



## 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](mailto:livable@aarp.org).
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 5/31/2018

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Lehigh County, Lehigh Valley

**STATE:** Pennsylvania

**POPULATION SIZE:** 360,685 (2015)

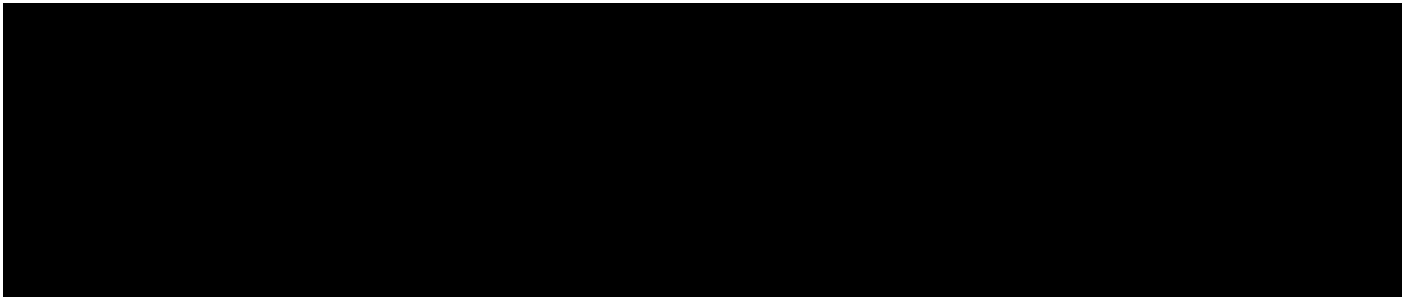
**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 23

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Phillips Armstrong,  
County Executive

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** County of Lehigh, Office of the County Executive

### 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:**

The United Way is the lead partner in the age-friendly community initiative in the Lehigh Valley. Carmen Bell is the staff person charged with identifying and convening the stakeholders, initiating research, community conversations and focus groups and working in collaboration with the Lehigh County Executive's office toward the age-friendly community initiative in the Lehigh Valley.



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**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 5/31/2018**

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Northampton County, Lehigh Valley

**STATE:** Pennsylvania

**POPULATION SIZE:** 299,791 (2013)

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 23.9

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Lamont G. McClure,  
County Executive

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** Northampton County Courthouse, 689 Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042

### 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.

**NAME:** *Carmen A. Bell, Director of Healthy Aging, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley; Becky Bartlett, Deputy Director of Administration, Northampton County Executive's office*

**POSITION:** see above

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [carmenb@unitedwayglv.org](mailto:carmenb@unitedwayglv.org); [bbartlett@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:bbartlett@northamptoncounty.org)

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** Bell: 610-807-5717; Bartlett: 610-829-6250

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

The United Way is the lead partner in the age-friendly community initiative in the Lehigh Valley. Carmen Bell is the staff person charged with identifying and convening the stakeholders, initiating research, community conversations and focus groups and working in collaboration with the Northampton County Executive's office toward the age-friendly community initiative in the Lehigh Valley.

### 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.**

The United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley continues to initiate and provide funding for partner agencies that manage programs focused on diabetes prevention and management, fall prevention, healthy eating and exercise, and access to healthy food. One of the big goals achieved by the United Way GLV – 5 years ahead of schedule -- was to increase by 50% the number of dependent seniors whose basic needs are met at home. The number of seniors in the Lehigh Valley are expected to increase by 40,000 in the next 7 to 8 years, therefore we will continue to work to help seniors age in place and have their basic needs met at home. In addition, the Lehigh Valley Alliance on Aging is collaborative of volunteer members working together to achieve a community-driven vision for our aging population. This Alliance was established at the recommendation of the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley and continues to work with the United Way to establish programs designed to reduce social isolation and ageism and promote inclusion and access to services for our senior population. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has a number of plans that have been adopted by Lehigh and Northampton Counties that offer goals, policies and implementation strategies that move the needle in making communities friendly to all. The Comprehensive Plan: The Lehigh Valley...2030 and the current Long Range Transportation Plan both specifically highlight providing adequate mobility for the elderly, the handicapped, the poor, and those who do not own an automobile and offer ways to accomplish that goal. The identification of goals, policies and implementation strategies has been done in many plans that cover housing, environment, transportation, health and more.

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

The Lehigh Valley Alliance on Aging includes volunteer members of all ages, including many seniors in leadership positions. Additionally, the Alliance and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley will conduct focus groups and community conversations in which we will specifically outreach to seniors to participate. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission is currently updating the comprehensive plan for the region which will include merging the update with the Long Range Transportation Plan. To accomplish this, many public outreach efforts were made and will continue to be made. More than twenty strategy labs have been held in the LVPC offices and other locations. Residents were also engaged at local festivals and celebrations to solicit feedback. In one example, the LVPC staff spent several hours conversing with a group of over one hundred seniors to gain their input and insights. These types of community outreach efforts will continue and be expanded upon.

**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 Lehigh Valley Alliance on Aging is a collaborative effort of over 140 volunteer members from an wide array of non profit and social services agencies, hospital networks, businesses, community groups, etc. It has been in existence for almost 3 decades. The steering committee continues to work to expand the membership and connect to new partners to ensure that it is a comprehensive group of stakeholders.

#### 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 realize that every community is different and as we embark on this journey toward becoming more age-friendly, we expect to uncover a wealth of information that we will share with the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities. This sharing of experiences, challenges, wins, problem-solving and solution building should serve to assist other communities on their journey toward age-friendly.

#### 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?

We realize that we have a responsibility to make our community work for all residents regardless of age. We have a senior population that continues to grow and comes with its own set of challenges and opportunities. We want to meet these challenges head on by planning for them and we also want to embrace and celebrate the opportunities.

#### 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 >



*To be sent under separate cover.*