



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: 1/30/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Dunedin

STATE: FL

POPULATION SIZE: 35,321

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: Approximately 32%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Julie Bujalski

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City Hall, 524 Main Street, Dunedin, FL 34698

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]

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

Michael Whalen and Sharon Williams are both long time members of the Dunedin Committee on Aging. Michael is current chairman of the Age Wave Subcommittee and Sharon is the current Secretary of the Committee on Aging. They were both deeply involved in the Survey described Section 3, Question 2. Elaine Swineheart is the Recreation Coordinator of the Hale Senior Activity Center and manages the staff and programs at that Center. She reports to Vince Gizzi, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Michael and Sharon wrote the application responses. The Committee on Aging includes all three names and they attend a regularly scheduled monthly meeting to discuss the age-friendly initiatives.

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.

Dunedin has been at the forefront in meeting the needs of elder citizens. The William E Hale Activity Center is a 50+ dedicated community center. The Hale Senior Activity Center has a very broad range of activities and programs geared for older adult activities throughout the year. For details please reference the current City activities program that lists the many programs and activities available on a daily basis. The City of Dunedin all volunteer Committee on Aging (DCoA) was established in 1992 by City Resolution. Their mission is to plan, promote, coordinate and implement programs and services which contribute to the quality of aging in Dunedin. Dunedin was selected as the very first recipient of the Florida Department of Elders statewide “Communities for a Lifetime Award” in 2007, and then again in 2009. The DCoA works closely with the City to sponsor several annual programs. In conjunction with National Older Americans Month, the Senior Hall of Fame award, now entering its 20th year, celebrates Dunedin residents who are 75 years or older who have demonstrated the art of aging successfully and donated time and abilities to serve the Community. Nominations come from the community and 2 or more residents are selected. A luncheon is held in their honor, their history and contributions reviewed and a plaque with their picture is placed in the Hale Center Senior Hall of Fame. The DCoA collaborates with the City and sponsors an annual Intergenerational Week to encourage communication and respect between generations within families and neighborhood. During IG Week, special activities are sponsored to encourage intergenerational bonding on an ongoing basis to help youth understand the needs of their elders, and to make an extra effort to engage them in meaningful activities throughout the year. For this and other Intergenerational efforts, Dunedin was selected in 2013 as a “Best Intergenerational Community” by the MetLife Foundation/Generations United, and recognizing the City as a national leader in support of intergenerational interdependence. From policy – like Zoning for Accessory Dwelling Units – to infrastructure changes, such as accommodations in walkways and intersections, to support for senior and intergenerational events and activities, and, through a general honoring of its elder citizens, Dunedin clearly demonstrates leadership and continuing commitment to being a community in which to age well, and to meet the goals an Age-Friendly Community.

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

In 2015, in a multi-year effort, the DCoA, with support from the City government, conducted a City-wide survey which included several aspects of the Age-Friendly domains. They include Transportation, Community and Health Services, Housing, Respect and Social Inclusion and Social Participation. The Executive Summary from that report is included as an Appendix to this application. “Dunedin Vision 2025+ - Shaping Our Future Together” project was designed to create opportunities for citizens of all ages (18+) to give their opinion on: 1) View of future needs and priorities; 2) Perceptions of the level of personal, institutional, business and community preparedness to meet those needs; and, 3) Analyze and Identify possible gaps between needs and current conditions and plans. An additional, important, though indirect, goal of the project was to start a conversation between residents, associations and groups, businesses and government about these major issues thereby raising consciousness around the need to consider and prepare for individual and community futures. Project Overview This project was made possible through a collaboration among the University of South Florida Sociology Department, the DCoA, and the City of Dunedin’s Parks and Recreation Department and Planning Departments. The project included community wide round tables meetings, the design and administration of an extensive quality of life and needs assessment survey, analysis, and presentation of findings at public workshops. The project began with two round table community visioning and brainstorming meetings in mid-October 2013 conducted at two separate community centers during a weekday evening and Saturday morning. Each table discussed five topics of concern:

