



## 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: 4/26/2019**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Deerfield**

**STATE: Massachusetts**

**POPULATION SIZE: 5074**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 32%**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Selectboard**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 8 Conway St., South Deerfield MA 01373**

### 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:**

The Town Nurse has worked with the Town of Deerfield since 2006 and in that role has assisted several age-friendly focused projects including a weekly Walk-In Wellness Clinic (2006 to present) that annually serves approximately 200 area seniors in over 800 contacts; a multi-town 900 respondent survey for our regional South County Senior Center (2011) under the direction of a retired UMASS faculty member of the Social and Demographic Research Institute; two local official forums (2017) held to investigate age friendly status and needs in the region; a walking group targeting seniors (2018); a Walkability Assessment of our downtown center conducted by older adult participants and coordinated with a Regional Senior Transportation Planner (2018). As staff of the Regional Planning Agency serving the Town of Deerfield, the Town Nurse has ongoing collaborative relationships with regional transportation, land use, economic development, public health, and community health professionals working on behalf of Deerfield and other towns in Franklin County. Her availability for special projects within the scope of nursing, and her connection to professional and resident stakeholders make her well-suited for this appointment.

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).

Christina Johnson, Director, South County Senior Center [scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us](mailto:scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us)

### 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.**

Several current community initiatives are targeted to older people and improving age-friendliness of the Town of Deerfield. A Complete Streets Policy and South Deerfield Center planning process are in beginning phases of development. The policy and plan are focused on development and implementation of projects occurring in the downtown center that are sensitive to the community's physical, economic and social setting. This focus gives significant consideration to stakeholder and community values including goals related to livability with greater participation of those affected in order to gain consensus. The overall goal of this approach is to preserve and enhance scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources while improving or maintaining safety, mobility and infrastructure conditions. The Town of Deerfield recognizes users of various modes of transportation including pedestrians, motorists, cyclists and others including consideration for "All Users" including all ages and abilities. Goals for the downtown center include roadway and sidewalk improvements that relate to storefronts as well as improvements to the Town Common where community events and observances occur. Recently, the Town established a committee to review a number of Town buildings in order to assess priority of recognized needs including more desirable space for senior services. The Town is considering renovation or development within the complex that includes the existing Senior Center where activities occur 5 days a week and congregate meals are served 3 days a week; a large church that was recently adopted for town use and is adjacent to the existing senior center; Tilton Library, which is also located in the area and is undertaking an expansion project; and the Town Offices which house a variety of public services including the police department, voting, property assessment, tax collection, health inspection, town administration, and health services including weekly town nurse and monthly podiatrist clinics. The need for increased senior housing and transportation options are recognized by the Town, considering lacking present resources and the expectation of growth in our senior population.

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

The Town of Deerfield is committed to the use of best practices in order to achieve principles of context sensitivity in all planning processes, including engagement and involvement of users of all ages and abilities. The Town will specifically recruit older adults in planning processes to assure input from their perspective. For example, the Town recently conducted its walkability assessment of the downtown center specifically including older adult volunteers recruited via a survey conducted through July - August 2018 at the town hall, in the nurses office, and at the Senior Center's annual picnic. A walkability workshop conducted September 4, 2018 at the Senior Center was followed by a walking assessment conducted by participating volunteers using an audit tool. Following the walking assessment, the group gathered to share findings. A write up of the walkability assessment is now included as part of the Town's Complete Streets and South Deerfield Center planning process and is posted with other planning documents on the Town's website. Other strategies include the use of communication methods that have the best potential to engage older people including notices in the monthly Senior Center newsletter and on local cable access television, paper postings in public spaces, as well as on the Town's website.

**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.**

Mechanisms the Town of Deerfield commits to having in place in order to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments are included at this time in the drafted Complete Streets Policy. The same principles will expand to include any planning effort affecting older citizens. The principles and values of context sensitivity considering all users and the practice of seeking input from stakeholders that are affected are intended to be a routine part of everyday operations involving Town departments. To the extent possible, pertinent Town staff and decision-makers will receive training in applying these principles in all town planning efforts. As project planning and implementation is completed, regional, state and federal agencies will adhere, as possible, to these principles as well. As detailed in the Complete Streets Policy, the Town under the direction of the Public Works Superintendent will review and propose revisions to all appropriate documents (master plan, open space and recreation plan), procedures, codes and regulations concerning all street improvement projects. The Town will review all capital planning projects to assure inclusion of the values and principles of context sensitivity and consideration of all users. With respect to this application, a stakeholders group formed for the purpose of advancing the goals of having an Age-Friendly Community will be facilitated by the Town Nurse in concert with the Senior Center Director and Town Administrator. The Age-Friendly planning effort will occur in concert with related downtown center improvement projects and on-going planning concerning the rehabilitation or development of a new Senior Center. The objectives of completing an assessment of the age-friendly status of the Town, and of developing an action plan, will feed into collaborative planning and implementation of multiple projects affecting older people.

#### 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?

The Town of Deerfield hopes to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities in several ways: 1) modelling ways a medium-size town can include and integrate input from older adult stakeholders into planning and implementation of transportation improvement, downtown enhancement, and programs specifically intended to provide services to older adults; 2) becoming a collaborative partner with other communities seeking to become age-friendly in the Franklin County region and beyond, to share with and learn from others seeking to adopt best practices in order to achieve Age-Friendly Community characteristics; 3) contributing through everyday action to the vision and goals for statewide, nationwide and worldwide goals to create community that is responsive and responsible to livability and the needs of people of all ages and abilities.

#### 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?

Deerfield's Town Nurse has worked on special projects exploring age-friendly concepts with 11 member towns who are members in a regional health district, including project work under Mass in Motion, a statewide movement with goals to prevent obesity and increase opportunities for healthy eating and active living for people of all ages. Two forums exploring WHO concepts of Age Friendly Communities were held in 2017 identifying ways the 8 domains of livability are experienced by towns in the larger region and introducing staff and community members involved to the Massachusetts Health Aging Collaborative. The Town of Deerfield, the largest member town in the regional health district, has characteristics indicating readiness for application for Age-Friendly Community status. Several community projects, currently in planning stages (improvements to the downtown center including roadway, sidewalk, town common and streetscape, and rehabilitation or development of a new senior center) would benefit from application of tools and best practices of Age-Friendly Communities. We see this as an opportunity for the Town of Deerfield to assure involvement of older adult residents who will be impacted in the planning and implementation of these projects, and we see the principles of Age-Friendly Communities as being consistent with the overall vision of our Town.

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:

*Logo for the Town of Deerfield may be found at [www.deerfieldma.us](http://www.deerfieldma.us)*

