



## 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: 11/5/2019**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Citrus County, Florida**

**STATE: Florida**

**POPULATION SIZE: 145,721**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 44%**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Jeff Kinnard D.C.**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 110 N. Apopka Ave, Inverness FL 34450**

### 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:**

Joanne Granger has been with Citrus County Support Services for over 11 years. Mrs. Granger has served in various functions involving the various senior programs (Community Care for the Elderly, Home Care for the Elderly, Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, Local Service Program, Older American's Act IIIB-C1-C2-IIIE programs and the Emergency Home Energy Assistance program) during that time. Granger is currently the Director for both the County Support Services Division and the Lead Agency in Citrus County for Elder Affairs.

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](http://AARP.org/Livable-Subscribe).

Already subscribed.

### 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.**

We have several Divisions within County Government that provide services that are age friendly. The Support Services Division provides congregate and home delivered meals, community centers, facility and in-home services to seniors, retired and senior volunteer program, outreach and nutrition education to seniors and holds an annual Healthy Living Fair. The Library Services Division has several activities geared toward senior citizens. They have multiple classes that foster Community Support and Health (including free physical movement classes, partnering with CHIPS and SHINE, partnering with "Coping With Dementia" and local medical professionals); provide access to communication and information for seniors, holding regular classes and workshops on health, technology and safety for seniors, as well as social inclusion with various activities and volunteerism; foster civic participation and employment through multiple partnerships and social participation through various activities and are continually developing new programs. The Extension Services division provides a number of education outreach activities, including "A Matter of Balance" program that promotes physical activity as a means of preventing falls, particularly with the senior population. The County is a bicycle-friendly community and has consistently supported improvements that include sidewalks, multi-use trails and bike lanes, or a combination of each to be constructed along with the road and the County adopted a Trails Master Plan to augment the system. The Housing Division works closely with developers of affordable public housing units for Seniors, utilizing grant funding to assist and monitor for affordable rents, cleanliness, operable appliances and accessibility for the next 20 years. They also renovate / replace homes, including 3 recent that were for senior women that were heads of household with special needs / disability and give Section 8 priority to seniors and veterans. There has also been 3 new Independent / Assisted Living facilities just recently built within the County. Support Services, Veterans Services and Housing all make home visits to seniors that are not able to drive in order to provide assistance. The Transportation Division changed their criteria and now all citizens over the age of 60 are eligible for Transportation Disadvantaged. There are paratransit trips available to get them where they need to go as well as a Deviated Fixed Route system. The Parks and Recreation Division has multiple community centers that include pool tables, ping pong, gym equipment in a/c facility, modified tennis courts for pickleball, senior fitness swim, aerobics, paved walking trails that are pet friendly, boat ramps and fishing piers and indoor walking. The parks and buildings are ADA accessible and the swimming pool offers a ramp for wheel chair access. The Animal Services Division has volunteer opportunities for all ages, skill sets and physical abilities to include seniors. They are planning a seniors for seniors program that would include waiving adoption fees for seniors who adopt senior animals. The County Health Department completed a Community Health Assessment a couple of years ago and more recently an Age Friendly Survey. They have instituted several practices, including Immunizations, Environmental Public Health, Public Health Preparedness, Community Health & Outreach-Healthiest Weight, Birth & Death Certificates and Tobacco Free Florida Cessation Services. The County also works with the Health Department during disasters to assist special needs and seniors in our shelters. The Sheriff's office includes the Emergency Operations Center for Disasters. They most recently partnered with Duke, Friends of the Community Centers and County staff to provide Disaster Kits and presentations to our seniors at the community centers and materials for our homebound seniors. They also have a "Seniors vs Crime" program and encourage seniors to volunteer. The County also is involved with multiple outside agencies that support programs for seniors, including the YMCA for example. The YMCA has multiple programs that benefit seniors in our community.

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

We have developed a work group consisting of the County, The Department of Health, the YMCA and other Senior organizations that will be an integral part of engaging the community and involving older adults within Citrus County. This group will actively seek input and participation from other partners and seniors throughout all of the activities and process. We will work closely with other agencies and partners servicing seniors within the 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.**

In order to apply for the County to join the network, the County contacted its divisions to learn about the ways they are already working to meet the needs of the older population. With the county having over 43% of the population over the age of 60, the county has had a significant focus on older adults, recognizing the needs of this growing and important population. The county will continue to encourage planning and implementation of programs that support the further enhancement of our seniors.

**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 County, as it continues to grow and change, will look to focus on continuing and new partnerships, and implementing best practices that can help drive positive change and create a more livable Citrus County for older adults and to share those best practices and success stories.

**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 County already has a significant amount of Age Friendly initiatives in place, but wants to expand those initiatives and bring everyone together for one goal.

**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:**

[www.citrusbocc.com](http://www.citrusbocc.com)

