



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and 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

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: *TBD*

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Carbondale

STATE: CO

POPULATION SIZE: 6820

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 11.3%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Dan Richardson

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 511 Colorado Ave., Carbondale CO 81623

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT for the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and 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:

In January 2019, Co-Chairs Niki Delson and Judie Blanchard convened a steering committee to formalize the establishment of the Carbondale Age-Friendly Community Initiative (CAFCI). CAFCI is an *ad hoc* caucus of Carbondale's senior citizens. CAFCI's purpose is to work on its own and with other organizations to make seniors more visible and vocal regarding local issues. Additionally, and importantly, we intend to be contributors to the town, and not simply consumers of services. The Co-Chairs convene twice-monthly meetings of the steering committee, where issues and town policies of concern are identified, and strategies to provide feedback and action on them are determined. CAFCI has forged working relationships with the Mayor and Board of Trustees; Town Commissions; Roaring Fork Transit Authority (RFTA); local media; residents; senior housing; assisted living facilities; and civic, social, and cultural organizations. We have collaborated with the aforementioned to identify and prioritize town issues within the 8 domains of livability identified by the AARP Network of Age-Friendly State and Communities. The work of the initiative is to enroll, organize, and support others on behalf of Carbondale's seniors.

The person named above agrees to be subscribed to the [AARP Livable Communities Weekly e-Newsletter](#), which is one of the primary ways we share useful news and resources. To add additional subscribers, type their names and email addresses

into below. Once this application is processed, a subscription confirmation message will be sent so the individual can confirm that they want to subscribe. To subscribe today, follow the link above or visit AARP.org/Livable-Subscribe.

Co-Chairs are already subscribed to the weekly e-newsletter.

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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.

Carbondale is a small rural town located in Garfield County, which is one of three counties (including Eagle and Pitkin Counties) comprising the Roaring Fork Valley. Carbondale’s Comprehensive Plan (CP) and The Department of Parks and Recreation Master Plan (MP) recognize the need to plan for the growing demographic of the senior population. To this end, the town is working on strategies to make the town more walkable and accessible to those with limited mobility. The CP provides a framework for attaining “continuous well connected system of streets, sidewalks and pathways so that getting around Carbondale without an automobile is a viable and attractive alternative.” Carbondale is fortunate to be part of the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA). RFTA provides free bus transportation to seniors, not only around the downtown core, but also throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. The CP also acknowledges the need to prepare for a steadily growing senior population that will need various types of housing. This will require developing a strategy to update the land use code to encourage several housing options and encourage developers to use building standards that promote accessibility. Although Carbondale is a small rural town, there is a housing development for independent senior living; a facility for long-term, nursing, and memory care; and new accommodations for seniors to be completed in 2020. These accommodations will provide four levels of care, from independent living to memory care. Further, the MP identifies seniors as one of the town’s underserved populations and makes specific recommendations for developing partnerships to increase programs and activities as well as use of town facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department also provides some programs for older adults as well as a low-cost recreation center that is a Silver Sneakers provider (<http://carbondalerec.com/programs/senior-programs>). Additionally, the Town provides partial funding for Senior Matters, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to the improvement of quality of life for seniors in the mountain town of Carbondale and the surrounding communities of the Roaring Fork and Crystal River valleys.

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

To make seniors a more visible and vocal constituency with regard to all aspects of social, civic, and cultural activities, CAFCI will assist the Mayor, Town Trustees, and Commissions in understanding the needs of Carbondale's growing senior demographic. CAFCI will work to create partnerships with Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield County Age-Friendly networks to share ideas and collaborate to create an age-friendly Roaring Fork Valley. CAFCI works closely with Senior Matters, the nonprofit mentioned in section 3(1). We will also work with local media (community newspapers, radio station, and grassroots television). With the support of the Board of Trustees, CAFCI has created a resource page for the Town of Carbondale website (https://www.carbondalegov.org/residents/for_seniors.php) that provides abundant information for seniors living in and retiring to our community. CAFCI has a website (<https://agefriendlycarbondale.org>) that directs people to its work as well as to local resources and events. The Carbondale Mayor, Board of Trustees, and Commissions are open, welcoming, easy to engage, and invested in making Carbondale more age friendly. Community members are invited to request time at their meetings to present issues of concern. We will use the wealth of material provided by the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities to guide our work.

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.

What we have: Carbondale's Comprehensive Plan lists strategies and goals to address the needs of the growing senior demographic. One or more residents over 60 sits on the Board of Trustees and each of its eight commissions. As mentioned in section 3(1), the town partially funds Senior Matters. Town officials have welcomed CAFCI as an active voice in advocating for senior needs and have been responsive to our requests. For example, in February 2019, the Mayor encouraged CAFCI to make a presentation to a working meeting of the Board of Trustees. At this meeting, CAFCI identified five areas of concern related to senior mobility: sidewalk clearance, encroachment, and interference; bike-pedestrian-auto conflicts; the need for more accessible benches around town; unsafe intersections; and a lack of bus stop available to seniors with limited mobility. What we plan: Our intent is to increase participation in and collaboration with cultural, social, faith-based and regional departments and agencies and to jointly work on making Carbondale more age-friendly.

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 States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

CAFCI provides an age-friendly community – organizing model for a rural, somewhat isolated, small town. This model offers a process for a grassroots effort spearheaded by senior citizens rather than government, but working collaboratively with municipal agencies and local nonprofits. We emphasize the important contributions our senior residents can and do make to the town in addition to advocating for those residents.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Although many of Carbondale’s municipal documents recognize the need to include senior citizen concerns in town planning, CAFCI found few specific strategies for accommodating those needs. After speaking with many town officials and citizens, CAFCI concluded that town government wants to be responsive to its rapidly increasing senior population. However, as a group, that population was not making itself sufficiently heard, nor participating to a great extent in developing programs and facilities. Neither was that population seeking realistic ways to fund what is needed and/or desired. CAFCI also realized that the concerns of Carbondale seniors are not unique and that the Age-Friendly Network could provide us with ideas, resources, and connections to others so that we would not have to reinvent the wheel. Joining the network will enable us to be more efficient and effective. Our goal is to be visible and vocal whenever and wherever senior representation and participation will serve to make Carbondale a more age-friendly community - for citizens of all ages.

We do not have a logo.

6) Provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community and for which you have reprint rights. The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours:

