



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 me@aarpp.org or call 866-554-5380
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 7/5/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Stonington

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 1043 (2010 Census);

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 30%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Kathleen Billings-Pezaris, Town Manager

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Town of Stonington, PO Box 9, Stonington, ME 04681

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:

Anne Schroth is the Thriving in Place Coordinator for Healthy Peninsula, the coordinating agency for Thriving in Place Downeast (TiPD). TiPD is a 3-year grant, funded by the Maine Health Access Foundation, designed to develop collaborative, sustainable programs and partnerships to enable seniors and those with chronic health conditions remain safely in their own homes for as long as possible. We are in our third and final year of implementation for the TiPD grant and have developed an extensive array of activities that help support age-friendly communities. By partnering with the local governments in our 9-town region to join the Age-Friendly Network, we are hoping to build on the progress we have already made and continue to strengthen the health of our community.

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.

Please see the attached document “Thriving in Place Downeast – By The Numbers”, a summary of projects and activities conducted in the first two years of our 3-year Thriving in Place grant. These partners and collaborative projects will be the foundation on which we hope to build deeper and more extensive supports for an age-friendly community. The TiPD initiative is focused on the 9 towns of the Blue Hill Peninsula, Deer Isle and Stonington and our goal is for all of these towns to join the Network of Age-Friendly Communities in a regional approach. The Stonington Town Manager and Select Board appreciate the strategic value of a regional approach, which understands each town’s unique character, while recognizing the importance of collaboration in designing and implementing age-friendly activities in our neighborhood of rural towns.

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

Our TiPD initiative already has older community members involved at the decision-making level of our healthy-aging work, including on our Advisory Council, among our TiPD Community Partners, and on the Provider Network. In our two years of implementation, we have made many more contacts with seniors in our region of towns through our TiPD Partners and collaborative programming. In Stonington, specifically, the Healthy Island Project is an active partner in engaging seniors in age-friendly activities, sponsoring programs such as the Salt Air Seniors, Move It To Lose It and other community programs. As our planning efforts evolve, HIP hopes to engage some of these community members in a local planning subcommittee to bring the voices of Island seniors to the larger regional planning efforts.

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 will continue the structure of collaboration that we have worked hard to maintain both during the TiPD planning process and for the first two years of implementation. This includes an Advisory Council consisting of TiPD Partners and other community volunteers, the TiPD Partners (funded and unfunded), and a more informal Provider Network. We will undoubtedly change membership of these groups and/or combine them as our TiP grant expires and we move into this new phase as a member of the Age-Friendly Network, including more stakeholders and addressing new topic areas as the need arises.

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?

As a region of small, rural towns on the coast of Maine, our project offers many opportunities for creative collaboration and community building. We can offer our unique perspectives to the evolving age-friendly conversations as the United States and world populations age. Healthy Peninsula, as the coordinating agency for Thriving in Place Downeast, and an organization with many years of experience in leading community collaborations, has several programs that would provide examples for replication in other communities, such as our Magic Food Bus (free fresh food delivery to area communities), the Community Resource Guide (collaboration with a local hospital on a digital, up-to-date, detailed guide of local, state and national resources for patients and consumers); and our Volunteer Project (collaboration among social service providers to establish an in-home volunteer corps to support socialization, resource orientation and support for isolated seniors and chronically ill).

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 Thriving in Place initiative has provided a valuable, funded framework for building sustainable, collaborative programming to support seniors and the chronically ill to stay at home. As we move towards the end of our grant funding, we wanted to find a supportive framework to continue the great momentum and keep working to support our seniors, chronically ill and the larger community. The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities provides just such a framework, with opportunities for mutual learning and experimentation that will help us continue to meet our goals.

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 >



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