



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: 6/8/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Scituate

STATE: MA

POPULATION SIZE: 18,666

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 5,133

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: James Boudreau, Town Administrator

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway

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 Council on Aging is responsible for identifying and serving the needs of the older adult population in the community. The Director of the Council on Aging will act as facilitator of the initiative along with the Council on Aging Board and the Age-Friendly Steering Committee to bring a direct connection for what may be needed to improve and enhance accessibility and enjoyment of our community's resources among our older adults. The COA Director will work as contact point for the steering committee members as efforts are begun and report on progress and projects underway at Board meetings, to Town administration, and to seniors through our newsletter, Social Media, and regular Cable program as well as during events specific to the Age-Friendly initiative. Along with Board and committee members, the Director will publicize our efforts supporting the initiative and seek means and resources to apply to projects determined by the committee as a whole to address the goals and objectives of the initiative.

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 Council on Aging provides opportunities and connection to resources targeted to the needs and interests of our older adults. The community supports our older adult population through available municipal resources, including financial assistance such as Tax work-off reduction and other deferment opportunities, recreational activities, and public transportation to supplement COA-provided services directed at over 60 and disabled adults. The downtown and adjacent area is accessible and provides ample parking opportunities in addition to the public bus stops. There is a dedicated walking/biking area as well as shared sidewalks available in and around the downtown and coastal area which many active older adults take advantage of. The Senior Center provides opportunities for walking groups led by volunteers or staff, as well as recreational group activities and many leisure, educational, and informational events on a regular basis. Other opportunities exist through the local Historical Society, church communities, public library, and downtown merchant association. A senior employment networking group is helping to address attitudes toward older workers; and the Scituate Education Foundation considers proposals benefiting older adults in providing grant funding in support of lifelong learning as proposed by the COA Director, Board members and/or staff.

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

Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships. With COA Board members who are themselves active members of the community leading efforts to connect the COA and older adults with other community groups, it lends a synergy to the development of our age-friendly initiative. Our partnerships with other organizations and strategic selection of Steering Committee members in order to engage residents of varying ages and focus areas will help us to meet our goals for an age-friendly community. Partnering with schools and teachers for intergenerational engagement and community events; partnering with the library and historical society for programs with parallel interests to reach a broader base of the community; partnering with existing social service organizations geared toward diverse groups and assisting with efforts; hosting presentations by many local professionals that put forth ideas and recommendations for engagement, activity and information will all contribute to connecting our older adults to the process of becoming more age-friendly. Developing regular opportunities to engage in combined activities, such as a yearly Fun Run/Walk, a concert series with the schools, and development of a Lifelong Learning program will be a focus of our early and continued planning as well as to serve as an opportunity to make older adults aware of our efforts and provide them with a chance to be involved in the process.

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.

Planning will begin with the Council on Aging and Senior Center to create or broaden the connections between our older residents and town-based associations, board and committees, social services resources, and opportunities for engagement. Through the Age-Friendly Steering Committee, COA Board and Senior Center staff, we will initiate events and activities that will increase opportunities for bringing more attention to age-friendly needs in housing, transportation and outdoor facilities, as well as to connect older adults with the community beyond the Senior Center. As we plan for a new Senior Center facility, discussions will be held with the town's Planning and Development officials and the Economic Development Commission to ensure that 'aging' well is part of the Master Plan, as well as to ensure that traffic patterns and walkability will be enhanced or improved to facilitate access to community resources. Participation on other town boards and committees, assistance with community services such as the Food Pantry and our now year-long efforts of our Community Christmas outreach group addressing financial needs of all ages, working with the Beautification Committee on garden projects highlighting dementia-friendly efforts, utilizing our cable TV station to bring information to our residents along with attention to needs and efforts to address those needs will all serve to support the foundation for becoming more collaborative in achieving our goal of an age-friendly community.

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?

We will continue to seek out opportunities to engage our older adults and bring awareness to various needs that may require increased attention to address, such as employment for older adults, opportunities for connecting older residents socially, and accessibility and number of outdoor facilities for healthy and well-balanced activity. Through existing relationships with our state partners we anticipate generating an annual summary of progress. We will share this annual progress with the networks of Age-Friendly communities in the U.S. and the world. In addition, we will communicate and exchange progress with our international “sister cities” as a way of connecting our local efforts to other members of the global network.

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 Scituate Council on Aging Director has included in her professional development goals and objectives to embark on an Age-Friendly Community process. With the support of new COA board members this goal was moved into action in 2017. In addition, the Town of Scituate has recognized the need for more community gathering space for seniors and is simultaneously pursuing the development of a new senior center that recognizes the need to connect to community resources. These elements have aligned to create the necessary momentum and awareness in the community to move forward with an age-friendly initiative. We feel that the recognition brought to these efforts by joining the networks will allow us to engage a wider range of residents and stakeholders in the process and will, ultimately, increase the scope of our support for 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 >



Attached to e-mail