



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly 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.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 1/8/2019

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Durham

STATE: North Carolina

POPULATION SIZE: 301,520

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 17%

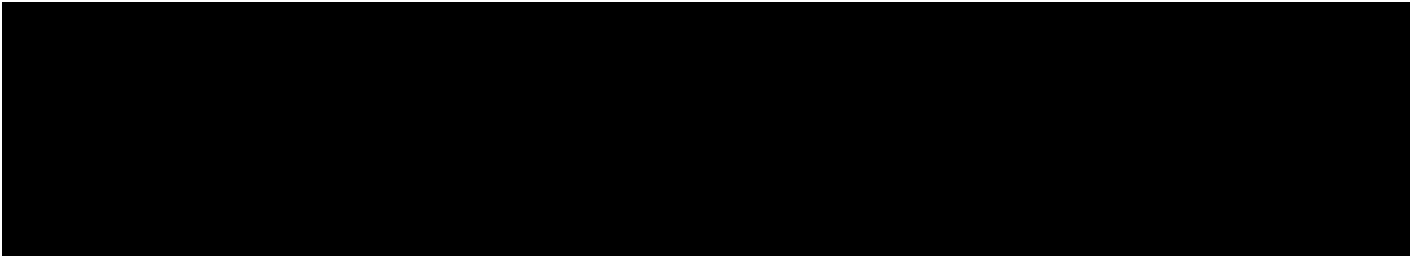
NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:

- Wendy Jacobs, Chair of Durham Board of County Commissioners
- Steve Schewel, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 200 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY 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.



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

Melissa Black is the coordinator of Durham's Partnership for Seniors (DPfS) and facilitates its initiatives, which include Age-Friendly Durham, Dementia Inclusive Durham, Senior Hunger & Nutrition, and the Durham Community Resource Connections for Aging & Disabilities. Ms. Black was also the lead author of the Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities chapter that was included in the 2017 Durham County Community Health Assessment. She will serve as Project Manager and will oversee the day-to-day work of this livability project and ensure that all deliverables are met within the defined timeline.

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.

Durham County and the City of Durham are both dedicated to their shared mission of providing fiscally responsible, quality services necessary to promote a healthy, safe, and vibrant community. The vision of this vibrant community includes a thriving and diverse community with abundant opportunity for all residents to live, work, play, and grow. Goal 2 of the Durham County Strategic Plan aims to improve the quality of life across the lifespan through protecting the health of community, reducing barriers to access to services, and ensuring a network of integrated health and human services available to people in need. Strategy 2.2C within Goal 2 recommends developing an age-friendly community so everyone from birth to seniors can live well in Durham. The City of Durham's strategic plan also includes a focus on building a community that allows residents to live, work, and play safely, free from harm and hazards as well as fostering a cohesive, engaged, and diverse community where residents have equitable access to community resources and the opportunity for a high quality of life.

Within the community, older adults in Durham benefit from the following community programs:

- **City of Durham Parks and Recreation Mature Adult Program** offers a host of programs and activities for individuals 55 years and older through travel, exercise classes, and classes.
- **Durham Center for Senior Life** offers a wide array of programs and services for older adults, including congregate meals, transportation, adult education, exercise classes, socialization, health promotion, caregiver support services, information referrals, and case assistance.
- **Durham County Department of Social Services – Aging & Adult Services** works to promote the independence and enhance the dignity of Durham's older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families through a community-based system of opportunities, services, benefits, and protections such as adult protective services, community alternative program for disabled adults, crisis services, guardianship, in-home care, home delivered meals, and monitoring of adult care facilities and family care homes.
- **Meals on Wheels of Durham** delivers a nutritious meal, a safety check, and a smile that serves as a lifeline to seniors of limited mobility.
- **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Duke** seeks to engage the minds, and elevate the spirit and wellbeing of its members through a wide range of educational programs and opportunities to volunteer service and social activities.
- **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Durham County** is a National Service Senior Corps project providing personalized volunteer placement and support in nonprofit and public agencies to meet vital community needs in Durham.

- **Senior PharmAssist** promotes healthier living for Durham seniors by helping them obtain and better manage needed medications, and by providing health education, Medicare insurance counseling, community referral, and advocacy.

Durham looks to become a more age-friendly community through its participation in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and developing a Durham Aging Plan (e.g., community action plan) that addresses the eight domains of livability.

