



Membership Application

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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 7/31/2015

1) COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Columbus

STATE: Ohio

POPULATION SIZE: 711,000

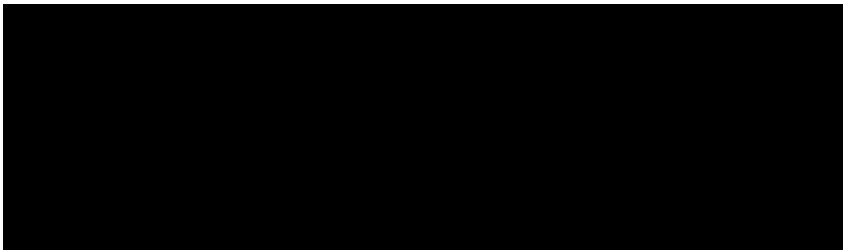
PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 11.7%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Michael B. Coleman,
Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 90 W. Broad Street 2nd Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215

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:

Katie White of Village Connections is leading the grass-roots effort to enable older adults to age independently in their community as well as the Age-Friendly Columbus initiative. This work is done in collaboration with other Villages, the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, the Franklin County Office on Aging, the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission, The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and The Columbus Foundation.

(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.

In September of 2014 an older adult and blind walk audit was completed in downtown with Village Connections and the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Columbus Public Health also released a Walkability Assessment Checklist and, utilizing resident volunteers, has completed over 40 assessments in Columbus neighborhoods. In November of 2014, the Kirwin Institute for the study of Race and Ethnicity, The Ohio State University School of Social Work, The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, and The Columbus Foundation published "Meeting the challenges of an aging population with success," a report with the aim of providing tools for the community to create innovative and meaningful interventions in the lives of Columbus older adults. The Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission published "Insight 2050" in February of 2015, which reports solid and defensible information about fiscal, mobility, environmental, and public health impacts of development and investment choices for the future of Columbus. Connect Columbus launched in 2015 in the City of Columbus Public Services Department and is a long-range, multi-modal transportation planning effort to determine how Columbus should move over the next several decades. This project offers the opportunity for residents to shape the way transportation in Columbus will look in the future. Research and planning efforts are underway in Columbus and are engaging residents for input and advice on how to make a better city for all ages.

4) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Utilizing the consumers of Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, Franklin County Office on Aging, and Villages, Age Friendly Columbus will engage older adults on the Advisory Committee and each subcommittee corresponding to the 8 domains of Livable Communities. Older adults will continue to drive the Age-Friendly Columbus processes through surveys, outreach events, and overall guidance. It is our hope to receive support from AARP Ohio to potentially engage their members and volunteers to support our efforts by becoming involved. We plan to utilize senior centers, adult day centers, and congregate dining sites as well.

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.

Columbus is a city of supportive cross-agency collaboration. The Age-Friendly Columbus project will further these ties and ensure that an aging lense will always be at the table during planning conversations. To date, Age-Friendly Columbus has letters of support from the Mayor, the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, the Franklin County Office on Aging, AARP Ohio, and the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission. We have verbal commitment from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, The Columbus Foundation, and the other Villages in Columbus. By utilizing the Senior Services Roundtable (a large-scale communication network tying together all senior services in the county) as well as other established relationships, we plan to collaborate with the numerous organizations in town that are leaders in the areas of the 8 domains. Organizations within each domain have been discussed and an outreach plan to initiate working committees will commence upon acceptance of our application.