



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: 6/1/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Bucksport

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 4,924

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 18%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: David Keene, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: P.O. Drawer X, 50 Main Street, Bucksport, Maine 04416

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:

Bucksport Town Manager, Susan Lessard, has appointed Mary Jane Bush as the community contact for AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Ms. Bush is a board member of Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities which has a memorandum of understanding with the Town of Bucksport to coordinate planning and the delivery of health, public health, emergency preparedness, and social services programs to improve the health and quality of life of Bucksport citizens. (See attached copy of Memorandum of Understanding). Ms. Bush also serves on the Town of Bucksport's Planning Board.

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.

Since 1992 the town of Bucksport has provided the financial support to maintain a Senior Center that offers a meal program and a variety of recreational and health education programs to meet the needs of older adults. In 2003 the Town of Bucksport incorporated in their Comprehensive Plan objectives and strategies from the Bucksport Health Plan that were prepared by the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition. Many of these health plan recommendations addressed the needs of older adults in the areas of housing, transportation, health, and community services. Subsequent to publishing the 2003 Comprehensive Plan the town Bucksport collaborated with Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition and The UMaine Center on Aging to conduct a comprehensive study of the housing and service needs of older adults in Bucksport. This study highlighted the need for supportive housing apartments including assisted living residential care options. Day program services for people living with dementia was also cited as a need. Since the completion of this study a HUD supported 26-unit housing project, Gardner Commons, was created by rehabilitating a school building that was no longer being used by the Bucksport School District. In 2011 the town of Bucksport collaborated with a private developer to rehabilitate a deteriorating local landmark, the Jed Prouty Inn, to a 16-bed assisted living center. The town contributed \$180,000 toward the rehabilitation expense of this building. Both Gardner Commons and the Jed Prouty Assisted Living Center operate with high occupancy rates and maintain waiting lists for services. In 2004 a local public bus service was established by Downeast Transportation Services to serve, in part, the needs of older adults to access health services and other businesses in the town's business district.

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

The Town collaborates with the board of the Bucksport Senior Center and the Senior Resource Committee of the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition in planning programs and services for older adults. The Senior Resource Committee has been meeting monthly since 2001 to discuss areas of concern of older citizens. Members of this committee have assisted the town in preparing CDBG grants for housing and service programs. Members have also testified at numerous public hearings on the need for elder services. In 2004 committee members worked with a professional transit planner to design a shuttle bus route for the Compact area in Bucksport. Currently, committee members are involved in a collaboration between the town, Bucksport Area Chamber of Commerce and Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition in sponsoring the program, Show You Care, a social marketing program established to ensure Bucksport Bay area communities are walkable, accessible and safe so that all residents can fully participate in the life of the 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.

In 2013 Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition received a 3-year \$220,000 grant from the Maine Health Access Foundation to implement the Thriving In Place Program. There are 15 community partner organizations involved in this initiative including the town's Police, Fire, and Recreation Departments. A community assessment was performed in the first year of the grant that highlighted the needs of older adults to remain in their home as they age. An interdisciplinary team was created to offer case management services to Thriving In Place participants as they transition from hospital to home or may need increased home care health and support services.

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 would be able to share our successes and challenges of meeting the needs of older adults in our community. We want to learn about successful model programs that can be replicated in rural areas. It would also be helpful to compare data results from existing programs.

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 AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities meets the town’s already existing goal of establishing a safe and healthy community for its older citizens. Additionally, the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities is consistent with the WHO Healthy Communities model that was previously used to develop the town’s health plan.

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.



Memorandum of Understanding
Between Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition
and
Town of Bucksport
July 1, 2015 — June 30, 2016

1. Parties: The Town of Bucksport (the Town) is a municipality duly incorporated under Maine law with all rights, authorities and obligations provided by law. The Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition (BBHCC) is a Comprehensive Community Health Coalition that serves the towns of Bucksport, Orland, Prospect and Verona Island. BBHCC is directed by a Board (the BBHCC Board) which is responsible for overall policy and direction of BBHCC and for day-to-day operations of collaborative projects and grants. The Town and BBHCC and/or the BBHCC Board are referred to collectively as the Parties.

2. Purpose: To coordinate planning and the delivery of health, public health, emergency preparedness, and social service programs to improve the health and quality of life of Bucksport citizens. Such planning efforts will focus on the highest priority health areas as identified in the coalition's Community Health Improvement Plan in addition to municipal comprehensive plan recommendations. This collaboration will promote volunteerism as an important building block in meeting the current and future needs of Bucksport citizens. Coordination of existing programs is paramount so that public funds are used efficiently and effectively without duplication of effort. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the roles and responsibilities of the BBHCC Board and the Town in this relationship.

