



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@aarp.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: 12/8/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Greenwich

STATE: Connecticut

POPULATION SIZE: 60,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 18%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman, Town of Greenwich

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Greenwich Town Hall, 101 Field Point Road, Greenwich, CT 06830

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.

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

The Age Friendly Greenwich initiative will be headed by the Director of the Town of Greenwich's Commission on Aging, Lori Contadino. Lori has been Director of the Commission on Aging since January 2012. Her office is located in the Greenwich Senior Center which is at the heart of Greenwich's 55+ community. As Director over the last four years, Lori has energized the Commission on Aging and Senior Center inspiring service excellence in tackling challenges around transportation, healthcare, information, referrals, Health Insurance Counseling, Senior Tax Relief, facility enhancement and social, educational and quality of life programming at the Senior Center including advocacy while helping to manage issues before they become a crisis. The Commission on Aging Board consists of seven members that are appointed for three year terms; these members meet once a month and actively work on important initiatives in small working sub-committees. The members of the Commission will support Lori in coordinating the goals of the Age Friendly initiative in Greenwich.

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.

The Town of Greenwich already goes above and beyond in its desire to promote healthy aging and well-being for its older citizens. The Commission on Aging provides information and referral, Health Insurance Counseling, advocacy, planning, caregiver support and takes a leadership role in ensuring that all older adults have access to appropriately sized and supportive stable housing, transportation options, access to medical care, nutrition, socialization and a firm connection to the greater community. The Greenwich Senior Center provides congregate meals, transportation, socialization, opportunities for volunteerism and educational offerings. The Commission on Aging is cognizant of the multitude and complexity of challenges that confront older residents on a daily basis. Through programs such as the annual Health and Wellness Expo for Older Adults, the Distinguished Lecture Series, Caregiver Circle, Super Noggin (Cognitive Strengthening program), Older American's Month celebrations and a wide range of other programs, older adult residents are afforded an opportunity to learn more about community resources and supportive services to enhance quality of life and well-being. Collaboration with internal Town Departments and external agencies/organizations that directly serve older adults has given rise to a robust aging services network and informal continuum of care. A comprehensive Senior Center facility renovation project has commenced to enhance the physical environment and create a barrier free facility which is handicap and universally accessible. Center programming will be enhanced to be more attractive and inviting to both a current and younger demographic. Front entry ramp construction is nearing completion as is the addition of two new visiting services offices and an activity space on the ground floor of the facility. The Commission on Aging will be actively engaging all sectors of the Greenwich Community to join in the quest to become "Age Friendly." External stakeholders including the member agencies of the Senior Providers Network, along with the Greenwich United Way, service clubs and organizations and resident groups will be invited to participate. Internal Town Departments will work collaboratively toward a shared community goal. The Greenwich Commission on Aging is poised to coordinate and lead this effort.

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

Various segments of the Greenwich community will be invited to participate in the Age Friendly Greenwich initiative. Focus groups with residents, agencies/organizations, social and service clubs and Town Departments will supplement information previously gathered by the United Way of Greenwich Needs Assessment. As the Commission on Aging values the experiences, thoughts and opinions of older adults, they will be included in all phases of the project. Resident meetings will be hosted throughout the Greenwich community both to heighten awareness and build consensus. All stakeholders will be engaged in the process of assessing, evaluating and determining an action plan around the eight critical World Health Organization(WHO)/AARP domains. Older adults will continue to play an active role in this initiative as they have played a direct role in the renovation of the Senior Center facility, Senior Tax Relief Program and Byram Pool Project. We value and treasure the experiences, thoughts, and opinions of various stakeholders and look forward to having them be a part of our journey toward becoming an Aging-Friendly Community.

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.

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 hope to develop approaches to aging-friendly problems that we will share with future applicants and cities striving to achieve Age-Friendly designation. We want to be a model and support system for other Connecticut towns by establishing formalized best practices for achieving Age-Friendly designation and helping other towns throughout the application process. We also want to recommend to AARP to establish a best practices section on their website and publish our application to assist future applicants.

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?

The current increase in the global aging population is a demographic shift that will shape local, regional, national and international policy making, economies and lifestyle; Greenwich is no exception to this population transition. According to the 2016 Greenwich United Way Needs Assessment, currently 17.5% of town residents are 65 and older. This number is projected to reach 19.5% by the year 2020. The Town of Greenwich would like to be the first community in the State of Connecticut to apply for and achieve the designation as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. We want to be a leading example and resource to other Connecticut towns by establishing formalized best practices for achieving Age-Friendly designation.

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 >



Click here to enter text.



The Commission on Aging (COA) is very fortunate to have the continued investment and support of the Board of Selectmen. The COA works cooperatively internally with various Town departments and externally with multiple agencies and organization within the Town of Greenwich and surrounding area. There are numerous examples of this cooperation that have already taken place and continue to do so. The Commission on Aging convenes the Senior Providers Network – a group of over 90 agencies and organizations that provide direct services to older adults and actively participates as a member of the Greenwich United Way Planning Council, Junior League of Greenwich Community Advisory Council, Greenwich Housing Authority, At Home in Greenwich (Aging-in-place organization), River House Adult Day Center, Family Centers and Greenwich Hospital Advisory Committee. Interdepartmental collaboration to assist at risk older adults with the Department of Social Services, Senior Tax Relief with the Town Assessor, Senior Center facility enhancement with the Town Department of Public Works, use of Town facilities with the Parks and Recreation Department and work with the First Selectman's Committee on Disabilities are just a few examples of this collaboration. Additionally, the Town of Greenwich is thankful and appreciative to have a partnership with Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. A team of Master of Health Administration students assisting the COA with research, application development, and the action plan for achieving AARP Age-Friendly designation. Additionally, the 2016 United Way of Greenwich Needs Assessment has been a pivotal in identifying not only the current circumstances of the aging population in the Town of Greenwich, but also in documenting gaps in services that exist. The Commission on Aging will continue to seek cooperation and encouragement from all of our partners in government and in the private and nonprofit sectors.