



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly 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@aarpp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 2/12/2019

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Harvard

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 5,973

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 28%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Lucy Wallace, Select Board Chair

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA 01451

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY 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:

Working with various Town boards and commissions such as the Planning Board and Council on Aging, the Director of Community and Economic Development has been working with policy documents such as the 2016 Master Plan and Town Center Action Plan to make the community more accommodating and friendlier to members of all age cohorts. Acknowledging that Harvard has an aging population much as many Massachusetts communities are, Harvard's planning efforts align with AARP Livable Communities principles, the American Planning Association's smart growth and sustainability initiatives, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Smart Growth Principles. We anticipate that ongoing planning efforts will integrate each of these sets of principles in pursuit of a strong age-friendly framework.

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 Harvard, the Harvard Council on Aging (COA) has been the primary entity that has engaged with the older population in the community. The mission of the COA is to enhance the lives of Harvard residents age 60 and above. The Council identifies and addresses the ongoing social, recreational, educational, vocational, financial, transportation, and therapeutic needs of Harvard's senior population. This is accomplished through program development, advocacy, legislative awareness and involvement, and community linkages. This has been successful related to traditional COA activities but Harvard is aware that the COA will need to partner with other municipal and community departments and organizations in order to advance other initiatives important to older people such as urban design for age-friendliness with buildings located closer to the street, sidewalks linking all major buildings in the town center with numerous residences. Therefore, COA will be working closely with the Planning Board, Community and Economic Development Director, Select Board, and other groups to facilitate planning and implementation. The Facilities and Services Chapter of the 2016 Master Plan provides for actions that relate to the COA and ADA accessibility and future Plan updates will include more age-friendly elements.

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

Presently, the Town, through the Council on Aging (COA), conducts regular email blasts to the community, holds weekly coffees for men and for women, and writes weekly and monthly columns in the local newspaper to reach out to seniors in Harvard. Other outreach includes CATV, Facebook, and the NextDoor web portal. COA also conducts personal outreach including "birthday visits", sand buckets, blizzard bags, library books at home, computer assistance, tax work-off, fuel assistance, health insurance assistance, and inclusion of seniors on boards and committees. The police conduct daily check-ins and there are intergenerational activities with local high school students, boy scouts, and girl scouts. The COA also conducted a survey of older residents related to current services offered and interest in additional services. The Town, through the Planning Board, anticipates conducting a second survey of the community regarding adequacy of facilities and sites for older residents and what facilities are in need of upgrade or creation. This will include public buildings, parks, open spaces, and other facilities. Planning also intends to enhance public outreach mechanisms to better connect and receive feedback from residents of all age cohorts and circumstances such as open houses, community meetings, other social media, and attendance at other community events.

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 of Harvard's various boards and commissions work very well together and are customer service oriented, striving to provide excellent short- and long-range planning services to the citizens and other stakeholders of Harvard. Key to this collaborative process is Master Plan Implementation which is facilitated by the Director of Community and Economic Development to ensure the timely implementation of Master Plan action items. In addition, plan review is coordinated by a Land Use Boards coordinating meeting that is regularly scheduled. This meeting brings together staff and board members of the various land use boards to discuss project coordination and current reviews.

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 Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Harvard seeks to contribute our own experiences in working with the senior population and also to learn from the experiences of others. By planning for and implementing criteria of the Age-Friendly Community program and integrating this planning process with our long-range planning efforts such as the Master Plan, Long Range Capital Plan, and area plans such as for the village center, the idea is to make planning for age-friendly elements to be an integral part of the planning and budgeting process. The aim is to establish a community that is an exemplar within the program including accessibility, walkability, social inclusion, community participation, activity, etc.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

There has been a significant amount of interest on the part of Massachusetts municipalities to consider age-friendly community actions since Massachusetts cities and towns are experiencing a rapidly aging population. The Town of Harvard seeks to be a leading community in the effort to make communities age-friendly. We have a strong Council on Aging and interest in age-friendly actions, programs, and design is increasing.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >

