



## 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@aarpp.org](mailto:livable@aarpp.org).
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 2/12/2019

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Town of Simsbury

**STATE:** CT

**POPULATION SIZE:** 24,015

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 12.5%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Maria Capriola, Town Manager

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06071

### 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:**

Mr. LaMontagne has been a member of the Town of Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission for the past twenty-four years and Chairman of the Commission for the past nine years. The Aging and Disability Commission is responsible for investigating the needs of the citizens of the town in the areas of aging and the disabled and shall assist public and private agencies in the implementation of programs and facilities for such needs. The Commission has twelve regular members and four alternates as well as three liaisons (Simsbury Library, Simsbury Senior Center and Board of Selectman). The Chairman of the Commission will be responsible for "leading the team" to organize stakeholders, conduct assessments and establish an advisory committee. The Commission will be assisted, in part, by the Director of Social and Community Services for the Town of Simsbury as well as by the Director of the Simsbury Senior Center.

### 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.**

The Town of Simsbury has many attributes Recently completed a Pedstrian and Bicycle Master Plan, the Town has been designated as a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists, senior center has over Dial-a-Ride Simsbury Public Library The town has a beautiful main street replete with restaurants, retail stores, services and town offices. The Performing Arts Center, summer home of the Hartford Symphony, is located a block from Main Street and the Town of Simsbury has been designated as one of the Best Places to Live by Money Magazine. However, a recent AARP Public Policy Institute Report lists the Town of Simsbury with a Livability Index of 58, which is in the middle third of the scale. Therefore, the Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission endeavors to promote plans and strategies for improving the livability index through a comprehensive and thoughtful cycle of continuous improvements.

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

The Aging and Disability Commission is well known throughout town as providing for the needs and services of its senior community. The Commission will utilize that relationship to develop a group of stakeholders which will be comprised of non-profit organizations (Main Street Partnership), businesses (Simsbury Chamber of Commerce), government agencies (Town Social Services, Police, Fire, Department of Public Works, Planning Director), and community partners (McLean Care, Lion’s Club, Simsbury Granby Rotary Club, Farmington Valley YMCA). Furthermore, a concerted effort will be made to secure a “manageable” group of residents over the age of 50 gleaned from the Simsbury Senior Center, Simsbury Library and Simsbury Housing Authority, etc. to provide guidance as the Town and Aging and Disability Commission proceeds with the establishment of an Age-Friendly Community.

**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.**

Much of this work has already been initiated through personal association with a number of local agencies, not-for-profit organizations and businesses. Additional outreach will be developed utilizing a number of different processes including, social media, local print media, public TV and various other marketing efforts. Personal meetings by members of the Aging and Disability Commission will be conducted with local organizations, business leaders and town officials in order to garner support and assistance. Periodic forums will be conducted for the community at large to inform, educate and elicit support. This process will be on-going.

#### 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?

There is no question that the organization, planning, assessment, and development of a community-wide action plan will be a long term process. However, it is the intent of the Aging and Disability Commission and the Town of Simsbury to commit to improving age-friendliness. We are committed to developing an action plan, based upon our assessment findings, which will address some, if not all, of the “8 domains of livability”. The State of Connecticut currently has three communities (out of 169) that have been identified as age-friendly communities. With support from the town and our community partners the Town of Simsbury will proudly join the network of Age-Friendly Communities.

#### 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?

It has been well documented, by the U.S. Census Bureau, that the number of people age 65 and older will grow tremendously over the next ten years. The Town of Simsbury is a community that will have its share of residents that fall into that category. The Aging and Disability Commission met with representatives from the Connecticut AARP to learn more about the program and was duly impressed. Additional information was derived from the the AARP Livable Communities website and shared with community and town leaders, who after a brief discussion, committed themselves to this effort. Members of the Aging and Disability Commission also committed themselves to the process of developing an age-friendly community.

#### 6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

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 us your logo by email attachment to [livable@aarp.org](mailto:livable@aarp.org).*