Application Form to join the AARP Network of Age-friendly Communities and World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

1) Community details

Name of community: Big Flats
State: New York
Population size: 5,277 (2010 Census)
Percentage of residents above the age of 60: 20.58% are age 65 or over
Name and title of the Mayor or Elected Official signing the official commitment:

Edward Fairbrother (Town Supervisor)
Address of the Mayor’s office:
Supervisor’s Office
476 Maples St,
Big Flats, NY 14814

2) Designation of community contact* for the AARP Network

*The community contact is the staff or volunteer mainly responsible for carrying out the work at the community level, not the responsible AARP staff member

Title:

Please describe the above person’s role in the city or community’s age friendly initiative:
3) Description of your age-friendly activities to date

Please provide a brief summary, in 500 words or less, of your city or community's policies, programs and services targeted at older people and how you are planning to make your community more age-friendly.

Big Flats is a town in Chemung County, which is located in the New York Finger Lakes, the state’s largest wine producing region with more than 100 wineries and vineyards.

In April 2012, Chemung County was among the first communities to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Big Flats followed suit in September 2014.

Town leaders in Big Flats worked with leaders from Chemung County, the city of Elmira and the town of Elmira to develop a series of community action plans that will be implemented over a three-year period beginning in 2015. Input into the plans came from a range of local agencies, including historical and preservation societies, bicycle and transportation groups, health organizations, park and recreation supporters, faith groups and AARP.

Each plan specifies steps to achieve success in the World Health Organization’s “8 Domains of Livability.” The plans also address the need for affordable housing and a greater variety in housing options including independent- and assisted living-communities and multi-generational, mixed-use neighborhoods where people can walk, bike, live, shop, work, learn, worship and play.

To learn more about Big Flats and Chemung County visit: bigflatsny.gov and chemungcounty.com
4) Engagement of older people

How are you engaging and involving older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly city or community?

5) Cross-sector collaboration

Briefly describe what mechanisms have you/are you planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments of and across sectors?
6) Participation in the AARP and Global Network of Age-friendly Communities

How do you hope to contribute to the Global Network?

What motivated your city or community to become a member of the AARP Network?