



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: *Click here to enter a date.*

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Georgetown

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 1,018

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 40.5%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Geoff Birdsall, Chair Select Board

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Georgetown Town Office, 50 Bay Point Road, Georgetown, ME 04548

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:

James Peavey and Patricia Kimball are co-chairs of the age-friendly committee in Georgetown and have been appointed by the Board of Selectmen to guide the age-friendly work in Georgetown

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.

A number of Georgetown residents are members of AARP and are very familiar with all that it offers. Knowing that our program could gain access to all the information, resources, workshops, and support that AARP can provide was a major motivating factor to become part of the AARP NAFC. The communities that make up the network are very generous in sharing their successes and lessons learned. That will be a great help to us as we move our project forward. We have already had a presentation and discussion with Patricia Oh as we were forming our team and figuring out how to go forward. That set us on a good path to get going and we know that she will provide on-going guidance as we proceed with the formal Age-Friendly program. While we have formed a strong team of more than fifteen active participants and another fifteen supporters, and have had some good accomplishment, we know that being part of the network will give our initiative structure and a timetable to do the work to make our town a better and safer place for our older citizens. We hope to be accepted into the program and look forward to being part of the Age-Friendly network. Supported by the Select Board of Georgetown, a committee was formed to develop an update to our Comprehensive Plan for Georgetown's future. At the very first meeting of this committee in 2017, it was recognized that our population was growing older. (In 1993 approximately 19% of our population was 65 or older whereas today it is approaching 35%.) The Committee unanimously agreed to the formation of an Age Friendly Community Subcommittee. We also envision that our subcommittee will be an on-going committee. The Select Board has been apprised of each step we have taken and has supported our work, which has included the development of thriving, ongoing stakeholders meetings, and a welcomed and welcoming website, www.agefriendlygeorgetown.org. The Select Board has agreed to (1) the town's participation with People Plus of Brunswick to begin to solve our transportation issues, (2) the preparation of a contractor and service provider listing on our website, and as of April 9, (3) the Select Board voted to approve our becoming part of the AARP network. We are fortunate to already have in place many organizations that provide services and are welcoming to all including, but not limited to, the Georgetown Community Center, the Georgetown Historical Society, the Georgetown Working League, the Georgetown Reading Group, the Richard's Library, and the Five Islands Baptist Church. Many of these organizations are willing to help with transportation to their events though there is not yet a formal network. Reid State Park is located in the town of Georgetown and they admit any senior without charging a fee.

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

As town representatives began preparation for the update to the Comprehensive Plan, it became clear that age friendly issues were very important for Georgetown. Once the town had approved preparation of the Comprehensive Plan update, preliminary teams were formed to address issues required in the Plan. There was great interest in the issues around aging and staying and living safely in the community. Key members of the initial work were both leading citizens and elders. As the work started to take shape, other elders have been recruited to be key parts of the work. To identify and encourage elder participation, the team went to key organizations in town that had large percentages of elder membership. These include the Georgetown Community Center, the Georgetown Working League, the Georgetown Historical Society, and the Five Islands Baptist Church. We are building strong relationships with these important groups and bringing more elders into the process. We have also reached into the community through public announcements, articles in the Georgetown Tide, the local newspaper, and informational material that is handed out at local events and locations. We also hosted a Drug Take-Back event and encouraged elders throughout town to participate, giving us another opportunity to bring them into our Age-Friendly program. We also post notices and results of all the meetings of our Age-Friendly team on the Town's website. We have created a website, www.agefriendlygeorgetown.org, as another way to connect with elders who have Internet access and are working with other parts of the initiative to encourage more elders to become active with computers. All these efforts will continue as we proceed with the formal AARP Age-Friendly program.

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.

Georgetown began the process to become more age-friendly through the development of a citizen-led Age-Friendly Community Committee, as outlined above. This Committee is leading the processes to make Georgetown more age-friendly through the following: (A) Members of our committee have been meeting with local town groups and committees (i.e., Recreation Committee, Working League, School) to share the development of age-friendly work in Georgetown, discuss partnership opportunities and to garner their support and feedback. (B) We are designing and will be implementing a community survey, to ensure we understand the needs of older Georgetown residents as well as those in our community who are living with a disability and are developing and/or promoting resources that are of most value to our townspeople. We have designed a robust, broad and comprehensive outreach strategy to ensure we hear from as many residents as possible. This will be a precursor to and support the completion of the formal assessment that is made in the first two years of the NAFC program. (C) We are educating ourselves about resources and services available to assist older Georgetowners: (1) By inviting regional service providers to attend our meetings and share information about their programs: those have included the County Sheriff and Bath Police Chief, Georgetown Local Health Officer, Catholic Charities Maine SEARCH Program, and the Alzheimer's Association. (2) In addition, leadership from our Committee has met with regional service providers and other age-friendly communities to learn more about their programs, including People Plus, Bath Housing Comfortably at Home Program, and Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers Maine. (3) We are then developing ways to communicate these resources to our neighbors. Our website contains a growing list of resources and we will be creating handouts to be available for distribution and posting in town office. (4) Already, these efforts have resulted in our participation in the DEA Drug Take-Back program in April, the development of a volunteer-led Transportation Program, and a local contractor/business listing to assist older citizens in finding assistance with issues like plowing, sanding, home repairs. (D) Our plans include tackling issues important to creating a community that meets the needs of our population, across the lifespan, including: (1) Addressing affordable housing needs, accessibility options, accessory apartments and home repair, (2) Creating more accessible outdoor spaces, (3) Creating more accessible businesses, (4) Encouraging opportunities for socialization and other isolation reduction measures, (5) Promoting consistent, affordable, accessible and low barrier transportation, (6) Sharing information about local health and wellness resources, and (7) Creating intergenerational learning opportunities. Georgetown is fortunate to have a strong network of community involvement and activism. We are working closely with the Select Board, Assistant to the Select Board, and Town Clerk as we develop our age-friendly team and programs. There are a number of town departments and committees that do a great deal of work related to our age-friendly goals. These include the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Committee, Town Owned Property Management Board, and Volunteer Fire Department. We are developing close connections with each of these as we get our work underway. In addition, there are important agencies and organizations in town that play key roles in the lives of elders. These included the Georgetown Community Center, the Georgetown Working League, and the Five Islands Baptist Church. We have established a strong working relationship with each and will partner with all these groups as we develop and implement our age-friendly program.

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?

In our town we believe in cooperation and collaboration so from the very first we sought out not only our seniors but the children of our community as well. We have had meetings within our elementary school and sought help from the high school that serves our children. In fact, thanks to them we have a new logo. We determined that even our motto would be inclusive and chose "A Community for All Ages." We believe that the lessons learned from other Maine towns in the NAFC have made our progress possible and we firmly understand that the knowledge we gain as we go forward should be shared with other communities in Maine, the nation and indeed anyone, anywhere who might benefit. We look forward to participating in and contributing toward future AARP (NAFC) events.

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?

Click here to enter text.



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.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file of your community. 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 >