



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: 1/13/2020

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Owensboro/Daviess County

STATE: Kentucky

POPULATION SIZE: 100,374

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 23%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Thomas H. Watson, Mayor of Owensboro; and Al Mattingly, Daviess County Judge/Executive

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Mayor – P.O. Box 10003, Owensboro, KY 42302-9003; and Judge/Executive – P.O. Box 1716, Owensboro, KY 42302-1716

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:

Jennifer Williams is the Associate Director for Aging & Social Services at the Green River Area Development District, which is the local designated Area Agency on Aging & Independent Living (AAAIL) for the seven-county Green River region. She has been employed by the AAAIL for 28 years. Dana Peveler is the Executive Director of the Senior Community Center of Owensboro and Daviess County. She has been with the senior center for 5 years. Jennifer and Dana have worked together to develop the Age Friendly Coalition for Owensboro/Daviess County; to gain the support of the elected officials; and will continue to help guide and support the group as they move forward in encouraging age-friendly initiatives within the community.

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.

Owensboro and Daviess County are fortunate as the elected officials and the staff of the city and county have been very forward thinking as our community has grown. With new constructions on our Riverfront, revitalization of the downtown area, expansion of parks, etc. the age-friendly mentality is evident. The community is fortunate to have a strong parks system, in both the city and the county. We have a new regional hospital, which is a certified trauma center, that is focused on being an age friendly facility. Owensboro Health Regional Hospital (OHRH) became a member of NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) September 2018, designating two patient care units as pilot areas for launching Geriatric Resource Nurses (GRNs) and improvement efforts. By April 30, 2019, over 60 nurses at OHRH had completed NICHE Curriculum to establish expertise in care of older adults. The NICHE initiative and related activities lend support to the organization’s participation in the Age-Friendly Health Systems national movement. OHRH has incorporated Age-Friendly Health Systems priorities related to Mentation (hospital-associated delirium prevention, detection and treatment), Medications (review of medication lists for interactions and unwanted side effects), Mobility and What Matters to create a more Age-Friendly acute health care experience for older adult patients and families. We also have free or low cost medical clinics available for those in need. There is a Veteran’s Clinic in the area, as well as a city transit system, and an intra-county transit system that is available for the Medicaid population. We also have many community activities and programs that target older adults. Some examples of these programs and activities include: “Friday After 5” – this is a community gathering in downtown Owensboro each Friday evening during the summer months. It includes food and entertainment and is open to the public. Citizens of all ages are encouraged to attend and the planning committee strives to have activities that are attractive to all ages. Some particularly popular nights for our older adults are ones that have featured gospel music, and a salute to Veterans. Arts – we have a beautiful Riverpark Center that offers off Broadway productions, symphony concerts, etc., often providing free tickets to the area senior centers. In addition, we have a new Bluegrass Museum and a new Convention Center. All of these outlets bring a plethora of arts and entertainment to the area, as well as volunteer opportunities for older residents. Farmer’s Market – we have a thriving Farmer’s Market where citizens of all ages can obtain fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers. A number of businesses offer senior discounts. Colleges and Universities – they offer learning opportunities for older persons, often at no cost to them. One local university is working toward designation as an “Age-Friendly University.” Health and Wellness – We have a number of senior health promotion programs in the area. These are offered through the local Health Park, the YMCA, Senior Centers, Churches, and the Hospital’s Golden Partners. They offer evidence-based senior programs such as Silver Sneakers, Bingocize, Walk with Ease, Chronic Disease Self-Management, and many others. ADRC – the local Area Agency on Aging has an Aging & Disability Resource Center to assist older persons who are trying to navigate the system to receive services or apply for benefits. We have also recently been activated as a 211 area, which helps those of all ages and abilities as they seek assistance for a variety of needs. One very successful local program that is available to older residents in Owensboro and Daviess County is a frozen meal program in which the local hospital’s cafeteria donates any over-produced food to the local senior center, where it is individually packaged, frozen, and delivered to homebound older persons to be consumed in the evening or on weekends when the home delivered meals program is not in operation. Some other social programs available to enhance the livability of the Owensboro/Daviess County include free legal assistance, Habitat for Humanity, Neighborhood Alliances, a National Alliance for Mental Illness, and a Citizens Police Academy, to name only a few. Volunteer opportunities are also readily available and older residents are encouraged to volunteer through local programs, such as the Senior Service Corps and the AmeriCorps Programs. For those who wish to continue in the workforce or re-enter the

workforce, a Senior Employment Program is available to assist. Some ways in which the community can become more age-friendly are to continue to offer, and even increase, programs and entertainment that are of interest to older residents. Developers in the area can be educated regarding the importance of building age friendly homes and public buildings. In addition, there are plans to develop new, affordable housing options within the community for older persons and individuals with disabilities; as well as a plan to construct a new senior center. The local senior services has begun working with a number of local businesses to help them develop more age-friendly environments as well. We understand that a viable community must be all-inclusive, and we are hoping to increase the awareness of this need and encourage our decision makers to continue to be age-friendly in planning and development as our city and county grows and flourishes!

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

The community will engage and involve older people in the process of becoming more age-friendly by having older representatives on the Age-Friendly Coalition; by encouraging participation of older adults on committees; survey older residents to obtain their ideas, desires, and opinions, and seek input through social media outlets, local cable, newspaper, town halls, neighborhood alliance meetings, visits to long term care facilities, presentations to various support groups, and radio podcasts; partner with local agencies who work primarily with older individuals; involve civic groups who may have older members; and explore newsletter opportunities to report community efforts to become more age-friendly.

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.

Some mechanisms that are already in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments include a number of community councils, coalitions and committees. These include the local Green River Area Council on Aging, the Safe Aging Coalition, the TRIAD Committee, Committee of Concerned Caregivers, Mental Health & Aging Coalition, and others. We hope to gain additional collaboration and implementation by inviting these existing groups to expand their mission to be a part of this age friendly endeavor. In addition, collaborative efforts are expected to increase as a result of providing education and awareness, to the public, regarding the increasing older population, and the fact that age-friendly includes ALL ages – what is good for a wheelchair is also good for a stroller. We will encourage members from a variety of agencies and departments to serve on the Age-Friendly Coalition and committees. An active AARP presence in the region is expected to also help to increase this awareness and encourage participation as well. Individuals from these various entities will also be invited to attend town halls and to participate in surveys. Finally, we hope to be able to report progress at city commission meetings and fiscal court meetings as deemed appropriate.

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 contribute by sharing information with other age-friendly communities, including successes and failures, and by encouraging communities around us to seek membership as well. We will strive to become a model community for the age-friendly movement, and will promote the benefits of that designation.

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 Owensboro/Daviess County Community became motivated to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities when we looked at the livability score for our community in comparison to the scores of the areas in our state that had already joined. We realized that we are already ahead of most of these areas and that our leadership obviously has an age-friendly mindset, which should be identified, celebrated, and encouraged to continue as the community, and the older population, grows. We know that the trends are clear – the older population has and continues to expand exponentially. If we do not provide an age-friendly community for our citizens of all ages and abilities, they may live a life that is less than the quality they desire, or they may choose to move somewhere that better provides for their needs. We want to be the community that is all-inclusive and where people can live their best life!

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:

See PDF file attached to email.

