



## 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](mailto:livable@aarpp.org).
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 10/15/2018

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Town of Ross

**STATE:** California

**POPULATION SIZE:** 2531

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 28%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Mayor Beach Kuhl

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** Town of Ross, PO Box 320, 31 Sir Francis Drake, Ross, California 94957

### 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:**

Commissioner Dowling represents the Town of Ross on the Marin Commission on Aging. Ms. Dowling has served on the Commission for five years and as Chair of the Commission for two of those years. She is an older adult and has resided in the Town of Ross for over 30 years. She has recently retired from the San Francisco Department of Public Health where she has worked in a management capacity for the past 44 years. Ms. Dowling will be the primary contact and have primary responsibility for carrying out the community level work.

### **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 Town of Ross, with leadership from a five member, elected Town Council, actively works to create a healthy and productive town. Ross has a strong Park and Recreation Department, a Public Work Department, a Planning Department, Fire and Police. The General Plan emphasizes a pedestrian friendly environment including disabled ramps, improved street lighting, benches and ongoing restoration of the sidewalks. In addition, because we are a small town, we rely on some county services for our older adults. Ross also holds two annual events, the 4th of July parade and picnic and the Town dinner. These events serve the whole community including older adults. Disaster Preparedness for fires and floods are important in Ross and education via the Ross electronic newsletter and training on Disaster Preparedness are planned by the town. Many older adults attend the training and community information sessions. During our needs assessment we will begin to gather input and feedback from our community about these programs and services and collect data on the needs of our older adults.

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

Information will be shared and information will be sought through the Town of Ross’s monthly electronic newsletter (The Morning After Newsletter) and townwide emails to local residents. The Community contact will work closely with existing groups/organizations such as the Ross members of Ross Valley Village, the Ross Property Owners Association, older adults groups affiliated with the two churches in Ross, members of the Town Council. In addition, an Age Friendly Task Force will be convened as a core group and will invite seniors and community members to join and provide input and feedback as we move along the WHO process of becoming more age friendly.

**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 Ross Town Council works closely with the the town’s different agencies and departments and will continue to do so. The town is small so the staff of the agencies and departments work in close proximity. The Ross Recreation Department will coordinate the planning efforts with the the town’s representative from the Marin Commission on Aging and the soon to convene Ross Age Friendly Taskforce. We plan to interview town staff, Council members, key community members, local business owners and numerous older adult organization. We’ll be looking for their analysis of what’s working and what’s not working, and their ideas and recommendations on how to work more collaboratively among the various sectors of our community and how to successfully implement the initiatives we prioritize. Our town representative to the Marin County’s Commission on Aging will collaborate with other commissioners on the Marin Commission of Aging who are also in the midst of the WHO Age Friendly application process or have completed 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 plan to share the Ross survey, plan, plan implementation and evaluation so others can adapt our work to support their communities efforts. We will work closely and collaborate, where possible, with other AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities in the Bay Area, the State, nationally as well as WHO Age-Friendly Communities outside the USA.

#### 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 Town of Ross is inspired and motivated by the County of Marin and all the cities and towns in the County that have applied or are applying to participate in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities. The Town of Ross is applying to join this remarkable network to help enhance the lives of older adults and all people living in this beautiful town.

#### 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](mailto:livable@aarp.org).*