3. Responsibilities of the Parties:

(A) For purposes of this MOU, the role and responsibilities of the BBHC Board are to:

- 1) Determine community priorities and plan programs in consultation with the town of Bucksport;
- 2) Oversee the development and implementation of the BBHCC work plan;
- 3) Communicate work plan strategies through appointed municipal representative;
- 4) Respond to requests from town office staff and community residents for information on needed community services;
- 5) Respond to municipal requests for assistance with public health emergencies and community disasters;
- 6) Respond to requests from Town Health Officer for assistance with community education and emergency preparedness needs.

- 7) Convene meetings of local town health officers to discuss regional public health planning needs, as requested;
- 8) Assist the town in developing plans to meet the needs of vulnerable populations such as, but not limited to, older adults when requested;
- 9) Conduct an annual review of progress in implementing Health Improvement Plan recommendations.

(B) For purposes of this MOU, the role and responsibilities of the Town of Bucksport are to:

- 1) Act as a collaborative partner with BBHCC in coordinating municipal plans and programs to improve the health and quality of life of Bucksport citizens;
- 2) Designate a minimum of one Town representative to serve on the BBHCC Board to ensure open communication between BBHCC Board and the Town;
- 3) Designate appropriate Town representation to serve on relevant BBHCC committees, such as representation from the Police, Fire and Ambulance Departments on the Public Health and Environment Committee, as well as the Senior Center Director on the Senior Resource Committee;
- 4) Provide office and meeting space for the BBHCC Health Planning Director functions;
- 5) Include representatives of BBHCC to serve on the town's Comprehensive Planning Committee to share health information and proposed strategies from the BBHCC Community Health Improvement Plan and other important public health data;
- 6) Research with representatives of BBHCC opportunities to secure grant funding to implement programs and services to improve the health and wellbeing of Bucksport citizens;
- 7) Notify the BBHCC board of any community concern that may involve strategic planning areas that have been mutually agreed upon in town and BBHCC's work plans;
- 8) Notify the BBHCC board of any unmet health service needs or gaps in services as known by the town;
- 9) Promote social marketing programs like *Show You Care* in marketing municipal messages to the community;
- 10) In consideration of the Town serving as fiscal agent for BBHCC during the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 (FY15) the Town will include BBHCC in with the annual Town audit for FY15 and provide 990 tax preparation for BBHCC for FY15.

(C) Duration. Unless or until the Parties agree on and execute a written successor, this MOU will expire on June 30, 2016. No amendment or modification of this MOU during its term is authorized or effective unless made in writing signed by a representative of each Party who is authorized to execute such amendment.

(D) Limitations on Liability and Relationship; Hold Harmless. This MOU does not create a relationship of agency, partnership or joint venture between the Parties and will not be cited as such by either Party. This MOU does not create liability of one Party for the acts of the other. BBHCC agrees to hold harmless the Town for any acts or omissions in acting as a collaborative partner or for any other action or omission in acting under this MOU.

Dated: 6-30-15

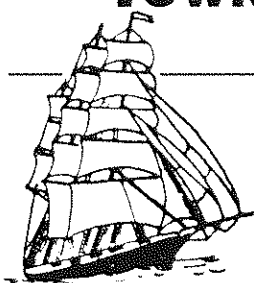

Town of Bucksport

Dated: 6/30/15


Bucksport Bay Health Communities Coalition

TOWN OF BUCKSPORT, MAINE

Incorporated June 25, 1792



OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

P.O. Drawer X
Bucksport, Maine 04416

Phone (207) 469-7368

Fax (207) 469-7369

June 13, 2016

Peter Morelli
AARP Maine State Office
1685 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04102

Dear Mr. Morelli:

On behalf of the Town of Bucksport, Maine, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Maine and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become a recognized "Age-Friendly Community." Along with other selected communities in the nation, Bucksport is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to aging populations.

The median age of citizens living in Maine is 44.2 years compared to the national median age of 37.7. Bucksport is located in Hancock County. The working-age-to-senior ratio in Hancock County is expected to decline from an already low of 2.8 in 2015 to 1.7 in 2030.

To address our changing demographics, in 2000 the Town partnered with the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition which was created to establish healthy communities with healthy citizens. The mission of Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities is to work as individuals and as members of organized groups, to demonstrate a strong commitment to the importance of taking care of our own personal health – body, mind and spirit – as well as helping our family members and neighbors. The Town, in coordination with the Senior Resource Network of the Coalition and the Chamber of Commerce coordinated the Show You Care Campaign which has resulted in many changes around town to improve walkability, safety and access to public facilities for all.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the Town of Bucksport to:

- Promote the active engagement of older adults in the Senior Resource Network of Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition.
- Secure a council resolution to work toward becoming more age-friendly.
- Establish a Plan of Action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community.
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

We look forward to working with AARP Maine staff and volunteers to ensure our community has the appropriate infrastructure in place so we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M. Lessard". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name of the town manager.

Susan M. Lessard
Town Manager