



## 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: *Click here to enter a date.*

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Gary

STATE: Indiana

POPULATION SIZE: 80.000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 60.23%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Karen Freeman-Wilson,  
Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Gary City Hall 401 Broadway, Suite 203, Gary, IN 46402

### 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:

The Mayor's Office of Constituent Services (MOCS) is a liaison between the City Government, it's departments and the residents of Gary-in place to provide a coordinated and scheduled delivery of high quality basic services for every resident, business and visitor. The MOCS plays a critical role in improving the image of the city by providing a level of excellence in customer service to address the needs of Gary residents.

### 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 City of Gary has a Senior Repair Program that targets single family homeowners in the city that are aged 62 and older. The program provides housing repairs up to \$20,000 per home, covering roofing, handicapped accessibility, electrical work, plumbing work, hvac, and other repairs. There is also an emergency repair program that serves all residents, including seniors, that provides repairs or replacement for one item in the home. Program participation is tied to income eligibility. We attempt to coordinate our services with the Weatherization Program offered by the Northwest Indiana Community Action which also serves seniors.

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

Through established seniors programs and developments, the City of Gary will work with seniors directly to identify areas of concern and to identify tools and resources that will better provide in those identified areas. The city will continue to work to offer public and social opportunities and events that will target seniors including health, entertainment and recreational oriented activities. The city will continue to provide easily accessible transportation, affordable housing, inviting outdoor spaces, quality community and health services. The city will encourage employment opportunities and volunteer opportunities.

**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 city of Gary has a strong senior base. A number of initiatives and programs are in place to encourage our senior citizens to remain active as they begin to retire and age. The city looks forward to working with private and public partners to create more programs to engage seniors. The city will continue to seek grant opportunities on state and federal government levels that target aging residents. The city will work to build trust and citizen commitment and to address any misconception of programs for aging adults. The city will continue to work to build our block clubs where many older citizens are the backbone and with other established organizations and programs deemed age friendly, such as Green Urbanism projects like gardening and the Food Council. The city will work to track senior citizen concerns, interests and needs to better address areas most important to our aging community. The city will utilize the data as a measurement of how well the city is doing in planning for senior living in Gary. The metrics will contribute to building local capacity for aging citizens.

#### 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?

As we work to rebuild our city, we are consistently exploring new approaches and innovative ways to improve available resources and services in Gary. We are committed enhancing the quality of life in Gary and to making Gary an attractive city to reside and raise families, for work and careers, for entertainment and outdoor fun for all ages and for retirement.

#### 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?

AARP offers additional resources to help improve the quality of life in communities, particularly for our older residents. Being a part of the AARP network provides more opportunity to connect with other cities and



*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).*

#### 6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file of your community logo. Membership Application: AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities – Page 3

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >