



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

April 22, 2019

Mr. Jeff Johnson
State Director, AARP Florida
360 Central Avenue, Suite 1750
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am pleased to submit the State of Florida's membership application to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Florida's commitment to being Age-Friendly is an ongoing effort, full of momentum, and we are proud to work towards this important designation.

Florida is home to more than 5.5 million residents age 60 and older and boasts the largest 65+ population in the nation. Each day, nearly 500 elders from across the world choose to become Floridians, adding to Florida's rich generational and cultural diversity. By 2030, our senior population will increase to 7.6 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.

Coordinating and aligning age-friendly efforts into a statewide movement represents the natural progression of grassroots work that started over 20 years ago to help foster an environment that positively impacts the health and well-being of older adults. We will promote and build on the age-friendly initiatives of the 24 Florida communities which have already earned the Age-Friendly designation, honor the diversity of communities across Florida, and ensure that the Age-Friendly designation is community-initiated, community-driven, and community-owned.

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Through the Age-Friendly designation, Florida will continue its efforts to establish livable communities where we all can live and live well. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with AARP Florida. Thank you for your consideration of Florida's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Ron DeSantis
Governor