



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: 6/26/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Norwood

STATE: MA

POPULATION SIZE: 29,018

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 22.8%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Tony Mazzucco, General Manager

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 566 Washington St., P.O. Box 40, Norwood, MA 02062-0040

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:

Kerri McCarthy is the Executive Director of the Council on Aging and will work closely with Sheryl Leary. Sheryl Leary is the Chairperson of the Elder Care Alliance, a committee of the Neponset River Regional Chamber (NRRC). This innovative chamber of commerce is commemorating 125 years in the region. The Elder Care Alliance has been an active committee within the NRRC since 2009. This committee is comprised of NRRC members whose businesses provide a service or product whose primary market is individuals age 60 and over. In addition to the volunteer leadership role within the NRRC, Ms. Leary is the Director of Planning and Community Development at HESSCO, the Area Agency on Aging and Aging Services Access Point for nine of the twelve communities in the NRRC service area. Ms. Leary will work in conjunction with municipal leaders to engage the program service area in the age friendly movement and involve the full membership of the Elder Care Alliance into the process. Ms. Leary will work closely with the President and Chief Executive Officer of the NRRC to align activities and processes to support the mission of the NRCC.

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 Elder Care Alliance of the NRRC has made a commitment to partner with municipalities within the twelve town service area to initiate an age friendly transformation in municipalities within the NRRC service area. The NRRC has developed a plan to start work immediately with one of the twelve municipalities within the program service area. The Town of Norwood has agreed to join the NRRC's Age Friendly movement. Norwood is a community of 29,018 individuals with 22.8% of the residents over the age of 60. Norwood has a Council on Aging with a thriving Senior Center. In addition to exercise and recreational activities, the Senior Center provides social service support, transportation, a social meal program, and health and wellness services. Norwood currently offers property tax programs for older adults. The Town of Norwood with support from the NRRC Elder Care Alliance will pull together a committee of stakeholders including the Town Manager and the Director of the Council on Aging. This committee of stakeholders will engage residents within the town, with emphasis on residents over age 60, and members of the Elder Care Alliance. The stakeholders will determine the direction of the Age Friendly efforts with initial recommendations from the NRRC and municipal leaders to conduct an assessment and host listening sessions to gather resident data and concerns. The Town Manager and Council on Aging Director have already expressed a willingness to explore issues such as housing, transportation and the regionalization of services to maximize benefits to the residents. Within the NRRC service area, two communities have already achieved Age Friendly designation, Dedham and Stoughton. It is the intent of the NRRC to offer collaborative support to these communities already proceeding with their Age Friendly efforts. The Elder Care Alliance will offer a connection to the business community to deepen and expand the change process.

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

The Elder Care Alliance routinely interacts with the older adult population within its service area. With the communities of Dedham and Stoughton who have already engaged age friendly processes, the Elder Care Alliance will offer collaborative support to review their assessment data and learn more about what these municipalities need from their business community. Engaging with the business community will offer opportunities to activate new constituents as well as provide insight as to the consumer needs of older adult residents. In communities that have not yet started an age friendly initiative, the Elder Care Alliance considers it a priority to engage with the Council on Aging /Senior Center. Each of the municipalities within the NRRC service area has an active Council on Aging and Senior Center. In addition, the Chairperson of the Elder Care Alliance serves on the management team of the local Area Agency on Aging and Aging Service Access Point. This connection to publicly funded service organizations will foster inclusion of vulnerable or marginalized older adults. In its approach with Norwood, the Elder Care Alliance will support the development of a stakeholder committee with the Town Manager and the Director of the Council on Aging, with an emphasis on ensuring older adults serve on the committee. The Elder Care Alliance will work with these municipal leaders and stakeholders to develop a series of listening sessions and survey. Through this process the older adult constituents within the community will have the opportunity to impact the age friendly transformation.

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 NRRC is in a unique position to support collaboration between municipal departments and organizations. Having an organization that is not town affiliated will support a stakeholder committee to think broadly and identify goals that move beyond the scope of any one town department. The Elder Care Alliance members will bring various skills to the table, including community organizing and Lean methodology that will support positive collaboration and implementation. The Elder Care Alliance already meets monthly and distributes information to its network through multiple channels. The NRRC will work with municipal leadership to develop a plan for the stakeholder committee that will most likely lead to success in that community. As each town will have its own unique organizational and power relationships, the NRRC expects the plan to be tailored for each individual community in a method that will achieve the best results for that municipality. However, the NRRC will be in a position to make broader connections and draw on the successes within a region to assist with the implementation and collaboration as a whole. In addition, having connections between town departments and the business community as part of the implementation will provide a level of collaboration that will benefit many constituencies.

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 NRRC plans to contribute to the broader network by offering an innovative model of business and municipal collaboration focused on advancing healthy aging, inclusive community culture and intergenerational activity. Having an active and engaged business community coordinating throughout the Age Friendly transformation will offer opportunities for both social and economic development that could provide a roadmap for other communities who are having difficulty engaging this sector. The NRRC will be open to sharing both successes and challenges and looks forward to learning from others engaging in this change process.

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 NRRC has recognized that it has a unique opportunity to positively impact the communities where its members both live and work. The NRRC’s long standing committee, the Elder Care Alliance, has for a decade provided information and education on aging, and access to supports and services. The NRRC sees this opportunity as the next step in changing the landscape, and to provide a level of connection between the business community, municipal leaders and older adults that has not yet been developed. The Elder Care Alliance has embraced an understanding of how the age friendly movement helps all citizens of a community and strives to be an agent of positive change.

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:

