



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: 12/9/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Charleston

STATE: West Virginia

POPULATION SIZE: 49,736

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 29%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mary Beth Hoover, City Councilwoman

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 501 Virginia Street East, Charleston WV 25301

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:

Mary Beth Hoover brings much to the Charleston's age-friendly initiative. She is a City Council Member representing Ward 9, is the Chair of Streets and Traffic Committee, and a member of the Planning Committee. Mary Beth is also a Member of Charleston Main Street Board of Directors and the Chairperson of the East End Main Street Advisory Board. Additionally, Mary Beth is a member of the Strong Neighborhood Task Force – the entity that first embraced Charleston's age-friendly initiative and will house the Age-Friendly Communities Advisory Board. Mary Beth was the sponsor of the Charleston City Council's Resolution to become a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

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 City of Charleston has already embraced many community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people that will be enhanced and augmented through its age-friendly plan that include, but are not limited to: increasing the walkability of the city for all ages and abilities – utilizing curb cuts, timed crosswalk signals, and putting the City on a road diet by decreasing speed limits and increasing walkable routes; increasing green spaces where residents of all ages can gather, exercise and enjoy; urban renewal programs that convert unused dangerous properties into age-friendly residential communities with walking access to downtown businesses and amenities; access to leisure and cultural activities (most of them low or no cost) that encourage social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people; and increased private and public transportation options including Uber and pedicabs.

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

Older individuals are a vital part of life in the City of Charleston, and represent nearly one-third of the city population. As such, older people will be involved and engaged in all aspects of the age-friendly process including, but not limited to: the Age-Friendly Advisory Board; focus groups; community liasons; and implementation groups.

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.

Great care has been taken to create an atmosphere that encourages a “cross pollination” of ideas and fosters open communication between different agencies and departments within the City of Charleston. As an example, the Charleston Strong Neighborhoods Task Force works to improve the quality of life in Charleston’s urban neighborhoods by applying smart growth principles, policy changes, and public art and is comprised of City Officials, business and community leaders and other interested citizens. The Strong Neighborhoods Task Force has agreed to house the Age Friendly Communities Advisory Board by reaching out to a cross section of Charleston’s citizenry and organizations to create an Advisory Board that will give voice to all members and aspects of the city.

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?

As the Capitol and largest city in West Virginia, Charleston plans to lead the way and set an example for other cities in the Mountain State to move towards deliberate design, planning and execution of age-friendly communities. The City of Charleston hopes to become an eventual mentor to other cities seeking to become great places for all ages – demonstrating that features such as safe, walkable streets, access to key services, opportunities for residents to participate in community activities, and improved housing and transportation options are the key to cities that want to stem the population decline in West Virginia.

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 City of Charleston realizes that deliberate measures must be taken to successfully move towards a more livable community – and that creating a well designed, livable community will create a stonger Charleston, improve economic growth, and better serve Charleston residents of all ages. After conversations with AARP West Virginia, communitiy leaders in Charleston are confident that membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities help them towards that goal as well as opening doors to mentorship from other Network members, and funding opportunities for continued improvements to the City.

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.