



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: 11/12/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Howard County

STATE: Maryland

POPULATION SIZE: 312,495

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 18.3% (57,302)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Dr. Calvin Ball, County Executive

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City Md 21043

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]

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Ms. Hansen is responsible for the day to day operations of Howard County's Age-Friendly initiative. She will convene meetings with key personnel, represent the Office on Aging and Independence/Department of Community Resources and Services at county-wide functions, speak to the public about opportunities for involvement, and provide technical assistance to volunteers, champions and ambassadors of the initiative. She will complete or coordinate the completion of all reports and activities associated with the Age-Friendly Initiative, as well as any documentation requested by AARP and WHO. Ms. Hansen will also explore grant funds, apply for community challenge grants through AARP and the like, to further the work of the initiative. A formal copy of her position description can be provided if requested.

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](#).

Terri Hansen has been subscribed to the e-Newsletter for several months.

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.**

Howard County has a range of both public and private organizations that serve the older adult population. In the public realm, the primary organizations are the Office on Aging and Independence (OAI), Department of Recreation and Parks (HCRP), and the Health Department (HCHD). OAI is the local Area Agency on Aging, which provides a wide range of services including, but not limited to: Maryland Access Point (local Aging & Disability Resource Center), six 50+ Centers (expanded version of senior centers), two specialized day programs for persons with cognitive/physical disabilities, congregate meals, evidence-based wellness programs (e.g., CDSME), the Loan Closet (provides free assistive devices and technology), caregiver services (e.g., NFCSP), ombudsman, guardianship, and State Health Insurance and Assistance Program (SHIP). OAI is part of the Department of Community Resources and Services which serves all populations across the lifespan. This connection further expands the agency's reach in working with a variety of partners from the disability community; to veterans; to individuals who are vulnerable due to poverty, inadequate housing, and other issues. HCRP provides specialized activities for individuals 55+ in its community centers and organizes trips. HCHD is the lead agency for the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) Healthy Aging Sub-Committee. The County government also offers senior tax credits, livability tax credits, universal design guidelines for 55+ communities, free fixed-route bus service for adults aged 60+, a senior liaison within the Police Department, and active coordination with the Department of Human Services (DHS) Aging Services Division, which includes Adult Protective Services (APS). Fire and Rescue (DFRS) through its Mobile Integrated Health program is also seeking to identify and target services to older adults with non-medical issues that come to their attention. Supplementing the public involvement, private and non-profit efforts to support older adults include, but are not limited to: the Commission on Aging; advocacy groups such as KASA (Korean-American Senior Association); the Columbia Association (CA), which provides a wide range of programs and services in central Howard County; the Coalition of Geriatric Services (COGS); and Howard County Community Hospital, which provides a range of services targeting older adults. In terms of future planning, as outlined in this application, the County is embarking on a strategic planning and collaborative process to make the County an even better place for people of all ages, including older adults, to live.

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

As part of the strategic planning and collaborative process the County is undertaking, a variety of mechanisms will be used to engage and involve older adults in the process. Current plans include, but are not limited to: utilizing the knowledge and resources of the Commission on Aging (COA); conducting a detailed review of existing knowledge on Age-Friendly communities and evidence based practices (EBP); conducting a survey of individuals aged 50+; conducting a survey of service providers, community leaders, and elected officials; conducting a series of focus groups (between 6 and 12 such groups) to solicit more in-depth qualitative feedback; and developing ongoing workgroups that will be able to provide detailed recommendations. There will be collaboration with newly established and existing task forces so that age-friendly principles are included in the scope of work performed by these groups. For example, there is a plan to meet with the consultant being hired to work on the county Housing Master Plan at the onset of the project, early 2020. Throughout the process, older adults (COA members and others) will be invited to serve as ambassadors and champions. An initial step in this direction was a Summit, held by the COA, that occurred on September 17, 2019, to discuss Age-Friendly Initiatives in the State of Maryland.

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.

To bring about the changes sought, the process toward becoming a more Age-Friendly Community will include, but is not limited to: designating a full-time manager to lead the process (i.e., Terri Hansen) and development of a workgroup as directed by the County Executive that will involve representatives of all County Departments. The goal of the county-level workgroup is to focus on improved coordination in planning and project/service provision to adequately address the eight domains of livability. Additionally, there will be expansion of existing relationships with the non-profit community (e.g., COGS, IAC, CA, AARP of Maryland, Alzheimer's Association) and the business community, as well as extensive community outreach (e.g., COA, surveys, focus groups, workgroups) with establishment of ongoing age-friendly focused workgroups at the community level.

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?

Howard County views the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities as a valuable partner in creating systems and policies that benefit older adults (as well as people of all ages) in both our local County as well as the nation and global community. It is our hope that we will be able to learn from other such communities, sharing in the knowledge about effective strategies and interventions, as well as contributing our own knowledge. As an example, Howard County was recognized with an Innovation in Aging Award in 2011 by the Administration on Aging (AoA) for an innovative program to provide occupational therapy services and home modifications to residents and in 2104 with an Aging Innovations & Achievement Award by N4A for the Kindred Spirits Social Club, a program designed to serve individuals in the early stages of memory loss.

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?

Howard County Executive, Calvin Ball, along with Jacqueline Scott, Director of the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS), Jenna Crawley, Administrator of the Office on Aging and Independence (OAI), and the Commission on Aging, have led the effort to push the County toward being more age-friendly. OAI, as the local Area Agency on Aging, is staffed with individuals motivated to provide Howard County's older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers the best possible programs, support and advocacy services. OAI recognizes the need to look forward and plan for the large numbers of older adults coming in the future but also to recognize that this new older adult age cohort will be more diverse than ever before. Learning from the work done across the network of Age-Friendly Communities will only strengthen Howard County's ability to best serve its population, and not just its older adult population. Howard County believes in the concept often referenced in age-friendly and livable community discussions that, "What is good for an 8-year old is good for an 80-year old." By being part of the AARP and WHO Global Networks, Howard County can make changes to positively affect the ability to socialize, shop, spend time outdoors, volunteer, move about, play, work, and live safely and comfortably for all the 8- and 80-year old members of the county.

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:

Logo is being finalized. It will follow no later than November 15, 2019.

