



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: September 30, 2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: *North Reading*

STATE: *Massachusetts*

POPULATION SIZE: *15,500*

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: *3761*

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Kathryn M. Manupelli,
Select Board Chair

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: *235 North Street, North Reading, MA 01864*

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:

Ms. Mary Prenney has served as Director of Elder Affairs for the Town of North Reading since February 2004 and previously as Assistant Director since February 1999. Her position presently involves administrative and supervisory work in planning, coordinating and administering the Elder service program for the Town of North Reading in meeting the needs of the older community to enhance the quality of life of the Town's elder population. Ms. Prenney is a member of the North Reading Community Impact Team, Member of the Board of Directors of Mystic Valley Elder Services and is a member of the Middlesex District Attorney's Opiate Task Force and is an elected member of the North Reading Housing Authority. Ms. Prenney will be the main point of contact for the Age Friendly initiative and will be working with the Town Administrator, Select Board, COA Board, the Social Service Action Team, and other community stakeholders.

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.

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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.

The Town of North Reading has a Department of Elder Affairs – Council on Aging (COA) which operates in the O’Leary Senior Center which is located in the Third Meeting House, Building on the Common. The O’Leary Senior Center is open 5 days a week and offers health and wellness programs, supportive services (SHINE counseling, fuel assistance, etc.) , congregate meals, information intake referrals, transportation requests, social events and educational workshops. The Town’s Elder population (60+) presently represents 25% of the community. Through their partnership with Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) 231 residents in 2018 received over \$1.5million dollars of in-kind services (homecare services, caregiver support behavioral health, legal assistance and transportation). The Department of Elder Affairs works closely with the Council on Aging Board, Veterans Services and the Board of Health to promote cooperation and continuity of care to our older residents. The Town also partners with the School Department, Youth Services and the Parks and Receptions departments to provide inter-generational programs for all of our residents year round. Our North Reading Community Impact Team (CIT) and our Social Service Action Team (SSAT) is a collaborative partnership between community resources that emphasizes the use of innovative, non-negative impact on the quality of life for ALL ages and implements solutions that solve the underlying problem. Our recently hired Mental Health clinician is part of this team and has already proven a great asset. The Town will also be hiring a full time grant writer in July 2019. This new position will hopefully help a new multi-generational community center come into fruition.

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

We will continue to build on an initiative started several years ago under the auspices of the North Reading CIT/SSAT to reach out to residents who have raised their families in town and want to stay in North Reading as they age. The Committee has a mailing list of interested residents and has been involved in attending community activities to make residents aware of services available for seniors.

Going forward these committees will join with the COA to reach out to community groups like the Rotary. Friends of the COA, Christian Community Services (CCS), local churches, other community organizations as well as area condominium associations. The goal will be to make people aware of this renewed emphasis on making North Reading more age friendly and to solicit their support and involvement.

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.

Becoming an “Age Friendly” community is a priority for the elected Select Board and the Town Administrator in which the initiative has been widely promoted at Select Board Meetings and publicized by local media. The local COA already has an excellent relationship with our CIT, SSAT and both Fire and Police Departments in which both departments have designation liaisons to the COA, a mental health team that is made up of the COA, Veterans, Board of Health, Youth Services, and our local Housing Authority. Our COA has a very active and participating Friends group that partners with the Friends of the Library along with the Friends of Parks and Recreation (all of which are non-profit 501C corporations). As a whole the community already works together in collaboration with many of the above agencies plus many outside agencies that works together to make North Reading a great place to live and live long.

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 North Reading Select Board endorses the Age-Friendly Initiative, and implementation of programs and resources to better support the North Reading community as a whole and promote healthy aging for all residents. In collaboration with town departments, committees and boards, we would like to bring new innovative ideas to the table to promote and establish age friendly practices. We hope to become a leader and share our successful accomplishments with other communities as we strive to improve the quality of life for our residents.

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?

North Reading is a vibrant community with a mix of all generations. We have a multitude of excellent programs focused on the youth here in town coupled with new and refurbished schools. We also have an active elder services department that supports many seniors in North Reading. What has driven us to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities is our desire to network our efforts without duplication of time and effort. The Council on Aging, along with the Select Board and Town Administrator, see the benefits of a combined focus on ALL ages in our community. Improving the quality of life for our seniors also positively impacts the community as a whole. We hope to gain strategies and solutions for improving the lives of everyone in our community.

Logo can be found at <https://www.northreadingma.gov>

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:

Town of North Reading... www.northreadingma.gov