Transportation, Health/Medical/Caregiving, Housing, Emergency Preparedness and Environment, and Community Engagement and Social Life. Input from the 50 or so participants informed the design of the survey questionnaire. Following an intense media, PR, a 10-10-10 email blitz, utility bill mailer announcement, and other participant recruitment strategies, administration survey began. Five Hundred Forty-eight residents completed the lengthy survey, which was available both online and in hard copy from September 22 through October 13 of 2014. This response represented just under 2% of city's residents. The demographics of the survey participants are presented in Table 1 of the attached Executive Summary of Process and Findings and show that 32% of the participants were age 65 or older, which compares to the general population at that time of which 27.9% were age 65 or older. Analysis and interpretation of the results by Dr. Green and members of the Age Wave sub-committee, continued into 2015 and throughout the spring and summer of 2015. The larger DCOA group also dedicated time during its regular meetings as well as a major portion of its Annual Retreat to discussion of concerns, possibilities and recommendations of Survey results and analysis. The DCOA will continue to consult the Survey results to assist in determination of ongoing concerns as greater understanding of the results evolves. Reports on progress, ongoing data and available results were shared with all parties at timely points along the way. Planning Department head, Greg Rice was very supportive and met with Age Wave members on several occasions. Analysis of results and final report were prepared for the Dunedin City Commission and Staff Public Workshop November 2015. A possible follow-up community meeting to discuss results and continue dialogue is also envisioned. The survey results can inform programs, policies and a long-term vision that will continue to serve the community. The DCOA presented suggestions for ways in which the city might address some of the issues identified in the survey. These suggestions are included in the DCOA Executive Summary provided with this application. As the percentage of residents over age 65 continues to increase, the City of Dunedin wants to continue its effort to be an Age-Friendly community as it was when it was the first city in the state to complete the "Elder Ready Assessment for the 2001 Communities for a Lifetime initiative.

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 DCoA meets on a monthly basis to address the needs and concerns of the older and elderly residents with the goal of bring important issues to the attention of both the City Mayor and Commission and the City Staff. The meeting is attended by the Coordinator of this application who is also the manager of the Senior Activity Center which falls under the City Parks and Recreation Dept. A new long-range visioning and planning process is beginning in fall, 2017 and the need increasingly age-friendly will be a part of that process. Upon acceptance into the AARP Age Friendly Network, the DCoA, with the support of the City Clerks office will again look for active involvement by some of the other volunteer committees in Dunedin, including a) Disability Advisory Committee, b) Local Planning Agency c) Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee d) Public Relations Advisory Committete e) Public Safety Committee f) US Military and Veterans Advisory Committee. The DCoA and the City also look to other organizations to contribute including the Area Agency on Aging for Pinellas/Pasco County and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—at Eckerd College (OLLIE), which is a non-profit education program designed for people age 50+. Several of the OLLIE educational programs are conducted at locations within the City of Dunedin.

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 Dunedin strives to be an attractive city for people of all ages while being accessible for older adults as well as the disabled. It is a small town with a walkable downtown core. There are many seasonal residents, many whom are retired and over the age of 60 and a sizeable number who live in mobile homes. It is a financially diverse population and the City wants to provide services and events that meet the well-being of all its residents, regardless of income levels. There are several ongoing city-wide accommodations and events that already address this, but more can be done. The Parks and Recreation sponsors free movies, and concerns in several parks throughout the year. Dunedin has a marina where residents can rent boat slips at a reasonable price. It is also the home of the internationally acclaimed Honeymoon and Caladesi Islands where residents and visitors of all ages can take advantage of a large state park, beach area, dog beach, nature center and nature trails for an affordable amount. Dunedin allows golf cars to be driven in the street in many area's and this is an advantage to some older residents who are no longer driving cars or far from home.

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?

Dunedin found itself at the forefront of Cities who meet the needs of its older residents in the 90's when a local geriatric physician, William E Hale proposed to the City Commission that a special Committee be formed to specifically address the needs of its older residents. He served on that committee the rest of his life and was instrumental organizing the programs of that Committee and its efforts in the State-wide Communities for a Lifetime program.

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 enter text.