



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: 4/12/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Stoneham

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 21,437

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 25.5%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Thomas Younger, Town Administrator

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 35 Central Street, Stoneham, Ma 02180

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 mission of the Stoneham Council on Aging is to welcome all to the Senior Center and provide outstanding services to all seniors with kindness, respect, dignity and by offering services for social, nutritional and medical needs, and to provide outreach to seniors in the community. The Director of the Stoneham Council on Aging is responsible for the development and implementation of programs and service at the center and other community venues. Our focus is make every effort to meet the continuing needs of the area's elderly/older adult population in order to remain living independtly in the community. The Director also develops and institutes short and long-term goals and objectives for the Council on Aging with the support and guidance with its Board of Directors.

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.

Stoneham provides numerous programs, services, and resources that enable seniors to live vibrant, active, and healthy lives. At the Senior Center, one can join their neighbors for lunch, participate in a wide range of programs, learn new skills, participate in an exercise class, or chat with staff members about resources throughout the community. They provide transportation throughout town to grocery stores, the town center, medical appointments, and even offer day trips to museums, fine arts performances and other special events throughout the region. Seniors may also seek assistance with our SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Counselors to help assist in choosing the right medical insurance, and manage tricky medical issues pertaining to Medicare, Medicaid, and prescription drug coverage. Additionally, Stoneham has done exceptional work with its outreach to all throughout their planning processes. They have taken incredible steps to educate the public through social media campaigns, press releases, articles in the local paper and the Council on Aging newsletter, and even feature major topics on Stoneham TV, the local cable access network. The Town regularly hosts forums and meetings during the day at the Senior Center so those members of the aging community, who are historically unrepresented, can participate in a location that is accessible and familiar.

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

Through this process, Stoneham seeks to continue its work engaging and involving the aging population through all facets of the municipality. Stoneham will create a committee that will draft an Action Plan for adoption, keep the Board of Selectmen informed and recommend changes on policy issues, collaborate with municipal departments and committees on specific initiatives, and encourage more effective communication on matters involving older residents. The Action Plan will be bold yet achievable with objectives, action items, and timelines for its completion. The Plan must and will identify groups responsible for each activity, distinguish contributions for completing each task, and share indicators that will allow the measurement of progress toward each goal. It's essential that this process is the catalyst for engagement and participation of older people through Stoneham.

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 Town of Stoneham has walkable streets, housing and transportation options, access to key services and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities. However, these amenities are not enough and the Town works tirelessly to continue to move the community forward. Collaboration and communication among municipal departments, elected leaders, and volunteer committees is crucial in the success of this designation. The Town will need to be thoughtful in planning, inclusive in the process, and transparent with their commitment to serve the public interest. The Town acknowledges that they simply cannot do what has always been done if our ultimate goal is to have a variety of voices heard and represented on issues and projects. It's essentially that all voices be sincerely considered when decisions are being made that impact individuals and families day to day.

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?

Stoneham wants to be part of the movement of using an age-friendly lens to identify ways to promote healthy aging, facilitate all-inclusive planning practices, and enhance life for all residents. By being a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities, we will be able to collaborate with other communities to share experiences and develop a mutual learning in order to better meet the needs of our older residents.

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?

After a recent seventeen communities regional survey, Stoneham was observed as having the worst transportation gaps in the region specifically with the aging population. An ongoing local conversation is how the community can address the ever-growing need for seniors to maintain their quality of life and retain their independence by running errands and access to their medical appointments. Making up one-quarter of the population, Stoneham seniors are vital contributors to the community but are the most underrepresented in the municipality's planning efforts. Historically, nearly all municipal meetings, forums, and hearings are scheduled in the evening even though we are aware that may be challenging for the aging population. We need to be intentionally better. Every planning process in Stoneham has a daytime engagement component held at the Stoneham Senior Center, a familiar and central location. It's important to invite and include seniors, healthcare providers and institutional representatives to meetings and forums to have an open needs assessment discussion, brainstorm ideas and identify solutions for all on an ongoing basis. Planning must be deliberate, thoughtful, and clear with our efforts. By purposefully including the most underrepresented and planning with them, we are not only providing more information and platforms to the public but also encouraging people to participate and work together on finding solutions for all rather than the few.

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 >



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.