



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: August 7, 2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: County of Marin

STATE: CA

POPULATION SIZE: 260,955 (American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2012-2016))

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 27% (American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2012-2016))

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:

Damon Connolly, President, Marin County Board of Supervisors

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:

3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 329

San Rafael, CA 94903

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

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

Lee Pullen is the Director of the Marin County Health and Human Services Department's Office of Aging and Adult Services. The office includes Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services, Information and Assistance and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The office also houses the Marin County Area Agency on Aging (AAA), which is the leading planner, administrator and funder of services for older adults and family caregivers in Marin County. The AAA is advised by a 23-member Commission on Aging comprised of representatives from 11 city and town jurisdictions as well as the county and California Senior Legislature. In addition, Mr. Pullen serves on the steering committee of the Aging Action Initiative (AAI), a collective impact endeavor that promotes a countywide age-friendly environment, especially for those residents in need, through education, policy advocacy and service coordination.

The office provides the backbone function for the AAI and has contracted with Cynthia Seymour to serve as the Age-Friendly County of Marin's project manager. Ms. Seymour will facilitate membership in the WHO/AARP age-friendly networks, with a focus on working with the county's departments and unincorporated areas. She has established and will regularly convene an Age-Friendly County of Marin Advisory Committee. She will also manage the assessment phase, including both quantitative and qualitative findings, and lead the development of the action plan. Ms. Seymour will support the Age-Friendly County of Marin Initiative in accordance with the WHO/AARP age-friendly networks' framework.

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.

Currently, 27 percent of Marin County's population is 60 and older and by 2030, projections indicate at least one in three Marin residents will be 60 or older. Celebrating the contributions of older adults while recognizing more needs to be done to support these important members of the community, the Marin County Board of Supervisors proclaimed 2018 as the Year of the Older Adult. This proclamation represents the culmination of several initiatives, organizations, community policies, programs and services that together form a strong foundation on which to build the Age-Friendly County of Marin Initiative. Chief among these efforts are:

- **The Aging Action Initiative (AAI)** – A collective impact endeavor formed to promote an age-friendly environment through education, policy advocacy and service coordination. Representatives from more than 100 local nonprofit, public and private sector organizations have participated by planning and implementing efforts, attending educational sessions, and working together to provide coordinated services.
- **The Marin County Area Agency on Aging** – Planner, funder and advocate for older adults in Marin. More than 20 programs are provided directly or through community-based organizations, including assisted transportation, case management, congregate and home-delivered meals, family caregiver support, and senior center activities.
- **Community-Based Organizations** – Dozens of community-based organizations provide services to older adults, their families and caregivers in Marin, including the 15 organizations contracted by the Area Agency on Aging. Together, they form a strong service network as demonstrated by their involvement in the AAI, the Community Agency Serving Seniors, the Bridges Committee of health care and human services organizations and other collaborative groups.
- **The Marin Commission on Aging** – A highly engaged 23-member advisory council to the Marin County Board of Supervisors. Its mission is to promote the dignity, independence and quality of life of older adults through advocacy, information, programs and services. The 11 commissioners appointed by each of Marin's incorporated cities and towns have been the primary drivers of forming task forces and working with city and town councils to shape their involvement in the age-friendly movement. The Commission's leadership has helped Marin County to earn a reputation as a national forerunner in the age-friendly movement.
- **Age-Friendly Cities** – Six of Marin's 11 incorporated cities and towns -- Corte Madera, Fairfax, Mill Valley, Novato, San Rafael and Sausalito-- are members of the WHO and/or AARP age-friendly networks with Sausalito being the first age-friendly city in Marin and one of the first in California. The other five incorporated cities and towns are exploring or preparing to request membership in the networks. Local age-friendly city leaders formed the Marin Age-Friendly Network to share ideas, opportunities and best practices, discuss challenges and otherwise support one another's efforts. The County of Marin's Age-Friendly project manager already has a seat at the table to maximize efforts across the county.

- **Marin Villages and Sausalito Village** – Marin Villages is an alliance of local villages with one central office that focuses on administration, funding and program development. Members from around the county call the office with requests for assistance. Staff work to match volunteers to assist members. Sausalito Village offers supportive services and volunteer opportunities, as well as educational, cultural, fitness and social activities to help members live independently and actively in the community.
- **County of Marin Departments** – Several departments are already implementing age-friendly services, programs and practices. For example, the Parks Department offers regular “Senior Strolls.” The Library Department brings books to people throughout the county via its mobile library, benefiting those who may be homebound, of advanced age, frail and/or who live in rural and unincorporated areas. Cultural Services produces the annual Marin County Fair whose 2018 theme was “All for One and Fun for All,” offering music, arts and activities geared to multiple generations. The Age-Friendly County of Marin project manager will work with all departments to encourage adoption of additional age-friendly programs and approaches to providing services to residents from throughout the county, especially in the unincorporated areas.

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

The County of Marin Age-Friendly project manager has already begun to involve older adults through establishing and convening an advisory committee. Comprised of six county department heads and six older adult community leaders identified by the Board of Supervisors, the committee will provide input on the community assessment and action plan. In addition, the project manager will foster establishment of local task forces in the county’s unincorporated areas, inviting adults of all ages to participate. With input from the advisory committee and task forces, plans are to conduct a customized version of the AARP community assessment both online and in hard copy. Listening sessions will be convened in unincorporated areas to drill down geographically. Adults of all ages, as well as youth and families, will be asked to participate in the assessment and listening sessions with an emphasis on reaching older adults and underserved residents.

