



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: 11/27/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Northampton

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 28,549

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 19.5%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: David J. Narkewicz,
Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 210 Main St., Room 12, Northampton, MA 01060-3119

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:

Click here to enter text.

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.

Northampton is a small city, rich in services and commitments to the development of a vibrant and livable community for residents of all ages. As the Hampshire County seat, Northampton is the home for a number of county-wide programs and services all with a long history of collaboration and coordination. The vibrancy of Northampton is reflected in many past and current designations: *Best Place to Retire, Best Arts Community, Healthy Motion Award, Bicycle-Friendly Community (Bronze), Pedestrian Friendly Community (Bronze), STAR Communities-Five Star rating for Community Sustainability, Top 25 Arts Destinations, Great Cities for Simple Life (AARP), and Top Adventure Towns.* There are a number of efforts underway that underscore the City's commitment to be an inclusive Age Friendly community. To cite a few:

- Climate Resilience and Regeneration planning effort includes building social resilience with networks of how neighborhoods take care of all of their residents.
- A "pavement to parks" program, Main Street redesign effort, North King Street Roundabout, and recently completed Pleasant Street complete streets effort are all focused on ensuring that Northampton is more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, safe, and desirable.
- Development of a Rocky Hill Greenway with additional benches to be accessible for all ages and populations.
- Creation of ValleyBike with pedal-assist bicycles to serve a larger demographic than traditional human-powered bicycles.
- Planning a "complete streets on steroids" program for the eventual reconstruction of Main Street
- Participation in the Mass in Motion program addresses all ages and supports many of the Age Friendly goal
- Many of the City's current housing efforts address both market rate housing aim to expand housing options beyond only large single-family homes designed for families with children. The "Just Big Enough" effort, for seeks to make smaller units more acceptable, to serve those left out of the housing market and to serve those whose housing needs are not necessarily met by the traditional housing design
- The City has a long-standing commitment to ensuring that City buildings and services are accessible and has been catalyst for many retail and private businesses doing the same.
- There are numerous programs and services for older adults in place, many sponsored or coordinated by the Northampton Senior Services Department. They include an enhanced and coordinated transportation system; the year-old EARN (Employment After Retirement Network) program; health and wellness support; outreach and referral services to name a few. A newly hired food and nutrition professional will enhance and expand nutrition-based programs and services

Our commitment to ensuring that Northampton is an Age Friendly Community is partnered with a commitment to ensure that all efforts and recommendations include a Dementia Friendly component as well. The Age Friendly Northampton planning will assess what is in place and determine priorities for filling gaps and enhancing current services and programs. An anticipated outcome will be an effective programs, activities, and services "navigation" and communications system, easily accessible by all.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming more Age Friendly?

There is a strong commitment to engage and partner with older adults and those with dementia in all aspects of the Age Friendly Northampton initiative: planning, gathering input, drafting recommendations for priority activities and implementation. We envision that community meetings, focus groups, and individual interviews will further expand the engagement of older adults in leadership and participant roles. The active engagement of socially isolated and more vulnerable community members as well as “emerging older adults” will be actively sought to ensure that those perspectives are reflected.

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.

Under the leadership of Northampton’s Senior Services Department and the Northampton Council on Aging, Age Friendly Northampton will be led by a core group that is reflective of the eight domains of livability. The list includes, but is not limited to, representatives from the Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Highland Valley Elder Services, relevant municipal departments (Planning, Recreation, Arts Council, etc.) the City Council, the Northampton Chamber of Commerce, Northampton Housing Authority, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, Healthy Hampshire, the real estate and business communities, Smith College, Northampton Neighbors, Casa Latina, faith based organizations, Valley Community Development Corporation and the Northampton Survival Center.

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?

Northampton is eager to formally become a contributing and collaborative member of the Age Friendly Network, which we feel will help strengthen all of our efforts. We expect to continue to learn from communities further along the path than we are and reciprocally, we want to share the learnings from our experiences with others in and out of the network. We also look forward to further supporting the Massachusetts state-wide Age Friendly efforts and priorities. We are also interested in further conversation about using AARP’s walk audit tool to incorporate into planning and regulatory reviews.

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?

Northampton is a vibrant and unique small city with a large commitment to all aspects of livability and accessibility. Our commitment in undertaking the Age Friendly Northampton Initiative will be to highlight what is already in place, determine what is missing, and provide a platform for even more collaboration and coordination of services and activities. The Age Friendly lens will provide the focus for a shared perspective for all stakeholders in the City, along with enhanced understanding and access to current and future, programs, activities and services. The Age Friendly lens supplements our efforts to expand accessibility beyond ADA standards and to expand our 8 to 80 complete streets perspective.