



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: xx/xx/xx

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Olmsted County

STATE: Minnesota

POPULATION SIZE: 156,277

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Jim Bier, Chair

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: County Board 141 4th St SE Rochester, MN 55904

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]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

Dave Beal is involved in the initiative in two ways. He is a member of In the City for Good (IC4G), the local community group that initiated the application process with the County. He convened the Age-Friendly Community Action Team that approached the County and conducted a baseline survey. He is also on staff at Family Service Rochester (FSR), a community based, non-profit organization whose services include senior independence programs. FSR provided support to the IC4G application/survey team and has agreed to lead the age-friendly community planning process with the support of the 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.

Additional subscriptions will be encouraged for all participants.

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.

Olmsted County's Home & Community Care programs support elderly and disabled people in their efforts to remain living as independently in the community as possible. There are several different programs that are targeted to specific age groups and targeted to specific types of disabilities. A range of programs and services are provided by public agencies and private non-profits. These include: Adult Day Service; Adult Foster Care; Advocacy, Information & Assistance; Caregiver Support; Chore Services; Hospice; Information, Referral, Assistance & Health Insurance Counseling; Legal Assistance; Licensed Professional Home Health Agencies; Licensed Home Management Agencies; Long-Term Care Consultation (MN Choices); Meals on Wheels; Mental Health Counseling; Senior Centers; Senior Dining; Senior Housing; Transportation; Volunteer Based Programs; and Veterans Services. The community plans to become more age-friendly by connecting and convening multiple sectors and professions that provide supports, services, and infrastructures to promote age-friendliness; collecting data to assess age-friendliness; conducting, communicating, and disseminating research findings and best practices to support age-friendliness; complementing and supplementing existing supports and services for older adults; and coordinating existing supports and services to increase access.

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

In the City for Good (IC4G), the group that initiated the application process has an membership and audience that tends to skew older. The Age-Friendly Community Action Team that worked with the County on the application and conducted the survey was comprised of older adults - some retired, others not. IC4G will continue to be involved in the planning phase and will contribute to engaging and involving older adults. Family Service Rochester and Southeast Minnesota Area Agency on Aging are already engaged and have provided staff support. Both organizations will remain engaged connecting the work with older adults. Learning is ForEver (LIFE) - a life-long learning program based at the local community and technical college - is a committed participant. 125 Live, the local senior and community center, is a partner. AARP MN and AARP Rochester will remain involved as well. One of the organizations that will join the planning phase, Elder Network, provides non-medical programs that support seniors and their caregivers. There is also interest from Mayo Clinic departments and a research center that work with older adults, senior health, and aging. Additionally, the research cited below will provide pertinent data from various sources. We fully expect that this process initiated by older adults will continue to engage and involve them.

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.

Upon acceptance of the application, a workgroup will be convened to complete an assessment and develop an action plan. In addition to the completed IC4G survey, AARP Livability Index, Olmsted County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), and recent Rochester and Minnesota surveys should be sufficient to bring the assessment to completion. The planning that follows would identify the issues that warrant addressing, select and prioritize those issues for action, and identify partners as well as current projects and initiatives that would facilitate implementing the plan. FSR will lead the age-friendly planning process with the County participating in support of that process. FSR will convene and facilitate planning activities and the preparation of the planning report. The County will assist in the inventory and documenting of existing data pertinent to the planning from various appropriate sources; and, assist the planning process participants in understanding how the data informs opportunities/priorities for collective action. Olmsted County is well-positioned elevate local age-friendly issues and facilitate a community response where needs, opportunities, and assets warrant it. These efforts align with existing CHNA/Community Health Improvement Plan priorities as well as the County's recognition of social determinants of health, the health impacts of the built environment, and its call that these are foundational to any strategies to create and sustain a healthy community.

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?

Olmsted County will join a network with over a decade of experience upon which to reflect and draw as well as a growing body of research on the process. We look forward to being among this next cohort of communities arriving in the second decade, able to build upon and contribute to the learning garnered thus far. Learning that has given rise to WHO's strategic shift to Healthy Aging "as the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age." Additionally, a major economic development project underway in Olmsted County's largest city, Rochester, presents a significant opportunity to participate in bringing the "age-friendly" lens to a multi-billion dollar public-private undertaking. Initiated to create a destination medical center (DMC) to support Mayo Clinic, the project has county-wide ramifications for communities facing the promises and challenges of growth in the midst of unprecedented demographic shifts. Our age-friendly efforts will come at a time when the economic and social infrastructure of our community are undergoing significant transformations. Finally, it appears the State of Minnesota is on the verge of joining the roster of age-friendly states. When it does, we look forward to contribute our part to that as well.

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?

In the City for Good (IC4G) is an unincorporated, grassroots group that formed 2014 in response to the DMC initiative referenced above. The group seeks to address local concerns about the impact, opportunities, and challenges of a multi-billion dollar economic development program and the expected growth it sought ensure, create, and manage. In practice IC4G has formed "action teams" around issues like affordable housing, sustainability, education, social services, and social justice. Teams gather to share information and engage in advocacy when an appropriate opportunity arises. IC4G also sponsors several public forums a year on a range of current community issues. In 2017, there was a interest in forming a team around "senior issues" that early on took an interest in the age-friendly network. The approach of the network aligned very well with IC4G concerns and brought the "senior lens" tto those issues that it was looking for. The Age-Friendly Community Action Team formed in November 2017 with the purpose of pursuing an application with a local government unit. The action team met monthly to become more familiar with the network and the application process; entered into discussions with Olmsted County about the network and prospects of membership; and, with the support of AARP MN, conducted a baseline survey using the AARP instrument.

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.

