



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: 10/23/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Wakefield

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 25,171

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 22%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 1 Lafayette Street

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:

Council on Aging Director Judy Luciano currently manages the operation of the town's senior center and is responsible for the planning, direction, and continuing development of programming to meet the needs of the Town's aging population. As the community contact for Age-Friendly Wakefield she will be responsible for building partnerships with community members, coordinating with other community partners, work with the leadership team and oversee any sub-committees that may be formed.

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.

Currently the Council on Aging / Senior Center is a resource for residents of the community 60 years and older providing information, services and volunteer opportunities. Informational programming on health insurance, safety, home health care, financial and estate planning are a few of the the programs provided to assist residents. Exercise programs provide seniors opportunities to maintain healthy lifestyles which help maintain mobility. Art, woodcarving, and craft classes are available as well. Transportation services are also available for trips to the center, doctor appointments, shopping, banking, visiting friends etc. Our programs provide opportunities for residents to socialize and connect with others whether eating at the congregate meal site or volunteering. Though we offer a lot for our residents we are looking forward to community input through a survey and forum to find out where we can improve and take steps towards a more Age-Friendly Wakefield We plan to work outside the walls of the senior center. For example we just opened an aging resource area at the local library which provides resources for all ages. We have also reached out to local non profits to put together some intergenerational programs. Working with people of various ages will help us to see the community through different perspectives.

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

We hope that through the focus groups, listening sessions and surveys as well as a media campaign we can involve older residents and tap into a sense of community to work with us on a project that benefits all of Wakefield. We will also reach out to existing community and civic groups and share with them the benefit of the project and seek their input. Reaching out to other established organizations will help create visibility and hopefully attract a diverse group with different ideas. We will use all forms of media: print, local cable, and social media as a way to increase awareness of the initiative and involve residents.

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.

A leadership team to include the Town Administrator, Town Planner, Recreation Director, COA Director, Housing Authority representative, Board of Health representative, Council on Aging Board member(s). This group will convene to develop an action plan using information learned from surveys and focus groups to develop a plan of action. Any recommended actions will then be addressed with the appropriate municipal department, community group, local business or other unknown partner.

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?

Looking through all the information on Age-Friendly Communities has motivated our team. We see great ideas other communities have expanded on and see the same potential in the Town of Wakefield. We hope that our work could be that idea, resource or fix for another city or town. Maybe some simple change we make here prompts another person to look at living in their own community differently.

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 a community we are always trying to improve and provide a welcoming livable Wakefield. Whether it be upgrading the town's buildings, roads and, parks or engaging residents socially providing opportunities to be part of the community. The AARP and World Health Network's cycle is an excellent model to follow. It allows the community to work with the many individual groups and come together under one umbrella, assess where the community is and continue a cycle of improvement.

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 >



Town seal attached separately