



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: 8/29/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Mecklenburg County

STATE: NC

POPULATION SIZE: 1,034,070

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 10.3%

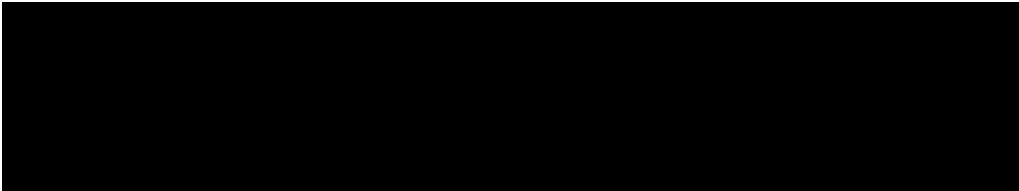
NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Dena R. Diorio

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center
600 East 4th Street, Charlotte NC 28202

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.

NAME: Michael Taylor



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

Mr. Taylor will serve as one of several potential liasons between the County and various stakeholder groups, individuals and local AARP officials committed to the development of an age-friendly Mecklenburg.

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.

For well over the past decade, Mecklenburg County and community partners have sought to evaluate the needs of the aging community and to develop action steps to address gaps. From the county-sponsored "Status of Seniors" Initiative, focus on elder wellness through County Departments such as Social Services, Parks and Recreation and Public Health, community needs assessments by the Urban Institute of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the Centralina Area Agency on Aging's area Aging Plan, roundtable discussions on an age-friendly community sponsored by the Foundation For The Carolinas, to the development of "Village Network" affiliates in Charlotte and Davidson, local stakeholders continue to focus on the needs of the community's aging population and strategies to address them. Mecklenburg County launched the "Livable Meck" initiative in 2013, eventuating in a community-wide effort to support the livability of Mecklenburg residents now and into the future. We believe becoming a member of the AARP Network of Age-friendly Communities will provide an opportunity to consolidate many of these efforts into a more unified and sustainable approach to enhancing the quality of life for all Mecklenburg residents.

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

The County has been and will continue to work with AARP and the Age Friendly community to develop a thorough list of stakeholders comprised of representatives from various organizations and existing stakeholder groups in addition to local government staff. The stakeholder list is still expanding as we seek to attract more parties to take an interest in what can be done to make Mecklenburg County more age-friendly.

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.

As described in #1 above, we hope to harness the efforts of existing separate initiatives, advocates and stakeholder groups and consolidate them into a unified effort. Especially, we believe the incorporation of the age-friendly designation into the Livable Meck initiative will enable us to capitalize on an already existing collective impact model.

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 learn from other age-friendly communities and be able to contribute knowledge and practice that we have developed or will discover. Mecklenburg County is one of many rapidly growing urban communities across the nation; however, its demographic, business, corporate, government and services environment makes it uniquely positioned to be able to provide leadership in this arena.

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?

Mecklenburg County is a progressive-thinking organization, foresees challenging growth, and sees the necessity for strategic planning to enhance and sustain the quality of life for all residents.

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 >

