



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: 11/14/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Biddeford

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 22,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Alan Casavant

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City of Biddeford, 205 Main Street, P.O. Box 586, Biddeford, Maine 04005

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:

The City's Community Development Coordinator has coordinated the City's HUD Entitlement Program for 13 years. Many of the programs, services and infrastructure projects implemented benefit the City's over 60 population. The role of the Community Development Coordinator will be to hold meetings with the Biddeford's Age Friendly Community Committee, implement and coordinate the survey, and ensure that representatives from all senior population segments in Biddeford are heard regarding the plan to be developed. The Community Development Coordinator is to serve the Committee and keep the process "on track" and keep the work of the Committee and volunteers, and development of the subsequent plan citizen driven. The Community Development Coordinator will tabulate survey results and explain data to the Committee and Public, coordinate and compile all aspects of an inventory of facilities and programs, coordinate focus groups, develop the plan at the direction of the Committee, and distribute information to municipal officials and the public.

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 City has in place a wide variety of infrastructure, housing, programs and services for its over 60 population. The Community Center makes space available for Meals on Wheels, the AARP Tax Service, 50 Plus Club-Ross Center, and many recreational programs for seniors of all activity levels. The Biddeford Support Services Center is also located within the Community Center and offers HOSPICE services as well. Transportation routes stop at the Community Center and the Recreation Department has a bus that is handicapped accessible and includes a wheelchair lift. The McArthur Library houses a volunteer Senior Information Specialist from the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, and the City's HUD program provides for the Meals on Wheels Program. Seniors can also access the Representative Payee Program if they need assistance in managing their bills, protect their income, and help to retain their housing. The Biddeford Housing Authority manages several buildings of affordable senior housing and works with the City to develop housing for low to moderate income persons including seniors. Regarding infrastructure, the City reconstructed the ADA compliant ramp at the Community Center and is currently reconstructing its sidewalks, crosswalks and lighting in the downtown for easier and safer access. Truncated domes are on every corner. There is a good base of programs, services and infrastructure, however, as an outcome of this process the City will develop a way to connect Biddeford seniors to these in order to become more age friendly. The City will also continue to develop programs, services and infrastructure brought to light through this planning process to attract and retain seniors. This will be accomplished through the establishment of a plan with strategies, goals, activities and outcomes with timeframes.

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

Biddeford's Age Friendly Community Committee will be the lead and be comprised of a membership that includes seniors representing all segments of Biddeford's senior population and those whose programs are vital resources to seniors. The Community Development Coordinator will assist them in the process. Several outreach methods to engage Biddeford citizens over 60 will be implemented. Those citizens 50 to 60 will also be included since they will be the "second wave" of those seeking resources in the future. The first action for the Committee will be to develop an inventory of "age friendly" infrastructure in the City, transportation, housing, programs, services, etc. as determined by the Committee, and also to identify what may be absent, unknown, or not conducive to "aging in place" in Biddeford. The Committee will divide the various areas to be surveyed and conduct walking audits, calls, and actual attempts at specific access to determine what needs should be addressed. The Committee will also develop and include the use of surveys online and one-on-one to gather input from seniors. Coordination with the Biddeford Housing Authority and Southern Maine Agency on Aging – Meals on Wheels Program will take place to reach those in senior housing and those who are our most fragile citizens. Focus groups will be held in several places that are easily accessible such as the McArthur Library and the Ross Community Center. The Committee will determine and develop a method to connect Biddeford residents over 60 with resources accumulated from the inventory and surveys, and develop strategies for the "second wave" of aging citizens aged 50 to 60. They will develop a draft plan with goals, strategies, and actions to address the identified needs and hold a public meeting to receive input and comments. A final draft will be presented at another public meeting. Findings will be incorporated into the appropriate sections of the City's HUD Annual Action Plan submitted to HUD in May 2017 and new Consolidated Plan to be submitted in May 2018. A senior summit could be a possible capstone to this project to inform, connect and empower Biddeford's seniors.

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 City has an Age Friendly Community Committee that will oversee the distribution of the survey. Currently, The City's Community Development Coordinator will be conducting a survey for the City's Affirmatively Fair Housing Plan with HUD. The outreach for the survey includes nonprofits, enforcement, housing entities, senior and subsidized housing, and all segments of the population. There are a number of focus groups as well. All aspects of the survey include Biddeford's senior population and a separate survey or set of focus questions will be conducted with them. Those filling out a survey will be entered in a drawing. The survey will also be posted on the City's website as well and distributed by the Biddeford Housing Authority. The Southern Maine Agency on Aging and their volunteer Senior Information Specialist at the McArthur Library will also be asked to implement the survey as well. The Committee plans to stay connected to AARP throughout the process to ensure development of a plan with targeted strategies, goals, activities and outcomes that will enhance the City as an "age friendly community".

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?

By joining the Network the City will demonstrate its commitment to planning for the future and continuing support of Biddeford’s senior population. All plans and documents will be available to the Network and the City will continue conversations with other Age-Friendly Communities regarding facility improvements, services and programs. The plan will be posted on the City’s website and AARP will be listed on all published materials. The City will also be available for consultations for other communities seeking to join the Network and become Age Friendly Communities.

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 City is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan and preparing to conduct survey work for an Affirmatively Fair Housing Plan (AFHP) for HUD. Since a citywide survey will be conducted for the AFHP, it provides an excellent opportunity to survey the needs of our senior population segment. The City is well aware of the diverse ages that comprise its population and is interested in how to best integrate its senior and youth populations while addressing program and facility needs to become an “age friendly community”. Since 21% of our City’s population is currently over the age of 60 it has become apparent that we must seek input from this population and develop a plan in order for our citizens to “age in place” securely. The City receives HUD funding annually for a variety of programs and infrastructure and wants to ensure that funds continue to consider the identified needs that can be realized through this program.

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.