departmental, County-wide initiative that includes representation from all County government agencies. Convened by the County Executive in 2008, the Senior Initiative has broken down traditional departmental silos that existed in the past. Now, the governmental officials and staff from all County departments are able to work cohesively as one unit to address the common goal of achieving an age-friendly city. Moreover, the Senior Initiative includes representatives from outside the County government, including stakeholders from the non-profit sector, business community, and other fields concerned about ensuring the County can meet the current and future needs of seniors.

On December 3, 2015, the County Executive will hold a Summit on Aging with over 400 participant stakeholders to develop a three year strategic plan and a FY17 budget initiative for older adults. Participants include seniors, representatives of service providers, businesses, institution of higher education and government leaders.

Montgomery County's Demonstrated Commitment to Age-Friendliness

History of government-led efforts to understand the needs of Montgomery County seniors and their caregivers and respond to them:

December, 1985	"Plan for Seniors Citizens in Need of Long-Term Care," Montgomery County Government (MCG) Division of Elder Affairs
March, 1987	"The Status and Needs of Elder Citizens," MCG Division of Elder Affairs
January, 1987	"Update-Recommendations: Plan for Seniors Citizens in Need of Long-Term Care," MCG Division of Elder Affairs
October, 1996	"Community Conversations on Aging Report," Up-county Task Force on Aging
July, 1999	"Computer Literacy for Seniors," Montgomery County Task Force on Computer Literacy
November, 2000	"Making Montgomery County the Best Place to Age," Vital Living Conference Report
June, 2002	"A Report on the Needs of Low-income Seniors in Montgomery County," Center for Health Program Development and Management, University of Maryland at Baltimore County
December, 2002	"Strategic Plan for Senior Services in Montgomery County," Towson University Center for Productive Aging
March, 2005	"An Inventory of County Government Programs Designed to Serve Senior," Office of Legislative Oversight
May, 2007	"Imagining An Aging Future for Montgomery County, Maryland," Towson University Center for Productive Aging
October, 2007	"Strategic Communications Plan for Addressing the Needs of Seniors in Montgomery County," Reingold, Inc.
March, 2008	Formation of County Executive Leggett's Subcabinet on Senior Vital Living
November, 2008	County Executive Leggett's Senior Summit
September, 2010	"Village Blueprint: Tips and Strategies for Developing a Senior Village," Leslie Marks, Consultant and the Bethesda/Chevy Chase Regional Service Center
December, 2012	Adoption of Commission on Aging's "Senior Agenda: Making Montgomery County A Community for a Lifetime."
FY2008-Present	Senior Budget Initiative

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