



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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 8/22/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Clinton County

STATE: Ohio

POPULATION SIZE: 41,854 (2016)

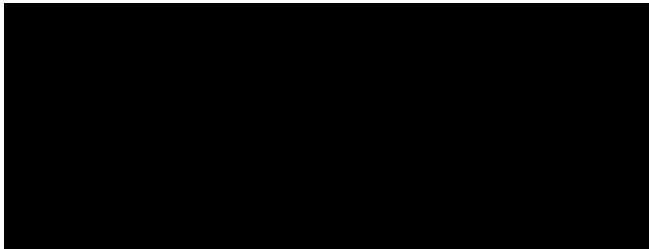
PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21.9% (2016)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Clinton County Commissioners (Patrick Haley, Kerry Steed, Brenda Woods)

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 46 S. South Street, Suite 213. 2nd Floor Courthouse. Wilmington, Ohio 45177

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:

Taylor Stuckert is the executive director of the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), which is coordinating the Age-Friendly Clinton County initiative. The CCRPC is responsible for creating the findings report, action plan, and the advisory board. As the lead planning agency in Clinton County, the CCRPC effectively works with government bodies, agencies, communities, and the public on matters affecting older adults. The CCRPC will conduct professional research, surveys, and focus groups to ensure that the process is transparent and participatory.

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.

Clinton County has a 1.5-mill senior services tax levy that has been renewed four times since 1998 with overwhelming community support. The tax revenue funds the Elderly Services Program which provides in-home care for eligible seniors in Clinton County that would otherwise be forced to leave their home to enter a nursing facility. Additionally, Clinton County Community Action provides extensive services for seniors including free transportation and affordable housing options. The Wilmington Senior Center is centrally located in the county and offers supportive services, congregate dining, exercise classes, and social clubs. Continuing education classes are available to older adults through the Wilmington Institute of Lifelong Learning at Wilmington College. While all of these resources show Clinton County's commitment to older adults, local leadership wishes to address potential shortcomings by working with residents to identify areas for improvement. Through a survey and many focus groups, the CCRPC identified housing, transportation, and communication as recurring themes. The County is committed to taking steps to address these issues by bringing together relevant agencies and committing to AARP's five-year evaluation timeline for Age-Friendly communities.

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

The CCRPC conducted a survey using a combination of direct mailing and online forms. CCRPC has also led focus groups and listening sessions at senior centers, retirement homes, and social organizations. As the project progresses, the CCRPC will speak to senior groups throughout Clinton County to obtain ongoing feedback. In addition to these methods of communication, major announcements will be advertised in the local paper, so as to cover multiple communication channels.

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.

The CCRPC has assembled an advisory board consisting of residents, agencies, businesses, and organizations that serve and represent older adults. The board meets monthly to provide feedback on the Age-Friendly Clinton County initiative. After publishing a findings report, the CCRPC will organize charrettes centered around specific topics. For example, the CCRPC will host a transportation charrette involving local transit agencies, care providers, and older adults. The charrettes may evolve into committees that meet regularly to address a particular issue.

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?

Clinton County can contribute to conversations regarding three challenges for older adults that are unique from many other communities in the age-friendly network. The first is rural transportation, which leaves many older adults deprived of doctor visits, groceries, and social interaction. The second is that many seniors have been forced to care for neglected children amidst the opioid crisis. The third is the economic downturn in 2008 that affected retirement savings. At the time, Clinton County experienced the highest unemployment in the U.S. when the largest employer, DHL, ceased operations. The aftershocks of the economic devastation will be felt as local baby boomers will be required to work longer to make up for the savings lost during unemployment.

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?

Both networks offer our community provide guidance that will not only enable us to effectively address age-friendly issues, but will also provide a platform to connect with communities elsewhere.



Will send CCRPC logo to AARP via email.

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