



Membership Application

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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 5/20/2015

1) COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Minneapolis

STATE: Minnesota

POPULATION SIZE: 389,112

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 25%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Betsy Hodges

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 350 S 5th St. Room 331 Minneapolis, MN 55415

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]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

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

2. Community Contact for the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

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

The Access & Outreach specialist for the aging community is the lead staff for the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy. They are responsible for the coordination, implementation and evaluation of the action steps identified in the strategic plan. This staff person is also the primary liaison and resource for City of Minneapolis departments and the community. They also develop and foster cross jurisdictional relationships, especially with county and state partners and other identified stakeholders and coordinate the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging. The Access & Outreach specialist for the aging community is part of a team within the Minneapolis Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations. NCR's mission is to strengthen Minneapolis resident's quality of life through vigorous community participation, resident involvement in neighborhood and community organizations, and supporting clearly defined links between the City, City services, neighborhood and community organizations. The Access & Outreach division is a team dedicated to educating the City of Minneapolis and its partners on how to create space for inclusion for all under-represented communities, foster collaboration, education and awareness, and being the caveat that connects community to the City and the City to the community. The Minneapolis Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations and the Access & Outreach division brings the voices of cultural, non-English speaking, disabled, and low income voices to the planning table. Everybody ages.

Ms. Kendrick is the City of Minneapolis Access & Outreach specialist for the aging community and has been actively involved in aging initiatives for the City of Minneapolis during her 14 years with the City of Minneapolis. She is the lead staff responsible for initiating, monitoring and evaluating aging initiatives implemented by the City of Minneapolis for the past 8 years including the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy.

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:

The City of Minneapolis has begun to take a closer look at the needs of our aging population and the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy has created the foundation for the City of Minneapolis to be a premier city for residents and visitors alike regardless of their age. This strategy was adopted by City of Minneapolis Council on October 20, 2013 and implementation started January 1, 2014. The strategies mission, vision and goals are as follows:

Vision: The City of Minneapolis is a premier location for older residents and visitors offering comprehensive housing options, easy access to all places and amenities, healthy and safe environments, and opportunities for civic engagement, leisure, entertainment and lifelong learning.

Mission: The Strategic Plan will target the contributions, preferences and needs as well as promote and support the value older adults bring to the community related to:

- Homes and Buildings
- Transportation and Mobility
- Health and Wellness services
- Civic Engagement
- Business opportunities
- Socialization and Lifelong Learning

- Arts and culture

Goals: The Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategic Plan and framework will be implemented through a collaborative structure that engages partnerships across governmental jurisdictions, community organizations, cultural communities and private sector using the City of Minneapolis Core Principles of Community Engagement as its primary vehicle to ensure equity and inclusion.

Goal #1 – Ensure city services are delivered in a way that effectively addresses the specific needs of older adults.

Goal #2 – Affirm and improve housing options for Minneapolis residents of all incomes as they age.

Goal #3 – Strengthen and promote safe transportation options that meet the specific needs of Minneapolis residents as they age.

Goal #4 – Partner to expand and promote the participation in health and wellness initiatives for older adults throughout the City of Minneapolis.

Goal #5 – Recognize, value and utilize the experience and skills of older adults to achieve community goals.

To date the accomplishments are as follows:

Goal #1 –

311 (City of Minneapolis Assistance Line)

- Connected with the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (state agency) SeniorLinkage Line to explore collaboration.
- Community engagement efforts, especially older adults are being organized. Goal is education on services and training on 311 app.

NCR (Neighborhood and Community Relations)

- NCR, with assistance from **Health Research Division**, is conducting focus groups throughout Minneapolis and the immediate surrounding suburbs to gather input on what works for residents (and non-residents) and what doesn't work for an aging Minneapolis.

Health

- Research Division is collaborating with Hennepin County for the SHAPE survey. Assesses the health and quality of life of Minneapolis residents. It is anticipated that over 6,700 respondents will be age 50 and over.

Information Technology

- Community technology survey connected with the 55+ communities for a 23% 55+ response rate.

Goal #2 –

CPED (Community Planning and Economic Development)

- Addendum to the Affordable Housing Policy titled “The Senior Housing Initiative” to expand the opportunity for Minneapolis residents to stay in their community as they age.
- Initiative will partner with the development community to create one new senior housing project with a minimum of 35 units per ward by 2025.
- Set aside 30% of the annual Affordable Housing Trust Fund budget for senior rental housing financing.

