



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: Click here to enter a date.

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Barnstable

STATE: Massachusetts

POPULATION SIZE: 44,325 (2013-2017 American Community Survey)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 32.2% (2013-2017 American Community Survey)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: James H. Crocker, Jr.

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Town of Barnstable, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

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:

Madeline Noonan has served as the Director of Senior Services for the Town of Barnstable since 2007. In that role, she is responsible for assessing the needs of older residents in our community and ensuring that the Town of Barnstable is effectively and proactively meeting those needs by developing and implementing appropriate programs and services that optimize their quality of life and keep them connected to the community. Ms. Noonan will coordinate the Town's age-friendly efforts in collaboration with the Barnstable Council on Aging and staff from the Senior Services Division. Ms. Noonan currently serves as the vice-president of the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging (MCOA) and the co-chair of Cape Cod Councils on Aging Serving Together (Cape COAST), the regional COA Directors network for Barnstable County.

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.

madeline.noonan@town.barnstable.ma.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 Town of Barnstable has a long and rich history of providing vital programs and services to older residents in our community. We are committed to maximizing their quality of life so they can remain active and engaged in our community. Through the Senior Services Division/Council on Aging, the Town operates an approximately 20,000 square foot multipurpose Senior Center, a vibrant and dynamic hub of activity that offers a diverse array of programs and services to keep residents age 50+ socially, physically, and civically engaged. The center also offers evening wellness and enrichment programs to adults of all ages to promote cross-generational connection and provide all adults in our community with the opportunity to thrive and age well as they move through the lifespan. In an effort to be more inclusive and welcoming to members of our community who feel the term “senior” is a barrier to access and participation, the center will soon be renamed as the Barnstable Adult Community Center. This rebranding project is the culmination of several years of work, including resident surveys, two community conversations at the Center and an earlier needs assessment. We have also been informed and guided by the “Reframing Aging” study, commissioned by the eight leading agencies on aging in the United States. Our Outreach program offers supportive services that provide a safety net to many vulnerable older people in our community and assists clients with health insurance counselling and public benefits enrollment. The Senior Services Division also operates a transportation program, enabling older adults who no longer drive to maintain their independence and to continue living in our community. We provide many caregiver resources and respite, including an adult supportive day program that provides much-needed respite for caregivers, as well as providing a safe, stimulating, and structured environment for our clients. Demographic projections indicate that by 2030, over 42% of Barnstable’s population will be over 60 years of age. As the demand for expanded services continues to grow, it is essential that we view the needs of older people in our community through an age-friendly lens to ensure that we are supporting them and striving to ensure that their needs are being met.

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

Barnstable is a community that is committed to including our older residents in decision-making and civic engagement. We view our older citizens as an immeasurable asset and value their wisdom, experience and contributions to our community. Therefore, it is essential to us that they have a direct voice and are empowered to participate in the age-friendly process. As we have done with past planning efforts, we will ensure that older residents are engaged every step of the way as we move forward with our age-friendly work that will build upon the findings and recommendations of the 50+ Community Needs Assessment that was conducted in 2015 with the University of Massachusetts Boston’s Gerontology Institute. We will plan to host community forums and visioning sessions that will help us to directly solicit input from our older residents and stake holders. The Senior Services Division produces a bimonthly magazine that is distributed to 4,500 residents and will be used to disseminate information about our age-friendly work and request feedback and participation from our older residents across the age-friendly domains. We will also conduct community outreach through local media and partner agencies throughout the town to increase awareness of our age-friendly efforts.

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 part of our age-friendly efforts, we will utilize the WHO age-friendly framework and AARP livable community tools and guidelines and work in an interdisciplinary manner with other town departments and community partners to educate and inform them of the importance of age-friendly planning and seek new ways in which to collaborate and create a shared vision for an age-friendly Barnstable. The Town of Barnstable is a unique community in that we are one town with seven distinct villages - each with their own identity, character, and village center. The most populated village of Hyannis is more urban in nature than the other villages and serves as the commercial hub of Cape Cod. Because of this, it is more livable than the other villages which tend to be more rural in character. Each of our villages has an active civic/village association. Becoming a part of the age-friendly network will provide us with the opportunity to work on a village by village basis, in collaboration with municipal staff and board members, the civic/village associations, and our older citizens, to increase livability in our community using the established age-friendly domains. Our goal is to establish an age-friendly task force with representation from each village. This task-force will set the priorities and develop an action plan with measurable outcomes.

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 Barnstable has a proven record of excellence and innovation in service delivery to our older citizens that has contributed to their increased well-being and ability to successfully age-in-place in our community. In the Gallup-Sharecare 2017 Community Well-being Index, Barnstable ranked second in the nation across five dimensions of well-being. We are proud that our community is a great place to grow up and grow old. As a member of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, we hope to share our success stories and contribute to the collective strength of the global aging network, as well as learn strategies and practices that have helped other age-friendly member communities to increase their livability and promote inclusiveness and well-being across generations.

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?

Barnstable is one of fifteen towns on Cape Cod that comprise Barnstable County. Over the past year, we have been collaborating with the Barnstable County Human Services Department on the “Healthy Aging Cape Cod” age-friendly project. Our regional partnership with the county government and our neighboring communities on Cape Cod presents an ideal opportunity for our town to pursue a dedicated age-friendly initiative that is specifically focused and tailored to the needs of our community. We are inspired by the meaningful and impactful work being done in the age-friendly cities and communities we have learned about and how their efforts have improved the health and wellbeing of their residents and enhanced community livability. Over the past decade, we have been proactively planning for our increasing population of older residents and as we reach the 20th anniversary of the opening of our Senior Center facility, it presents an optimal opportunity to formally join the age-friendly network.

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.

