



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@aarp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 3/31/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Southfield

STATE: Michigan

POPULATION SIZE: 72,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 15,000

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Kenson Siver, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan 48037-2055

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.

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Rhonda Terry is the Human Services Coordinator for the City of Southfield. In that capacity, she is responsible for administering the city's efforts to meet the human services needs of its residents. In addition, Ms. Terry is the city's liaison to the Commission on Senior Adults, a group appointed by the City Council to advocate for the needs of senior adults in Southfield. She will be the key person from city government supporting the age-friendly 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 Southfield has a history of supporting the needs of senior adults. The Commission on Senior Adults (COSA) has been in existence for over twenty-five years and was established to provide a voice for seniors in the community. It is COSA that decided to pursue the designation as an age-friendly community. This direction has been strongly supported by the Mayor and City Council as demonstrated by the issuance of a joint resolution to pursue the designation. Community policies targeted toward older people include establishment of a Senior Activity Center in the Parks and Recreation Department which provides extensive outreach to the senior adults in Southfield. The recently developed Master Plan for the City Parks and Recreation Department included the need to address the needs of seniors. In addition, the Human Services coordinator provides many direct services to seniors and facilitates delivery of direct services by other organizations, including the Michigan Department of Human Services, local churches, The Heat and Warmth Fund, food banks, etc. There are a range of programs and services offered by the city including physical activity, field trips and space for AARP Chapter meetings. The City of Southfield plans to become more age-friendly by listening to the residents, businesses, educational, health and other stakeholders who have ideas about improving the quality of life for senior adults (and all residents) in the city. COSA will assume responsibility for leading the process of the SWOT analysis, incorporating results from the responses to the AARP survey (which the City of Southfield has on its website), community meetings and other conversations. Southfield is committed to becoming more age friendly through making changes in areas throughout city government and encouraging the non-governmental partners to endorse the direction which results from the planning phase of the designation process.

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

The City of Southfield has already engaged older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly community. Initially, the idea for pursuing this designation came from the Commission on Senior Adults (COSA) which is primarily composed of older adults. After the proposal was approved by the Mayor and City Council, the City of Southfield put the AARP Survey on the City Website to encourage residents to complete it. Recognizing that not all seniors are comfortable with completion of online surveys, hundreds of paper surveys have been completed and many are distributed weekly. In addition to the survey, the City Cable Channel 15 has shown support of efforts to engage older people by offering to air shows on the process and inviting them to communicate with COSA. The local newspaper, Southfield Sun, has also indicated that they will assist in reaching out to the community. COSA members attended the February Southfield City Council meeting, which is televised, and informed the community about the effort. The kickoff event for the designation process has been scheduled for May 24, 2017; that will be another engagement activity for older residents. Following that, there will be community conversations designed to engage senior residents in getting ideas on how to make Southfield more age-friendly. After the community conversations, the Steering Committee and Domain Workgroups will ensure that older people are represented well. Churches, health care institutions, educational institutions and other collaborative partners will also be enlisted to secure older adult input on the process. This will be a strength of Southfield's initiative.

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.

As soon as the Mayor and City Council had approved pursuing the designation, members of COSA began meeting with other city boards, commissions and staff to inform them of the process underway. COSA members were assigned one of the eight domains and the city department, board or commission with responsibility for that area was given a presentation on the overall project and the applicability for their particular area of focus. For example, COSA members responsible for addressing "Social Participation" met with the Parks and Recreation Board and Staff. A formal, written presentation was provided with the opportunity to ask questions. Similarly, the COSA members responsible for "Respect and Social Inclusion" met with the Total Living Commission. These meetings have very positive and have set the foundation for the work that will occur in the future.

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?

We hope to contribute to the networks by sharing our approach and the preliminary success we have had in enlisting support from all parts of city government. We can offer perspective from a diverse, middle class, suburban Detroit community. The role of COSA in spearheading this effort will also be instructive. COSA has many members who have served as CEOs of nonprofit agencies serving seniors as well as people who have worked in government. We can contribute political expertise and skills in working with the community.

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 motivation for joining the AARP and WHO networks is to demonstrate that the City of Southfield is truly committed to being a premier destination for senior adults in Southeast Michigan. Southfield's tag line is "The Center of it All" and this is one more way to show that improving the quality of life for senior adults is will make it the center of it all for senior adults. This project is central to Southfield's mission. Southfield is interested in retaining the senior adults living here now and attracting new seniors to the city. Making the community age-friendly will assist in reaching those goals.

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 >



Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send us your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.