



## 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:** Teaneck

**STATE:** New Jersey

**POPULATION SIZE:** 40,668

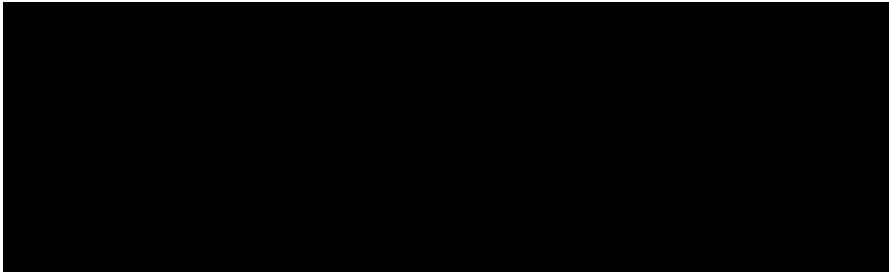
**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 23.2

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 818 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666

### 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:**

As project coordinator for Age-Friendly Teaneck, Jacqueline Kates serves as the organization's ambassador to community leaders and residents. A former Teaneck mayor, she sets the agendas for the monthly meetings of the organization's five task forces as well as steering committee meetings and ensures that all members are informed about new and old initiatives. She takes a lead role in organizing all Age-Friendly Teaneck's community events and advocacy efforts

### 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.**

Teaneck has a vibrant senior center where more than 800 seniors a week receive a daily lunch or attend a recreation or fitness program. It also has two nursing homes, three assisted care residences and more than 200 units of subsidized senior housing. As the second largest community in Bergen County, the Township is home to a major medical center and numerous clinics and physician practices. Teaneck is also served by Jewish Family and Children's Services of Northern New Jersey, Bergen Family Center, Catholic Charities and the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades. Those agencies offer a range of assistance to older adults, including daily meals, recreation programs and geriatric care management. Despite these advantages, Teaneck faces many challenges to its goal of enabling residents to age in place. There is a years-long waiting list for affordable housing, and more seniors seek to use county and local senior transportation vans than there are available seats. Township officials, business owners, civic leaders and older adults themselves have endorsed and are participating in the Age-Friendly Teaneck initiative, which seeks solutions to those challenges and other obstacles faced by the community's older adults, particularly frail, isolated, or disabled older adults. Age-Friendly Teaneck has five task forces examining housing options, transportation and pedestrian safety, business and banking, health and social engagement and communications and community resources. The task forces have sought and successfully formed alliances with both elected and appointed municipal officials and with key business, civic and resident leaders. Those alliances have led to a number of successful community events linking residents to needed services and education, including a health and resource fair attended by more than 100 residents, a training event teaching older adults how to make better use of transit systems and an educational breakfast for business leaders teaching them how to make their stores more accessible and how to avoid age-bias. These alliances will continue to grow, as Teaneck's elected officials have recently pledged support to a number of key age-friendly policies, such as adopting a Complete Streets policy and cooperating with an ongoing age-friendly assessment of all community resources and services.

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

The Teaneck Township Council endorsed the creation of Age-Friendly Teaneck and has supported many of its initiatives. Teaneck also has an active senior citizens advisory board, with whom Age-Friendly Teaneck works in active partnership. Members of that advisory board have long served as liaisons between the Township government and the older adults attending the senior citizens programs at the Richard Rodda Recreation Center, as well as those who live in senior citizen apartment complexes. Several of those advisory board members serve on Age-Friendly Teaneck task forces, and they have joined in efforts to educate more of the populace about services that assist seniors, particularly the goal of reaching elderly residents who are isolated in their homes. Older residents have played a big role in disseminating a new community resource guide (magnetized for posting on refrigerators) as well as newsletters and other Age-Friendly Teaneck materials. In addition, through their participation on Age-Friendly Teaneck task forces, older adults are providing input to efforts to increase housing and transportation options, improve pedestrian safety, bolster community resources and educate the business community about the needs of older adults.

**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 Township's Council-Manager form of government, the chief executive is not its mayor, but rather its appointed Township Manager. Township Manager William Broughton is an enthusiastic backer of the age-friendly mission, and he has readily connected our project director and project coordinator with department heads to discuss existing services for older adults and future age-friendly needs. Township elected and appointed officials are among the 16 members of Age-Friendly Teaneck's steering committee and the 50-plus members of its five task forces. More collaboration is planned in the future as the Township moves forward with a plan to relocate its social work services to the Richard Rodda Center to make that assistance more available to older adults and the rest of the public. Age-Friendly Teaneck, and one of its community partners Jewish Family and Children's Services of Northern New Jersey, are assisting the Township in the effort to make those services more available by helping identify and place a social work graduate student intern to supplement those assistance services.

#### 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?

We intend to continue efforts to educate both residents and leaders of Teaneck about the need for suburban communities to plan ahead and prepare for the needs of their aging population. Through increased education locally, particularly through the use of the shared resources of the AARP network, we hope to further the global mission of achieving an age-friendly society. We plan to share our experiences and seek feedback from the larger network of cities in the hope of developing successful models for both programs and advocacy. We have just embarked on an exciting new initiative – a career exploration internship, in which four high students will spend four weeks this summer learning about the many different professional opportunities in the ever-expanding field of elder care. We received grant money from a local foundation to fund student stipends and other internship costs, while also partnering with a number of care providers in the community, who will help us in both educating the students about the field and exposing them to real-life work scenarios. If successful, as we hope it will be, this program could be expanded in future years. We also believe that by sharing the outcome of our internship program with others in the AARP and WHO network, we can help spark more discussion within local communities about how to increase the ranks of elder care workers.

#### 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?

Age-Friendly Teaneck has found tremendous benefit from being part of a network of northern New Jersey age-friendly communities. We have shared our experiences and successes with those other community leaders, and they have shared their examples with us. In our monthly meetings with leaders of those other coalitions, we have gained much insight and managed to examine and leverage resources available in our community. We think this is particularly significant to us because we can finally have our own age-friendly models, as well as providing the Township with access to experts and resources from the AARP and the World Health Organization Networks.



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

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 >