



State Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States** and the

World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarpp.org.

If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: *October 2019*

Section 1: STATE DETAILS

NAME OF THE STATE: *Michigan*

POPULATION SIZE: 9.996 million

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 23.6%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: *Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, Michigan, 48909

Section 2: STATE CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY STATES

(The State contact is the staff member who is primarily responsible for carrying out the state-level work).

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please describe the named person's role and department in the state's age-friendly initiative:

Michigan's Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) sits within Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), under the direction of MDHHS Director Robert Gordon and Chief of Health, Dr. Joneigh Khaldun.

Dr. Alexis Travis serves as the Executive Director of the Aging and Adult Services Agency, Michigan's designated State Unit on Aging. AASA's mission is to provide statewide leadership, direction, and resources to support Michigan's aging, adult services, and disability networks, with the aim of helping residents live with dignity and purpose. AASA's vision is for Michigan residents to live well as they age.

Under the Federal Older Americans Act (OAA) and the Older Michiganians Act, AASA has designated 16 area agencies on aging (AAAs) which serve as planning and service areas throughout the state. These are regional, non-profit agencies that were created in the early 1970s to respond to the needs of older adults in every local community. They work in partnership with more than 1,000 local organizations in every corner of the state to customize programs and services to individual community needs.

Dr. Travis serves as staff liaison to the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA). The CSA is a 15-member bipartisan body that advises the Michigan Legislature and AASA on matters relating to aging policies and programs. Commission members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms, and membership reflects the distribution and composition of the state's older population. Working in close collaboration with AASA, the CSA approves funds for services statewide; participates in preparation of the triennial state plan on aging required as a condition of federal funding; determines aging policy; serves as an advocate for older adults in government decisions; holds public hearings across the state; and appoints a 40-member State Advisory Council on Aging to advise state-level decision-making.

Section 3: STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of policies, programs, funding and services that are targeted toward older people and how the state plans to become more age friendly.

- **Older Americans Act and Older Michiganian Act Programs:** Using a combination federal funding under the OAA from the Administration for Community Living and State funding, AASA provides an array of community services (including personal care, chores, homemaking); nutrition services (home delivered meals, congregate meals, senior project fresh), employment assistance, respite services, senior volunteer programs, legal services, and adult protective services. Direct services are provided through contracts with AAAs. In addition, many older adults in Michigan receive home and community-based services through the Medicaid MI Choice Waiver program. Michigan has been an early adopter of age-friendly, livable communities. See AASA FY 2018 Annual report visit: <https://www.michigan.gov/osa/0,4635,7-234-64080---,00.html>

- **Michigan Mobility Challenge:** The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) distributed \$8 million through the Michigan Mobility Challenge to fund innovative transportation projects that can solve mobility gaps for older adults, persons with disabilities, and veterans in urban, rural, and suburban communities throughout Michigan. Project partners include mobility companies, public transportation agencies, and social services agencies providing services to older adults, persons with disabilities, veterans, and/or advocacy groups. Projects include the Southeast Michigan Integrated Platform for Paratransit Services, an integrated online booking and trip management platform that can create a “one-click” experience for users of the Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority (AATA), Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), and Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) paratransit services. Through the Supporting Adult Services Section, AASA has a Transportation Liaison who participates on and advocates for mobility options for older and or disabled adults including:

 - Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team
 - Safe Drivers Smart Options (SDSO) Operating Committee and Communications Subcommittee
 - Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC).

- **Communities for a Lifetime:** Since 2007 Michigan’s Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA), working with the 16 AAAs has implemented the “Communities for a Lifetime” (CFL) aging friendly community recognition program a designation from the CSA. CFL requires communities to complete a comprehensive aging friendly assessment across ten domains of assets/livability including: Walkability/Bikeability, Supportive Community Systems, Access to Health Care, Safety and Security, Housing: Availability and Affordability, Housing: Modification and Maintenance, Transportation, Commerce, Enrichment, and Inclusion. Once the assessment is complete, communities pass a resolution, and create a plan for improvement. Currently, 30 communities have been recognized as Communities for a Lifetime. Some of the improvements made to date include lengthened time for pedestrians to cross at crosswalks; added benches in shopping areas; improved signage; increased accessibility to goods, services, supports, and opportunities for inclusion and enrichment. Additionally, 8 municipalities in Michigan (Auburn Hills, East Lansing, Grand Rapids, Highland Park, Lansing, Jackson, Royal Oak, Southfield) have joined the AARP Age Friendly Community Network.

