



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: 3/12/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Las Animas

STATE: Colorado

POPULATION SIZE: 2207

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 25%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Jim Collins, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 532 Carson Ave, Las Animas, CO 81054

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:

As the Regional Director for the Area Agency on Aging, I will be the primary lead for the region's age friendly and livability improvement and sustainment plan as part of the next 4 years Area Plan. I have direct contact for planning and execution at municipal, county and state level through participation in non-profit and appointed boards throughout this range of leadership. By holding the office of Mayor for the City of Las Animas, I am setting the example for the regional leadership and can then guide them through the processes to make immediate and long term improvements on the Livability Index criteria.

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 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.

Through interaction with multiple collaborative agencies in the City and County, an entirely new focus has begun to shape up that focuses on the Aging Community of today and the future. The City and County have appointed and created policies through the ADA program that ensures older and disabled community members are at the forefront of any new or modified construction from streets to housing. Additionally, the City Council has appointed a Senior Advisor on Aging to the City Council in order to continue to seek advice as we develop additional program, practices and policies. Through a partnership with the AAA and the County/City Senior center, the City Council has provided additional funding for congregate meal programs to ensure nutritional security.

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

As discussed earlier, the City Council has appointed a Senior Advisor on Aging, who will develop the position into a Senior Advisory Board that will provide advise, input and critical analysis of all programs, practices and policies considered and implemented by the City Leadership Team. This board will be a positive part of programs including attendance and participation in Resident Council Meetings at the Assisted Living and Nursing Home Facilities, Advisory Position on the Regional Area Agency on Aging Council, attendance at County Commissioner Meetings and attendance with the AAA Director to state and regional boards.

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.

The City of Las Animas is in the final stages of implementation of a Community Action Center in the City Hall that will in essence be an information clearing house that is staffed by multi-generational volunteers. This Center will provide intake, counseling, referral and follow-up to community members who demonstrate needs that the region is currently facilitating and will identify needs that are not being met. This final step will be critical to identifying unmet needs and researching opportunities to facilitate this unmet need. The center will be staffed by members from youth to senior ages and will be directly supervised by the Mayor and Senior Advisor on Aging for Las Animas City Council.

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 Las Animas is the first step in growing the rural presence of the AARP and WHO 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 the 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 the community is growing more rapidly than has ever been planned for was a significant motivator for this process. Additionally, the linkage between the AAA and the Mayors office was an eye opener that identified an unmet need and immediate action required.

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:

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.