Based on recommendations from age-friendly counterparts in other counties and AARP staff, the project manager plans to leverage existing relationships with community organizations and leaders that are already connected to older adults. Working with community partners will be especially important for the community listening sessions, where older adults will be invited to directly share their ideas and concerns. The goal will be to query and involve the “arc of ages” to look at what can be done to make unincorporated areas and county department services more livable and accessible for all ages.

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 Age-Friendly County of Marin Advisory Committee and the task forces in unincorporated areas, as described earlier, will be the two primary forums through which collaborative planning and implementation will occur between county departments as well as between county departments and unincorporated areas. The Age-Friendly Marin Network, also described earlier, will be the main vehicle for collaboration between the county and the incorporated age-friendly cities and towns. Additionally, the Age-Friendly Marin County project manager will work closely with the Marin County Area Agency on Aging, especially around the assessment and action plan, as explained earlier.

The county's age-friendly assessment and the listening sessions will be coordinated with the Marin County Area Agency on Aging's (AAA's) 2019 community needs assessment of older adults and unpaid family caregivers that will inform its 2020-2024 area plan. Coordinating efforts and sharing results of assessments and listening sessions will yield more comprehensive data to help steer both the AAA's work and the county's age-friendly efforts in a strategic and complementary fashion.

In addition, Lee Pullen, director of Marin County's Office of Aging and Adult Services, will provide regular reports on the progress of the Age-Friendly County of Marin Initiative to the Aging Action Initiative steering committee. Mr. Pullen and Cynthia Seymour, the county's age-friendly project manager, will give regular updates to the Marin Commission on Aging at its monthly meetings. Plans also include reporting on key milestones, such as the results of the assessment or completion of the action plan, to the Board of Supervisors.

Moreover, examples of existing collaborations between county departments will be showcased to encourage other departments to work together, as well as with local cities and towns to make communities more livable. Two such examples are: 1) The Department of Public Works, the City of Sausalito and unincorporated Marin City worked together to install lights under an overpass to illuminate a sidewalk for improved pedestrian safety. 2) Marin County Parks partners with organizations and departments for those with limited mobility to provide access to parks and interpretive programs.

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 County of Marin will contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities by sharing our experiences, best practices and lessons learned as a mid-sized age-friendly Northern California county.

Through already established organizations and forums, including the Age-Friendly Marin Network, the Aging Action Initiative (AAI) and the Marin Commission on Aging, we will report on our progress in moving through the five-year age-friendly process. We will also collaborate with these and other groups to maximize efforts to make all of Marin County more livable. Furthermore, we will share our application, assessment, action plan and any other materials, information and resources that might be helpful to other age-friendly cities and counties around the state, country and world. These materials could include the county's strategic plan, the AAI's plans, and the Marin Area Agency on Aging's community needs assessment and area plan.

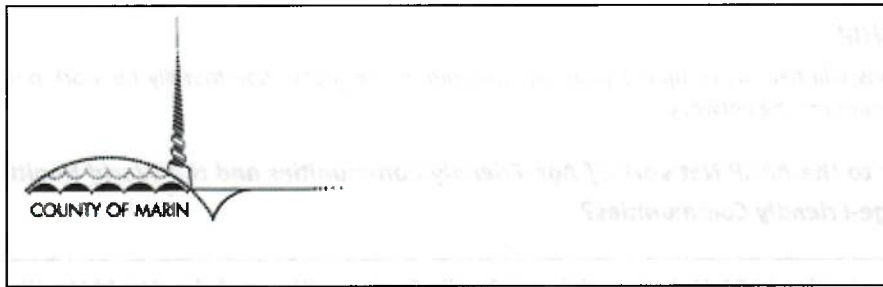
The County of Marin will strive to become a model for how counties can work with their departments and unincorporated areas to explore, advocate for and develop and implement policies, programs and services to make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to thrive in their communities across the lifespan.

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?

In 2013, the Marin County Board of Supervisors asked whether enough was being done to address the impact of Marin's growing older adult population on individuals, families and communities. In response, a network of organizations that had long worked together formed the Aging Action Initiative (AAI), described above. Concurrently, efforts were under way in the City of Sausalito, which in 2014 would lead it to become the first age-friendly city in Marin and one of the first in California. Since then, the momentum for the county to join the WHO and AARP age-friendly networks has built with the success of the AAI and the expanding network of local age-friendly cities and towns that now also includes Corte Madera, Fairfax, Mill Valley, Novato and San Rafael.

Accomplishments among the age-friendly cities and towns include the opening of an intergenerational center, reducing or eliminating permit fees for home modifications, and establishing volunteer driving and rideshare programs. Other activities include a monthly speakers' series on relevant aging topics, breakfasts and lunches for engagement, and a program at libraries to help older adults and families navigate social and community services. Moreover, nearly all the age-friendly cities and towns have added emergency preparedness to their action plans following the deadly 2017 fires in adjoining North Bay counties.

In proclaiming 2018 the Year of the Older Adult, the Board of Supervisors has further solidified its commitment to advancing an age-friendly County of Marin. As such, this proclamation has served as a capstone moment indicating the County of Marin is fully ready to launch its age-friendly initiative.



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 >