



## 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: 1/11/2018

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** City of Alton

**STATE:** Illinois

**POPULATION SIZE:** 27,865

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 12.89% 55 to 65; 8.64% 65 to 75; 4.91% 75 to 85; 85+ 2.52%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Mayor Brant Walker

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 101 E. Third Street Alton, IL 62002

### 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:**

Deanna Barnes has been designated by Mayor Brant Walker of the City of Alton to be the City liaison to work with the Illinois AARP and Senior Services Plus' effort to initiate the City of Alton as an age friendly community. A Livable Communities Forum was held highlighting the 8 domains of livable communities. Two panels of community leaders lead the discussion on the subject of Livable Communities, with much interest in moving forward with pursuing an application.

### 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.**

Alton's Fire department has 2 programs specifically designed for seniors: 1. Free Smoke alarm replacement for residents age 65 and older, with alarms that have 10 year batteries so that they don't have to get on ladders to change the batteries. 2. REMEMBERING WHEN program, The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) program designed to teach residents age 65 and older about fire and fall prevention. We implemented this program in 2013 and have documented the benefit of annual decreases in the number of residents that have had falls in their homes which lead to injury. We deliver this program multiple times annually to residents of senior housing and audiences at Senior Services Plus. The City of Alton is growing in Health care services with the expansion of two hospitals along with the location of new Dr. offices and the improvement of access to recreation and green spaces. We tout a top notch Senior Services Plus program that offers a myriad of programming to include; Events and Activities geared toward seniors, a Foster Grandparent program to keep seniors interacting with young people, Home Care program to keep seniors in their homes as long as possible, Information and Assistance with state and federal programs, School of Dance keeping everyone active, Meals on Wheels that deliver meals on a daily basis to seniors, School House Grill offers nutrition on a daily basis, Travel to many destinations, Wellness and Fitness center to keep our seniors fit, Safe Connections that offers personal emergency response with 2 way communication, Ombudsman program that provides support and advocacy to seniors and disabled living in long term care facilities. The City of Alton also provides ambulance service and Madison County Transit offers public transportation as well as door to door service to seniors. Lewis and Clark Community College offers tuition free classes for those over 65 years of age. To address our senior population, our community recently convened a Community Forum on Livability comprised of a diverse group, including executives from non-profit providers, health agencies, funding agencies, policy makers, and academia. Our goal is to ensure our aging neighbors have the resources to be healthy, independent and integrated into community life.

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

The City of Alton in conjunction with Senior Citizens Plus will conduct a survey specifically sent to seniors to gauge the senior populations' thoughts on aging in our community to evaluate what areas need more attention. The City will also hold town hall style meetings to discuss the survey results, engage the seniors and plan for the future. The following pillars were addresses by community leaders at a recent Livability Forum: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings -Brett Stawar, President, Convention and Visitor Bureau Housing- Mike Rathgeb, Spencer Homes LLC Civic Participation and Employment -Monica Bristow, Riverbend Growth Assoc. Communication and Information -Nathan Grimm sitting in for Jim Schrader-The Telegraph Respect and Social Inclusion -Dr. Dale Chapman, LCCC Social Participation -John Becker, SSP Transportation-Amanda Smith, Marketing Manager, Madison Co. Transit Community Health Services - Ajay Pathak , OSF Hospital. The City of Alton is currently in the top 10 for America's next Small Business Revolution competition that selects one community to spend \$500,000 to rejuvenate several businesses. The winning community receives a makeover while a TV program is taped highlighting the makeover. This is the third season for the show and is an exciting opportunity.

**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.**

We plan to form a Livable Communities Committee consisting of agencies, departments and residents working together to collect, review and evaluate the 8 pillars of Livability in our community by engaging our stakeholders and public to collect information through a outreach survey tool. The Committee will then evaluate the results of the survey and begin evaluating areas that need more attention and how those items can be addressed and affect the 8 pillars of a livable community. 1.Outdoor Spaces and Buildings 2.Housing 3. Civic Participation and Employment 4. Communication and Information 5. Respect and Social Inclusion 6. Social Participation 7. Transportation and 8. Health Services. The community currently engages seniors in many outreach programs through Senior Services Plus and we will grow those efforts for this endeavor as well.

#### 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 Alton and partners hope to give back to the AARP network of Age Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age Friendly Communities by setting an example of a community working to keep people functioning in their homes and community as independent as possible and by listening to our aging population to learn and understand their needs at this time and in the future.

#### 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 City of Alton and partners feel there is real value in being designated an Age-Friendly community for their residents and for potential residents looking to locate in a community that is aware and works to improve Age-friendly issues.

#### 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 >



*send us your logo by email attachment to [livable@aarp.org](mailto:livable@aarp.org).*