



**Salt Lake City Application for the
AARP and World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-
Friendly Cities and Communities**

October 21, 2015

1) City/Community details:

- a. Salt Lake City
- b. Utah
- c. United States
- d. 1.2 Million
- e. 11% residents above the age of 60
- f. Latitude: 40 degrees, 47 minutes north Longitude: 111 degrees, 57 minutes west
- g. AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, United States

2) Political commitment towards becoming an age-friendly city:

- 1. Letter of Commitment from the Mayor: Please see attachments.
- 2. Mayor Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 3. 451 South State Street, Room 306
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5474

3) Designation of contact person for the Global Network:

[Redacted contact information]

4) Description of your age-friendly activities to date:

1) Please provide a brief summary (250-300 words) of your city or community's policies, programmes and services targeted at older people and how you are planning to make your community more age-friendly. If your application is successful, this summary will be published on the Network's website www.agefriendlyworld.org. *

In aligning with the unifying platform of “livability” Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker has emphasized the importance of aging in place with dignity and respect. For Salt Lake City, this means it is the ability to choose to stay where you are as you get older and to have the options that allow you to adapt to changes common with aging, such as health issues, transportation, housing and living on a fixed income. By creating a Committee that has the focus of Aging in Place and implementing programs that assist in making Salt Lake City a livable city for all generations, the Mayor’s initiative has galvanized departments and sectors to collaborate into considering the needs of older adults.

As the population of older adults continues to increase, Salt Lake City recognizes the importance of providing the services and infrastructure that allow older adults to adapt to the changes of aging with dignity and independence. Many of our older residents have expressed the desire to continue living inside the familiarly and comfort of their own homes; others have a desire to live in the heart of an urban environment where cultural activity is easily accessible. This has led us to the launch of our Aging in Place initiative, a critical lynchpin in our overall Livability Agenda. The initiative focuses on eliminating barriers and supporting the potential challenges that may arise as our residents age. This includes accessible transportation and infrastructure, affordable housing, participation in cultural events, and an environment that supports the overall health and well-being of older adults.

Salt Lake City is incredibly fortunate for the close partnership with the University of Utah Center on Aging, where experts come to collaborate and research the critical impacts and issues associated with aging populations. This joining of forces has allowed Salt Lake City to receive cutting-edge research and information that can go directly into the creation of effective services and policies. It is through the work and efforts of these partnerships that contributes to the livability for all ages in the Salt Lake City community.

Accomplishments of the Aging in Place Initiative:

- 2013 Established an active Aging-in-Place Committee comprised of various City departments
- 2013 Released Aging-in-Place Report and Action Plan
- 2015 Released 5,000 Doors Initiative, addressing Salt Lake City's housing options for low-income, fixed income, and persons with disabilities
- 2015 Launched of the website aginginslc.com which hosts an abundance of resources for aging adults

2) Please choose a picture (skyline or logo) to be published on the profile page of your city or community on the Network's website: * Please see attachments.



3) If you have already conducted an age-friendly baseline assessment of your city or community, please upload it.

This baseline assessment is currently in progress.

4) If you have already developed a strategy or action plan to make your city or community more age-friendly, please upload it:

Please see the Aging in Place Report attachment.

5) Engagement of older people:

1) How are you engaging and involving older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly city or community?

Salt Lake City values citizen participation by residents of all ages. Strong communities are built on trust in public officials, gained through easy access to information and public involvement in the decision-making process. Our belief is that the best decisions are made when all communities within our city are fairly represented – including older adults. Part of the Aging in Place Initiative action plan will be the creation of an Older Adult Advisory Committee to facilitate community involvement as a way of providing the space for older adults to contribute to the services and implemented policies. This advisory committee will take on the focus areas of the eight domains identified in the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities Guide.

Additionally, Salt Lake City has been working toward making technology easier and more accessible for older residents. The following digital channels are an easy-to-use and convenient way of interacting with city government about various personal or public concerns:

- Open City Hall - Online forum for civic engagement
- SLC Mobile - Service request application
- Social media sites: Nextdoor, Facebook, and Twitter

While many older adults are proficient with technology, Salt Lake City recognizes this is not the case for everyone. An additional avenue will be to expand engagement with the Community Councils which are often comprised of older adults. Through increased collaboration with the Community Councils there can be additional focus on specific issues that are impacting older adults within Salt Lake City.

6) Cross-sectoral collaboration:

1) What mechanisms have you/are you planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different departments of the local administration and across sectors?

Salt Lake City Mayor Becker has established an internal Aging in Place Committee which consists of 12 City departments. The committee members have been tasked with completing the action items referenced in the Aging in Place Initiative Report, and providing education to other staff regarding the needs of the aging population in Salt Lake City and how those needs might be addressed by individual departments in their own planning process. The report identified specific needs with a corresponding action plan that prioritizes four areas of focus:

- City Government, Infrastructure and Design
- Arts, Culture, and Libraries
- Housing and Housing Services
- Safety and Wellbeing

In joining the World Health Organization's Global Network, the current committee will look to expand in its efforts to include a public, private and university partnership to assist with implementing the requirements that uphold the criteria of an Age-Friendly Community.

Salt Lake City is incredibly fortunate for its close partnerships with several organizations that are devoted to healthy aging. It is through this collaborative effort with the Utah Commission on Aging, AARP, University of Utah College of Architecture and Planning, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Salt Lake County Aging Services, and many others that Salt Lake City can provide quality and accessible services to older adults. Through this collaboration of public and non-profit entities, Salt Lake City has launched the website aginginslc.com, which provides a comprehensive guide to accessing services and engaging activities for older adults. The committee will maintain and expand this website as our network and initiative continues to develop.

Additionally, as directed by Mayor Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City is currently in the process of working to create an Older Adult Advisory Committee to facilitate community involvement as a way of providing the space for older adults to contribute to the services and policies put in place.

Additional mechanisms include:

- Maintain the initiative's website, aginginslc.com, which was established through a collaborative network between city, non-profits, and university partnerships.
- Engage with state and federal elected officials on issues associated with aging adults.

- Work with City Council to secure funding for a position to oversee implementation of City goals related to Aging in Salt Lake City
- Commitment to annually update City Council on the initiative and each of its focus areas
- Develop a 3-year citywide action plan based on the findings of the Aging In Place Initiative Report

7) Participation in the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities:

1) How do you hope to contribute to the Global Network?

By committing to the policies and services that contribute to a high quality of life for older adults, Salt Lake City can be an effective example for other communities. Through the partnership with the University of Utah, Salt Lake City has access to leaders, scholars, and practitioners of Gerontology who greatly contribute to the progress of healthy aging, not only in Salt Lake City but throughout the nation. This includes but is not limited to Dean Keith Diaz-Moore, author of Aging in Place chapter in *The Handbook of Theories of Aging* and Professor Reid Ewing, consultant to AARP in developing livability metrics for seniors. They work closely with the Utah Commission on Aging and its efforts to assure that all aspects of aging individuals' lives are considered. By drawing upon its expertise, Salt Lake City has been able to work within its partnerships to create systems and programs that value and effectively responds to the needs and impact of older adults. Thus, Salt Lake City's work and efforts can influence other communities throughout the state to apply best practices and policies for an Age-Friendly future.

2) What motivated your city or community to become a member of the Global Network?

Salt Lake City sees an Age-Friendly community as a critical piece to the overall livability of our City and welcomes the input of older citizens in shaping our city's future plans. Salt Lake City was selected and participated in the MetLife Foundation's Partners for Livable Communities, to implement the City Leaders Institute on Aging in Place. Salt Lake City is using opportunities provided by the creation of the Eccles Performing Arts Center and branding of the "Cultural Core" to insure that the spaces and associated programs enrich the lives of older adults. Salt Lake City will also assist arts groups in discovering new audiences by way of the senior population. Structural concepts of universal design and ADA compliance will be factored into the creation of the center, as will programmatic concepts that are inclusive of the diverse population of Salt Lake City.

Being part of the Global Network assists in the continued development of creating an inclusive and supportive environment for citizens and visitors. We believe that a healthy, vibrant community is livable across the spectrum of ages and are committed to removing obstacles to the health and well-being of older adults in Salt Lake City. We want older adults to feel supported and included so all can thrive within our community.