Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Pinellas County

STATE: Florida

POPULATION SIZE: 921,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21% of Pinellas County residents are above the age of 65.

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Charlie Justice, Chairman, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 315 Court Street, 5th Floor, Clearwater, FL 33756

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.

Daisy Rodriguez is the Health Care Administrator for Pinellas County’s Human Services Department. Her responsibilities include oversight of the County’s health program for low income individuals, the Mobile Medical Unit serving the homeless and indigent and administration of the Navigator Program that helps residents with enrollment in the Affordable Care Act. Daisy will serve as the “champion” of Pinellas County’s Age-Friendly initiative and is assisted by Jane Muhrlin, Project Coordinator.
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.

Pinellas County has a number of programs and services available to residents however they have not been highlighted specifically to a particular age/demographic. In addition, Pinellas County contracts with community service providers for a myriad of services. We will continue to highlight these through a variety of communications vehicles including social media, news releases, a webpage focused on “senior connections,” speakers bureau topics and more. Further a series of focus groups will help identify and gaps in services or opportunities to enhance services for the aging population and resources for caregivers. A proclamation was read on August 9, 2016 for National Senior Citizens Day August 21, 2016. In addition, Pinellas County launched it’s Senior Connections webpage in conjunction with the proclamation and issued a news release to promote the new resource.

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

A series of focus groups, surveys and listening sessions will be conducted throughout the community. Special care will be taken to reach people in their communities to reach the highest number of participants possible and reduce any inconvenience to residents who may have limited access to transportation.

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.

An internal focus group was held with county departments including: Emergency Management, Consumer Protection, Emergency Medical Services, Marketing and Communications, Building Services, Planning, Animal Services, Extension Office and Utilities to identify existing programs and services available to the senior population. Pinellas County Human Services hosted the Human Services Coalition of Pinellas County Fall Networking Meeting – Aging Friendly in Pinellas County on September 21, 2016. A panel of subject matter experts discussed existing resources and initiatives including: Dr. Kathy Black, USF Sarasota-Manatee who is a consultant for the Age-Friendly Sarasota initiative. As a result, 30+ partners indicated interest in providing support for the initiative.
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 be a champion of aging awareness and to further the mission of AARP and the World Health Organization Global Network. Pinellas County recognizes the importance of aging, diversity and inclusion by engaging the community and identifying the resources that will enhance the quality of life for its residents and to facilitate aging in place for those who desire.

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?

Pinellas County cares about its residents and believes the research by WHO and AARP can help us improve the quality of life for our residents for generations to come.

Please see attached logo as jpeg.

6) Please provide a digital file or link of a logo or

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here’s ours >