



## 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](mailto:livable@aarpp.org).
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 3/23/2018

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Danforth

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 592 Year-round

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: ~30%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Carrie Oliver, Barry Gillis, & Charles Parker (Board of Danforth Selectmen)

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: P.O. Box 117, Danforth, ME 04424

### 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 contact information]

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Ardis is Danforth's Town Manager and as such she has daily interaction with the citizens in our town and its surrounding areas [residents, not only from Danforth but from other towns and unorganized territories, use our Town Office for several municipal services (e.g., Motor Vehicle)]. She is always willing to speak with people about their concerns and ideas and has been a driving force behind creating a stronger community. Ardis is also in constant contact with the Selectmen. Her emphasis on inclusion of the senior residents has been evident since she took office. Since taking office, she and the Selectmen have launched projects ranging from expansion of the current Food Pantry to establishing a senior center to organizing social events (e.g., a Senior Expo). Ardis' vision for an age-friendly community coincides with the Board of Selectmen's desire to transform Danforth into a thriving town where residents stay. We trust that with Ardis' previous experiences (e.g., Weston Town Manager) she has the ability to assist with development and achievement of Danforth's goals.

### 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.

Danforth's current policies, programs and services designed for older people are limited. Initially, we aim to improve several livability domains such as transportation, communication and information, social inclusion, civic participation, and community support. Once a week, transportation utilizing a bus from the Aroostook Agency on Aging is available to citizens to make the 35-mile round-trip to Houlton. Unfortunately, the stops are restricted in scope and time. Ideas to enhance transportation services include partnering with MSAD #14 to use their buses and hire their drivers for day trips to places such as Bangor or Senior functions in other regions. Another suggestion is to launch a volunteer driver program for more personalized, private transportation (e.g., doctor's appointments). Danforth's Food Pantry is vital in supporting overall health and well-being to those residents in need and providing better access and a wider range of services will decrease food insecurity in Danforth. Currently, the Food Pantry is based in the Town Hall with only temporary approval and accessibility is inadequate; the need to establish a permanent location is imperative. A proposal to move the facility to the SAVE building at MSAD #14 has been explored. With this partnership, the Food Pantry's services as well as the children's program could expand and accessibility at this location is markedly improved. The town also intends to appropriate funds to set-up a home delivery system for those unable to travel to the food pantry. Last fall, Ardis was able to organize many stakeholders and hold a Senior Expo at the Danforth Town Hall. Seniors and their caregivers participated in learning about county, state and federal programs; additionally, contacts for further assistance were made. Danforth also enjoyed several community events, such as Town Hall Dances and a Community Concert, where older people came out to socialize. It was such a success that a concert series is planned for this summer and the dances continue as weather allows. To further enhance social and physical outlets, plans for seating installation around the town have been set along with senior community sessions and even arts and crafts classes.

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

Becoming an age-friendly community hinges on engaging the older population and Danforth realizes the value in their involvement. The standing committee that will be founded to guide our efforts will be comprised of all age groups and in particular, as many senior residents as possible. Preliminary assessment and subsequent survey instruments will target the appropriate population with action plan development, review, and revision focusing on their continued input.

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 Danforth Selectmen and Town Manager are planning to invite residents to become part of the standing committee for an age-friendly community. Key members sought include people from currently active boards (e.g., the town planning board), local non-profit groups (e.g., the Danforth Library), municipal representatives, health service providers and local business owners, as well as people who are new to the process. With the right committee members in place, facilitation with other groups is fostered, creating a larger framework of support in which to accomplish goals. We have also cultivated connections with the tri-county region's Agencies on Aging, the Aroostook County Action Program, and several other area groups during our Senior Expo.

#### 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?

As residents of a small, rural town in the poorest county in Maine, we want to illustrate that a strong sense of community can exist under these conditions. Age-friendly communities do not have to be large urban centers or cities and our contribution to the AARP and WHO Networks is to demonstrate how communities like us can achieve age-friendly goals with little or no budget.

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?

Unfortunately Danforth's population, much like Maine's, is aging. With almost a third of our residents over the age of 60, the need for age-friendly services, infrastructure and opportunities to remain or rejoin the active community is (peak to our older residents, you can see the desire to live better and to be active in the community. 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](mailto:livable@aarp.org). not want to stay house-bound due to mobility or health issues nor be closed in for the winter months. transportation concerns or lack of a warm, safe place to go. It is these types of conversations that provided the impetus to become an AARP Age-Friendly Community.



6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file of your community logo. Membership Application: AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities – Page 3

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >