



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: 7/18/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Indian River County

STATE: Florida

POPULATION SIZE: 154,383 (2017)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 55,744 – 37.6%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Jason Brown,
Administrator**

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 1801 27th St, Vero Beach, FL 32960

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:

Mr. Riley is the Executive Director of Senior Collaborative of Indian River County, Inc. The Senior Collaborative is made up of service providers, funders and advocates dealing with seniors. The Senior Collaborative has been designated as the lead agency to perform the assessment and action plan for the County. The County will have oversight of the action plan and implementation process.

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](#).

Subscription has previously been done and Mr. Riley has attended an age-friendly sharing symposium in Miami, FL and monthly participates in age-friendly webinars put on by AARP Florida.

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 County keeps end users of all ages in mind when constructing new facilities and projects. For example, the recently completed Intergenerational Center was specifically designed and named for a diverse age group of users and interests that access the venue every day. Ongoing senior-oriented programs include Dance (Swing/Ballroom/Country), All Levels Yoga, Chair Yoga, Tai Chi, Pickelball, Pilates, Qi-Gong, Zumba, Chair Aerobics, games, lectures, and events. All County Parks, Trails, and Fishing Venues, and other recreational facilities are designed to accommodate users of all ages and are designed to ADA standards. The County provides a large variety of award-winning transportation options for seniors to enable access to life-sustaining services and age-in-place opportunities. These include the GoLine Fixed Route service, which offers fare-free transit for all passengers and wheelchair accessible buses on all 16 routes; the Community Coach door-to-door service; Vero Cycling and Bike/Walk Indian River, which offer group rides for all levels of riders and whose membership is predominantly persons aged 60+; AARP and AAA Senior Safe Driving seminars; and context-sensitive design on roadways to accommodate senior drivers with features such as backlit street signs. In partnership with the Senior Resource Association (SRA), the County offers Adult Day Care, Meals on Wheels, Emergency Home Energy Assistance, and In-Home Services. The County Health Department, in addition to inspecting and licensing nursing homes and adult care facilities to ensure the safety of the elderly, offers medical care and advice to residents and a number of programs oriented to seniors, such as Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Programs for women aged 50 and up.

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

Indian River County is a leader in Civic engagement. One way the County seeks input from seniors is by conducting in-community public workshops. Past venues have included Gardenia Gardens Senior Apartments; the “Special K” Senior Aerobics program at the Gifford Community Center; the Schumann Hall Senior Center; and at a number of restricted (55+) Homeowners Associations. The County has conducted a “Safety is Golden” Senior Safe Driving event at the Vero Beach Community Center, complete with a Car Fit station to ensure seniors are properly seated and familiar with the functionality of their vehicles. The County has conducted surveys, with facilitators at adult congregate feeding sites to gauge the opinions of seniors on crucial community issues. County advisory committees regularly include Seniors. The Citizens Advisory Committee, in particular, is well represented by members of the Senior community; 12 of 14 members are over age 60, and one member is 93 years old. The County’s website is rated A+ for transparency, and all county documents, meeting notices, and minutes are accessible to the public while all County meetings are held in ADA and public transit accessible venues and broadcast on public access television. To improve outreach, there will be a community needs assessment completed by the Senior Collaborative in the near future. We also intend to do listening sessions with the community and seniors in particular. As we develop the action plan we will be reaching out to a wide spectrum of individuals. The diversity of the core group and experts in specific domain areas will include individuals in those fields that are retired when possible.

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 lead agency is a collaboration of service providers, funders and advocates for seniors. Some of the service providers in the Collaborative include Senior Resource Association, Alzheimer Parkinson Association, Treasure Coast Community Health, Visiting Nurse Association, County Health Department. Our main funders include United Way, Senior Resource Association, Indian River County Hospital District, John's Island Strategic Fund and Minotty Family Trust. We have also been working very closely with the Indian River County MPO. This group of over 124 individuals and forty service providers, in addition to Indian River County staff, will provide the core group as we do our assessment and action plan. In addition, Indian River County has a number of formal mechanisms and agreements already in place to ensure collaborative planning and implementation of projects for its vulnerable populations, including its Seniors. One such mechanism is the Intergovernmental Coordination Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan, which calls for widespread dissemination of information, sharing of responsibilities, and emergency assistance between Indian River County, local jurisdictions, and social services agencies (including the Senior Resource Association). Another formal mechanism is the quarterly Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board and monthly Citizens Advisory Committees, which contain representatives from the Area Agency on Aging, SRA, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Agency for Health Care Administration, Veterans Services Organizations, and representatives of the Senior community. The County offers a large variety of health and education programs aimed at Seniors, including the Safety is Golden Senior Safe Driving fair, Health Fair, AAA and AARP Senior Driver Education programs, and retirement counseling. The County is constantly expanding its partnerships, and has launched new programs with the SRA, FDOT, and other agencies to benefit the senior community. It is the County's intention to continue to provide and expand such offerings in the future.

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?

We have already attended a recent sharing symposium in Miami, FL. We are also part of the webinar sharing group that meets monthly and shares information with other designated communities. Indian River County and a number of its partners, including the Senior Resource Association, Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Health Department, are considered leaders in their fields and have innovated programs in senior care and mobility that they can share with others. These include the most efficient transportation system in the State of Florida (on a cost per mile basis); community-based programs, and a variety of natural and recreational programs. In fact, in recognition of the limited financial resources of many of our seniors, the County provides most of these programs free of charge. To remove barriers to mobility, the community maintains free access of all of its beaches, downtown parking facilities, and its 100% wheelchair lift-equipped public transportation system, which, at 1.3 million riders, it is thought to be one of the largest fare-free systems in the United States. The County, MPO, and Health Department frequently share information with peers at statewide and national events and we look forward to sharing even more information and learning best practices from the other members of the AARP Age-Friendly network and also looks forward to working with Secretary Prudom and the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs, an agency that fully supports the network. We, as a County, look forward to sharing with other communities via the network our successes and failures.

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?

As we obtained demographic information on Indian River County it became apparent we were one of the oldest communities not only in Florida but also in the nation. This coupled with individuals living longer lead us to understand the necessity of having a more Livable Community. Although the County has done a number of recreation, health and transportation programs, there is still a need for our community to be proactive and cognizant of how our seniors will age in place. The Networks provide additional experts and programs for our County to become a more Livable Community.

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.

