



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: 11/22/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Cedar Rapids

STATE: Iowa

POPULATION SIZE: 133,174

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 22.4%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Bradley G. Hart

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City Hall, 101 First Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please describe the named person’s role in the city or community’s age-friendly initiative:

Stephanie will help facilitate implementation of strategies that support an age-friendly community. She integrates well-being perspectives into planning and policy work in support of overall community wellbeing and in order to create a more equitable and sustainable city. She also develops and maintains strong collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders (internal, external, local, and state-wide) and community partners for involvement in initiatives that foster a livable, sustainable community. Recently, Stephanie collaborated with AARP Iowa to implement the City’s first “Move More Week” that highlighted active transportation options for all.

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.

Stephanie Schrader

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.

As part of the City's Healthy Hometown implementation, the mayor-appointed Wellbeing Advisory Committee has recently adopted work plan objectives that support programs and outcomes for older adults. The City continues to focus on overall walkability within the community and accessibility will be a key factor in the implementation of the forthcoming Pedestrian Master Plan. Since 2015 1,950 curb ramps have been repaired or replaced to meet ADA standards, which supports a more accessible, inclusive community. The City's Parks and Recreation Department has a variety of senior-specific programming. Furthermore, the City recently underwent a comprehensive housing market analysis that revealed demand projections for all service levels of senior housing in Cedar Rapids. This information will be used to guide future development. Additionally, numerous agencies and services are targeted to older populations. In 2019, Heritage Agency on Aging began implementation of Encore Café in Cedar Rapids. Encore Café is a new take on traditional senior dining, which emphasizes combating social isolation and increasing health and wellness in older adults.

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

The public is informed of engagement opportunities like open houses, through a variety of channels including the City's website, social media, press releases and news outlets, to name a few. All residents are encouraged to attend and share their input. In 2016 and 2018 the City of Cedar Rapids has used the National Citizen Survey (NCS) in order to compare quality of life, local government services, and community characteristics in Cedar Rapids to other cities in the United States. Questions about resident's attitude towards quality of life in Cedar Rapids have offered useful information for planning and evaluating programs and policies. The 2018 report revealed about three-quarters of residents rated the quality of life in Cedar Rapids as excellent or good. Additionally, the Cedar Rapids City Council appoints hundreds of community volunteers to serve as members of the City's various boards, commissions, committees and task forces. These volunteer groups are a large portion of the support system for our City government. Numerous partnerships and collaborations also exist, including with neighborhood associations, non-profit agencies, and schools to help foster livable communities for all. Special consideration is given to include populations that don't always have a voice.

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.

Cedar Rapids is the second largest city in Iowa and serves as a regional influence to seven surrounding counties. After experiencing the most devastating natural disaster in our community's history in 2008, Cedar Rapids has been committed to rebuilding healthier and more sustainably. Though the City's flood recovery efforts, we have demonstrated our community's ability to come together and create positive, lasting change. Cedar Rapids cares deeply about becoming an age-friendly community, as promoting community livability has been a strong focus since 2012 when we began our journey as a Blue Zones Community® and through current Healthy Hometown implementation efforts. Livability is a theme that underpins community planning documents across departments. In 2014, Cedar Rapids adopted a Complete Streets policy. Through Complete Streets implementation, the City of Cedar Rapids endeavors to not only incorporate ALL modes of travel, but to ensure the routes are safe and accessible for all users. Cedar Rapids' comprehensive plan Envision CR, in which health, sustainability and placemaking are underlying themes, considers connectivity, pedestrian infrastructure, land use, density, public transit

infrastructure and access to help promote a walkable, accessible, active community for all. Moreover, the plan supports strategies to ensure affordable housing and strong neighborhoods. The development of Cedar Rapids' new Pedestrian Master plan underscores the need for a network of connected sidewalks to improved walkability and access for all residents. The Trails Master Plan prioritizes a trails network accessible within a ten minute walk for every household in CedarRapids. Finally, the Corridor MPO Long Range Transportation Plan supports pedestrian safety, complete streets, connectivity, and access throughout the community. The City already has many strong collaborations with numerous organizations, non-profit agenices and stakeholders who are striving to improve and enhance the community and ensure a livbable community for all.

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 hope to be part of a collaborative network in which we all learn, support and foster the creation of engaging, livable communities. The work of creating a livable community for all is never done, it is a continual process. We are happy to share Cedar Rapids’ best practices, along with lessons learned, with other communities to support the creation of more livable communities everywhere.

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?

Health, livability and sustainability are consistent themes that underpin the City of Cedar Rapids’ community planning documents. The Age-Friendly Network supports the City’s vision and comprehensive plan, EnvisionCR. EnvisionCR has an overall guiding principle of “Live Healthy” and ties in with related sections “Invest CR” which has a goal of promotion strategies that attract people of all ages and the “StrengthenCR” section which contains a goal to create a city that is affordable and accessible to all members of the community. As the state’s second largest city, Cedar Rapids has served as a model for supporting livability. Cedar Rapids was the first City in Iowa to adopt a Complete Streets policy in 2014 and has recently received recognition as a bronze-level Walk Friendly Community. Furthermore, the City of Cedar Rapids was designated as the 15th certified Blue Zones Community® in the nation in 2016 and currently participates in the Healthy Hometown program. Cedar Rapids is committed to the on-going effort of improving the quality of life for our residents.

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:

This will be attached as a separate file with our submission.

