



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org or call 202-434-2430
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 2/1/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of East Lansing

STATE: Michigan

POPULATION SIZE: 48,471 (2015 Census estimate)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 14.5% (2014 Census estimate)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Mark Meadows

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing 48823

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:

Mr. Dempsey is the Director of Planning, Building, and Development and Deputy City Manager for East Lansing. In his current role he oversees a number of City programs ranging from managing federal grant funds that support local non-profits to overseeing development of the City’s Comprehensive Plan for development, among other responsibilities. He will provide oversight to other staff involved in this project as well as administrative support to the Age Friendly Steering Committee. He will be responsible for ensuring that all the involved staff and volunteers are working in coordination to maximize the effectiveness of the initiative.

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.

The City of East Lansing has an existing seniors' program, Prime Time, that was established in 1972. The program offers a number of excellent support services such as our Technology Lab, Monthly Foot Care Clinic, Transportation, Emergency Alert Files of Life, Cells for Seniors, AARP's Tax Clinic and Driver's Safety Training, Annual Health Fair, and over 250 programs designed within the six dimensions of wellness. The East Lansing Prime Time Seniors Program became nationally accredited by the National Council on Aging in 2007, a status that less than 1% of the nation's senior centers achieve. East Lansing plans to become more age-friendly by following the framework established by the AARP AFC program and then implementing our plan. We evaluated a similar state program and determined that the AARP program was the preferential approach given that there are so many established resources. There is no need to waste time "reinventing the wheel" but rather focus our time on identifying the issues and then addressing them.

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

The City of East Lansing has a long history of public engagement. We will continue to utilize the many tools already available to us. This includes direct communication through our new letters, cable television station, web site, and social media. Just last year we launched a new initiative called e-Town Hall where we engage the public in a number of key issues through an interactive web portal. We will also be gathering input from our older residents through a combination of surveys, public meetings, and focus groups. Consideration will also be given to creative ways to reach out to those who do not find traditional forms of public engagement workable for them, or for whom technology is not necessarily a comfortable form of engagement. Their key focus will be to get creative and find ways to engage those who we might not otherwise have a voice.

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.

At the core of our efforts is a very diverse Steering Committee that represents residents, businesses, and non-profit stakeholders in our community. It also includes key staff from several City departments, including Planning and the Seniors Program and where necessary Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Clerk's Office, and others. This group will collectively decide how to best engage the older population in this process, as well as ensuring that we touch on all of the critical topical areas.

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?

A primary goal of our effort is to network with other AFC communities to not only learn from them, but also share what we have learned and possibly help other communities. As a university town, many of our senior volunteers are former educators and have a passion for lifelong learning and sharing knowledge for the betterment of society. Our residents understand the value of giving back and will be eager to “pay it forward.” This will include participating in future AARP AFC events and being engaged in the broader network. These collaborative values will be exemplified in our efforts to enhance the AFC movement in our region, state, and across the nation.

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 City of East Landing has for many years taken great pride in being a regional leader in serving seniors. As our population of 65 and older residents has continued to grow, and is projected to continue to increase for many years to come, community leaders have recognized the need to further enhance our community for this demographic group. While we already offer many programs and services, we also recognize that there are many areas that need improvement and some that have not been addressed at all. But ultimately the core motivation is about people – serving those community members who have unmet needs and embracing them as valued and important residents, regardless of age, physical or mental ability.

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 >



See attached image file.