



## 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: 5/1/2018

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** City of Jackson

**STATE:** Mississippi

**POPULATION SIZE:** 173,514

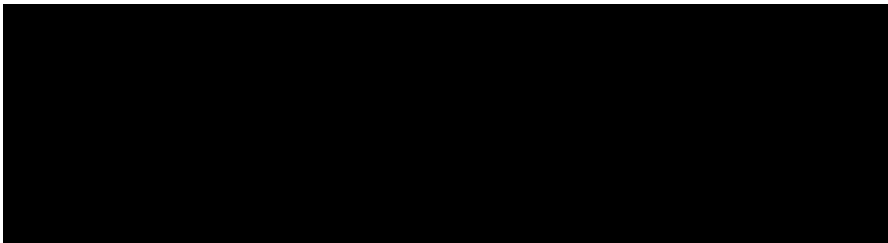
**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 14.5

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Chokwe Antar Lumumba,  
Mayor

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 219 S. President St. Jackson, MS 39201

### 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.



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

Dr. Kumar is the Director of the Department of Planning and Development. The department's mission is to plan and regulate the growth and development of the City of Jackson and enhance the quality of life for its citizens by developing and implementing strategic plans, programs, and regulations that address zoning, land use, housing & community development, business development, building code compliance, and public transportation to achieve human scale and equitable development. Dr. Kumar has also been actively engaged in academic research for the past 13 years as a member of the faculty at Jackson State University and has deep insights into the community for the future direction of the planning and development contributing to the city's age-friendly community initiative. Meanwhile, he serves as the liaison among public, non-profit, and private entities to achieve collaborative planning and implementation among different agencies and departments.

### **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.**

Plan for a sustainable community with orderly land use and enhanced quality life to become more age-friendly, through the implementation of the City's Comprehensive Plan, policy direction, and amendment & enforcement of city ordinances such as Complete Street Policy, Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Review, Landscaping Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, and Historic Preservation Ordinance. Promote the health, safety, and appearance of the City to become more age-friendly through permitting, inspections, and enforcement of adopted building codes, city ordinances, and ADA compliance. Guide the delivery of decent housing, suitable living environments and neighborhood stabilization in the consideration of senior citizens, through the management of the City's Housing and Urban Development allocations and the establishment of Fair Housing Ordinance. Provide safe, reliable, and efficient human transit systems to the citizens of Jackson for senior citizens. Develop and secure all methods inclusive of growing businesses with BEAT (Business & Entrepreneurs Assistance Team) program to lead any person who is doing business with the City through the entire process, and to his/her satisfaction.

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

In the phase of regulating, design, and construction of outdoor spaces and buildings to provide accessibility to and availability of clean and safe community centers, parks, and other recreational facilities, we will work with Department of Parks & Recreation and Department of Public Works to invite senior citizens to participate in the process. We will make sure to address senior citizens' needs and their participation for safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation and pedestrian-friendly street networking in developing the City's human transit plan. We will invite senior citizens to participate in the planning process of providing wide range of housing options for senior residents, aging in place, and other home modification programs, housing that is accessible to transportation, and community and health services in the City's housing plan. We will work with Department of Human & Culture Services to engage senior citizens in the process to improve their access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for senior residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people.

**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.**

Under the leadership of Mayor, Chokwe Antar Lumumba's administration, we're working together to build a more human scale, equitable, and sustainable community for all. The City is creating partnerships with private, non-profit, and citizen organizations to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments. The City's efforts in building such mechanisms have been shown in the following projects: Blight Elimination Program in which the City is in partner with Jackson Housing Authority and Habitat for Humanity Metro Jackson; contracting with Hunden Strategic Partners to provide a feasibility/market analysis of the City Central Business District of Downtown Area, further to create a concept plan to be incorporated into a Request for Proposals (RFP) solicitation for a Master Developer by Strategic Planning Group within our department, and to enter into contract negotiations and execute an agreement with the Developer to construct the project for age-friendly development of Downtown Jackson; and negotiating with Kellogg foundation to provide planners for human transit projects.

## 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?

The City is implementing projects towards “Human Scale Development”, which is the foundation for future action planning by analyzing the concepts of human needs, scale, and efficiency to transmit a serene and simple beauty in its representation of a perfectly harmonious, balanced, and indissoluble trinity- Nature, Humanity, and Technology. Plans, policies, and regulations to achieve human scale development will contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global network of Age-Friendly Communities by providing public outdoor spaces, streetscapes, building design, signage, transit, and housing for people of all ages to enjoy the social, cultural, and physical environment of a more livable community. By providing human transit system and pedestrian friendly street networks, we expect to achieve better mobility for the senior population and help them remain in their homes and communities as they age. This approach will have great contribution as a role model for southern cities in their urban planning and development of multi-modal of transportation and complete streets to achieve less auto-dependent urban spatial patterns.

### 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?

As there are 80 percent of adults 65 and older living in metropolitan areas, Jackson is the urban core of Jackson Metro area, which has the majority of seniors. The built environment of Jackson obtains the advantage of the concentration of healthcare, shopping, restaurants, and social, family and religious activities than its surrounding auto-dependent suburban locations. Research shows that senior Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age, therefore, access to quality health care and long-term services and supports is essential for individuals to live in their homes and communities. The human scale development and equitable development are part of the goal for our current administration which greatly matches the mission of AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities. We are experiencing tightening budget, staffing shortage, and poverty in the City. In joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities, we are hoping to get the technical assistance and guidance to achieve the economic and social benefit of a more livable community.

**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](mailto:livable@aarp.org).*