



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: *Click here to enter a date.*

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Little Rock

STATE: AR

POPULATION SIZE: 201,244

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 23%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Frank Scott Jr., Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 500 West Markham, Suite 108 Little Rock, AR 72201

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

Ms. Fennell was co-chair of the Mayor's Aging Task Force, a precursor to the newly established Age-Friendly Little Rock Commission (AFLRC.) As co-chair of the Aging Task Force, Ms. Fennell was the primary author of the Aging Task Force's report to the City Directors, and presented that report to the Board at the same meeting during which Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. signed a letter to AARP asking that the city of Little Rock be admitted to the Age-Friendly Communities initiative of AARP. The Taskforce report submitted to the Board of Directors is attached to this application. Between the time of the last meeting of the Aging Task Force and the first meeting of the new AFLRC, Ms. Fennell has been coordinating with the city Dept. of Parks and Recreation, AARP representatives, and with a Clinton School Intern who has been secured to work for the AFLRC from May until September 2019. Ms. Fennell will work with the intern, AARP and City Parks department as the commission is convened and outlines its order of work. The work will be based on AARP's outline for age friendly communities scope of work and the initiatives set forth in the Taskforce on Aging Report. Ms. Fennell has been appointed to the AFLRC by the city directors, and will continue in a leadership role as long as is needed as the Commission begins its work.

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.

Little Rock Parks & Recreation offers a variety of recreational programs and activities for individuals 55 years of age and older. Activities include day trips, crafts, board games and card games, social hours and special entertainment. Little Rock Parks & Recreation offers the Aging & Active Program for Adults 55 years old and older, cost for this program is \$1.50 monthly or \$15.00 yearly. We have various locations around the City of Little Rock. The following activities are offered at each location: Aerobics, Bean Bag Baseball, Bingo, Birthday Celebrations, Chair Volleyball, Empowerment Class, Field Trips, Health Screenings, Informative Speakers, Table Games, Cards/Dominoes, Ceramics, Crafts/Sewing, Exercise, Out-to-Lunch, Crafts, Sewing, and Walking Club. In July 2018, then-Mayor Mark Stodola appointed a Taskforce on Aging to look at current and future needs of older people in the City of Little Rock. The Taskforce was asked to: ascertain the current level of services provided to older people (defined as 55+) by the City of Little Rock, and by other significant service providers, e.g. nonprofit partners such as University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, CareLink (the regional Area Agency on Aging), and churches; ascertain current infrastructure for accessing services for senior wellness/fitness, housing stabilization, medication, hunger, transportation and other needs; compile and study demographics of older people in Little Rock; identify a level of service for older people in the city of Little Rock to obtain, i.e., identifying those gaps in service and finding ways we address those gaps; make specific recommendations to the Mayor and City Directors by end of November/early December from the Taskforce on Aging.

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

Age Friendly Little Rock (AFLR) intends to engage older adults throughout the three phases of the initiative, and to hold older-adult engagement as the guiding principle for AFLR's activities. Significantly, the very genesis of the city task force that came to envision AFLR is rooted in community engagement. The former Mayor pulled together a group of older adults and stakeholders from all of the city's wards in order to address an immediate problem: the imminent closing of a senior activity center that had been owned and operated by central Arkansas' Area Agency on Aging. Almost immediately, the citizen task force expanded its scope beyond the future of this one activity center to include the prime concerns of an aging population for housing, transportation, civic engagement, and healthy living. In response to the report of the task force, the Little Rock Board of Directors created the Age Friendly Little Rock Commission (AFLR) in February 2019. The city solicited applications for the 15-member commission with an open call to all city residents and announced the Commissioners in May, most of whom are older adults. During the baseline assessment phase, the Commission will actively enlist older adults in promoting the assessment and in collecting and offering data, comments, and stories — in order to achieve greater inclusion and participation numbers. Older adults will be included in analyzing the collected feedback and in drafting the Action Plan. Rather than tasking City Departments with sole responsibility for implementation, it is anticipated that the plan will include projects that will be led and completed by older volunteers. As with prior phases of the AFLR initiative, engaged older adults will take the leading role in evaluation and planning for future improvements at the end of Year 5.

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.

A. City Parks and Recreation and AFLR will ensure that demographics and other pertinent information regarding older adults is reviewed and reported to the City Board bi-annually to inform budget and programs, identify gaps in services and ensure integration with all city programs that touch older adults. The age to be used to define most programs and rationale is 55+ years of age. B. Regular ongoing communication protocols (e.g., quarterly meetings, a "Solutions Roundtable," an electronic newsletter and other) will be established by the City in coordination with AFLR, so that gaps in senior services will be known and addressed before they reach crisis stage. Invitees to the Solutions Roundtable will be all NGO and governmental partners providing services and programs to older people in the City (County, nonprofit organizations, churches, government-funded private groups such as CareLink, etc., Central Arkansas Library System, others as identified by AFLR). C. The City will commit to funding the AFLR's activities, after Little Rock qualifies for membership as an "Age Friendly Community." A proposed budget needs to include: 1. funding to conduct surveys of older peoples' opinions on needs, 2) funding for town halls in conjunction with surveys, 3) funding for volunteers and/or city board members serving on the commission to attend relevant senior focused conferences (especially AARP offerings), 4) funding to assist student volunteers on their Capstone Projects, 5) consultants that may be needed to create action plans during Years 1-3; and on program evaluation and a final report, Year 4-5. The all volunteer AFLR will need professional assistance to produce a report at project's end. The city will also commit to funding grant writing support for AFLR initiatives as well as communications and marketing support. D. AFLR will identify needs and desires of older people with focus groups as well as soliciting input from agencies representing Housing, Health, Transportation, Workforce, Education, etc. in conjunction with the eight Domains of Livability identified by the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities which additionally include: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Civic Participation, and Employment; Communication and Information; Community Support and Health Services. E. City Department of Parks and Recreation will continue to be the lead agency for developing and delivering city recreation services to older people. F. Inter-departmental collaboration within the city will be a goal in order to identify and expend revenue allotted for older people as appropriately as possible. G. City Parks and Recreation with volunteer AFLR, will coordinate with other City resources: Arkansas Arts Center; Symphony, Ballet, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Pulaski Technical College, etc.) to provide new and different types of services that will be needed to meet needs of a Senior population.

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?

AFLR will be sharing resources, data, reports with other members of the 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?

Click here to enter text.



We wish to empower Little Rock to better respond to the needs of its residents by engaging people in policy advocacy and education efforts in the areas of housing, transportation, mobility, healthy behaviors, and community design.

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

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >