



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: 9/24/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Easton

STATE: MA

POPULATION SIZE: 24,038

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 3842 (16.7%)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Dottie Fulginiti, Chair,
Easton Board of Selectmen

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 136 Elm Street, North Easton MA 02356

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:

Michael Blanchard will be the main point of contact from the Town Administrator's office. He will be working closely with the Director of Health and Human Services, Kristin Kennedy, the Selectboard Chair, Dottie Fulginiti and the other stakeholders in the community.

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 Town of Easton has many programs and departments that have a focus not only on older people but in an intergenerational model of respectfully aging. Frothingham Memorial Hall functions as a community center and home to the Health and Community services member departments of Council on Aging, Recreation, and Veterans' Services. This structure allows the Town to provide centralized access to a health and wellness activities and resources such as an Outreach Coordinator, Veterans' Services Officer, SHINE counselors, and AARP tax preparers. It also promotes cooperation and continuity of care as our community members age. The Board of Health offers blood pressure checks, flu shot clinics, and other events for the whole the community but usually taken advantage of by older residents. The Library offers events that welcome residents of all ages and many seniors take advantage of those programs. There have been many intergenerational programs that have been very well received. Transportation is available to help seniors get to their doctor appointments, congregate lunches, and community sponsored activities, all of which are essential to ensuring health as a state of physical, mental and social well-being. There are also programs designed to offer tax relief by way of tax deferral or tax work off programs offered to qualified applicants. Easton has a food pantry for the whole community but serves a number of our seniors. Easton has a CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) that helps in times of emergency. We also have TRIAD, a collaborative effort between the Easton Police Department, the Bristol County Sheriff's Department and the senior citizen community of Easton. Our goal is to ensure that local decisions and policies related to housing, transportation and quality of life are made with thoughtful consideration of all community members in all age groups.

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

We would first identify key stakeholders in the community to get their input. Some ideas are Council on Aging, Recreation Department, Commission on Disabilities, CERT, TRIAD, The Residence at Five Corners (an assisted living facility that also specializes in memory care and dementia) Old Colony YMCA, Healthy Easton, Easton Wings of Hope (a substance abuse coalition), Doug King/Queset (local housing developer), local doctors/medical groups, Stonehill College, and Bridgewater State University. We would convene an introductory meeting and brainstorming session. We will have a community kick off so we can introduce this program to the public and invite them to connect. We would then craft survey questions to gather more input from the community so we can establish a baseline understanding of what is important to our residents as it relates to aging in our community.

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.

Easton is fortunate to have a well structured Department of Health and Community Services department that includes our Council on Aging, Recreation Department, Board of Health and Veterans' Services. The Director of Health & Community Services reports to the Town Administrator so there is a clear path of communication. The Director of Health & Community Services also works with our schools and public safety personnel regularly and our TRIAD program reinforces this connection with our seniors. Becoming an Age Friendly Community is a priority for the elected Board of Selectmen and they have included this initiative in the Town Administrators Annual Goals and Objectives.

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?

Easton has long been an early adopter of new programs and technology that supports a high quality of life for its' residents. Leadership eagerly participates in various state programs, and boards and committees, including the Massachusetts Municipal Association. We regularly share ideas with other communities and would like to be a leader in the work of Age Friendly Communities and helping to contribute to the development of best practices.

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?

Easton is already doing a lot of great work for all ages, however, there has never been a program to network these programs and communicate them to the whole community. The Easton Board of Selectmen want to demonstrate that we appreciate our seniors and we want them to have all the resources they need to allow them to age safely in our community. From the day we are born, we all begin to age and it's important to show that we as a community value and respect that journey. We will demonstrate this by joining the Age Friendly Communities and working on new strategies to continue to improve the quality of life for our residents.

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 >



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