



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: 7/23/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Albany County

STATE: New York

POPULATION SIZE: 303,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 20%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Daniel P. McCoy, Albany County Executive

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 112 State Street, 9th Floor, Albany, New York 12207

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:

Mr. Scarff is the designated staff person for the Age Friendly Initiative. He was formerly the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources for Albany County and was asked by County Executive McCoy to assume this newly created title of Director of Programs and Services in order to spearhead this exciting program. He will use his 40+ years of community involvement, almost 10 years as a member of the County Department for Aging back in the 1970's and as host of the WRGB, Chn. 6 program "Young At Heart", and the WQBK radio show "Sunday For Seniors" for approximately 7 years, to identify experts and interested parties to serve on a task force to enhance this undertaking.

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.

Albany County already goes above and beyond in its desire to make the lives of our older citizens safe, healthy and happy. From home delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, legal and adult day care services to our aggressive attempts to secure funding through grants that will allow seniors to receive the handicapped access necessary for them to stay in their homes and age in comfort, we feel confident that we know where many of the problems are that confront our older residents on a daily basis. But we can always do better. We recently revived the Albany County Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail, a 9.6 mile totally handicapped accessible bike and walking trail that will host a myriad of activities designed to get seniors up and active. Our county owned Lawson Lake is a beautiful lake that has recently been renovated to accommodate hundreds of residents and visitors. Our newly created county recreation department will make programs and activities available to seniors such as a county garden, picnic and bar-b-cue activities and intergenerational programs for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors. Through our upcoming survey we will be actively seeking sincere input from our seniors to determine where we are succeeding, and where we need improvement in bringing services to them, as well as what services that they feel they need in order to “Age Friendly. “

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

In coordination with the University at Albany School of Social Welfare and the Albany Law School, we will begin a comprehensive survey of needs within the community of older residents in Albany County. In addition, through our Chn. 17 Access television program “Young At Heart” that is produced by the Albany County Department for Aging, we will have a segment on each program that will inform seniors and their family members of various locations for “Senior Summits” to ask for input concerning the 8 Domains that are suggested by AARP and the World Health Organization. These summits will be held on a monthly basis throughout Albany County. The summits will include members of the “Age Friendly Albany County” panel of experts to hear their concerns. Of course we are cognizant of the fact that there is nobody that would be more of an expert than a senior.

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.

We are fortunate in Albany County to have a County Executive who has been encouraging cooperation between the various departments in his administration, as well as between municipalities and non-profits within the county. There are numerous samples of this cooperation that have already taken place and continue to do so. Activities such as Senior Day picnic at our county owned Lawson Lake, Senior Law Day at the Albany Law School, Age and Handicap friendly Albany County Helderberg Hudson Railtrail, Healthy Eating seminars sponsored by the Shoprite Supermarket Chain, are to name just a few. We will continue to seek cooperation and encouragement from all of our partners in government and in the private and non-profit sectors.

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 sincerely believe that Albany County, our partners in business and industry, as well as those in the non-profit sector will work as a team to enhance the livability of all ages in our society. This AARP/WHO project is a wonderful way to bring together all segments of our community to develop a long lasting and, most importantly, on-going commitment to improving the lives of all citizens. Of course with an emphasis on the older residents of Albany County, we will strive to make the prospect of “growing older” one that can be met with excitement and hope for the future.

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?

Our community was motivated to join the AARP network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities by a realization that, while much has been accomplished to enhance the livability of our residents, there is so much more that can be done. The most important reason for joining is the guidance that AARP provides in the development of becoming Age-Friendly. The emphasis on involving the Senior Community at every step of this process makes this a unique and very worthwhile endeavor.

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.