



Application Form to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities

1) *Community details*

Name of community: Multnomah County

State: Oregon

Population size: 3,831,074 (2010 U.S. Census)

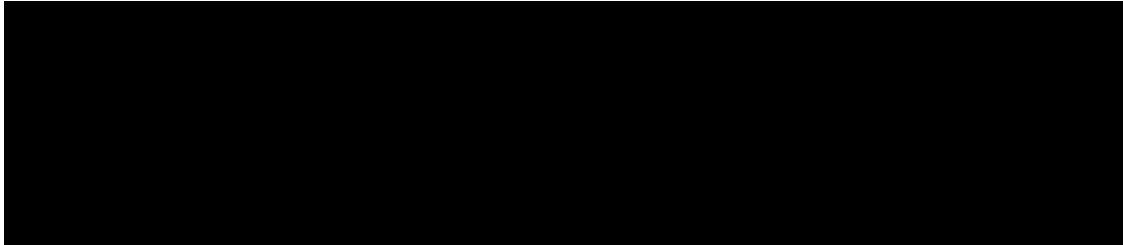
Percentage of residents above the age of 60: 20.1%

Name and title of the Elected Official signing the official commitment: Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Chair

Office Address of the signer: 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600, Portland, OR 97214

2) *Designation of community contact\* for the AARP Network*

*\*The community contact is the staff or volunteer mainly responsible for carrying out the work at the community level, not the responsible AARP staff member*



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

Dr. Neal coordinates the Age-Friendly Portland and Multnomah County Advisory Council and worked directly with Multnomah County elected officials and staff in starting the Age-Friendly Multnomah County initiative. She has been involved with the WHO since its initial Age-friendly Cities project in 2006-07 and collaborates with AARP, Grantmakers in Aging, and other organizations and municipalities that are attempting to advance age friendliness.

### *3) Description of your age-friendly activities to date*

Please provide a brief summary, of your community's policies, programs and services targeted at older people; and how you plan to make your community more age-friendly.

Multnomah County houses various departments and offices that support people of all ages and abilities, as well as operating public libraries. The Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division serves older adults (those aged 60+), people with disabilities age 18 and older, and veterans. Staff identify resources that will allow these populations to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Additional services include: a 24-hour helpline that serves as the “front door” to all resources; identification and investigation of possible abuse; guardianship services for people who are unable to make decisions for themselves; licensing and monitoring of adult care homes, which provide housing and other services in small, family-type settings; and coordination of services with Seniors Centers and other community partners outreach to ethnic minority populations.

### *4) Engagement of older people*

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

Multnomah County’s age-friendly initiative will involve older adults in many of the efforts undertaken. Volunteers from AARP Oregon and Elders in Action will be involved in advocacy and training. Two Aging Forums will be conducted by Multnomah County’s Office of Citizen Involvement in March, 2015 to provide timely and valuable feedback to County Commissioners and policy makers regarding issues that relate to building and sustaining age-friendly infrastructure. These panels will facilitate public input regarding service gaps. Furthermore, older adults will be invited to events and presentations such as an October conference geared to community members covering aspects of age-friendly living. Community projects will be also conducted, as resources are available, such as intergenerational activities and partnerships with educational institutions.

### *5) Cross-sector collaboration*

Briefly describe what mechanisms you have or are planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments across sectors?

Multnomah County Commissioners have provided staff to meet with leaders from the Aging, Disability and Veterans Service Division (ADVS), faculty from Portland State University’s Institute on Aging – the backbone organization aimed to facilitate collective impact toward the goal of furthering age friendliness – and community partners AARP Oregon and Elders in Action. Initial funding has been provided by ADVS to coordinate the development of the project, including an Action Plan for an Age-Friendly Multnomah County. Collaborative subcommittees have been formed around five initial domain areas with thought leaders from various sectors and jurisdictions who have interest within particular domain area. Additionally, the advisory council has been expanded to guide ongoing projects in the City and Portland and Multnomah County and has been renamed as the Age-Friendly Portland and Multnomah County Advisory Council.