



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: 1/23/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Westhampton

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 1,830

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 22.5%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Philip Dowling,
Selectboard Chair**

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 1 South Rd., Margaret A. Parsons Room, Westhampton, MA 01027

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 coordinator of the council on aging activities in Westhampton, and member of the Northern Hilltowns Consortium of Councils on Aging. In collaboration with the local COAs and town members of core teams in each town, has the role of managing funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to develop age friendly communities in the seven rural communities including Worthington. The Consortium will be the catalyst and organizer of each town's plans to implement the initiative.

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.

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 Consortium originally created and implemented outreach services for isolated older adults. The subsequent step was to expand those programs to include representation of other people from the community, including the local churches, service providers, police etc. These efforts were a prelude to moving toward using the tools and models for the development of Age Friendly Communities. Prior to that each community relied on the COAs for a number of services including transportation, food distribution from the regional Food Bank, assistance in obtaining community services, distribution of a regional newsletter, fitness and multigenerational programs, and socialization programs, to name a few. The return rate on the surveys has clustered around 30%, suggesting a strong interest in moving forward. The major issues most towns will focus on include meeting a strong need for more and improved information about events, programs, resources and better dissemination of information. Transportation is always a focus in towns in rural areas. Plans to expand handicap accessible buildings are also in place. Another issue identified was the wish for more options for safe walkability.

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

We have already distributed surveys to everyone 60 and older in all of the communities for a total of () and conducted 5 community forums. Most forums included representatives from Select Boards ,Finance Committees, local churches, fire and/or police departments, members of other community boards and key stakeholders for each community. Monthly meetings of the Consortium include the development of plans for the smaller steering committees and/or focus groups in each town. We hope that the Consortium’s role as a catalyst for change will generate a shift in the ownership and locus of identity to core groups within the individual communities.

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.

As previously described, we are already well underway with both the regional and local strategies needed to fully implement the age friendly model. Following the completion of all steps of the community assessments the plan is to get formal signatures of commitment from each select board and move the project forward. A regional community facilitator will assist with the coordination and collaboration needed within and among groups.

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 potential for this initiative is to provide additional information about the challenges and strategies for working with rural communities who often have very limited part time staff on the municipal level and the Councils on Aging and a major reliance on the work of volunteers.

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 Consortium has a longtime commitment to improving the lives of older adults but also helping other generations to plan for their own futures. Ma has a strong Office of Elder Affairs that encourages and supports these efforts, as does the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging. The expansion of multigenerational connections has also promoted more community participation in strengthening the networks we all rely on.

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:

