

State Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States** 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.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 2019

Section 1: STATE DETAILS

NAME OF THE STATE: *Florida*

POPULATION SIZE: *21.64 Million*

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: *26%*

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: *Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida*

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: *Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of Florida, The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001*

Section 2: STATE CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY STATES

(The State contact is the staff member who is primarily responsible for carrying out the state-level work).

[Redacted contact information]

Please describe the named person's role and department in the state's age-friendly initiative:

Secretary Prudom has more than 30 years in executive leadership with the State of Florida where he has worked to develop, implement, and lead public policies and programs that improve the lives of Florida families. Since 2011, he has served as Deputy Secretary, Chief of Staff, and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA or Department), prior to being appointed Secretary of the Department by Governor Ron DeSantis in 2019. Secretary Prudom is leading Age-Friendly efforts throughout Florida and acting on the vision of Governor DeSantis and Lieutenant Governor Nuñez to create communities where all can live and live well.

During his time at DOEA, Secretary Prudom also led several initiatives, including the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) and the revitalization of the Communities for a Lifetime initiative. DCCI was developed in response to the increasing incidence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Florida. Through DCCI, DOEA aims to increase awareness of dementia, provide assistance to dementia-caring communities, and continue advocacy for care and cure programs.

Secretary Prudom earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kent in the United Kingdom. In September 2014, Secretary Prudom became an American citizen and now enjoys dual citizenship with the United Kingdom.

Section 3: STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

- 1) Please provide a brief summary of policies, programs, funding and services that are targeted toward older people and how the state plans to become more age-friendly.

Florida is home to over 5.5 million elders, ranking first in the nation for the percentage of residents age 65 and older. Each day, nearly 500 elders from across the world choose to become Floridians, adding to Florida's rich generational and cultural diversity. Our fastest growing age group in Florida is those who are 85+ (560,000), and in the next 12 years, Florida's 60+ population is expected to increase 38%, making the total older population over 7.5 million. As a state, we understand that Florida's future is linked to the health, engagement, and security of our elders. From our sunny beaches to our robust cities and beautiful farmland, elders continue to play an integral role in making this great state a place people of all ages can - and want to - call home.

Florida utilizes a broad coalition of state agencies, with DOEA serving as Florida's State Unit on Aging, to make the state a leader in developing Age-Friendly communities. DOEA is responsible for developing policy recommendations for long-term care, combating ageism, creating public awareness of aging issues, understanding the contributions and needs of elders, advocating on behalf of elders, and serving as an information clearinghouse. Elder-friendly initiatives, such as Safe Mobility for Life with the Department of Transportation, Department of Health's (DOH) Creating Healthy Communities, and the state's Long-Term Care Waiver program are examples of Florida's state-wide commitment to collaboratively serving our elders, not just from a collection of advocacy groups or a single state agency.

DOEA manages and oversees more than \$333M in state and federal funding and works together with other federal, state, local, and community-based public and private organizations to represent the interests of older Floridians, their caregivers, and elder advocates. The organizations and providers that help create a better life for Florida's 5.5 million seniors make up Florida's aging network, including 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that provide a wide range of programs and assistance. Through partnerships with the AAAs, the Department provides community-based care to help seniors safely age with dignity, purpose, and independence. This includes services such as adult day care, respite, and transportation.

Florida also has dynamic volunteer-based services, dedicating grassroots efforts to ensure the communities of Florida are effectively advocating and serving their older population. During fiscal year 2017-2018, Floridians logged nearly 130 million volunteer hours with elder focused DOEA programs. These programs include DCCI, comprised of 10 dementia advocate task forces across the state (each task force is comprised of the Executive Director of the area AAA, the coordinator of the area Memory Disorder Clinic, and multiple community stakeholders, such as law enforcement, clergy, caregivers of those with Alzheimer's or a related dementia (ARD), and those living with ARD); Meals on Wheels, with almost 9.9 million meals delivered to homebound elders; the Ombudsman Program, which uses community members to investigate and advocate for better long-term care services; and SHINE, a program that provides free personal and confidential Medicare counseling assistance services.

Since taking office in January, Governor DeSantis has implemented a number of initiatives to support Floridians with ARD and their caregivers: he directed DOH to add ARDs as a priority within the State Health Improvement Plan; he directed DOH to apply to be a Center of Excellence pursuant to the Federal BOLD Act, in order to position Florida to pursue and receive federal grants for evidence-based approaches to treatment and prevention of ARDs; and he released the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future Budget which included \$3 million to help those with ARD by providing \$3 million in funding to support the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative.

