



## 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](mailto: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: 4/19/2019**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Alachua County**

**STATE: Florida**

**POPULATION SIZE: 260,963**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 19.7%**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Charles Chestnut, Chair,  
Alachua County Commission**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 12 SE 1st Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601**

### 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.

[Redacted contact information]

**Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:**

Kristen Griffis is the Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability that serves Alachua County. Ms. Griffis is also co-Chair of the Community Coalition of Older Adults (CCOA), which will be the taskforce for this initiative. Ms. Griffis will work with CCOA to spearhead the development of the action plan and will be an intrigual part of ensuring the action plan is implemented. Ms. Griffis will also work very closely with the Alachua County Health Department to complete the survey and needs assessment to be used in the development of the action plan.

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](#).

Jeff Satine, Jeff.Satine@flhealth.gov – Kourtney Oliver, Kourtney.Oliver@flhealth.gov – Shirley Bloodworth, sgblood@bellsouth.net

**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.**

Excerpts from Adopted Alachua County Comprehensive Plan: 2011-2030 COMMUNITY HEALTH ELEMENT GOAL PRESERVE THE HEALTH OF ALACHUA COUNTY RESIDENTS BY FACILITATING HEALTH CARE DELIVERY, IMPROVING THE LIVABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY, AND PROVIDING ALL ALACHUA COUNTY RESIDENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE LIVING. Policy 1.1.6 The Future Land Use Element shall include provisions in land use categories for mixed uses to allow co-location for nursing homes, assisted living facilities and group homes for special needs population in proximity to health services. Policy 1.1.7 Alachua County and community based health care providers shall pursue grant funding to ensure evidence-based health promotion, and chronic disease self-management programs are carried out at the community level through schools, senior centers, nutrition programs, senior housing projects, faith-based groups, and other community based health care providers. Policy 1.2.3 Develop and encourage volunteer opportunities in community projects that promote community health. Examples of such programs include creek and lake clean-ups, walk-to-school groups, and helpers for the elderly or disabled. Policy 1.2.5 Promote a healthy community by providing for Aging in Place in residential development designs by allowing a mix of housing types and housing units that take into account visitability criteria and encourage Universal Design. In addition to what is included in the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, the City of Gainesville in Alachua County has funded a program for seniors that allows them to receive Uber trips at a lower price or no cost, called "Freedom in Motion." With a co-pay from as little as \$0 to as high as \$5, seniors who are over the age of 60 can participate in the program. They have to schedule to go through an application process at the local Senior Center. Eligible seniors can find an Uber vehicle to pick them up any time of the day or night. A rider can travel to any location as part of the program and vehicles will be able to accommodate fold-up walkers and wheelchairs. As for seniors who don't have access to the Uber app on their phones, Assurance Wireless helps low-income participants with a smartphone. The program, which began in 2015, is a collaboration of The City of Gainesville, Eldercare of Alachua County and the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce. It was originally a six month pilot and has now been funded each year. The budget set for Freedom in Motion Uber rides is \$36,000. The hope is for the future to continue and possibly expand on this program. After the 2016 elections we saw a desire by many seniors in the community to have access to civics education. Requests for an ongoing class to meet and cover issues such as; how government works, to understand current issues in the community and who can solve them, to engage in meaningful debate, and to encourage voting. The idea started with the goal of meeting that need in the community. After the huge success of these classes over 2017 and into 2018, it was decided by the group to focus the content on how to age well and plan ahead. This created another new community-wide educational initiative, "The Aging Well Series." The Aging Well Series is a collaboration between multiple community organizations and will focus on key aspects of health, finance, advanced planning, among other topics. After the initial need for civics education was addressed participants identified these new topics as a need in the community. They meet weekly with attendance from 70-120 a week and it brings together several of Gainesville's most knowledgeable senior care industry experts to offer resources and tips to help participants navigate the aging journey. These weekly classes give seniors in the community a place to have good discussion and learn new material thereby helping with community engagement and preventing social isolation.

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

The CCOA (Community Coalition of Older Adults) will lead the Age-Friendly process with assistance from organizations that serving the aging population in Alachua County. The public health department will educate the public about the Age-Friendly Initiative through recognition, sharing data and available resources. We also plan to get feedback and survey participants at the senior centers and meal sites throughout the county.

**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.**

There are several existing community coalitions and groups that can be informed and engaged in the Age-Friendly Communities Initiative. The Community Coalition of Older Adults (CCOA) is a group of concerned citizens, community leaders, professionals and organizations dedicated to serving elders in our community. Together they act as a team to promote respect and dignity for older adults and address important issues such as adequate housing, affordable healthcare, safety concerns and intergenerational relationships to ensure that our seniors can live active and enriched lives. This group has representatives from the aging services providers, the Alachua County Health Department, the assistant City Manager for Gainesville, post-acute care providers, law enforcement, older adults, and others that discuss the needs of our community and embark on projects to address them. This group will develop the action plan for the AARP Age-Friendly Communities Initiative. The Healthy Communities Initiative has been an interagency multi-disciplinary effort since 2009 to facilitate collaboration to improve health outcomes. This group address the wellness goals of the Alachua County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and meets quarterly. The Alachua County Safety Net addresses the Access to Care goals and objectives in the CHIP and meets monthly. Through the leadership of UF Health/University of Florida, Alachua County healthcare providers are networking to build a culture of health. This network links primary and specialty care providers and members of the Alachua County Healthcare Safety Network Collaboration across multiple efforts. One success has been the integration of electronic health records across some providers through the MyLink platform. UF health profession students network through prevention and treatment programs. In one new effort, UF was selected by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) as one of the academic health center teams to participate in a three-year project entitled "Building a Systems Approach to Community Health and Health Equity." The team is composed of two experts in epidemiology and community engagement, the Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, the Dean of the College of Nursing, the Associate Dean for Medical Education, the Senior Director of Finance of UF Health, the Executive Director of UF Health HomeCare and ElderCare of Alachua County, the CEO of UF Health Physicians, and the Vice President for Social Responsibility of First Coast YMCA. The UF team will tackle food insecurity and related disparities in their project, leveraging collaborations with internal and external partners to build a multi-level, multi-domain approach to reducing food insecurity and health disparities (hypertension, heart disease, and diabetes). The Arts in Medicine Program of UF Health Sciences Center is a nationally recognized leader in the integration of the arts and humanities into healthcare settings, giving opportunities for UF HSC patients, families, staff, students, and faculty to appreciate the graphic and

performing arts. UF Health is working with 352Creates on programming to provide the 352 area code with community participatory art-making throughout Gainesville and North Central Florida.

**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?**

Information sharing to improve outcomes in the State and Nation. Share best practices and resources. Communicate with other counties statewide to assist efforts. The Florida Department of Health is an integrated public health department with a vision to promote, protect, and improve the health of all residents through state, county and local efforts. There are 67 counties in Florida and 67 health departments. This makes sharing with other counties easy. In addition, the Florida Department of Health has entered an Age-Friendly Public Health Collaborative led by Trust for Americas Health (TFAH). 37 health departments are currently in the Age-Friendly Public Health Collaborative, communicating often, sharing resources, and increasing the role of public health in age-friendly communities throughout the state of Florida.

**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?**

Our community is interested in ensuring that Alachua County is a community where residents feel that they can age in place, retiring in our county with the ability to enjoy a health life as long as possible. Entering in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities will help inform the needs of our residents that are 50 and older across the 8 domains. Our community is interested in any grant opportunities available to the Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

**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:**

*Attached to email*

