

# Membership Application

To join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the  
Real Possibilities World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

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- If you have questions while completing this form, please email [meeoarp.org](mailto:meeoarp.org) or call 566-554-5300
- \* If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 1/9/2017

## Section 1 COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Gilead

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 209 (as of 2010)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 49% (US Census Bureau)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Board of Selectmen:

Jeremy Morton, Stephen McLain, Jr., Alfred Leighton

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 8 Depot Street.. Gilead, ME 04217

## 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:

Use McLain has been an active participant in community affairs during the 64 years she has lived in Gilead. She is a member of the Gilead Planning Board; a member of the Gilead and Bethel historical societies, a member and past Vice president of the Bethel Sr. Citizens; and a member of the Gilead Sthoi Board. Professionally, she was a licensed clinician who dealt with patients of all ages. In summary, she brings with her to this new endeavor a wealth of planning and care giving experience. Upon acceptance of Gilead as a member of the Age-friendly Community Network, it is anticipated that Lise McLain will be formally designated as the Town's Age-friendly representative and will become an active member of the Bethel area Age-friendly Community Initiative's Advisory Council. As the Town's representative, Use McLaine will be an important member of the visioning and planning group that provide for Gilead to become a more age-friendly community. In doing so, she will serve as a vital liaison between the Advisory Council and Gilead.

**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.

Gilead is a remote, rural community with a population of 209. Accordingly, it is heavily dependent on the services provided by nearby communities. Despite that, the two public buildings in Gilead are accessible to the disabled and elderly. It is anticipated that Gilead will draw upon the resources available through the already active Bethel area Age-friendly Community Initiative, under the auspices of the AARP's Network of Age-friendly Communities, to satisfy the needs of Gilead's aging population. The Town's leadership strongly supports this project and is seeking to join the Bethel area Age-friendly effort in order to provide a better environment for Gilead's older residents.

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

We have started to explore what the Bethel area Age-friendly Initiative already has to offer in the various livability domains outlined by AARP and WHO. Comments and ideas will be solicited from individuals and groups to identify the areas that community members believe are in need of particular improvement. This will help us prioritize our efforts on future projects. During the coming months, members of the Age-Friendly Community Initiative team will approach Gilead's community groups to encourage their participation in various planning endeavors. The Team will also initiate a concerted outreach effort by sending a direct mailing to residents to inform them of our plans. Our community members have already responded to the area's needs assessment conducted during the fall of 2015 by the Bethel area Age-friendly Community Initiative and believe that the information gleaned from the results will spark meaningful conversations and impel action.

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.

Bethel **and its** neighboring communities, to include Gilead, are fortunate in hosting organizations that believe strongly in collaboration. In agreement with these groups, we are certain we will be able to develop specific projects to accomplish our mission. The Age-Friendly Community Initiative will focus specifically on the needs of our seniors. However, we will also form partnerships with organizations whose mission may be to provide healthy food, access to affordable housing, transportation, or any of the other topics covered by the "livability domains." These coordinated efforts will, in the end, make Gilead a more livable community for all its citizens. We believe that many of the resources needed are already in the area. We need to identify them, make the citizens aware of their availability, and build on what we already have.

**Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP**

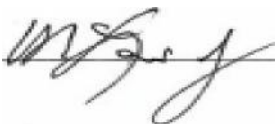
Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

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?

Gilead will coordinate with the AARP-NAFC and the WEID-GNAFCC with its partners in the Bethel regional initiative, The Bethel regional initiative includes (with Gilead) five communities working together to make the region a better place for people of all ages through projects, such as the transportation program they have started, that primarily benefits older and disabled residents as well as broader projects, such as advocacy against a proposed state budget that will cut DHHS case workers, that benefit residents of all ages. Gilead will contribute to the learning of the Bethel region and will share information with other communities and regional efforts in Maine, in northern New England, throughout the US and in the world.

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?

Gilead was motivated to join the Network of Age-Friendly Communities by the aging demographic of our small community and by the accomplishments we have seen the Bethel regional initiative make. We want to join forces with our neighbors in Bethel, Woodstock, Greenwood, and Newry to learn how we can make Gilead an easier and safer place for older residents to age in place. We believe that the work we will do will have a positive effect on the health and well-being of all our residents—from a newborn to our oldest resident.



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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 >

