



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: 9/17/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Winchester

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 22,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21.6%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mariano Goluboff

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 71 Mt. Vernon Street, Winchester MA 01890

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:

Phillip Beltz is the Director of the Town's privately owned senior center, The Jenks Center as well as the Director of the Winchester Council on Aging. He began his work in Winchester in April 2016. He will take responsibility in implementing the age-friendly initiative with the help of Board Members at the Jenks Center along with community volunteers. He is a member of the Town Manager's Winchester Housing and Human Services Coordinating Council whose role is to address problems and issues articulated in the recently published community wide Needs Assessment in which seniors cited the need for downsizing alternatives, reduced taxation and transportation options.

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.

Nancy Polcari, Program Manager Jenks Center: npolcari@jenkscenter.org; Tom Howley, COA Board Chair: tom@howleybread.com; Lisa Wong, Town Manager: lwong@winchester.us

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 Jenks Center is a privately owned senior center founded by the Winchester Seniors Association Trust over forty years ago. The building has undergone 2 major renovations and is a significant community asset in Winchester. The building houses the Town Council on Aging as well as the Winchester Senior Association that manages the building and provides programs and services to complement the COA. The Center has over 2,000 visitors yearly and operates 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. as regular operation hours but also opens on evenings and weekends as needed. Recently the Jenks Center underwent a strategic planning activity that included members of the WSAT, WSA and COA boards and the director. The Center offers clinical services (nurse, social worker, transportation) and educational and cultural programs that also includes 5 different types of exercise programs. After 9 months of meetings, a formal strategic plan was unveiled to members of all three boards (approximately 30 people). A major element in the strategic plan that was adopted by all boards implementing the following strategic pillars: Enhancing core competencies, improving economic security for seniors, developing and intergenerational focus, embracing diversity and creating age-friendly communities. The document proclaims that the Town of Winchester will become the most age-friendly community in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

Fortunately the Town embarked upon the development of a Master Plan in 2018. Several aspects of the plan include policies relating to age-friendly communities, walkable downtowns, senior housing opportunities that allow downsizing along with viable transportation alternatives. Over 20% of the Town is 60+ years of age and they are frequently engaged in government committees and volunteer work. The Jenks Center has over 250 volunteers who are actively involved in the community-at-large. The Jenks has established many community partnerships with local institutions such as the Winchester School of Chinese Culture, Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester Music School, Winchester Multicultural Network and the Winchester Housing Partnership Board. This year the Jenks is hosting its 19th annual symposium that draws approximately 250 seniors – the title this year is “What are Age-Friendly Communities and How Can Winchester Become One.” The Town Manager and Planning Board are both supportive of Winchester achieving “age-friendly” status.

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 indicated above, the COA works collaboratively with many local community organizations who can reach out to their constituents to notify about meetings, etc. In addition, they will also lend their expertise. The Town’s planning director, Brian Szekely, has been an ardent supporter of age-friendly communities and will lend his support along with the Planning Board. Finally, the Town Manager, Lisa Wong, has encouraged the development of age-friendly communities and will lend her significant expertise with housing, economic development and community development. A member of the COA board is a volunteer representative of the Town’s Housing Partnership Board and her expertise lies in housing/affordable housing. The Town envisions launching an age-friendly planning meeting in January to invite community stakeholders to begin the planning process and volunteer for specific tasks. The COA director will take responsibility in scheduling and facilitating meetings.

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?

Winchester is already reaching out to existing municipalities, resources and services that support age-friendly communities. There have been several discussions with Brookline's Friendly City Committee, MA Healthy Aging Collaborative, the Council on Aging's Dementia Friendly Massachusetts and more. Winchester believes an affiliation with AARP and WHO will assist its efforts in moving forward to further accommodate seniors aging in place with the necessary resources. As a community fortified with hundreds of volunteers, Winchester hopes to harness this energy to enable it to become the most age-friendly community in the Commonwealth. Winchester will seek suggestions and resources from AARP and WHO and will avail of any resources that will assist its efforts to develop into an age-friendly community.

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 Town of Winchester is experiencing some major demographic changes, primarily because of its highly acclaimed public schools, families with school age children is a market trend. This has also created an increase in property taxes that is a possible explanation for a decrease in seniors. The Town of Winchester seeks to avert the loss of Winchester's older adults and sustain a balance with younger families and seniors. The development of age-friendly communities aligns with Winchester's desire to meet the needs of all residents. Winchester values the contributions of seniors to the Town and seeks to retain them. Joining AARP's Network of Age-Friendly communities will enhance the Town's efforts in fostering the ability of seniors to age with purpose in their community of choice.

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:

Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send a JPEG, PDF or PNG of your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.

