



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: 5/4/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Municipality of Coamo

STATE: Puerto Rico

POPULATION SIZE: 40,577

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 20%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Juan Carlos García Padilla, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Apartado 1875, Coamo, PR 00769

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: Cristina Miranda-Palacios

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

Mrs. Miranda-Palacios serves as the development consultant for the Municipality of Coamo. She has been an active member of the Mayor's team for the past 7 years. She will serve as the lead for the design and development of Coamo's Age Friendly Community initiative, including: serving as liaison between partners, leading participatory design and visioning sessions, identifying additional partners, designing the evaluation process, identifying best practices and lessons learned, as well as funding sources, among others.

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 Municipality of Coamo has a deep commitment with its elderly community, and with ensuring that all residents are served and that they are part of the community. To that end the Municipality has designed and implemented, or supported, several initiatives to serve its elderly residents, including: 3 elderly housing Projects that house 233 residents, 3 elderly centers that serve over 200 participants and their families, and where the following services, among others, are offered: recreational and cultural activities, social and educational events, and nutrition (food services). There are also 24 residents that receive housekeeping services. The municipality also provides and facilitates access to mainstream services, including: coordination of interagency and municipality services, transportation, medical appointments, housing services, site trips, exercise and dance classes, among others. For the implementation of this initiative the Municipality has worked collaboratively with AARP Puerto Rico and other partners. As part of the implementation of the initiative a strategic plan will be developed by an Advisory Council to be appointed by the Mayor's Office. Members of the AC will include community representatives, including: elderly residents, business owners, state agency officials, municipal staff, non profit sector members, a Hospital Directors, an University Chancellor, among others. The AC will guide the implementation of the age friendly initiative, following guidelines of the WHO as well as best practices from the field. The AC will, in collaboration with the Municipality and with guidance from the initiative lead (Cristina Miranda Palacios) the strategic plan with a timeline of 5 years. Funding scans will be completed in order to develop a financial strategy to accompany and fund the implementation of the strategic plan to be developed, as well as other initiatives that are developed as part of the design and implementation process.

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

As part of the strategic planning process the following key steps will be completed: needs assessment to identify needs as well as resources, partnership identification, Alliance development, project design, and the appointment of an Advisory Council to guide the implementation of the plan and the transformation process. Town hall meetings will be hosted in the community in order to: present findings of the needs assessment, present and request reactions to the strategic plan, and discuss implementation of the plan. The council will have representation from the elderly community, including the participation of the AARP Puerto Rico chapter president, among others community groups that represent the aging population of Coamo. A mix of qualitative and quantitative approaches will be taken to ensure the participation, vision and input of the older population in Coamo

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 a municipality, the Municipality of Coamo, a unit of local government, is the closest governmental entity to the community. The Municipality leads service design and provision to residents, as well as interagency collaboration. Mayor García Padilla has served as mayor for the past 15.5 years. During his tenure he has implemented important initiatives that have strengthened the municipality and its development and transformation into an inclusive, safe and prosperous community. Initiatives cover the continuum of life, from early childhood to elderly focused initiatives, and include housing, economic development, safety, education and health components, among others. The Mayor has a committed team in place as well as an ample network of collaborators that include representatives from different sectors and key stakeholders. For the implementation of the Age Friendly Community the municipality will maximize existing resources and collaborators, and will provide ample support to the Advisory Council to be appointed. It will be the role of the Advisory Council to guide all design efforts, and to oversee their implementation by the Municipality and its instrumentalities. The Municipality will implement the strategic plan, work with evaluators to assure fidelity as well as improve outcomes, will lead funding identification and allocation and resource development. The Municipality will involve all of its instrumentalities, as well as state agency collaborators and partners from the non-profit, community and private sector in order to facilitate implementation.

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?

The Municipality of Coamo, under the guidance of the Advisory Council to be appointed, will design, develop, implement and evaluate a comprehensive age friendly community initiative that can be adapted to other communities similar to ours, in size and cultural context. We plan to become the first certified age friendly community in Puerto Rico and believe that we can serve as a role model to other communities in the island that are eager to implement transformative strategies as this one. In order to share the experience of the design and implementation of our age friendly initiative the Municipality will host a series of forums with other municipalities where the initiative will be presented and discussed. The Municipality will be available to provide guidance and support, as well as share lessons learned and resources with other communities interested in developing and implementing an age friendly community. It is our expectation that the model to be designed and implemented can also be adapted to other Latino / Hispanic 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?

As stated before, the Mayor of the Municipality of Coamo has a deep and unwavering commitment to all community residents, but even more so to the elderly residents. The elderly community represents 20% of the population of the Municipality, but they are more than a number or a percentage. They are the backbone of the community and the ones that worked tirelessly, from different sectors, for many years. The Municipality decided to join the Age Friendly Communities networks because it believes that an age friendly community is a better community, a more inclusive community and a more just community. Thru the design and implementation of the age friendly initiative the Municipality will ensure that the community is integrated and that its elderly residents can better benefit and maximize existing initiatives, as well as provide support to other initiatives.

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 >



The logo is in the design process. It will be submitted once it is approved by the Age Friendly Advisory Committee.