



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: 4/2/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Charles City

STATE: Iowa

POPULATION SIZE: 7,652 (2010 Census)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 29%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Dean Andrews, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City of Charles City, 105 Milwaukee Mall, Suite 2, Charles City, Iowa 50616

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:

Jim will coordinate the leadership team consisting of Dean Andrews, Mayor; Steven T. Diers, City Administrator; Mark Wicks, Community Development Director; along with other community members identified in the initial organizational phase as leaders in key action areas. Jim will serve as the voice of the project, communicating project activity and status with the AARP Iowa office. He will work to keep the project moving and on timeline.

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.

Mark Wicks ... mark@charlescitychamber.com Steven Diers ... steven.diers@cityofcharlescity.org

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.

The City of Charles City, Floyd County, Charles City Chamber of Commerce, Community Revitalization and other organizations support and provide services through a number of programs and activities for 50+ citizens. The Charles City Senior Center hosts a number of services including congregate meals, holiday events, income tax counseling, fitness classes, blood pressure clinics and provides access to a number of resources to help the 50+ population with home health care, nursing care, caregiver education and senior living facilities in the community and surrounding area. The Floyd County Medical Center is an asset to the community and those 50+ citizens offering medical services, nutrition services and SHIP. The City programs support public art, public transit, a foster grandparent program and services at the Library include genealogy resources, computer classes and book clubs. The Charles City Chamber of Commerce and the Community Revitalization program both host and promote many activities throughout the year to take advantage of many wonderful resources in the Community including parks, trails, the Arts Center, the Cedar River Riverfront Park and Whitewater. All of the organizations mentioned promote and encourage community involvement through volunteering. The goal of the Age-Friendly Charles City program is to use the assessment and project activity to enhance existing programs and services and create a positive environment for the 50+ population to live healthy, active lives. To make Charles City the mid-western community known as the 50+ destination.

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

The community team intends to use existing communications channels and the relationship with AARP and its communication resources to connect our 50+ community. We will also implement a strategy of meeting them where they are, drawing our 50+ population out to the many activities that occur in Charles City and then using those moments of interaction to help define a robust set of programs and projects that invite them to be active and creative in planning our age-friendly future. We also intend to host 50+ AARP members from Des Moines and Cedar Rapids to attend our Charles City Whitewater Challenge, setting up a bus tour for those individuals to attend our summer festival on the Cedar River and share what they believe a community would need to offer to be a premier destination for the 50+ population to call home. Based upon the results of the assessment work and program/project definitions, we intend to sustain the work by establishing an All Age-Friendly Commission to continue the work into the future. Additionally the community team will identify ways to partner with the private sector to make good and services available to those who are 50+ to enhance quality of life.

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.

There are existing relationships and partnerships that have completed projects of a type and scale that no other communities our size have completed. The riverfront development and Whitewater Park, multiple blocks of “green” streets, downtown revitalization, etc. We understand how to work together. These organizations make up the backbone of our steering committee: the City, the County, our AARP lead, the Chamber of Commerce, Community Revitalization and the Area Development Corporation. This group will grow larger and stronger as we advance our All Age-Friendly Community Team. As the assessment work begins to identify the areas we concentrate on we will appoint key leads in each area surrounded them with an energized working group. These team leaders along with the steering committee will be the foundation of the All Age-Friendly Community Team. This group will continually circle back to the initial goals of creating a 50+ Destination Community.

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 are a small community in a rural setting in north-central Iowa. We have many projects that make our community unique and exciting. Our downtown revitalization, green streets program and whitewater riverfront project are three key examples of how a small community can get things done. We would love to share our stories of those projects and contribute with our “what’s next” as we move forward to become the number one 50+ destination community in the Midwest.

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?

A core group of our citizens stepped up and asked, “Why can’t we be a destination for the 50+ population; a community that presents an active lifestyle of engagement and fulfillment for those who want to continue to contribute and build community?”

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.

