



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarpp.org or call 202-434-2430
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 9/2/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of San Jose

STATE: California

POPULATION SIZE: 1079000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Sam Liccardo

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 200 East Santa Clara St. 18th Floor, San Jose, CA 95113

Section 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 contact information]

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

Leading the coordinated effort to guide staff, other city departments and the age-friendly steering committee.

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) 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.

For three decades, San Jose has been aware of and planning for the coming age wave. In 1994, the City of San José initiated the development of an Aging Services Master Plan, Planning for the Age Wave, through which housing, information, language, health care, transportation, in-home care, caregiver support, senior center programs, leadership, coordination, and funding were identified as top needs. In 2005, the City joined with Santa Clara County to develop a comprehensive 10-year plan for the coming “senior tsunami”. A Community for a Lifetime 2005-2015, added other critical issues facing the elderly to the list of concerns. The issues and needs of San Jose’s older adults have not changed appreciably since the original 1994 master plan, although gains have been made in number of areas. Housing and transportation programs are critical to San Jose’s seniors, and the City already is investigating new ways to house seniors and raise funds for affordable housing. San Jose is engaged with the Valley Transportation Authority, County of Santa Clara and other community partners to create new transportation options for seniors. In addition, San Jose developed Vision Zero to reduce traffic fatalities and provide safe streets. With new funds approved by voters in June 2016, San Jose will upgrade the parks and repair streets and walkways—so critical to seniors’ safety and travel. The City’s senior centers continue to be hubs for information, nutrition, fitness, health, and social engagement, and San Jose is committed to creating new programs and expanding outreach to more seniors. The Age Friendly domains encourage San Jose to re-evaluate its current plans, to integrate age-friendly efforts where feasible and create a stronger cohesion of services that aligns community partners and city departments to make San Jose Age Friendly.

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

For decades, San Jose has created programs and services for older adults and this has encouraged seniors to engage with the City, so it is natural for San Jose’s seniors to be involved in improving and deepening the City’s commitment to those programs. The Senior Citizens Commission has been an active and vibrant advocate for San Jose’s seniors. The Steering Committee for Age Friendly San Jose includes a majority of seniors from different sectors of the community. Seniors from all parts of the city were involved in focus groups and in responding to the survey. The city works with senior-serving organizations and agencies in San Jose and Santa Clara County, the Aging Services Collaborative, the Santa Clara County Seniors’ Agenda, AGEnts for Change, faith-based organizations, retiree groups, and others to create and maintain services and supports for seniors. As the action plan is developed, seniors will serve on task forces and committees to recommend and refine programs and services for San Jose. And seniors will be involved at every stage of implementation.

3) 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.

San Jose began its process to become Age-Friendly more than a year ago with its participation in a core group of representatives of city, county and non-profit agencies. This group continues to meet to review activities, discuss strategy, and collaborate on planning. As the planning has progressed within San Jose, staff members have been engaging other department such as Planning, Transportation, Housing, and Public Works as well as the Mayor's office, City Manager's office, and the City Council. San Jose staff members are active leaders in cross-sector activities and programs, especially within the County's Aging Services Collaborative and the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits. Staff are in continual contact with Santa Clara County's Department of Aging and Adult Services, the County Public Health Department, the Valley Transportation Authority, other community senior agencies and services and commissions and boards. These relationships have created a context for collaborative action that facilitates planning and implementation. In addition, the plan's timeline will include regular reports and discussions to members of City Council, as well as reports to other departments, boards and executive staff. The City's budget process also allows active engagement with critical partners in forwarding the progress and recommendations of Age-Friendly San Jose. We also intend to broaden the reach of Age-Friendly San Jose by creating an advisory group, made up of key business, industry, civic, educational, and other major city organizations. Their support and expertise will help guarantee that the City's Age-Friendly efforts in the community are collaborative and engage as many residents as possible.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

We believe that San Jose has a great number of excellent programs that can be advanced and replicated by other cities in the network. San Jose will continue to collaborate with cities and towns in our county and region to add value to their programs which leads to a better coordination of services that reach all seniors. As a large city, San Jose has some unique struggles to ensure that the action plans we create can be utilized and are beneficial for its older adult population. It is our hope that through careful analysis and planning, San Jose can create an action plan that other cities of similar size and diversity can model. In addition, the City's ties to the technology industry and to major universities in Silicon Valley allow us the opportunity to access research, students and tools to provide innovative services and practices that can be shared with other cities. San Jose strives to be an example of how to create programs that are relevant and culturally sensitive, that reach out to all seniors to help make their lives active, independent, and satisfying.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

San Jose has been aware of the rising number of older adults in the City and County since 1994 and has created plans to address these needs for the City's older adults. San Jose is an "international" city, as a large proportion of its population is made up of immigrants and it is also the tenth largest city in the United States. The City's diverse older adult population has been actively engaged with the County's Senior Agenda and other network groups and participation in these national and regional senior-serving organizations. Being part of this global network brings additional prestige to the City and provides a platform to learn from innovations and insights from other network affiliates that San Jose can incorporate, and the tools to clearly identify the needs of the older adults in a very specific manner as presented in the eight domains. In addition, San Jose has a great number of excellent programs and practices that have been developed and in keeping with its senior-serving mission, these programs and practices can be shared with other network affiliates and replicated.



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6) Please provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >