



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.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 10/20/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Fruita

STATE: Colorado

POPULATION SIZE: 12,924

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 18% (& 28% 50+)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Lori Buck

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 325 East Aspen, Fruita, CO. 81521

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]

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

Jacqui Foster is the Senior Services Supervisor for the City of Fruita, Parks and Recreation Department. As such she is directly responsible for supporting the senior community in Fruita through program and activity offerings as well as by representing their mental, physical and social health needs in a variety of forums and interagency workgroups. She is currently, the President of the Colorado Western Slope Area Agency on Aging.

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 Fruita focuses on the following strategic outcomes built upon a basis of providing quality core services. **Quality of Place:** The City of Fruita is a community where residents love where they are. The City strives to be a bike and pedestrian friendly community by providing a system of sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes that connect to our parks, schools, neighborhoods, civic facilities, and commercial areas. We value safe neighborhoods, our geographic natural resources and landscapes, top tier education and healthcare, and we collaborate to provide quality essential infrastructure and services. **Economic Health:** The City of Fruita strives to be financially sustainable, fiscally responsible and continuously seeks ways to allocate resources to services and projects that have the highest impact on the City's priorities. We are the innovative leader for economic development in the Grand Valley. **Lifestyle:** The City of Fruita fosters a fun and funky ambiance by celebrating the local arts, farm and ranching history, unique leisure opportunities, and family-friendly events and activities. The City strives to offer a balance of activities to enhance the older person by providing a number of programs. These programs are coordinated at the Senior Center and in the surrounding area. In addition, senior service department is charged with providing programs, events and trips for seniors to remain physically, socially, and mentally active. The department also provides educational opportunities on services and programs offered not only through the City but also through the Mesa County Health Department and other service organizations. Based on the City's strategic goals of providing Quality of Place, Economic Health, and Lifestyle aspects of our core values, it reaches out to every resident from young to old. The City of Fruita is involved with 'Communities that Care,' an initiative that works to improve the protective factors for our areas youth and parallels the 'Age Friendly' program that enhances a community's livability for all generations. Together, both programs go hand in hand in assisting our community forward to a 'Livable Community'.

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

A Fruita Community Board will be assembled with key leaders in our community to focus on our community's older adults with an effort to provide a Livable Community. Focus Groups, made up with a variety of community members, including older adults, business owners, and citizens will branch out to discuss the 8 domains moving us toward a Livable Community. We will utilize AARP Colorado's database and their Western Community Alliance newsletter to reach as many older adults within our community as possible. Surveys will be conducted throughout our community to determine what is important, needed, and wanted by our older adults within our community. We will actively seek out older adult opinions throughout the community and provide an open-door policy with regard to citizen input as well as the Senior Advisory Task Force for input.

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 plan to conduct regular meeting with a Community Board and the specialized focus groups to determine and plan the specific goals set out for our community to move forward with our plan for a Livable Community. Our Community Board may consist of leaders from Grand Valley Transit, Family Health West and Colorado Canyons Hospital, the Fruita Community Development Director, Senior Community Services Employment Program, Mesa County Health Department, the Fruita Rotary Club, the Fruita Senior Task Force, the Mayor of Fruita, Fruita City Manager, Fruita Parks and Recreation Director, the Fruita City Council member, several local Fruita business leaders, Fruita Chamber of Commerce member, Westslope Area Agency on Aging member, and along with other key leaders from our community as selected.

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?

While the City of Fruita is certainly forward thinking, we have always been viewed as being the progressive in the Grand Valley area. Work has already begun on the 8 domains of livability, mainly with respect to recreation and leisure opportunities, social interaction and participation, community support and health services, outdoor spaces and buildings. Other projected goals will be with-in transportation, economic development, housing, and civic participation and employment. The city hopes to contribute to AARP Network and World Health Organization by the sharing of information, ideas, outcomes.

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 Fruita and the Fruita Parks and Recreation Senior Services Division has been working with a variety of community agencies to assist with some growing concerns around transportation, housing, employment opportunities and general livability issues in our community. Tackling this issues alone is daunting, if not impossible. As such we discussed within our organization and feel that partnering with AARP will provide some assistance and framework as we work to create a livable Fruita for our aging population and all residents..

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) 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 >



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