



## 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](mailto: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: 9/23/2019**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Marion**

**STATE: Iowa**

**POPULATION SIZE: 38,023**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** *Click here to enter text.*

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Nicolas AbouAssaly, Mayor**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa 52302**

### 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:**

Kesha Billings serves as the City's trails coordinator overseeing trail grant writing and project development, including safe routes to schools liaison. Other aspects of her job include leading the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Iowa Walking College Fellow (2019) and group leader in the City's Healthy Hometown initiatives.

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](http://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.**

The City of Marion currently works with Aging Services to host penny bingo, line dancing, live band dancing, cards, and hosting a healthy living clinic/workshop for seniors. Also, the City works with Herritage Service for the Aging to provide Encore Café (lunch at a reduced cost for seniors where socialization is encouraged) 4 days a week either at the Marion Public Library or the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center. The Marion Public Library hosts caregiver coffees with representatives from Mercy Caregiver Resource Center, offers drop-in mornings for local senior day communities, hosts book clubs and hobby based programs that are predominantly attended by seniors, and one-on-one tech assistance to seniors upon request. Additionally, the Marion Parks Department has an annual chartered bus trip for seniors to regional destinations. The Marion Parks Department has also recently started hosting outdoor water aerobics for seniors. Although the City does not currently have any policies regarding Seniors, the City has adopted a Complete Streets Policy, completed neighborhood mixed-use planning, is following a robust Master Trails Plan, and is implementing a Safe Routes to Schools Plan for one of the school districts. These policies and planning documents show a commitment of the City of Marion to work towards a community that is both inviting, thriving, and accessible to persons of all ages.

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

Although there are a number of ways that older Marion residents can be involved in programs and processes, a few that have been initially discussed are including AARP members (or specifically inviting) in the public input process for an upcoming update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Also, the City is in the beginning stages of working with Wellmark's Healthy Hometown initiative and the City anticipates finding AARP members from the community that share the same interests as those initiatives from Healthy Hometowns.

**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.**

Working closely with the staff at the State AARP office, we intend to gather key local contacts/resources to foster the best communication with local AARP members. Various City Departments will be included and aware of the desire to look at the community with an age friendly lens and will strive to meet higher expectations for including older residents, while balancing our fast paced growth of younger families as well.

**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?**

By focusing on the local implementation of age friendly aspects in one of Iowa fastest growing communities, the City of Marion can serve as an example of how to grow a community to be age friendly. Using State and National resources, the City can ensure we are in conformance with a national standard in place making.

**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?**

The City of Marion’s motto is to ‘Reach Higher’ and we strive to do just that. Through incorporating age friendly initiatives into our planning and programming we aim to recognize our aging population as an asset to the community and understanding that liveability and placemaking can benefit multiple generations in similar ways.

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

