



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: 9/12/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Corporation of Shepherdstown

STATE: West Virginia

POPULATION SIZE: 10, 145 in census district (1,400 in corporate limits)

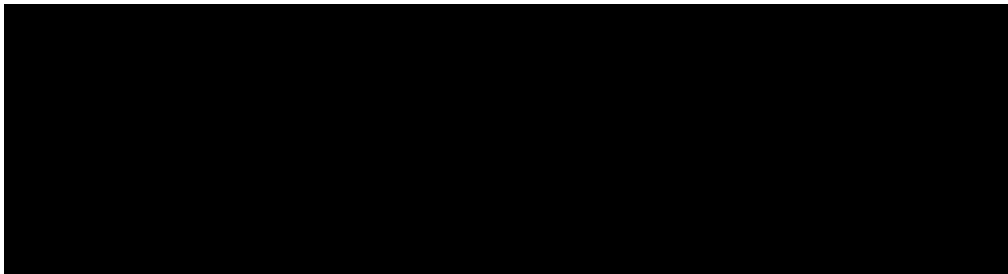
PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 35.5% in census district

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Authur J. Auxer III,
Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 104 North King Street, PO Box 248 Shepherdstown, WV 25443

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:

Linda Spatig is a board member of SAIL (Shepherdstown Area Independent Living), an organization whose mission is to enable its members to remain active, connected, independent, and in their homes and communities as long as possible. Linda is also a member of the Shepherdstown Accessibility Advocacy Committee.

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.

Organizations: SAIL (see description above)

Shepherd Village (50-unit cohousing community for seniors)

Good Shepherd Caregivers (mission is to assist families and promote independence, dignity, security, and quality of life among the elderly, frail, and homebound residents regardless of income)

Activities: Shepherdstown has submitted a \$100,000 grant proposal to the WV Department of Highways for the purpose of funding 88 compliant curb cuts.

We have indicated handicapped parking on our town parking map.

The town has set up a fund to encourage property owners to maintain sidewalks that are accessible. The town will financially assist property owners by paying a percentage of the maintenance costs.

Shepherd University, in collaboration with SAIL provides an extensive life long learning program that offers a fun and engaging way for retirees to access extended learning and social opportunities.

Planned Activities: Shepherdstown Historic Construction and Renovation Guidelines will be modified to include accessibility as a goal, along with historic preservation.

Shepherdstown website will be revised to include information about accessibility and wording that is welcoming to all individuals.

An assessment of downtown properties will be conducted.

The town will purchase a ramp for town and public use.

A walking/biking path will be constructed between Shepherdstown Middle School and Morgan's Grove Park.

The town will install buttons at the entrance of the town hall so that individuals who cannot manually open the front doors will be able to enter the building.

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

A founding member of The Shepherdstown Accessibility Advocacy Committee is representing SAIL (Shepherdstown Area Independent Living), an affiliate of the Village to Village Network of organizations devoted to providing services for seniors and the disabled.

We plan to involve the Good Shepherd Caregivers (see description above).

We plan to involve the new Shepherd Village cohousing community (description above.)

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.

Currently, membership of the Shepherdstown Accessibility Committee includes representatives from the Shepherdstown Visitor's Center, the Shepherdstown Town Council, Shepherdstown Rotary Club, Shepherdstown Area Independent Living (SAIL), as well as several individuals with direct personal experience with various disabilities.

Our plans are to expand committee membership to include representatives from the Shepherdstown Ministerial Association, Shepherd University, and the Shepherdstown Community Club. Also, we plan to work closely with the Shepherdstown Planning Commission, the Shepherdstown Historic Landmarks Commission, as well as with individuals engaged in police, fire, and emergency services in the city.

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?

Shepherdstown is a small town located in a largely rural, Appalachian state. It is also a historic town - the oldest in West Virginia – and a university town, with Shepherd University located right in the heart of the town. Finally, it is an aging town, with 35.5 percent of our census district population age 60 and over we believe other similar communities - in the United States and beyond – will benefit from knowledge about Shepherdstown’s efforts to become an age-friendly community.

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?

A founding member of SAIL (Shepherdstown Area Independent Living) shared information about the program and our recently-formed Accessibility Advocacy Committee found it appealing. When we learned that West Virginia only has one city engaged in the program so far, we became even more interested in joining the program. As we continue to learn about the program, both nationally and internationally, our enthusiasm about participating in it grows stronger and stronger. It would truly be an honor to be part of such a worthy global initiative.

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 >



Logo available upon request. Please contact Amy Boyd, Town Clerk at clerk@shepherdstown.us for a copy.