



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: 6/13/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Brimfield

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 3805

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 29%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Paul McCarthy, Chariman
of the Brimfield Board of Selectman**

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 23 Main Street, Brimfield MA 01010

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]

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

As both a member of the Board of Selectmen and a police officer in the community, Mr. Olszta works closely with the town boards, departments, school and members of the community to ensure a healthy and fulfilling life experience for community members of all ages. He has established a strong working relationship with our Senior Center and Outreach Coordinator, Mrs. Eva Pittsinger, and they work closely to ensure the needs of our more frail and homebound residents are met. Mr. Olszta also represents the Board of Selectmen on the Tri-Town Community Development Block Grant committee and has been working toward obtaining funds through this grant to improve the Senior Center and begin the process of building a new senior center. With the combined efforts of Mr. Olszta and Mrs. Pittsinger along with the numerous boards and committees in Brimfield, the town has been making strides in becoming an age friendly 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.

Brimfield Board of Selectmen; selectmen@brimfieldma.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.**

Historically in Brimfield the Brimfield Council on Aging has been the primary entity that supports the senior population. It is the COA mission to promote the physical, emotional and economic well-being of older adults and promote their participation in the community. Our outreach coordinator provides one on one help to our older residents to ensure they have food, fuel, medical insurance, and access to programs that help them remain in their homes whenever possible. Our outreach coordinator also does home visits, health checks and works very closely with Greater Springfield Senior Services to ensure the individual needs of our seniors are being met. The outreach department is located within the senior center making daily contact and interaction with our seniors even more possible. The Senior Center Director runs our handicap van program that ensures those who cannot drive have the ability to attend doctor appointments, shop and attend events both at the senior center and in the surrounding area. The senior center provides lunch twice a week, breakfast once a week and six well-attended fitness classes per week. We also offer a lunch and learn program with various speakers, a monthly party that is usually attended by 80-100 of our local seniors. Currently, the COA is working with the building committee and the Friends of the Senior Center, a non-profit group whose sole purpose is to help fund senior programs, to try and find a way to obtain a building of our own as we have outgrown the rented space we are currently in.

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

Using the resources of AARP's Roadmap to Liveability we will plan events and projects that are age friendly. Whether that means locating events to ensure accessibility, adding special seating, shading areas or ensuring safe walking paths and flat surfaces, we will move forward with older and handicap residents in mind. We will establish an advisory committee of seniors, handicap and other residents to work with our boards and event planners to ensure our town are aware of our elderly community member's needs. The COA and the Friends of the Senior Center will continue to work with the building committee and the Board of Selectmen toward a senior center building that meets the needs of our aging residents.

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.

The town has established a commitment to put in place an advisory committee of older and disabled residents to help with planning for our town's future. The COA maintains a close relationship with our town departments and with the surrounding towns COAs. We have met with James Fuccione from the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative to talk about working with our sister towns (Holland and Wales) in a tri-town effort to improve the quality of services for our seniors. By working together we hope to grow awareness of our older populations needs, provide more services, and make healthy aging a priority of our town as we move forward.

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 hoping that by sharing our ideas and successes with the AARP Network it will help other communities become more age friendly. By becoming an age-friendly community we hope to set a positive example that surrounding towns will follow.

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?

Brimfield is a very old, rural town with many issues to overcome in becoming age friendly. While we have made many steps in the right direction such as providing senior housing, outreach for our seniors, and offering many programs through our senior center, we realize that the process is never truly complete and that there is still work to be done. Our hope is that by working with AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities we can continue our efforts to make our community an age-friendly place.

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.

