



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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: *March 2, 2018*

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Waldo County

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 38,904

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 26%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Betty Johnson, Amy Fowler, and William Shorey.

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 39B Spring St. Belfast, ME. 04915

### 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:

AWWC has formed a Board of Directors and Executive Committee with two year commitments for each individual. Jan Dodge has agreed to be the first chairperson of AWC. In this role, she will set agendas for meetings, show leadership in setting and leading monthly meetings and initiatives, creating standing committees, being the initial contact person for AWWC, and such work as directed by the Board. A team of officers are prepared to support and enable her throughout the term.

### 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.**

What we have: AWWC has been in existence for two years. During that time, an assessment was completed that included all 26 communities in Waldo County. Waldo County has the following attributes and assets as described by respondents to its survey. These include a system of active libraries with speakers, programs, activities, movies, and sometimes pot luck type dinners; a system of churches that provide programming, social events, and committees for participation in the community including several food pantries; the YMCA of Waldo County which sponsors exercise classes geared to seniors and a program of "Active Older Adults" (AOA) with classes, activities, lunches, and field trips; Belfast Senior College, an all-volunteer educational organization offering inexpensive, non-credit classes for people 50 and over in three terms per year, with subjects in arts, sciences, history, literature, foreign language, crafts, etc. Each term offers 16 courses, all taught by highly qualified retirees; an emerging "senior center" meeting weekly to play games; Volunteer opportunities in a number of social service agencies including Waldo Community Action Partners, After School programs for children, Literacy Volunteers of Waldo County, volunteering in public schools, volunteer-run libraries, Meals on Wheels, the Belfast Garden Club, "Triad" and more.

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

Individual communities or pairs of communities will write several specific goals to increase participation at ongoing events identifying individuals who may have transportation challenges or be unwilling to go to events alone and encourage participation by offering rides and companionship. Communities will further identify opportunities for their seniors which may need expanding or additional resources. A separate transportation work group is meeting regularly with Midcoast Community Transportation to explore ways to increase service, access to service, and expand services. Remote communities will consider implementing any needed check-in services for vulnerable residents, especially in winter and following serious weather. Communities will identify individuals living alone who may need to be connected to services offered by TRIAD and the Waldo County Sheriff daily call-in services.

**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.**

AWWC has formed a Board of Directors (and Executive Committee) as well as a wider General Assembly of people widely representing the county municipalities. This group will initiate, direct, and support goals and implementation of smaller communities, secure funds when needed to provide resources, etc. Overall, currently 25 individuals are committed to this cause and to effecting positive changes county-wide. The Executive Committee will meet monthly; the Board of Directors will meet quarterly. All members of the General Assembly will meet annually, and will elect Board members when terms are completed.

#### 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?

Being a initiative that has been undertaken on a County level, Waldo County and AWWC will hopefully provide models and inspiration to other larger group who, by taking on a county or a region, can maximize the resources, human and otherwise, that is typically difficult for small municipalities. Members of AWWC have already participated in conferences and meetings to share ideas with other groups and will continue to do so. The work of AWWC has partner agencies devoting time and resources to our work, including the Waldo County Sheriff's office, the Waldo County Commissioners, the City of Belfast, Waldo County General Hospital, Mid-Coast Transportation, and The Maine Center for Disease Control.

#### 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?

For many reasons, Waldo County is a great place to live, whether for seniors, families, etc. Our data show that a substantial number of respondents are fairly new to Waldo County, having chosen it for life during retirement, or nearing retirement. We hope that being a member of this growing network will encourage older and newer residents of the county commitment to seniors, and knowing there is an organization prepared to make Waldo County more age-friendly should be an attractive incentive. Further, we have been impressed with the level of support and services available to us from our State of Maine AARP office, and realize the valuable resource we have in their staff.

#### 6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

