



## Membership Application

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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 04/29/2019

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: *Walton County*

STATE: *Florida*

POPULATION SIZE: 67,109

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 26.4%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:

### Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY 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:

Ryan is the designated community health improvement planner for the Florida Department of Health in Walton County. He is the lead for the Walton Community Health Improvement Partnership, which the age-friendly initiative is a part of.

### **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.**

With the support of our local Council on Aging, Boys & Girls Club, Life Enrichment Center, Coastal Seniors of South Walton & area churches, we strive to ensure that our older adults have multiply choices for services and volunteer opportunity. We hope to encourage our community to support an active, healthy lifestyle for people of all ages and to interact with the senior volunteer groups that are in place already. We hope that being included in the Age-Friendly Communities network, it will bring more focus on the needs of our older adults and bring awareness of the options/resources that our community has for all ages.

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

To engage older adults in our community, we will utilize established partnerships with the local Council on Aging, churches, life enrichment center, law enforcement, healthcare and mental health services, and community groups to conduct a community survey that will include questions on older adult's needs. Additional partners have been identified to assist with saturating the community with the survey. The survey will provide a direction when planning strategies and activities to address the needs of local older adults. Next Fall/Winter, a focus group will be conducted to gather input for our seasonal residents or "snow birds." This population greatly increases our number of older adults in our community, and their input is important to determine if their needs are different than our year-round residents.

We also have increasing participation at our monthly meetings, and we hope to be able to continue to get more older adults involved in the planning of strategies and activities to address the identified needs.

**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.**

We have an active Walton Community Health Improvement Partnership (WCHIP) that has a workgroup that's goal is to make Walton County an age-friendly community. The workgroup uses the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) community-driven strategic planning process to determine what are the needs of the community, what are evidence-based ways to address the needs, and who needs to be a partner to help make activities successful. The workgroup has met monthly since January 2019 to identify community resources for older adults via asset mapping and to start creating synergy in the community around the Age-Friendly Walton initiative. The workgroup also created and reviewed a community profile for older adults using relevant data sources.

Next steps will be gathering community input by conducting a community survey and focus groups to see what local older adults identify as needs in the community are and how to address them. Our local Council on Aging and other community partners that provide services to older adults have a network already in place to help and work together routinely.

#### **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 Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?**

We hope that since we are considered a rural community, the identities issues and needs maybe different from other larger communities. Our community is also unique in the mix of year-round residents and seasonal residents. Walton County can greatly provide insight on how to get rural communities included in the network and provide best practices on identifying and addressing the issues and needs through interagency community collaboration.

##### **5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?**

Our community has a large older adult population, and we want to ensure that their issues and needs are met with options and services. We also hope to encourage the community to be more aware of the issues that older adults might have living in a rural area. Our population of individuals age 60 and older has nearly doubled since 2000, and this also coincides with a growing overall population. We believe that the AARP and WHO guidelines will allow us to be more forward thinking in planning for continued increasing population. We want to ensure that Walton County is a healthy place to live, learn, work and play for everyone, regardless of age.

##### **6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.**

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@arp.org](mailto:livable@arp.org).*



**Logo Attached.**

