



## 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:** *Click here to enter a date.*

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Garfield

**STATE:** New Jersey

**POPULATION SIZE:** 31,000

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 16%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Mayor Richard Rigoglioso

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 111 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026

### 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:**

Officer Stewart is the current project coordinator and champion for 'Generations for Garfield', the age-friendly community initiative in Garfield, NJ. Jeff is a police officer in the Garfield Police Department's Division of Community Affairs, which is committed to the goal of making Garfield 'A community for all ages'.

### **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.**

The City of Garfield has several services already in place to support older adult residents. For example, the city provides transportation to grocery stores and local shops for residents in need. Additionally, there are three low-income senior housing buildings in Garfield; there is a Senior Center which has social activities and an affordable hot meal served each day; the Garfield Prevention Coalition sponsors health screenings, the Wellness Initiative Senior Education (WISE) program, a walking club and other valuable health promotion programming throughout the year for older adults. The city of Garfield has participated in a 'Walkability Study' in partnership with the NJ DOT and Civic Eye to identify areas of the city that may not currently be accessible to older adults due to issues with the sidewalks or crosswalks. In addition to city-sponsored programming, Garfield was awarded a planning grant in the spring of 2016 to identify the specific needs of older adults related to housing, transportation and socialization as they age in place in Garfield. Outcomes of this planning phase were the formation of a senior steering committee and the creation of Garfield's Age-Friendly Community Initiative (AFCI), 'Generations for Garfield, A Community for All Ages.' Generations for Garfield conducted a survey similar to the 'AARP livable communities survey' and identified three key areas that impact older adults in Garfield: transportation, affordable housing options and communication/social inclusion. Generations for Garfield continues to work towards addressing issues in each of these areas, specifically with programming such as creative workshops, a walking club and exercise and cooking classes to address isolation; increased transportation options within the city (e.g., additional hours for the city bus) and empowering older adults through training and education to use NJ public transportation.

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

Generations for Garfield has an established Senior Steering Committee comprised of older adults who participate in event planning and provide valuable feedback regarding events, workshops and programming that will benefit older adults. Generations for Garfield has hosted several successful events (e.g., the Pop-up Wellness Centers) that have expanded our outreach and educated residents, local businesses and agencies alike regarding 'aging in place' and what an age-friendly community looks like. Including G4G and the senior steering committee in local event planning, the Garfield redevelopment and conversations related to services provided by the various City departments and agencies will contribute to our overall vision of Garfield as an age-friendly community.

**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.**

Generations for Garfield was created to ensure that the needs of older adults were recognized and addressed in all areas of the City. Over the last 2 years, G4G has established partnerships or collaborated with several Garfield organizations and agencies, such as the Garfield VFW, the Garfield Police Department's Division of Community Affairs, The Garfield Health Department, The Garfield Prevention Coalition, and the Garfield Housing Authority's Senior Housing to engage Garfield's older adult population. Each of these collaborations expands the network of Generations for Garfield, creating intergenerational relationships resulting in a more 'age-friendly' community. Furthermore, the new Generations for Garfield Project Coordinator is Garfield Police Officer Jeffrey Stewart, from the Division of Community Affairs. This new leadership provides a great opportunity for collaboration and intergenerational advocacy city-wide.

#### 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 a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities, Garfield will be an example of what an urban/suburban age-friendly community can be for its older residents. Continuing to provide resources for older adults that address the eight domains of wellness within the framework of our community, i.e., safe/walkable neighborhoods, affordable housing, transportation options and a strong social network, will make Garfield truly 'A Community for All Ages'.

#### 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?

Moving forward with our vision of an Age-Friendly Garfield, becoming a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities seemed like a logical next step. Membership in a network of communities recognized by global agencies such as AARP and the WHO, would be affirmation for our residents that Garfield is a city that supports older adults and is committed to moving forward as an age-friendly community. Being able to leverage the resources of the network to continue to advocate for additional transportation options and affordable housing for the older adults of Garfield would be a great advantage for our 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 >



*Link to our G4G website and logo: [www.generations4garfield.org](http://www.generations4garfield.org). We will include a .jpg of our logo as an attachment as well.*