



## 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: 2/12/2018

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Cincinnati

**STATE:** Ohio

**POPULATION SIZE:** 300,000

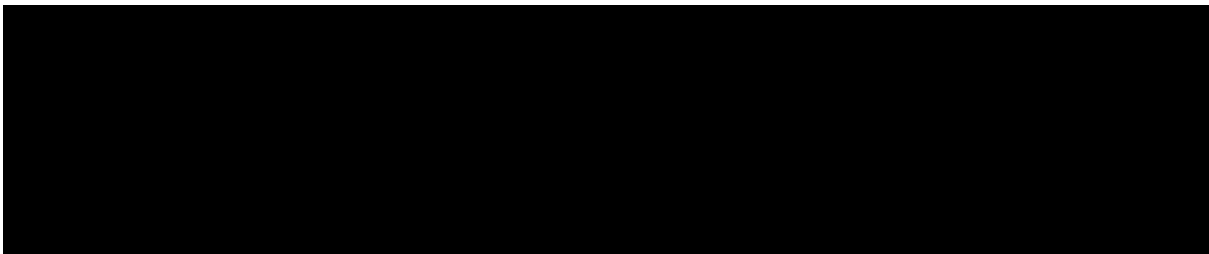
**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 15.2

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** John Cranley, Mayor

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 801 Plum Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

### 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:**

Mr. Lawniczak lead's the City's Office of Aging and Accessibility and serves as the Citywide ADA coordinator. He will be serving as the point person within the City for the age-friendly initiative. As such, he will be the primary liaison with the 50+ population, aging organizations, neighborhood councils, and other stakeholders, and will facilitate interdepartmental communication and activities.

### **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.**

In 2017, the Cincinnati City Council adopted an ordinance designed to make our community more age-friendly. The ordinance required the City Administration to create the Office of Aging and Accessibility, use the Community Reinvestment Area program to incentivize age-friendly residential projects, undertake efforts to improve pedestrian safety, increase accessible parking in our urban core, develop fall prevention matrixes, and modify the Land Development Code to increase opportunities for innovative housing development. The City of Cincinnati is also working in partnership with community organizations to improve the quality of life for older adults. For example, the Cincinnati Police Department has recently expressed interest in reestablishing its senior fraud program and has met with the Council on Aging to discuss how to best reach out to older people to inform them about fraud and current scams impacting older adults. The Office of Environment and Sustainability is also meeting with the Council on Aging to create mechanisms to prevent heat stroke deaths during severe weather. The City is also participating in the Alzheimer's Association and Episcopal Retirement Services' program to make Cincinnati a more dementia inclusive community. Representatives from the City Administration and City Council serve on the steering committee. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) has many programs designed to keep older adults active ranging from pickleball leagues to yoga classes. The City's Park Department holds activities ranging from walking events to master gardening classes. The Cincinnati Fire Department is working with People Working Cooperatively (PWC) on both their smoke detector giveaway program (if an older adult cannot install the smoke detector, PWC will) and a fall prevention program. The Office of Aging and Accessibility is working with several partners including AARP, Council on Aging, Chamber of Commerce, PWC, CRC, Cincinnati Area Senior Services, and the Alzheimer's Association to hold an educational festival in the heart of downtown during Older Americans Month. The first ever 50+ Cincy Celebration brings City Departments and social service agencies together to provide information on services and programs provided to older adults in our community.

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

Cincinnati is a city comprised of 52 unique and distinctive neighborhoods, each with their own community council and many with their own development corporation. If we are going to be successful in becoming a more age-friendly community, we must engage our citizens utilizing this structure. Initially, we will undertake a communications campaign to inform our citizens about the project and how the city will benefit by participating. We will hold community forums throughout the city and utilize current programs – such as the annual Neighborhood Summit – to engage and involve our 50+ population. We will also survey the community and provide engagement activities thorough social media. As part of the survey process we will review the data already collected by the City Manager's Office of Performance and Data Analytics and the University of Cincinnati's Great Cincinnati Survey. In addition, our organizational partners will reach out to those that normally do not participate in outreach events such as those utilizing the Meals on Wheels program. Once the surveying process is complete and the data analyzed, we will seek the input of the aging community and our neighborhood councils in program development we will also establish a robust Advisory Committee consisting of key City Department leaders, community organizations, advocates, our colleges and universities, representatives of our neighborhood councils, the Engage Cincinnati Action Team, foundations, art organizations, caretaker representatives, volunteers, our regional partners especially those working in transportation and housing, and the Ohio Department of Aging. This is a very similar process to how the City engages its citizens in the creation of Plan Cincinnati and other programs that impact our citizens. Once programming is underway, we will constantly seek feedback on our progress and how to modify our programming to better suit the needs of the community. This feedback will come from the Advisory Committee, community forums/focus groups, neighborhood councils, program participants, program volunteers, and other stakeholders.

This feedback loop will remain in place even after Cincinnati has been designated an Age-Friendly Community. We consider that event to be a milestone along our route, not the end of our journey.

**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 late January, the City Manager – Mr. Harry Black – convened a meeting of all department heads and other senior staff to inform them about the program and how our participation will benefit all citizens. These high-level interdepartmental meetings will take place on a regular basis to ensure every department is informed regarding the activities of other departments and to provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and to provide a forum to encourage the departments to design cross cutting programs. On a day-to-day basis, Mr. Lawniczak will be coordinating interdepartmental activities. This approach is like that used for implementing our strategic zoning plan: Plan Cincinnati. Adopted in 2012, Plan Cincinnati engages the City in many of the initiatives and modalities of the age-friendly community. In addition to establishing a mechanism to ensure communication and coordination between City departments, the City is taking steps to engage regional agencies and others that play a critical role within Cincinnati including asking these non-City agencies to participate in the Advisory Committee, public forums, and other events throughout the City. Quasi-governmental entities such as the Southwest Ohio Regional Transportation Authority and the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority will play a critical role in the success of Cincinnati becoming an age-friendly community and need to be fully engaged.

#### 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?

Joining the Network of Age-Friendly Communities will allow the City to exchange best practices and creative programming approaches with other communities. Cincinnati is proud of our efforts to build a better, age-friendly community – particularly in the use of data collection and analytics to improve program and service delivery – and would like to share these approaches with others. At the same time, we recognize that our city can be improved. We face challenges regarding transportation, housing, and in the other domains of the age-friendly program. The City is excited by the prospect of exchanging ideas and approaches.

#### 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?

Cincinnati has recognized for some time that our population is aging and that many of our citizens wish to remain in their neighborhoods as they age. Plan Cincinnati includes provisions to improve the city for an aging population including making neighborhoods more walkable and to offer housing options of varied sizes and type for residents at all stages of life. Through the Plan Cincinnati Initiative, the City is more aware that while we are on the right path, we have a long journey ahead of us.



*Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send us your logo by email attachment to [livable@aarp.org](mailto:livable@aarp.org).*

#### 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 >