



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: 5/1/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County region

STATE: VA

POPULATION SIZE: 154,786

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 20.1%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mike Signer, Mayor, City of Charlottesville, City Council members, and Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: P.O. Box 911, Charlottesville, VA 22902 & 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902

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:

Peter Thompson is the Executive Director of Senior Center Inc and the current chair of our regional collaborative, Charlottesville Area Alliance, which is focused on ensuring this community is age-friendly.

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.

Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville make up 736.31 square miles in central Virginia and serve as home to 154,786 residents. Based on the 2015 ACS estimates, 20.1% of our residents are age 60 or older. The area boasts robust rivers, mountain views and rolling hills; diverse cultural activities; and proximity to larger cities such as Washington, D.C. Our community is lauded for being one of the 15 best places to live, top ten places to retire and among the healthiest communities. We are celebrated for being a good place for foodies, booklovers, college students, entrepreneurs, and hipsters. The City of Charlottesville’s strategic plan calls for being a ‘safe, equitable, thriving and beautiful community’ and one that ‘fosters strong connections’. Albemarle County’s strategic plan calls for enhancing “the well-being and quality of life for all citizens...” This is a community that wants to live up to the hype. To that end, we seek membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Our community benefits from many social, health and service organizations that support residents including several dedicated to the concerns of an aging community. The Jefferson Area Board on Aging (JABA) is this community’s federally-mandated Area Agency on Aging with a mission to promote, establish, and preserve sustainable communities for healthy aging that benefit individuals and families of all ages. JABA services include adult care centers, caregiver support groups, insurance counseling, health and wellness services, home delivered meals, information and assistance, affordable housing, ombudsman advocacy services, options counseling and respite care. JABA serves 14,900 people per year. The Senior Center is a 1500 member agency which seeks to positively impact our community by creating opportunities for healthy aging through social engagement, physical well-being, civic involvement, creativity and lifelong learning. Senior Center serves 8,000 unduplicated people and 100,000 duplicated people per year through special events, arts and crafts, performing arts, recreation, health and fitness, travel, support and service programs. In addition to these two anchor agencies, the Charlottesville/Albemarle area is served by two large hospitals including the University of Virginia Medical Center and Sentara - Martha Jefferson Hospital, as well as Central Virginia Health Services, a federally-qualified health center; JAUNT, a regional transportation and paratransit program; a community service board; over 600 nonprofits; a United Way and a community foundation. This community plans to assess the region’s age-friendliness across the World Health Organization’s 8 domains - civic participation and employment, communication and information, community health and services, housing, outdoor spaces and buildings, respect and social inclusion, social participation, and transportation to determine our strengths and needs in this area. This assessment will inform long-range planning, program service arrays, opportunities for inclusion, and immediate problem-solving activities. The community has begun reviewing age-friendly assessment reports from other communities in an effort to determine the best way to obtain rich, meaningful information in each of the domains. Community engagement strategies will include surveys, focus groups, and critical stakeholder interviews. Results from the assessment will be used to create an action plan and advocacy agenda for this region.

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

Older adults will be encouraged to take an active role to add their voices in all parts. Older people will be engaged in all parts of this community's process of becoming more age-friendly including designing and implementing a broad-based community engagement strategy, administering the age-friendly survey instrument, analyzing the assessment results, designing goals and objectives for addressing gaps in the service array, and establishing ongoing, formal opportunities for feedback.

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.

Albemarle County's Board of Supervisors, the City of Charlottesville's City Council, and the Board of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission each passed resolutions of support for the region becoming an 'Age-Friendly Community', as well as directed staff resources support the efforts of the Charlottesville Area Alliance. The Charlottesville Area Alliance (the Alliance) has been created to lead the advancement of an age-friendly community. The Alliance partners are advocates, leaders, contributors and stakeholders serving or advising senior populations. The Alliance is a collaborative effort organized into a steering committee and five work groups responsible for developing strategies to meet goals in the area of assessment and monitoring, planning, advocacy, education and public relations, and engagement. Partner agencies include Jefferson Area Board on Aging, Senior Center Inc, City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Cville Village, Alzheimer's Association of Central Virginia, JAUNT, the regional transportation provider, Region Ten Community Service Board, Hospice of the Piedmont, Thomas Jefferson Health District, Sentara - Martha Jefferson Hospital, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, a provider of independent and assisted living, memory support, and short- and long-term nursing care, and the University of Virginia Health System.

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?

The Alliance anticipates sharing its process, tools, structure, strategies, and outcomes with other members in the network as lessons learned and victories claimed. The Alliance brings significant experience and expertise in the areas of aging, policy, collaboration, community health and planning.

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?

Like many communities, our demographics are changing and we must ensure that there are services and opportunities in our community to meet the needs of all our residents. By 2024, 1 in 4 people in our community will be 65 or older. Planning for the needs of our growing aging population coincides with the needs of all residents in our community. Supporting connections that promote healthy relationships, inclusion and respect will help the community achieve its goals. The Charlottesville-Albemarle region has a history of successful regional partnerships among non-profits serving senior population and among legal jurisdictions, consistent with our unique urban-rural dynamic.

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.