



## 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: 5/13/2019**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Springfield**

**STATE: Massachusetts**

**POPULATION SIZE: 154,758**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 14**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Dominic Sarno**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City Hall-36 Court Street-Springfield, MA 01103**

### 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:**

Sandy Federico, the Executive Director of the Department of Elder Affairs of Springfield and the Council on Aging, oversees the daily operations of several departments within the office of Elder Affairs. Below are the divisions housed in Elder Affairs: Council on Aging, Golden Age Club, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), S.H.I.N.E, Outreach, and 5 Senior Centers throughout the city. Some of Mrs. Federico's responsibilities include: Planning and operation of annual budget, supervise and collaborate with staff, follow local and state regulations as they pertain to each division, and establish policies and procedures for the daily center operations. As the director Sandy serves on several senior related community boards, such as: Live Well Springfield, Dementia Friendly Coalition, The Mayor's Emergency Preparedness Board, etc.

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](#).

*Click here to enter text.*

### 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.**

Our department has been in existence for 20 years. As the Department of Elder Affairs, we are able to assist a diverse population from various backgrounds and socio-economic needs. We have 5 senior centers throughout Springfield, Massachusetts, representing all neighborhoods throughout the City. The Centers are dedicated to service the needs of all seniors, 55 years of age and older throughout Springfield and the surrounding towns and cities. Our Centers offer an extensive range of programs and services: Fitness and wellness programs, Financial and insurance information, Health and medical assistance, Technology support, Nutritional programs, Outreach services, Transportation services/Day trips, Employment assistance, Social and recreational activities, Educational programs/College courses, and Art programs. Elder Affairs works to improve and enhance the quality of life for elder residents. Our department advocates, plans, develops, coordinates and provides social services as well as information and referral services for all elder citizens. We are a tax-exempt, public entity, division under the City of Springfield's Health and Human Services department. All of our thoughtful programs are an integral part of the plan to become an age-friendly city. Our focus is presently on senior housing and transportation. We are working with the city's Housing Authority and PVRTA (Pioneer Valley Transportation Authority) to further assist our seniors in living space and travel. PVRTA has recently added extra bus routes, benches at bus stops, free bus IDs for seniors and free Tuesdays bus rides for anyone 60 years of age and older. The Housing Authority is working with PVRTA to provide affordable transportation to and from all senior housing. They are continuously meeting with residents to improve their living conditions, repairing and maintaining quality housing for everyone. The city has made more green spaces for residents to enjoy, fixed sidewalks-improving pedestrian safety, pedestrian crosswalk timers are set for a longer period of time, offers free community garden areas and a newly built senior center. Although our present focus is on housing and transportation we are constantly listening and observing our seniors and their needs so that we can be proactive and respond before issues/challenges arise.

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

Our city is unique in the fact that we have 5 senior centers in various communities, representing all neighborhood throughout the city. This gives us the ability to reach a greater number of our senior population. We will use these senior centers along with senior housing as a way to engage our seniors to help our city become more age-friendly. We will use verbal and written surveys to gather information from our seniors. Through the various assessments we will be able to hear from the older population, giving them a voice in our vision of becoming an age-friendly city. Special meetings will be held to bring our seniors together to form sub-committees for further communication and engagement. These sub-committees will be responsible for reaching out to as many seniors as possible so that every idea, thought and view can be heard and taken into consideration as we strive to become age-friendly. We will keep our seniors active in the process so that they stay connected and informed throughout all stages of our 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.**

Because our Mayor is deeply committed to the senior population we have access to all city departments as well as community agencies. His support strongly reinforces community collaborations in terms of planning and implementations of policies and procedures with regards to enhancing senior living. As the City of Springfield continuously strives to make our community a great place to live for all residents, collaborations from several agencies and departments have taken place. Our city has always worked together for a common goal and this initiative is no different. We have consistently and constantly worked with all city agencies for the betterment of our seniors. We will continue to meet, with regularity, to discuss ways to implement our plans to change policies, designs and structures to make Springfield a place where seniors want to live.

#### 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 City of Springfield, like so many other great cities across this nation, hopes to set new standards of livability for our seniors. By sharing our successes, as well as our failures with our AARP network we can all grow in our united mission to elevate the age-friendly status. In our opinion, the willingness to share plans, scopes of services and initiatives is essential towards strengthening the universal goal. Community health like any other health issue, requires periodic check-ups. By creating and implementing an age-friendly check-up kit we can monitor our progress. Checking in and checking up will keep us on par with the master plan.

#### 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?

Our City of Springfield is a progressive city with resurgences of rejuvenation and renewal which motivates us to collaborate with AARP and the World Health Organization. Our mission at the department of Elder Affairs is to elevate the lives of our senior members in every possible way. To be part of a larger networking family seemed like an obvious health choice. Your vast array of resources will go a long way in supporting communities in becoming the most impactful places to live for seniors. We have never strived to be “the lone ranger”, preferring the “strength in numbers” adage. By joining AARP and the World Health Organization Global Network we committing our City to be Age-Friendly for all our citizens. With an eye towards the future we coupled with the rebirth of our city our goal is to attract young folks of all walks of life to work, play, stay and retire in Springfield.

#### 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:

*See attached sheet for logo. It was difficult to attach the logo to this application.*

