



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: 1/8/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Dartmouth

STATE: MA

POPULATION SIZE: 34,032

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 22.73% (7473 residents)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: David Cressman, Town Administrator

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Town of Dartmouth, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747

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]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

The development director is responsible for developing business plans or strategic plans in collaboration with the Select Board and Town Administrator for the future of the Town of Dartmouth. The development director also has an outreach role in the municipality and often fulfills a public affairs role in addition to office-based work.

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 Dartmouth has a solid history of providing excellent services to the senior population of the community. The focus of these activities has been the Senior Center which is located in the Bliss Corner area of the community, a walk-able mixed use neighborhood, close to schools, the library and shopping. The Town's Council on Aging (COA) oversees the activities and the eleven Council members are appointed for overlapping three year terms by the Board of Selectmen. The Senior Center is multi-purpose offering a variety of services and programs including but not limited to nutritional, recreational, adult day care, free transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping and other personal needs, case management, food bank, and tax assistance. The Center serves about 3,600 unduplicated elders annually and the 501 (C)3 group, Dartmouth Friends of the Elderly is very active in promoting senior issues and fundraising for new initiatives. The Town of Dartmouth strives to provide access to academic, cultural, recreational, commercial and employment opportunities, all of which add to the Town's quality of live and allow residents to age in place, in the housing of their choice, while still being contributing members of society. The Town actively seeks community involvement for its numerous boards and commissions. The Department of Public Works has an active program to construct and upgrade sidewalks in various areas of Town in order to make the neighborhoods and services more accessible to all. The Town is actively engaged with our regional planning agency, SRPEDD, which is looking to increase public transportation opportunities throughout the region. The Town is committed to the development of affordable housing opportunities and to assisting seniors age in place. The first phase of the Lincoln Park project will include 36 affordable housing units and the second phase will include 44 age restricted units. The Town has a housing rehabilitation program which offers no interest loans for income qualified seniors for structural and energy efficiency repairs. As the Town looks to increase parks throughout the community, it seeks to develop sites that will include passive and active recreation opportunities that will service residents of all age and ability levels. Dartmouth is committed to energy efficiency in building design and strongly supports renewable energy. It has adopted a policy that new municipal buildings are LEED certified. Moving forward as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, Dartmouth will continue to investigate opportunities for more senior housing and smart growth development which provide integrated opportunities for living, shopping, working, and recreation with increased access to a variety of transportation options. Policies and plans will be reviewed and updated with a focus on continuing to evolve to a more age-friendly community.

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

Dartmouth has a history of resident engagement across age categories. Many senior residents are already very active in Town government and give freely of their time for many volunteer organizations. There are a number of volunteer opportunities which help our senior population remain actively engaged in the community. The Town has a number of Boards and Commissions which are always seeking individuals willing to share their time and talents for activities ranging from agriculture to historical interests to veterans programs and the senior center. The schools and other nonprofit groups also have a wide range of opportunities available. Moving forward, as an Age-Friendly Community, Dartmouth will hold regular community forums on the issues relating to making Dartmouth more age-friendly. All the forums will be open to the public and will be broadcast on the local cable TV station, DCTV, and covered by the local daily paper, the Standard Times, and the local weekly papers –the Chronicle and Dartmouth Week, which are available for free, both in print and online. Brochures and information also will be available at the local library and Senior Center and on the Town’s website. Surveys may be conducted to assess senior interests and need.

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.

The Town staff has a history of working together collaboratively on a variety of projects in order to improve service to its residents. Department heads meet monthly to share information and ideas, and the Interdepartmental Reviewer Group, comprised of Planning, Development, Building, Board of Health, Conservation, Fire and Police and Department of Public Works, meet biweekly to review and strategize on planning and development issues. Several times a year, the Select Board holds joint meetings with other boards including the Planning Board, the Council on Aging, the Board of Health and others to discuss areas of mutual concern. These meetings would continue and be expanded to include specific strategy sessions relating to policies and actions to increase “livability” awareness and decisions across departments. It is anticipated that staff and boards will begin reviewing elements of the 2008 Master Plan to identify those goals and objectives that most directly impact the age-friendliness of the community. The Town has a strong working relationship with UMass Dartmouth and the University could be an important partner in the Town’s effort to become more age-friendly. There is a strong medical presence in the community, with several hospitals, which will also be an important resource and partner. Dartmouth also maintains and will expand its strong relationship with Massachusetts Aging Services Access points – Coastline Elderly Services, Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) and other local agencies, which will be vital as the Town evaluates our transportation, housing and social needs.

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?

Dartmouth has a history of strong community participation in a variety of activities including Town governance. The Town expects that it will be an active participant in the Global Network, sharing our research, strategies, and ideas, and helping to develop and redefine best practices and sharing “lessons learned.”

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?

A recent update to the Town’s Housing Production Plan showed quite directly the recent and anticipated continuing increase in the population over the age of 60. This has significant planning and development implications for a wide variety of issues including housing, recreation, transportation and social services. Through both the ICMA and APA, staff became aware of the AARP and WHO Age Friendly Community program and livability index and determined that this program would help give focus and increased community attention to policies and actions that could make our town more attractive and livable for our senior population as well as for the overall community. The Town feels that participating in this program can help us better integrate our planning and development programs and includes a variety of new stakeholders into the process.

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 paste the JPEG image or the link to one.](#)