



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@arp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 3/14/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Dedham

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 24,700 (2010)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 26%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Jim Kern, Town Manager

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Dedham Town Hall, 26 Bryant Street, Dedham, MA 02026

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:

Diane Barry Preston is a Board Member of Dedham's Council on Aging and the co-founder of Livable Dedham. Livable Dedham was formed in 2015 by Diane, and Marie Louise Kehoe, as a community action organization with the primary mission of making the community a great place to grow up and grow old. Diane leads the organization which consists of a part time Project Coordinator, an 18-member Steering Committee, 5 Action Teams, and an extensive volunteer network. Diane successfully created momentum for Livable Dedham's mission by engaging critical partners with a shared vision for an Age Friendly community and initiating grant funding with Tufts Health Plan Foundation. With support from partners, Diane is leading completion of a strategic plan with UMass Boston and the implementation of nearly 40 Age Friendly initiatives. The organization is guided by the World Health Organization's 8 Age Friendly domains. Livable Dedham defined the following 5 Action themes relevant to these domains and multiple action item initiatives are underway: Walkability & Alternative Transportation; Housing & Community Supports; Improving Communication; Programs & Activities for Adults 55+; Volunteer Opportunities.

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.

Livable Dedham is working closely with the Director of the Council on Aging and other Town Departments such as The Planning Department; Parks & Recreation; the Public Library; and the Department of Public Works to increase programs and activities for older adults and create Age-Friendly town infrastructure. The Senior Center and the library currently provide a range of programming; Livable Dedham is partnering with both organizations to develop additional resources for older adults. Livable Dedham is also working closely with the Department of Publics Works and walk audit teams to adopt Complete Streets Policy; and the Planning Department to promote additional housing options and community supports. Livable Dedham’s efforts aim to ensure that the community and residents reap the benefits of becoming an Age-Friendly community. Action items aim to enhance the physical and social environment with the following projected outcomes: 1) Increased desirability of Dedham as a great place to grow up and grow old. 2) Improved town infrastructure to support physical needs of Dedham’s aging population (e.g., housing, transportation, walkability, parks). 3) Increased programs, activities, support services, and volunteerism to promote wellness, engagement, inclusion, and vitality. 4) Improved intergenerational interaction and communication. 5) Expanded communication channels to promote awareness of programs and services among older residents. 6) Increased local, state, and national partnerships to ensure continued funding for, and focus on, the needs of older residents.

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

Since 2015, Livable Dedham has engaged residents through a survey, multiple in-person forums, community walk audits, stakeholder meetings, and Facebook. In 2017, Livable Dedham launched a website and initiated a 6-month Strategic Planning process with the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Residents of all ages were invited to focus group sessions facilitated by the Gerontology Institute. Over 70 residents convened to define concrete age-friendly action items which will promote engagement and wellness among older adults. Livable Dedham is supporting efforts to improve access to town wide information online and in print. Multiple engagement opportunities are planned for Spring, 2018. In March, The Gerontology Institute at UMass will present an overview of Livable Dedham’s action items and implementation timeline details. An interactive housing forum and two intergenerational contests are planned for later in the spring. Livable Dedham will continue to work closely with the Senior Center and Library to engage and advocate for older adults.

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.

With an extensive partner network, Steering Committee, and Action Teams, Livable Dedham continues to work toward successful implementation of sustainable age friendly action items. Livable Dedham will leverage the support and expertise of the following agencies and departments: Town Government for guidance, funding, infrastructure and zoning expertise; Representative Paul McMurtry for legislative & policy guidance; the Council on Aging & Area Agency on Aging (HESSCO) for programs, services, outreach, publicity, & co-hosting events; the Dedham Public Library & Community House for programs, activities, & town-wide information distribution; the Department of Public Works for implementing Complete Streets; Dedham Square Circle for relationship building & event collaboration; Parks & Recreation for development of wellness promoting age friendly features; Steering Committee members for expertise, facilitating progress, & town wide visibility. Going forward Livable Dedham seeks to engage new partners, with an eye toward promoting diversity and inclusion across age, race, culture, & professional experience.

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?

Livable Dedham aims to become one of the AARP's 200+ communities preparing to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing demographic of older adults. A strong collaboration network is in place with the common purpose, and recognized value, of becoming an age-friendly community. With a strong network of supporters and funding from Tufts Health Plan Foundation, Livable Dedham is poised to support and help drive AARP's mission by implementing sustainable, realistic, rewarding action items that will impact community infrastructure and residents throughout the historic demographic shift underway.

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?

Livable Dedham relies on the AARP and the World Health Organization as critical resources for the mission of becoming an Age Friendly community. Livable Dedham recognizes that the AARP and World Health Organization offer a tremendous amount of policy and practice information. These organizations also provide a broad network of older adults and professionals working in the field of aging services. The AARP also provides inspiration for innovative initiatives through distribution of "Where we Live" and contests such as the "Purpose Prize". With continued progress toward completing Age Friendly initiatives, Livable Dedham hopes to promote successful aging and one day inspire neighboring communities. Membership in the AARP Age Network of Age Friendly Communities will strengthen the foundation from which Livable Dedham advocates for the needs of older adults.

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 >



Please find Livable Dedham's logo and details on our initiatives at www.livablededham.org