



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: 7/16/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of La Junta

STATE: Colorado

POPULATION SIZE: 7,077

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 16.9%.

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: *Jeffri Pruyn, Mayor.*

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: *La Junta Municipal Building, 601 Colorado Avenue, PO Box 489, La Junta, CO 81050.*

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:

Dawn Block's official title is Human Services Coordinator, but she is also the director of the Senior Center here in La Junta. She is best suited to be our community contact because she has constant contact with the senior community here in La Junta and is familiar with local, state, and national initiatives and research supporting elder populations.

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.

Click here to enter text.

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?

The initial inclusion of the City of La Junta is the first step in growing the rural presence of the AARP and World Health Network in Colorado. Through the use of ideas and strategies that work in our rural/frontier region, other communities can begin to believe in the program and participation can become a reality. Additionally, the excellent example of programs currently being promoted by the AARP/WHO collaboration will allow our region to become more age friendly in all domains.

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?

The realization that our senior community is growing more rapidly than was planned for is a significant motivator for this process. In addition, we celebrate our seniors in La Junta because they are the backbone of our community: they volunteer for every need, every event, and every celebration. It is our responsibility to give back to them by becoming as age-friendly as possible.

Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send a JPEG, PDF or PNG of your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.

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:





City of La Junta
P O Box 489
La Junta CO 81050
719.384.5991
www.ci.la-junta.co.us

July 16, 2019

Mr. Roberto Rey, Associate State Director
AARP Colorado
303 E. 17th Ave, Suite 510
Denver Colorado 80206

Dear Mr. Rey,

On behalf of the Leadership Team at City of La Junta, Colorado, please accept our appreciation at the opportunity to join with AARP Colorado, the World Health Organization, and Colorado's own Lifelong Colorado initiative. As a member city in the region of Rural Southeast Colorado, we are excited about the opportunity to begin the processes in our own city as well as the neighboring communities to make our region a truly outstanding place to create opportunities to be more Age Friendly and Livable for our increasing number of older Coloradans.

Through the use of AARPs livability index, and the 7 domains of livability, the City of La Junta received a livability score of 49. There is significant work to be done in the domains of opportunity, health and environment. While the other 4 domains are above average in category scores, there is still work to be done. By using the livability index tool kits, this work is clearly defined and work is already being accomplished to make our community more livable and age friendly.

One of the first processes that have already been accomplished is the appointment to the City Council of a Senior Aging Advisor. This outstanding leader, Dawn Block, is part of an already engaged team of leaders that will participate in multiple levels of engagement throughout the community including the AAA Regional Advisory Council, La Junta Housing Authority Board, the La Junta Health Service District, senior centers, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

Through the participation with the Regional Area Agency on Aging, the next 4 year plan is being completed and includes regional guidance to implement measures through collaborative efforts to increase livability in all 7 domains of the livability index. The collaborative efforts of leadership at all levels will ensure the focus is specific and directed towards the elements identified as needing engagement. In La Junta specifically, our continued efforts at the La Junta Senior Center will create

opportunities for civic and social multicultural engagement, access to life, work and play, and planning for health care structures.

Through the use of intake, referral, engagement and follow-up with appropriate software programming and printed product feedback mechanisms, the reality of progress will be easily measured and adjusted in a timely fashion to ensure the appropriateness of the strategic plan and its goals. The placement of strategic partners on specific boards will ensure the desires and needs of our aging population are heard and attended to in a highly effective manner.

Please feel free to contact me directly at my cell at (719) 980-1816 for any future opportunity in which I can offer my support to these outstanding programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffri Pruyin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffri Pruyin, Mayor
City of La Junta