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

Durham's development of its community action plan will replicate the Master Aging Plan process developed by Department on Aging in Orange County, North Carolina and create five livability working groups:

1. Transportation/Outdoor Spaces
2. Housing
3. Social Participation/Respect & Inclusion
4. Civic Participation & Employment
5. Community Support & Health Services

These five working groups will also incorporate the issues of racial equity, dementia, communication and information, intergenerational opportunities, and social isolation during their discussions on livability.

Most importantly, the steering committee of Durham's Aging Plan and all five of its livability working groups will include older adults. Steering committee and livability working group members will be recruited with the help of Durham's Partnership for Seniors, Durham Center for Senior Life, and Durham's senior housing locations.

It is also worth noting that prior to Durham's submission of this application, a modified AARP livability survey was delivered to homebound seniors with Meals on Wheels' annual client survey to ensure that their voices were heard and are incorporated in the development of Durham's Aging Plan.

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.

Durham is a community with a rich history in collaboration. Collaboration exists between city and county government through its City-County Planning Department as they address economic development, environment, government services and facilities, historic resources, housing, land use, open space, and transportation. Additionally, developers of the Durham County Strategic Plan were intentional in its design to use collaboration to connect the work of the county's 27 departments in addressing the Strategic Plan's overarching goals, objectives, and strategies.

Collaboration is also successful between private, public, and non-profit agencies, with a notable example being Durham's Partnership for Seniors (DPfS), a coalition of service providers and community volunteers

focused on improving the lives of older adults in Durham County, North Carolina. DPfS advocates for older adult issues, promotes and facilitates partnerships, and identifies opportunities that may improve the quality of life for these Durham residents. DPfS also fosters awareness of the broad implications of Durham’s growing population of older adults as they relate to issues such as health, social services, housing, transportation, businesses, and other systems in the county. DPfS envisions a community for all ages with accessible opportunities, resources, and connections that facilitates concern and respect for older adults. In pursuing its vision of healthy, empowered older adults, DPfS also supports and encourages programs that enable older adults to remain active, engaged members of the community.

DPfS has also facilitated collaboration between agencies that serve Durham’s seniors and Duke University Health System through the Durham Community Resource Connections for Aging & Disabilities (Durham CRC) and the Duke Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Project (GWEP). The Durham CRC works to strengthen the long-term services and support system by linking resources within the community, building relationships among existing service providers, and eliminating information silos to facilitate a “no wrong door” model for information and assistance. The Duke GWEP is a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) project designed to advance patient centered coordinated care for older adults across communities by bringing together geriatrics training programs, primary care practices, community agencies, and healthcare organizations to implement a new workforce development model and expand access to clinical and community resources.

To continue this spirit of collaboration in designing its Aging Plan, Durham will convene a Steering Committee to guide its age-friendly/livability work and will ensure that it is comprised of key city and county personnel, as well as other important community stakeholders, who can facilitate the development and implementation of a community 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.

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

Durham has begun to dive deeply into the work of racial equity with the formation of a Racial Equity Task Force aimed at understanding and undoing institutional racism. This task force will examine Durham’s history of institutional and structural racism and learn to see the ways in which racism has shaped our institutions and begin to undo and repair these lasting impacts. The Partnership for a Healthy Durham, a coalition of local organizations and community members with the goal of collaboratively improving the physical, mental, and social health and well-being of Durham’s residents, has also formed a similar task force with its focus on addressing the health disparities that result from racial inequity. It is the hope of Age-Friendly Durham that it can contribute the work of racial equity to AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Like the rest of the nation, Durham is experiencing a significant growth in numbers and proportion of older adults due to longer life spans and aging baby boomers. It is projected that the number of adults age 60 and older will grow from 51,388 to 85,428, which is a 68% increase in less than 20 years and will result in 22.2% of Durham’s population being 60 and older by 2035. Durham is looking forward to joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and tapping into the Network’s expertise on how to make Durham a more livable community for all, but especially for older adults. This structured process will facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of an Aging Plan that will ensure that policies, programs, and initiatives are in place to support older adults. Additionally, Durham recognizes that by creating an age-friendly community it will increase the contributions of both older and young people and build a community that is better for all Durham residents and one that is a “great place to grow up and grow old.”

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

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >