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

The state recognizes that engaging and gathering input from older Floridians is a critical step to advance the age-friendly effort. Communities across Florida are incorporating elders in this process through surveys, focus groups, listening sessions, and community events. For example, Sarasota County recently held an age-friendly festival, which became the first community celebration in the nation to focus on advancing age-friendly principles and promoting lifelong well-being. In Miami-Dade County, AARP FL conducted telephone interviews with 525 residents ages 50 and older. Survey respondents were asked to rate their community on 63 characteristics across the World Health Organization's eight age-friendly domains. To view the AARP survey results [Click Here](#). Annually, elders volunteer more than 205 million hours at a value of almost \$3 billion in potential cost savings to the state for their service. They are also engaged civically – around 83% of older Floridians vote. Other examples of Florida's efforts include the following:

- Age-Friendly Housing Symposium, held in Broward County, brought together community advocates to discuss salient issues regarding housing affordability for older populations.
- Community Challenge Grants were provided to six communities and were used to fund projects ranging from community gardens to outdoor exercise fitness equipment. The Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative also provided mini-grants through their work to communities across the county.
- Both DOEA and AARP have dedicated staff who provide one-on-one consultations to communities interested in becoming an Age-Friendly Community.
- AARP and DOEA send monthly e-newsletters to members of the Age-Friendly Network and host webinars for members of the Age-Friendly Network.
- In consultation with the Florida Association of Senior Centers (FASC), DOEA conducted on-line surveys with 285 senior centers to determine their scope of programs, demographic populations served, funding status, and similar characteristics. The goal of the survey is to compile a single report and “tool kit” for centers to share best practices. Through these local portals, Florida can gather “on the ground” information from seniors by looking at the 8 domains of their communities to develop action plans to address those deficient.

- 3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the state has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

Florida is committed to continuing its dynamic collaborative efforts with state agencies and community partners. Current notable examples of collaboration include the following:

- **The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition** works collaboratively with partner agencies to implement a strategic plan to increase the safety, access, and mobility for aging road users. [To review the strategic safety plan, click here.](#) The Coalition recently designated the month of January as the “Lifelong Communities Month,” an exciting first-ever designation that seeks to spread awareness and engagement. The four main components of a lifelong community are community design, getting around, street safety and security, and neighborhood support services. [For more information, click here to watch a video.](#)
- **The Complete Streets Implementation Plan:** In September of 2014, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) adopted the Statewide Complete Streets Policy. Complete Streets serve the transportation needs of transportation system users of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, and freight handlers. A transportation system based on complete streets principles can help to promote safety, quality of life, and economic development. In 2017, an FDOT design manual was recognized by Smart Growth America as one of the best complete street initiatives. For more information on complete streets, [Click Here.](#)
- **Dementia Care and Cure Initiative:** Expanding our efforts to make Florida dementia caring, in 2015 DOEA created DCCI to bring education, awareness, and sensitivity to local communities regarding the needs of those affected by dementia. Since taking office in January, Governor DeSantis has challenged institutions that house the 16 Florida Memory Disorder Clinics (MDCs) to provide matching funding to the clinics to allow for an increase in the number of individuals they serve with evaluation and diagnostic testing for dementia, and he has challenged local communities, who have not already done so, to expand DCCI in their areas. In partnership with Florida’s 11 AAAs, 16 MDCs, and the Alzheimer’s Association, DCCI organizes task forces consisting of local stakeholders, professionals in the aging network, caregivers, and community advocates, including those living with ADRD. Each task force creates an actionable plan to educate and bring awareness of the signs and symptoms of dementia. This includes providing communication techniques to use when interacting with those living with dementia, informing the community of available local resources that families and individuals can access for support and diagnostic services, and other educational tools. Communities participating in these activities are known as Dementia-Caring Communities. This free education has been provided to more than 6,484 individuals from law enforcement agencies, faith networks, fire and rescue stations, health care entities, community groups, and social service agencies. In 2018, DCCI expanded to include ten task forces across eight of Florida’s planning and service areas (PSAs). Active communities now range from the Panhandle all the way to Miami. To view the participating DCCI communities, [Click Here.](#)
- **Age-Friendly Sharing Symposium:** To support the current 24 communities engaging in age-friendly efforts in Florida, AARP, in partnership with DOEA, annually hosts the Age-Friendly Sharing Symposium. The symposiums provide an opportunity for statewide partners to share resources and cultivate robust community relationships. In the past, the Sharing Symposium has included members from the American Planning Association of Florida, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida DOH, Alzheimer’s Association, United Way of Miami-Dade, Florida Association of Senior Centers, and the Patterson Foundation.

- **Age-Friendly Health System Initiative:** The John A. Hartford Foundation and Trust for America’s Health are partnering with DOH to implement an Age-Friendly Public Health System. This initiative through DOH promotes innovative aging work in Florida, including the implementation of Age-Friendly Communities, to build rapport between the public health and aging sectors. Through this work, DOH will contribute to a national movement that advances an age-friendly public health system. In the future, DOH is looking at the release of community-wide health data reports about older adults that will be useful for policymakers and the public. To learn more about Age-Friendly public health [Click Here](#).
- **Florida Council on Homelessness:** The Council on Homelessness was created in 2001 and consists of members from state agencies and organizations who work together to develop and coordinate policies to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in Florida. The Office on Homelessness works with local homeless coalitions and continuum of care lead agencies throughout Florida to create the framework for emergency, transitional, permanent housing, and supportive services to address the varying needs of the persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Each lead agency develops a community-based plan to help communities identify and implement coordinated, long-term solutions to homelessness. To learn more about the Council on Homelessness [Click Here](#).

In the future, Florida would like to enhance its collaborative initiatives through an “Age-Friendly Champion” designation. A “champion” would act as a representative for their respective agency and would be responsible for collaborating, connecting, and streamlining policy and programmatic work that affects older adults. Potential departments that are already committed to enacting elder-focused programs and could effectively align with the vision of the “Age-Friendly Champion” include Veterans Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, Department of Children and Families, Department of Economic Opportunity, Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Attorney General’s Office.

- 4) Briefly describe the mechanisms the state has or is planning to put in place to facilitate engagement with communities to identify unique and disparate needs throughout the state.

Broad initiatives are conducted at the state-level to establish the needs of our elder community; this includes DOEA’s development of health profiles utilized to analyze gaps and needs of all 67 counties and DOH’s community assessments and improvement plans. However, the driving force of our approach to addressing the needs of older Floridians is community focused. Our current 24 Age-Friendly Communities and their residents are leading our efforts in Florida. We plan to honor and build on the priorities these communities have already identified, allowing work to be driven locally and supported by policy at the state level. This approach ensures each community has an opportunity to engage all geographic areas (rural, resort, suburban, and urban communities) and that the voices of all diverse groups are heard within a community (faith-based organizations, minority groups, LGBTQ+, for-profit businesses, universities, etc.). DOEA and partner agencies currently have programs in place to engage with communities about their specific needs including, but not limited to, the following:

- Senior centers, which are an excellent component of Florida's Aging Network, provide a broad spectrum of services suited to the diverse needs and interests of independent older adults. Approximately 380,000 seniors visit Florida’s 285+ senior centers every year.

- The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) serves low-income Floridians who are 55+ and have poor employment prospects. SCSEP provides part-time community service positions with public or non-profit organizations to members of this program. The goal of the program is to help participants become economically self-sufficient while enjoying the social and physical benefits of employment. Florida currently has 2,360 SCSEP positions of which 481 are state positions and 1,879 are national positions.
- DOEA’s Office of Volunteer and Community Services (OVCS) identifies, recognizes, promotes, and provides technical assistance for volunteer-based programs across the State of Florida. OVCS works with Age-Friendly Communities to encourage engagement and intergenerational activities.
- The vision of the Intergenerational Civic Engagement Workgroup is for Florida to be a leader of civic engagement within and across generations. The workgroup identifies, supports, and creates programs that enhance intergenerational civic engagement throughout the state. Florida schools, colleges, universities and public libraries serve as a catalyst for civic engagement and opportunities, supplying institutional support for connecting youths and seniors, conducting research, and evaluating the impact of intergenerational programs.
- DOEA’s Elder Abuse Prevention Program supports programs and services to protect elders from abuse in all its forms – physical, emotional, financial and more. The program is designed to increase awareness of the problem of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The program includes training and dissemination of elder abuse prevention materials and funds special projects to provide training and prevention activities.

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.

- 5) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities/States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Florida is dedicated to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) and AARP’s mission of creating an Age-Friendly world, and we know that Florida will play a critical role in advancing that mission. Florida’s Age-Friendly Network has already seen significant growth in communities after the partnership of AARP and DOEA. Three communities joined the Age-Friendly Network in 2015, and today there are 24 communities. There are approximately 5 million residents who live in Age-Friendly Communities across the state, 24 percent of the total population. Last year, the state presented in over 40 communities, promoting the Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Florida has a very strong Aging Network with which the state works to meet these needs and will continue to do so, utilizing technology and creating innovate, efficient partnerships to accomplish our goals. With AARP FL, DOEA staff will reach out to the previous 119+ CFAL communities and re-establish relationships, assess status, begin education on the benefits of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, and encourage communities to join. CFAL and DCCI will also continue to work together collaboratively to establish partnerships between cities and counties to share resources, tools, and ideas to create Livable and Dementia-Caring Communities.

- 6) What motivated your State to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities/States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Governor DeSantis and Lieutenant Governor Nuñez envision a Florida where older Floridians are not just living but living well; they have already undertaken a number of initiatives to ensure that this happens. The future of aging in Florida is hopeful as we have more services and support for older Floridians to feel independent, dignified, and purposeful. We also understand that with the significant increases in Florida's older adult population, the State must have a plan in place to address their needs and erase the stigma on aging, while also concentrating on the economic, social, and civic contributions that older adults bring to their communities. Florida sees joining the AARP and WHO Network of Age-Friendly Communities as the next step in serving our older population. Florida would be the fourth state to join the network and the first in the Sunbelt. Over the last several years, Florida has been working with public and private partners to prepare for the older demographic. This designation would help increase the connectivity between public and private partnerships that are already in place and lay the foundation for policy and programmatic work that would be beneficial for people of all ages.

- 7) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your state.

We are developing a logo and will share it with you as soon as it is finalized.

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.