



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 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: 6/30/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Orange County

STATE: North Carolina

POPULATION SIZE: 140,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 17%

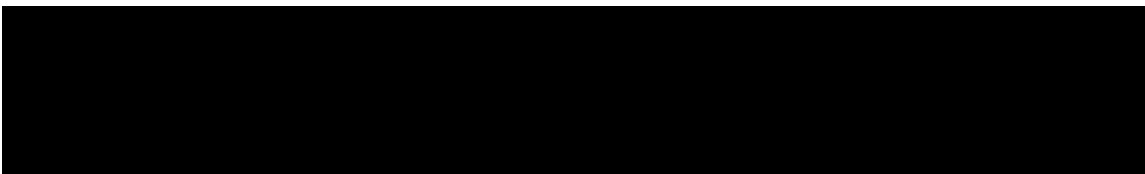
NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Earl McKee, Chair of Orange County Board of County Commissioners

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27278

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.

NAME: Janice Tyler



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

The Director of the Department on Aging is responsible for the implementation of the County's Master Aging Plan. Orange County is about to embark on the development of its 4th five-year Master Aging Plan to cover the years: 2017-2022. As head of the Department on Aging, Ms. Tyler will oversee the development of the plan (focused this time on the age-friendly initiative framework) between June 30, 2016 and July 1, 2017. She will bring together elected officials and Department representatives from county and local governments, partner provider agencies, University experts, and Orange County citizens to help develop, implement, and evaluate this plan.

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.

Orange County, North Carolina has a designated Department to plan for and administer aging services across the county. The mission of the Orange County Department on Aging (OCDOA) is: To provide leadership in planning and operating a system of integrated aging services through state of the art senior centers, serving as focal points for coordinated community and individualized programs designed to educate seniors and their families and maximize the health, well-being, community engagement, and independence of older adults at all functional levels. The Orange County Department on Aging has three major Divisions: Senior Center Administration (including nutrition and wellness services), Aging Transitions (support services aimed at helping older adults remain independent in their homes) and Volunteer Connect 55+ (engaging older adults in meaningful volunteer activities within the Senior Centers and in other community settings). In addition, since 2002 the OCDOA has taken the leadership to develop and implement 3 sets of 5-year Master Aging Plans to make sure that county, town, university, and provider services are coordinated and focused on supporting older adult residents' quality of life. In the 2012-17 Master Aging Plan, there were many initiatives related to improving the living environment, such as expansion of age-friendly transportation and navigation, housing, and community engagement opportunities and services. Although this and earlier Master Aging Plans have all been geared toward making the county more age-friendly, this will be the first year, if accepted, that it will be linked into an international network focused on these specific values.

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

The planning process for the Orange County Master Aging Plan involves input from older adults at every step. With a focus on becoming more age-friendly, older adults will be targeted to complete needs assessment surveys and engage in focus groups. The community at large will be invited to a series of community meetings to learn about the needs assessment findings, comment, and help prioritize need areas for further study. Older adults will be invited to participate on issue/domain work groups whose job it is to develop strategies and outcome indicators for community action. The community at large again will have an opportunity to comment on the draft 2017-22 Master Aging Plan before it goes to the Board of County Commissioners for acceptance in May 2017. It is likely that issue/domain work groups may continue to oversee implementation of the Plan with the participation from many older people.

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.

The Orange County Master Aging Plan (MAP) process has always included the input and support from an inter-agency/government MAP Steering Committee. The MAP Steering Committee is made up of decision-makers from all relevant agencies/groups, such as county and town government, health care providers, faith-based organizations and volunteer organizations and special interest groups of many kinds. As Orange County contemplates focusing the 2017-22 Master Aging Plan on age-friendly standards, it will solicit more representation from town governments so that the towns may also become “age-friendly” in the process.

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 were the first county in NC to create a Master Aging Plan. Our hope is that we will continue to be a model program for our state and inspire others in our state to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities initiative. Our director is the out-going President of the North Carolina Association on Aging and has contact with many aging programs in our state. She is a champion for encouraging communities to develop aging plans and is frequently consulted for how our plan was developed.

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?

We would like to be part of a larger network of communities with similar goals and processes so that we can learn from others' examples and share ours.

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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