



## 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: 9/18/2018

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Elizabeth

**STATE:** New Jersey

**POPULATION SIZE:** 128,000 (U.S. Census Bureau)

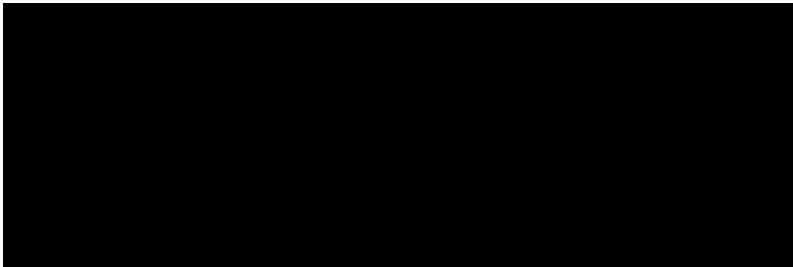
**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 10% (U.S. Census Bureau)

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** The Honorable Mayor J. Christian Bollwage

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 50 Winfield Scott Plaza, Elizabeth NJ 07201

### 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:**

The Lifelong Elizabeth Project Manager is actively involved with numerous community partners, city and county officials and older adult volunteers. The role of the project manager is to conduct community outreach, program planning, assessment, and design, as well as communication, advocacy, and management to ensure the advancement of age-friendly practices at micro and macro levels of the community. Main duties and responsibilities of the coordinator are to maintain the stakeholder network and grow the coalition through pursuing new partnerships. The coordinator works collaboratively with coalition partners from the city and community organizations ranging from the Shaping Elizabeth Coalition through the Y, Trinitas Medical Health Center, the Elizabeth Public Library, Elizabeth Police Department, Elizabeth Office on Aging, Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth, and Department of Health. The coordinator will engage older adults in the community through presentations, programs, events, and promoting access to recreational and educational resources.

### **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.**

Elizabeth has an active Office on Aging housed within the City's Department of Health that helps provide a variety of programming for the city's vibrant Senior Citizen Community Centers and provides many services and resources for the city's seniors. In addition, many local organizations provide educational and service events focused on older adults and their welfare, with Lifelong Elizabeth and the Shaping Elizabeth coalition serving as an example of community collaboration and coordination in advocating for age-friendly practices within the city. The community is working with Shaping Elizabeth, municipal government, and local organizations (such as nonprofits, businesses, and houses of worship) to make the city more age-friendly by educating residents about what age-friendliness means and how they can get involved. By including age-friendly practices in the city's Master Plans, the city plans to continue its work in making the city more age-friendly through housing, improvements to open spaces, land use, and community services.

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

The age-friendly community initiative in Elizabeth, Lifelong Elizabeth (LLE), has an advisory board consisting of members of the community who are involved in various organizations within the city, from nonprofits to the business community to service providers. About half the advisory board members are adults over the age of 55 themselves, which helps us in our mission to get older adults engaged and involved. In addition, Lifelong Elizabeth is in contact with residents in the city, two specifically and others more informally, to discuss their views on the age-friendliness in the city and how LLE can strive towards improving it. One of the future goals of our initiative is advocating for the formation of a Senior Citizen Advisory Council to promote the representation of older adult residents and provide a platform for their voices to be heard and considered.

**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 city of Elizabeth has annual meetings to discuss how its funding from the federal Community Development Block Grant and Community Service Block Grant will be allocated and asks for input from local organizations and other agencies. Through the coalition Shaping Elizabeth, organizations from various sections of the community (nonprofits, city agencies, businesses, food banks, etc.) collectively decide on programming that will best benefit city residents, and provide events aimed at families with older adults in mind. In addition, the Elizabeth Public Library is an important partner in the education of seniors and other residents on age-friendly practices and advocating for a more livable community. Lifelong Elizabeth also serves as an overarching bridge to gather input from community organizations and the city departments to steer the project's efforts in the most effective direction possible. Collaboration between organizations paves the way for collaborative planning and implementation through coalitions, partnerships, and feedback from residents on what works and doesn't.

#### 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?

By joining the AARP NAFC and the WHO GNAFC, the city of Elizabeth hopes to serve as another example of how age-friendly practices can best be applied to cities and states throughout the country, thus serving as a catalyst for other locations to bring their own age-friendly initiatives to their communities. We also hope to serve as a model for similarly large cities with diverse populations to gain a perspective as to how they can bring these initiatives to cities that differ from smaller towns or cities with not as much diversity.

#### 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?

Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey saw an opportunity as Union County's largest social services provider for older adults to house Lifelong Elizabeth, the age-friendly community initiative funded by the Grotta Fund for Senior Care. As a result of its success, Jewish Family Service has encouraged the city of Elizabeth to apply to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the WHO Global Network of AFCs to further cement the efforts of Lifelong Elizabeth and the city's striving towards a more age-friendly city and embed it within the community culture and goals.

#### 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 >



*(Attached to email)*