- Set aside 25% of the annual Housing Revenue Bond Allocation for senior housing.
- \$1.5 million annually will be set aside for an owner occupied rehab program of which \$1 million will be set aside for senior households.
- Passed ordinance change to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's often called "granny flats").
- Research "age friendly" community planning models. These community planning models focus on urban walkable locations, lower maintenance living, mixed-age housing, access to healthcare, access to transit.

Regulatory Services

- Zoning will work on regulatory changes to allow ADU's.
- The Homeowner Navigation Program (HNP) was created to help homeowners who are low income elderly, or disabled. Many are also veterans. Program addresses housing violations and provides homeowner reprieve, a plan and connection to resources. The goal is to keep people in their homes longer.

Environmental Health

- Healthy Homes grant is collaboration with the HNP and has set aside funding specifically to help seniors (hoarding and non-hoarding cases). To date they have assisted approximately 20 homesteaded seniors with critical home repairs that further the aging in place strategy.

Goal #3 –

Public Works

- Complete Streets Policy for Minneapolis is still in development. Complete Streets is a nationally recognized planning and design process that changes the way most roads are planned, designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age or ability.

Goal #4 –

Health Department

- Contract with the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency for \$70,000 annually to provide home health care/therapeutic services for eligible high risk and low income seniors.
- Partnership with UCare for support of City of Minneapolis Senior Center. Center served estimated 1,000 unduplicated seniors per year. Most low income and live alone.

Goal #5 –

City Clerk

- In partnership with **NCR**, the City Clerk's office will work to diversify city boards and commissions including diversity in age.
- Restructure the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee to the Mayor to the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging, with the charge of monitoring and evaluating the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy.

The Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy is an initiative that is continuously evolving as studies, research and the community's needs evolves and 2015's focus is on gap analysis and evaluation to inform action steps for 2015 and 2016.

4. Community Engagement

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

The City of Minneapolis through the Department of Neighborhood and Community Engagement follow the IAP2 Institutes Core Principles of Community Engagement. Throughout the development of the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy, part of the planning process was to take the draft strategy out to the community for input. This included culturally specific and non-English speaking elders as well as groups representing diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. There were 6 community events and 70 participants. 12 more focus groups have just concluded with over 140 participants providing insight into “what is working and not working for older adults in Minneapolis” as an assessment of quality of life domains. Several other studies, surveys and assessments have been conducted since 2010 and planning for a meta-analysis of these data sets is underway.

The Minneapolis for a Lifetime Steering Committee is comprised of older adults, professional and community members as well as multiple jurisdictions and disciplines, many focused solely on aging. The City of Minneapolis has the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging, whose mission is to advise the City Council, Mayor and City Departments of concerns relating to an aging population. The ACOA is a resource to the City Council, Mayor and City Departments and recommends solutions and actions pertaining to identified aging issues, concerns and opportunities. The ACOA will also advise and suggest to the City Council, Mayor and City Department’s best practices, services, programs and activities that promote a healthy and vibrant aging community in Minneapolis. The ACOA is all adults 55 and older and each member represents one of the 13 wards in the City of Minneapolis. There are also 4 members at large who also must be 55 and older. The ACOA will now provide the oversight, evaluation and recommendations to the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy and the MFAL steering committee will continue to participate through focus areas and subcommittees.

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 Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy steering committee has representation from these agencies, city departments, government partners and the business sector:

Minneapolis Health Department
Minneapolis Public Works Department
Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Housing
Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Planning
Minneapolis Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations
Minneapolis City Council Members
Senior Citizen Advisory Committee to the Mayor
Stevens Square Foundation

U of M Community Services,
Volunteers of America RSVP Program
Brush With Kindness (TC Habitat for Humanity home service program)
Minneapolis Public Housing Authority
Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging
MnDOT
Hennepin County Human Services & Public Health
Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce
Minneapolis Downtown Council
Wells Fargo

With the transition of the strategy to the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging, the plan will be regularly evaluated and action steps developed. As these action steps take shape, the Minneapolis for a Lifetime steering committee partners will be called to the table throughout all stages of the action plan development as well as any new partners identified throughout this planning and implementation process.