Michigan will leverage the strength of the existing age-friendly network and communities for a lifetime, to elevate this work at the state level and support more communities to become age friendly. (See response to question 4 for more information on engaging communities.) The state will advance new approaches to aging issues such as ‘aging in all policies’ and cross-sector collaboration. (See below, in response to question 3 for more information on how we

will work across state agencies and other partners to plan and effect such policies.) In partnership with AARP Michigan we will engage stakeholders across sectors to strengthen our response to our aging population.

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

Most of the people participating in the 15-member CSA and 40-member SAC are aged 60 and older. AASA proactively engages older adults in our work and gives preference to older adults when recruiting for our team. In addition, the CSA holds public hearings at least four times per year. During these public hearings older adults, caregivers, service providers, volunteers, and others can speak to the commission and AASA staff about important issues. Through our partnership with AARP, we will work to increase awareness of future public hearings and increase participation of older adults.

AASA is now beginning the development of the next triennial state plan on aging, which will be published in October 2020. Our goal is to enhance our community engagement, this will include elevating the voice of older adults and people living with disabilities to inform our understanding of the concerns of these populations. In addition, the Medical Services Administration is partnering with AASA and Michigan Public Health Institute to implement the National Core Indicators for Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD) survey with a minimum of 600 older adults in FY 2020. Adopting this evidence-based assessment tool will enable us to understand service planning, rights, community inclusion, choice, health and care coordination, safety and relationships.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the state has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

The State of Michigan recognizes that pertinent roles and opportunities for the development of Age-Friendly communities exist across state agencies, and that local communities have different needs and capacities for pursuing Age-Friendly and similar long-term placemaking goals. The Governor commits her support for the state to join the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Specifically, the AASA Director will facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different state departments and autonomous agencies to accelerate new and existing policies to make Michigan a more Age-Friendly state. The AASA Director will coordinate state efforts under the directive, including any recommendations for changes in state policies, procedures, administrative rules, or laws, and can assist departments and agencies with any questions that may arise with implementation of this directive. Regular reports on the initiative will be provided to the Governor.

It is important to note that most of Michigan's health-focused agencies are housed in a single department, MDHHS. AASA, the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA), Medical Services Administration (MSA – overseeing Medicaid services), and Michigan's Public Health Administration all report up to Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Michigan's Chief Medical Executive. These agencies are working together to address issues that impact Michiganders across the lifespan.

Collaboration is encouraged by Dr. Khaldun and Directors of these administrations meet regularly and maintain regular communications. Additionally, this group along with other MDHHS leadership meets bi-weekly as part of an internal strategic integration team.

Over the past 40 years AASA has developed an array of internal and external collaborators. Key Collaborators include AARP Michigan, Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan, Alzheimer's Association, Michigan Dementia Coalition, Silver Key Coalition, Elder Law of Michigan, and Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging. AARP has convened a taskforce to work on the AFMI and have secured the endorsement of more than 30 communities and organizations for the Michigan AFMI.

4) Briefly describe the mechanisms the state has or is planning to put in place to facilitate engagement with communities to identify unique and disparate needs throughout the state.

Engaging community requires a two-pronged approach: 1) create opportunities to ensure community voices are represented in state-level needs assessment and planning, and 2) support the development of community capacity to identify and address challenges collectively and responsively to local needs.

As described above, both the CSA and SAC are composed of membership representing community diversity in Michigan, and actively reach out through local hearings. Additionally, we plan the following mechanisms to ensure community voice is represented:

- AARP and AASA will work together with the AFMI taskforce in an advisory capacity to create an action plan that includes representation from older adults, additional state offices and departments, local government leaders, non-governmental, and private sector stakeholders. This group will:
 - Assist with the baseline assessment of Michigan's age friendliness, current policies, procedures and legislation in place.
 - Once the assessment is complete, the group will develop a 4-year action plan which will address barriers to age-friendliness and advance opportunities.
 - The taskforce will make recommendations to the Governor and MDHHS leadership on how to implement "aging in all policies".
- AARP and AASA will partner to engage stakeholders and increase awareness of the AFMI through a series of events over the next 18 months.
 - During fall 2020 Michigan AARP in partnership with AASA will host an age friendly breakfast to bring together key stakeholders from public health, health systems, the aging network, and voluntary non-profits to discuss and align priorities for the AFMI.
 - AARP will also host an Age Friendly State conference in October 2019, where Governor Whitmer will introduce her vision for the AFMI. Attendees at this event will include municipal leaders, business community, elected officials, healthcare leaders, and age friendly community representatives.
 - In fall 2020 AASA will host a state summit on aging where there we will have a focus on the AFMI, attendees at this conference will represent the aging network.
- The Michigan public health sector, in collaboration with Michigan's aging network, and multisector partners will contribute to the health and well-being of older adults by improving

physical and mental health outcomes, reducing social isolation, and enhancing dignity and independence through helping older adults to live productive, satisfying lives. This will be accomplished by

- Leveraging public health data
- Including community-level aging stakeholders in the State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan
- Developing state and local public health programming specifically for older adults

In terms of supporting community capacity for local collaboration, MDHHS has demonstrated commitment and an established framework in the form of Community Health Innovation Regions – piloted through a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation State Innovation Model grant. The capacity for local collaboration is exactly what needs to be leveraged in order to address the unique and disparate needs of the aging throughout the state. AASA will support existing and planned multisector partnerships to add age-friendly focus areas and capacity to their community health work.

MDHHS is supporting a joint effort by the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) and Trust for America's Health (TFAH) to promote age friendly public health by bringing together local public health departments and aging services providers together in joint planning and learning. MPHI and TFAH have applied to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for a grant to support this work. The state level advisory committee for this project will be coordinated with the AFMI Task Force. Participants in the Age Friendly Public Health Learning Community will conduct local assessments and implement at least one initiative to embed an age friendly approach in local public health policy and practice. The learnings from these local assessments and activity will be fed into the state level action plan

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.

5) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities/States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Michigan is a state well known for innovation, it is the center of the U.S. automotive industry, has excellent academic centers, including University of Michigan and Michigan State University, and is known as the great lakes state, because it touches four of the five great lakes. Michigan is the 10th most populous state in the U.S.

Since the population in Michigan is rapidly aging many groups have started to strategize about how our state can develop age friendly systems. Some examples of these efforts include:

- A project to create an age-friendly public health system in Michigan facilitated by Trust for America's Health and Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)
- A project to develop an age-friendly health system facilitated by Michigan Health and Hospital Association
- A roadmap to become a dementia capable state facilitated by Michigan Dementia Coalition and AARP Michigan

Through the AFMI we will bring together stakeholders of each of these efforts and work together to address the 8 domains that influence health and quality of life for people of all ages, as identified by the World Health Organization: community and health services; social participation; transportation; housing; outdoor spaces; employment; intergenerational inclusion; and communication and information. As we integrate these efforts, we will share lessons learned, tools and information with other members of the AARP/WHO age friendly state initiative.

6) What motivated your State to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities/States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The number of older adults in America is projected to more than double from 46 million today to over 98 million by 2060 (with their share of the population growing from 15 to nearly 24 percent). This demographic trend is particularly visible in Michigan, with its 2,348,241 adults aged 60 years and older already comprising 23.6 percent of the state’s total population¹. Notably, Michigan’s population is aging at a rate faster than the nation and growing by 50,000 each year¹. This creates an urgency around our need to address aging issues and an opportunity for Michigan to become a national leader as an age-friendly state that is responsive to our population. Joining the WHO/AARP network will allow us to learn from participating organizations and share our lessons learned from working with a rapidly aging population. Additionally, becoming the 5th state to join the network and the first state from the mid-west will position Michigan as a leader for aging in our region.

As we adapt to the changing demographics in our state and meet the needs of older adults by helping people to live, work and play easily and comfortably in their communities with economic opportunities, walkable streets, better housing, transportation, and access to key services, we anticipate that Michigan will attract people of all ages as residents.

7) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your state.

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 us your logo by email attachment. Attached is our state seal.

¹AASA 2018 Annual Report Final. Retrieved from: <https://www.michigan.gov/osa>

