

March 15, 2019

Robert Murphy
State Director, AARP Colorado
303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 510
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Murphy,

On behalf of Jefferson County, Colorado I am pleased to offer this letter of commitment to creating an age-friendly environment and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Jefferson County recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly strategic planning and policies to address changing demographics and to enhance independent living. We are committed to a process of continuous improvement to support active and healthy aging and sustain economic and social vitality.

In 2008, Jefferson County Human Services Department launched our Aging Well in Jefferson County initiative. This initiative brought together a wide array of stakeholders from around our communities, representing a large variety of public and private sectors. This group worked to develop strategic planning focused on developing and implementing strategies to create inclusive, livable communities through sustainable partnerships and integrated services. The Leadership Committee is comprised of professionals from all areas, including care giving, emergency preparedness, food security, health and mental health, housing, legal, planning and zoning, work force, social and civic engagement and transportation.

Additionally, the Jefferson County Council on Aging (JCCoA) is an advocacy group of volunteers whose mission is to identify and address the needs, concerns, and issues of older adults in Jefferson County. JCCoA was formed in 1974 and is the longest operating and largest county council on aging in Colorado.

Jefferson County has developed an effective, long-standing network of stakeholders serving older adults. Aging Well and JCCoA are the natural fit of working together to take the lead on bringing this opportunity to Jefferson County to further address the World Health Organization and AARP's eight domains to help impact the quality of life and health of older people.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of Jefferson County to

- Include the active engagement of older adults in the work groups;
- Obtain baseline assessment data of the age-friendliness of the community;
- Establish a plan of action to responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community; and
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting the results publicly

We look forward to joining this global network of communities committed to giving their older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, productive and safe lives. Thank you for your consideration of membership for Jefferson County to the World Health Organization and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Libby Szabo, Chairman

LS/ms