



## 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](mailto: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:** 6/5/2019

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Hennepin County

**STATE:** Minnesota

**POPULATION SIZE:** 1,252,024

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 19.7%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** David Hough, Hennepin County Administrator

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** Hennepin County Government Center 300 6th Street South, Minneapolis MN 55404

### 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:**

The Public Health Department Healthy Aging Coordinator holds overall responsibility for planning, developing, managing and evaluating innovative, evidence-based and community informed programs that address the physical, mental, emotional and social well-being issues of our aging population. Functions include engaging older adults and organizations that serve the aging population in conducting a needs assessment and identifying gaps in addressing the needs of the aging population in Hennepin County; developing a work plan that articulates vision and goals for an Age Friendly Community; developing multi-sector efforts to promote and facilitate healthy aging in communities; working with colleagues in Public Health on needs assessment, data analysis, projections, and fact sheets. Additionally, the coordinator serves as a resource for the department, county, and community on aging information including data, resources, and best practices; identifying opportunities to integrate aging support in communities including diverse and underrepresented communities; contributing measures that support healthy aging for the department strategic plan; networking with other local public health agencies that have dedicated staff working on healthy aging initiatives and identifying funding opportunities.; preparing, developing, writing, and managing grant funding requests.

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](http://AARP.org/Livable-Subscribe).

*Click here to enter text.*

### **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.**

Since 1998, our nationally accredited Hennepin County Public Health has, every four years, conducted a Survey of the Health of all the Population and the Environment (SHAPE). SHAPE assesses the wellbeing of our diverse county and provides data that helps formulate age-friendly programs and policies. In 2018, the survey reached over 11,000 residents, and 3,546 of these were age 65 and older, which provides us with a strong evidence-base to describe the health outcomes for this population, and helps to understand how social conditions such as health care affordability, social connectedness, mental well-being, and food-, housing- and transportation-insecurity affect opportunities for health. We participate in the Minnesota Area Agency on Aging Eldercare Development Partnership which has goals to expand and strengthen the capacity of home and community based services, promote risk management strategies, strengthen care transitions, and promote service model sustainability. We also partner with AARP in our Vital Aging programs, encouraging physical activity and older adults' use of our parks. Hennepin County adopted a complete streets policy, shifting our focus to all modes of transportation. This resulted in an extensive system of bike paths throughout the community. Public Health staff assisted the City of Osseo in the development, administration and analysis of a resident survey that gauged the successes, barriers and opportunities for the city to support their older adult residents in two Age-Friendly domains – communications and social inclusion. We also co-hosted a city-wide event that launched Osseo's Healthy Generations initiative and convened a Community Leadership Team for one year to help develop, inform and implement Age-Friendly strategies within the City of Osseo. We also partnered with the City of Brooklyn Park to conduct 5 focus groups with diverse groups of older adults to gauge their needs, desires, gaps, challenges and barriers to accessing and/or participating in Park & Recreation activities and programs. Our current Healthy Aging Work Team meets monthly and includes representatives from throughout Public Health. We are conducting extensive internal and external environmental scans of our departments and our community partners to identify age-friendly gaps, needs, opportunities, and creative ideas. Throughout this process, we are focused on reducing disparities.

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

We partnered with AARP, Metro AAA, the Age-Friendly City of Minneapolis, and Sabathani Senior Center in hosting a Healthy Aging Forum June 5, 2019 in south Minneapolis for a primarily African American population. More than 110 older adults attended the day-long educational event and evaluation results were very positive. We anticipate holding similar events in other locations throughout the County, building on these partnerships. In addition, next phases of our external scan will include opportunities for members of our community to contribute their experiences and ideas for change and how to implement the changes successfully.

**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.**

We are conducting numerous internal environmental scans, meeting with department leadership throughout the County to discuss their current and future programs and policies related to older adults. We are also engaged in multiple external environmental scans, conducting interviews with multiple nonprofit and government leaders to discuss their thoughts and concerns regarding older adult issues, needs and opportunities both today and in the future. We are relying on both our existing relationships and working to forge new partnerships and will use the information obtained in these sessions in planning future focus groups and listening sessions and in developing our initial plan. We have an active work plan for 2019. We anticipate extensive community agency and citizen participation in the 2020 action phase of this process, when we will also determine where Hennepin County is the convener and where we are a participant. We will continue to use SHAPE and other data sources, as well as our Health Promotion and Data Assessment team assets to ensure decisions and work are data driven and appropriate project management, planning, and evaluation techniques are included. Our health and human services teams, as well as our library and other Hennepin County operations, have numerous connections, relationships and resources we will tap into, with the hope of creating a better informed network of knowledge that we can leverage and share.

#### 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?

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#### 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?

Public Health recognizes the changing demographics in our county and are aware of the trend in other communities toward development of age-friendly community programs and policies. We know we have a role to play in supporting our communities and we know we have resources that can strengthen the efforts of our partners.

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:

[https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepin-branding/Hlogo\\_CMYK.png?la=en&hash=C0DA739A1EB4082828A7D65EB1ED445B34D](https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepin-branding/Hlogo_CMYK.png?la=en&hash=C0DA739A1EB4082828A7D65EB1ED445B34D)

