



COLORADO
Gov. John Hickenlooper

August 30, 2018

Bob Murphy, State Director
AARP Colorado
303 East 17th Avenue, Suite 510
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Please accept Colorado's application to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Colorado is committed to being the best place in the nation for people to age. Joining this network will bring us closer to our goal.

As Coloradans live longer lives, our state's demographics are shifting. In the next 30 years, more than one in four Coloradans will be 60 or older. Many baby boomers moved here to work, play, and raise families. Even as our state continues to attract young people to start businesses and enjoy the outdoors, Colorado is one of the most rapidly aging states in the nation. Our communities are working to adapt to this new normal, so that everyone can live the life they deserve.

Several years ago, we embarked on a concerted effort to develop an intentional, comprehensive, and long-term state plan for aging. We created a high level planning group that has made a series of important recommendations, and we created a position of Senior Advisor on Aging in the Governor's Office to implement those recommendations and guide Colorado on aging issues. Because of this work, we have increased coordination and collaboration among state agencies and developed new strategies to help communities, families, workers, and employers better prepare.

Creating the conditions where more people can remain in their communities of choice as they age is our top priority. It enhances quality of life, strengthens families and communities, and lowers costs. **Lifelong Colorado** is our strategy to help at least 100 additional Colorado communities become age-friendly in the next five years. This initiative warrants our designation as an age-friendly state, and we are pleased to highlight it in our application.

Colorado has made a good start, but we have more work to do. Colorado looks forward to joining AARP and a network of other communities engaged in this work in order to strengthen our efforts.

The change we are experiencing holds great promise. Previous generations have given us the extraordinary gift of longer lives. Our job is to make sure those longer lives are also better lives, and that families, communities, and our economy are enhanced by them. We happily embrace this challenge, and joining AARP's age-friendly network is one way we hope to meet it.

Thank you for your leadership on these issues and for your consideration of Colorado's application.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

