



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: 12/23/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Jones County

STATE: Georgia

POPULATION SIZE: 28,669

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 17.6% (65+ According to 2010 US Census)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Chris Weidner, Chairman

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 166 Industrial Boulevard/Post Office Box 1359, Gray, GA 31032

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:

The County Administrator oversees all day-to-day county operations including participation in this initiative. The County Administrator will work closely with various county departments that provide services to persons 60 years and older. The County Administrator will also work to recommend policies to the Board of Commissioners that make Jones County more age friendly.

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.

Click here to enter text.

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.

Jones County currently provides 5311 Transit service that provides seniors with a safe ride to and from various locations in our region including medical facilities and shopping destinations. The Jones County Senior Center provides seniors with – among other things – low-cost meals, social interaction opportunities, arts and crafts, games, and field trips. In the past two years, the County has enhanced their recreation offerings for seniors including 1.7 miles of additional sidewalks and the construction of a 0.3-mile walking track in a county park. Seniors in Jones County also enjoy the various resources offered by our local library. It recently underwent a \$1.75 million renovation that included the addition of numerous new computer terminals for public use. The Library offers computer classes that help patrons learn how to use their smart phones, tablets and laptops. The Library also has a section dedicated to large print and provides access to G.L.A.S.S. – Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services. Additionally, Jones County has a high percentage of seniors raising grandchildren. To support this special group of citizens, the Jones County School System and Jones County Family Connection have joined forces to create a Leaders in the Village (LIV) group. The LIV group meets quarterly to offer support, resources and networking for these residents.

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

The Jones County Senior Center is a non-profit organization geared toward helping senior's in the community stay in place or remain in their homes longer and remain as independent as possible. We do this by providing 1/3 of their daily nutritional requirements. We also provide programs in health, wellness, & recreation. Health professional and wellness coordinators make scheduled visits to the center. The center has an exercise room, sewing room, computer lab, and arts & crafts instructions are given. Any interest is addressed from painting and quilting to computer literacy. The center currently averages 30 clients on a daily basis, Monday through Friday. Approximately 600 balanced meals are consumed each month. The Senior Center will provide a great avenue for engaging older people in our 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.

The City of Gray, Jones County, and the Board of Education hold joint meetings on a quarterly basis to discuss various projects and programs and to find areas where the groups can collaborate. Jones County Family Connection brings together a wide range of groups that are working to address a variety of social issues. Family Connection's regular Collaborative Meetings are a great opportunity for groups to share updates and resources and to ensure that efforts are not being duplicated. Finally, for many years, Jones County has had a citizens group known as PLAN – People Looking Ahead Now. The sidewalk expansion mentioned above is a great example of a project that was birthed in a PLAN meeting many years earlier.

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?

These networks are a great opportunity for us to share our successes and to gather ideas from other communities as we all seek to improve the lives of older citizens.

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?

We are committed to having a community that is inviting for all age groups, including older citizens. Increasingly, the community characteristics that appeal to seniors also appeal to most other age groups. We feel that this designation and the contacts within the network will provide us with a wonderful set of tools to use as we seek to become more age friendly.

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.

