



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: 9/7/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Northfield

STATE: Minnesota

POPULATION SIZE: City Data 2014 -- 20,356 population

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: US 2000 Census -- 2,230 people above the age of 60

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Dana Graham, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City of Northfield, Mn, 801 Washington St. Northfield, MN 55057

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:

Ben Martig is the administrator of the City of Northfield. He is the head of the City Staff and reports to the Northfield City Council. He works closely with the Mayor to set the council agendas and leads the City Staff as they implement the Council's direction. Mr. Martig will coordinate City Staff efforts to help the Volunteer Advisory Committee implement the AARP Age Friendly Northfield initiative.

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.

Northfield has had a rich history of organizations, programs and services targeted toward older people. A number of organizations including the Northfield Senior Center, two retirement centers, the Community Action Center, Elderhostel Learning program, two local clinics, the Northfield Hospital, the City of Northfield and many churches, among others, offer opportunities for older Northfielders. Various programs and services provided include subsidized housing, assisted living, adult day services, home care agencies, mental and physical health programs, managed care meals, transit services, and many volunteers who assist older people. Through the Age Friendly initiative Northfield plans to enhance these programs by improving and expanding them to include more people, more options, and a greater rural geographic area. In addition, we hope to identify gaps that exist and work to fill them with new age friendly programs and services.

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

The Advisory Committee formed to guide the process will have many citizens age 50+ on the committee and advisory to it. Stake holders will be sought from all organizations and agencies involved with meeting the needs of older citizens. Engagement of older community members will be actively encouraged during the recruitment process. We have held conversations with Senior Center members in several focus groups as we created a PowerPoint presentation for the City Council in preparation for this application. We assume that the use of focus groups will continue throughout the initiative.

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.

Agreement for collaboration during the age-friendly process has been sought and received from the Northfield Senior Center, Three Links and Northfield Retirement Community (senior living continuum of care campuses), the Chamber of Commerce, Allina Clinic, Northfield Hospital and Clinics and Rice County Social Services. A committee has formed involving representatives of the medical community, senior living communities, community volunteers, and social services that will be working with Age Friendly Northfield to achieve goals in the Community Support and Health Services Domain. In addition, we will work with the City of Northfield and their departments in many of the other domains. Continuing conversations will occur with the Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau and other business groups. We are the home of two liberal arts colleges whose involvement we will seek. Many churches and organizations such as the Garden Club, Northfield in Bloom, the Roundtable, and others have expressed interest in the program as well. We continue to engage them by encouraging organization representatives to become members of the committee.

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?

Northfield has a history of successful collaborations among many agencies, organizations and businesses. We would hope to develop a model of engaging and organizing multiple groups to work together to achieve the goal of Age Friendly Northfield. The two colleges also provide opportunities for student interns interested in research, analysis and reporting of our efforts and outcomes. We intend to share our data with the networks and others. Of course, we welcome access to the work of others in the network to inform our efforts. We actively seek best practices from other communities both nationally and internationally.

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?

Northfield has been recognized by Money Magazine as a Best Place to Retire. Northfield has also worked on designation as a Dementia Friendly Community through the Alzheimer’s Association. Our community has a very successful Healthy Community Initiative working to improve services and opportunities for the city’s youth. We also have a thriving ongoing effort to beautify the city called the Beautify Northfield Coalition as well as Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. It seems a logical next step for our community to continue with these successes and to direct community efforts to assess and work to improve the services and opportunities available to our older citizens in a collaborative proactive manner as the percentage of seniors increases.

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 >



[Logo attached to email](#)