



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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 9/4/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Oakland

STATE: California

POPULATION SIZE: 400,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 12.2% are over 65 years old

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Libby Schaaf

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Office of the Mayor, Oakland City Hall, Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612

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:

Bryan Ricks is a commissioner on the Mayor's Commission on Aging. Bryan, a former sales and marketing executive for a national beverage company, made a career change to focus on helping older adults and their families age in place as the Area Developer for an in-home care company. He is the leader of the Commission's initiative to make Oakland a Livable Community under the World Health Organization and AARP's framework and he has mobilized a core committee of his fellow commissioners to join together, enlisted the help of community-based organizations, and is helping craft a plan and deliverable outcomes to effectively reach out and hear from Oakland's seniors and to engage and enlighten the greater Oakland community about our older adults in Oakland and their unique needs.

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.

Oakland is the largest city in Alameda County and among its services to older residents include four multi-purpose senior centers, senior companions program, paratransit and taxi services, senior employment assistance and the city hosts a commission on aging to ensure seniors are represented in the City's planning and programs. The Commission is leading the City's effort to become an age-friendly community to make Oakland a Livable Community for Every Age. The Commission held a facilitated planning retreat in February 2018, including community-based organizations and advocacy groups and the City of Oakland's department of disabilities services to create a mission statement and action steps to become age-friendly that include applying to AARP and joining the AARP and WHO Age-friendly network.

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

Our plans include holding focus groups in each of our seven City Council districts, collaborating with our County's Area Agency on Aging by participating in the 2019 Needs Assessment Update survey in 2019 and presenting our progress and results in community forums, including the monthly recorded Oakland Commission on Aging meetings. These efforts will serve to strengthen the network of services providers while informing them of relevant and timely needs of seniors. In addition, the Commissioners are surveying over 20 candidates and incumbents running for four City Council seats to learn their knowledge and plans for serving seniors living in their prospective districts to establish a baseline of community support and identify other civic-minded citizens and elected leaders likely to support our effort. The results of the surveys will be made available at focus groups scheduled in September and October where we will announce the effort and begin our needs assessment process.

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 Commission presented their annual report to the Life Enrichment Committee of the City Council on June 18, 2018, declaring our intent to engage resident seniors, the City Council and Mayor, City planners, the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities and other senior services, city and county agencies to undertake the process to become an age-friendly community through AARP and the WHO. The Chair of the Life Enrichment Committee directed the Assistant City Administrator, who was present, to support the Commission's efforts, and in addition, the Councilmember invited the Commission to participate in the Association of Bay Area Governments because senior needs are not currently well-represented in their forum. Having the City Administrator, a champion on the City Council, and the Mayor's backing, plus the energy, motivation and dedication of the Commission and our enthusiastic, capable Manager of Adult and Aging Services for the City of Oakland as our liaison, positions us to access the resources and commitment necessary to initiate, plan and implement our initiative successfully.

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 City of Oakland is one of the most diverse cities in the Country - and proud of it. We embrace our cultural ethnicities and demographic disparities with enthusiasm - and we feel what we do here in Oakland will be groundbreaking and inspire other communities where the aging population is perhaps brown, Asian or other. Our materials and outreach efforts will be tailored to multiple cultures (Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese and Tagalog). Also, gentrification is forcing aging seniors to move as rental rates increase while rental availability decreases; and notably in Oakland, white people living in the Oakland Hills live 15 years longer than African American's living in East Oakland. Our goals and outcomes will vary across our Oakland neighborhoods in significant ways.

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 are inspired by the rich network of Bay Area communities who have already embarked down the Age-Friendly path and - namely, Fremont, Berkeley, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Sausalito. The County of Alameda is also organizing an Age-Friendly County application so that they can support seniors living throughout Alameda County and we will have an opportunity to collaborate and benefit from their efforts. AARP's exceptional wealth of resources make it doable for communities of every size and description to participate. Here in the Bay Area, we have several stellar age-friendly communities already designated by AARP and the WHO to inspire us and to emulate - and their generous volunteer leaders are eager to lend their support and advice. There are a plethora of community-based organizations serving seniors in Oakland who are willingly engaged with us as well. The overwhelming consensus that Age-Friendly initiatives benefit everyone and not just seniors is a motivating factor for our civic leaders and elected officials to support the effort.

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.