



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.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 07/02/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Broome County

STATE: New York

POPULATION SIZE: 200,536 (2010 census)

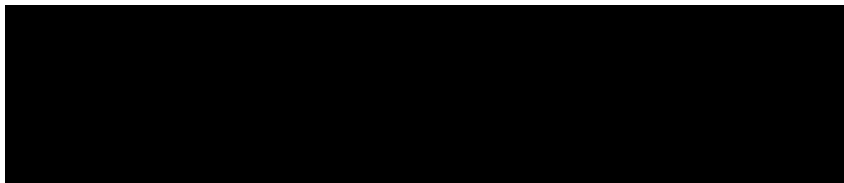
PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 22% (2010 census)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Jason Garnar, County Executive

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 60 Hawley Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

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.



TELEPHONE NUMBER: 607-778-2411

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

As the Director of the Office for Aging, Lisa Schuhle is committed to the process of Broome County becoming an age-friendly community. Lisa Schuhle has 35 years of experience working with the aging population through a variety of different positions and duties over her career. As the Director of the Office for Aging, Lisa fosters and participates in community partnerships with many nonprofits and private organizations serving older adults. As part of Broome County Government, the Broome County Office for Aging will be the lead agency bringing other community organizations and entities together in the process of becoming age-friendly.

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.

Broome County currently has a wealth of programs and services targeted toward older adults that are provided by a variety of community organizations, including the Broome County Office for Aging. Broome County has a well-known reputation of working with community partners to serve the needs of our older population. Examples of programs and services targeted toward older adults include but are not limited to Meals on Wheels, senior centers, meal programs, transportation, senior housing options, in-home services, health and wellness programs, health insurance counseling, mental health services, home repair programs, friendly visitor programs, shopping services, and extensive information and referral services. We are one of the few New York counties that still offers a local health & wellness option called “Senior Games” – in operation for over 27 years. Broome County Office for Aging is a lead agency for the Broome County Long Term Care Council – a working forum fostering collaborative efforts between a variety of community organizations and consumers. The Broome County Long Term Care Council provides an opportunity to discuss older adults’ needs and service gaps and engage in policy-making processes. Broome County Office for Aging has a close partnership with Binghamton University College of Community and Public Affairs (Department of Social Work, Public Administration and Human Development) and Decker of School of Nursing. Binghamton University students enhance their skills by engaging with older adults through a variety of tasks during their internships at Broome County Office for Aging and at other community agencies. Broome County Office for Aging and other community organizations engage in planning and policy-making tasks with the ultimate goal of assisting older adults with remaining as independent as possible in their homes. Through the community wide needs assessment process we will identify the current needs of our older adults, service gaps and missing age-friendly community features. This information will help define appropriate policies and the development of a comprehensive Action Plan to make Broome County age-friendly.

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

The number of older adults is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years, a trend to which Broome County is not exempt. Because of the expected increase in needs, a well-thought-out Action Plan defining needed programs, services and improvements will be required to make Broome County more age-friendly. To create a comprehensive Action Plan focusing on the eight domains of livability, we will work collaboratively with other community organizations and seek valuable, direct input from older adults. As the lead agency, Broome County Office for Aging will engage and involve older people in the process of becoming age-friendly by doing the following: 1. Gather input from members of the Advisory Council: Office for Aging Advisory Council has 13 members, 9 of which are older adults. Advisory Council members will be consulted continuously throughout the age-friendly process. 2. Form an Advisory Council Needs Assessment Subcommittee: Several members of the Advisory Council (older adults) and representatives of other community organizations will attend monthly meetings to provide input on survey design and other needs assessment related tasks. 3. Seek assistance and input from local organizations consisting of older adults such as Binghamton University Lyceum, Rotary clubs, Sertoma clubs and senior clubs. 4. Seek direct input from members of the community, including older adults: The needs assessment process will involve the use of surveys, focus groups, Office for Aging internal data review, and input from key stakeholders. During the needs assessment process, we will gather input from older adults and examine their needs and existing service gaps. This process and the data gathered will be crucial to defining the Broome County Action Plan for becoming age-friendly.

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.

In the fall of 2018, Broome County Office for Aging will host a community forum inviting potential partners to learn about the age-friendly process and benefits to Broome County becoming age-friendly. The New York State Office for Aging Director is supporting this project by attending this event. At the forum, we will ask attendees to commit to this process and create workgroups for each of the eight domains. Each workgroup will be led by a representative from a local agency with expertise in that particular domain. The following organizations have committed to join the age-friendly planning process: Broome County Executive's office, City of Binghamton, Broome County Long Term Care Council, Elder Abuse Prevention and Outreach Committee, Broome County Health Department, Broome County Planning Department, the Broome Metropolitan Transportation Study, the Independent Living Center partner, Action for Older Persons, Binghamton University and its Lyceum, and Healthlink NY.

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?

Broome County Office for Aging understands that as the older population grows, the community must adapt for older adults to remain happy, healthy, and active. This aging trend is not just occurring in Broome County, but all over the world. We would like to augment the current network of age-friendly communities by not only creating a safe and comfortable place for current residents to age in place, but by creating an attractive community for individuals looking to relocate. This will be accomplished by analyzing our current programs, services, and community features and gathering input from current residents about what is already in place, what is missing and needed, and what can make our community more age friendly. Ultimately, we are a stronger community if we work together, whether locally, nationally, or globally. We hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities in the following ways: 1. Seek input from older adults in the planning and decision-making process for a variety of government, non-profit and for-profit entities in Broome County. 2. Enhance community collaborations by bringing together representatives of community organizations operating in a variety of sectors such as health, long-term care, transportation, housing, social engagement, information and assistance. 3. Utilizing input from older adults and working collaboratively with other community organizations we will create an Action plan with the ultimate goal of making Broome County an age-friendly community. This will be an ongoing process that will involve continuous evaluation of current needs and adjusting programs, services and community features to meet these needs. While engaging in this process we will strive to uphold the standards of age-friendly environments as defined by the AARP Network and the World Health Organization Global Network.

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?

Broome County's 60+ population is 22%, while New York State's 60+ population is 19%. With the increase of this population, we felt it was time to bring the community together to form a plan to help all ages live healthy lives. Many agencies and townships are working on different projects related to the 8 domains of livability. By coordinating our efforts, we can all work together to implement the best plan for the future of Broome County.

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 >

