



# City of WOODSTOCK

**Office of the Mayor**  
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April 2, 2019

Terri Worman  
AARP Associate State Director – Advocacy & Outreach  
222 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 710  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Ms. Worman:

The City of Woodstock is excited to make application to the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Community Network, in concert with AARP and cities around the globe.

As the McHenry County Seat, a thriving collar county on Metra rail 1-hour NW of Chicago, Woodstock is a vibrant and diverse small town that visitors fall in love with. Our artisan shops and cultural attractions are centered around the prettiest 2-acre Historic Square imaginable, with brick streets, period lighting and beautifully-preserved 19<sup>th</sup>-century architecture attracting throngs of community members and tourists to enjoy our cherished traditional events, award-winning Farmers Markets, concerts and art fairs throughout the year.

Woodstock boasts a litany of well-deserved titles, including: All-America City/1964, Certified Local Government/1998, a Distinctive Destination by the National Trust for Historic Preservation/2007 and a Preserve America Community by the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation/2014. We were the first community in Illinois to adopt mandatory recycling and last year delivered a reusable canvas shopping bag to every home in our town.

Woodstock's image as a center for arts, culture and recreation is renowned, and the City's support unparalleled, with Woodstock Opera House, Woodstock Public Library, and Woodstock Recreation Center, all City Departments. Educational focus is also a top priority here, as D200 offers the area's first K-12 Dual Language program and reports 35 different languages spoken by families in this district. Aurora University offers degree programs from their satellite in our downtown, and McHenry County College is readily accessible only a couple of miles away.

Our recently completed Downtown Development Plan outlines many of the goals and desirable improvements found in the Age-Friendly livability domain examples, and Woodstock City Council has adopted a new TIF 2 District that will offer funding opportunities to attract developers to help implement these plans over the next two decades. Woodstock is ready to take on the challenges ahead and appreciates the Age-Friendly Community Network's guidance.

Sincerely,

Brian Sager, PhD  
Mayor  
City of Woodstock