

# 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@aarps.org](mailto:livable@aarps.org).
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 3/8/2017

## Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Agawam

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 28,438

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 25%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Richard A. Cohen

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001

## 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:

As Executive Director of the COA and Senior Center, Joan Linnehan is in charge of 20+ staff, 80 Volunteers and overseeing the operation of our new 8 year old 25,000. Sq. foot building on Main Street. We offer resources, referrals, recreation and nutritional needs of our over 7,000 Seniors and disabled. We have an active Commission on Disabilities which assists seniors and disabled to remain in their homes ie shower rehabs, equipment loan and ramps. All our departments, Town Hall, Police, Fire, DPW, Schools etc. are sensitive to the needs of the elderly. I am proud to work for such an open and compassionate community. Agawam is also a "Dementia Friendly" community with trained personnel on staff at the senior center. The center is always evolving to meet the needs of our residents.

### **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.**

Our Mayor and City Council, as well as all our department heads and the Municipal staff are always sensitive to the needs of the elderly population. We have a 25,000 square foot Senior Center that was built 9 years ago to accommodate our ever growing Senior Population. With our 20 + staff and our 80 volunteers we have daily congregate lunches and 150+ meals on wheels delivered. We network and serve them whenever they are in need and whenever we are able. We are a great resource for food assistance, housing referrals, transportation, tax preparation, fuel assistance, computer training, social interaction and other numerous activities and programs to meet their daily needs.

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

We are open to our 7,000 seniors and listen and include them in the process of education and awareness through our monthly Senior Scene Newsletter and the local papers. The Town is currently working on complete streets with the Department of Public works on sidewalks and bike paths that are all ADA compliant. Our parks and buildings are becoming more and more accessible. Our restaurants and business are also encouraged through grants to make accessibility a priority and to understand the needs and behaviors of those with dementia. Even trash collection changes are explained to Seniors to make their community living manageable. The mayor has a monthly meeting at the Senior Center for questions and comments and acts on them immediately.

**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.**

There is already a department head network lead by our Mayor Richard Cohen. We have a Planning Director Mark Strange along with other Departments such as the Senior Center and the Library. We are also working with the local nursing homes to create and promote Agawam as a Dementia Friendly Community. Our Paramedic Firefighters and our Police have ongoing training on how to work with seniors who may be frail, blind, hard of hearing and/or have dementia.

#### 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?

Our desire to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities is by providing education and funding to help our aging population with all their needs to live a life compatible with an ever changing world. To promote AARP for our residents to join this network to take advantage of all it offers.

#### 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?

Surrounding Communities such as West Springfield, MA were publicizing their AARP Age-Friendly Communities and we too want to join this process as we understand the importance of helping our seniors remain in their homes and community. As we have also been working to make Agawam a "Dementia Friendly" community, becoming an AARP Age-Friendly Community fits nicely with our desire and dedication to the importance of aging in home and meeting the needs outside the home in the community.

#### 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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