



## 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:** *Click here to enter a date.*

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Monroe County

**STATE:** New York

**POPULATION SIZE:** 747,642

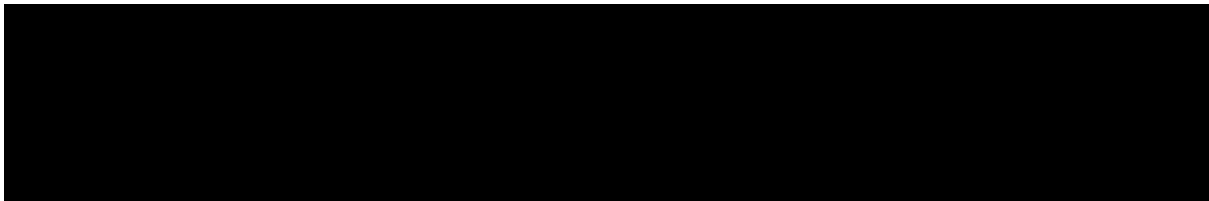
**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 16.7

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Cheryl Dinolfo, County Executive

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 110 County Office Building, 39 W. Main Street, Rochester NY 14614

### 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.



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

Patrick will oversee planning, workplan development/coordination, outreach and implementation of the Livable Communities Initiative for Monroe 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](#).

*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.**

Rochester and Monroe County has many programs and services targeted towards older adults; including the services provided/funded through the Area Agency on Aging, Local Foundations such as the Rochester Area Community Foundation, the United Way and a network of community based service providers and for profit services. We have a well-developed meals on wheels service, various culturally appropriate case management services, and an Aging Alliance comprised of funders and service providers dedicated to encouraging more attention to the needs of older adults in the context of a livable community for all ages. An example is the City of Rochester's Complete Streets Policy, one that accommodates all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and persons with disabilities. In addition the City has embarked on Rochester 2034, its Comprehensive Plan, which will undergo public review of the final draft in early 2019. This area is home to the Finger Lakes Caregiver Institute, a partnership of Lifespan and the Alzheimer's Association serving care partners of loved ones with memory loss throughout the region. The Rochester Catholic Family Center serves some of our hardest to reach older adults, including refugees, lower income, and those with limited English proficiency. The Monroe County Office for the Aging sponsors / funds five urban Senior Centers that serve low-income African American and Latino populations. These programs prevent isolation and provide older persons with a sense of community that they may not otherwise experience. The Rochester and Monroe County area has a culture of collaboration and inclusion. This can be found in the area's work on the Rochester-Monroe County Poverty Initiative, a community-informed strategy developed to coordinate and align resources, policies and practices in an effort to reduce poverty in the Rochester and Monroe County region. This community-wide initiative is a result of collaboration from local leaders, local and state government, service providers, the faith community, volunteers and people impacted by poverty. Another example can be found with the area's thriving Deaf Community, in part because of the presence of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and the Rochester Area School for the Deaf. It is because of this significant number, the Monroe County Airport is in the process of making huge improvements to help assist individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, as well as other disabilities. Both of these are concrete examples of our community striving towards a culture of continued collaboration and inclusion. With this culture as a foundation, we believe our community's efforts on how to become more age-friendly will be successful.

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

We are committed to a multi-generational, multi-cultural, and cross-sector approach to engagement. We will incorporate the work that has been done in reaching out to older adults in previous surveys, the 2016 AARP Livability Survey for Monroe County, and studies; including the work of the Office for the Aging, The City of Rochester's Planning Department, the United Way, The Genesee Transportation Council (regional MPO), Common Ground Health and others. We will also develop a strategy of engagement to make sure we are prioritizing domains that mean the most to older adults themselves. An example of this strategy can be seen in the Rochester 2034 public engagement process 2018-2019. Our engagement will be done through a combination of focus groups and surveys (to be developed). We are mindful of the importance of including caregivers in these discussions as well as those agencies that serve them such as the Alzheimer's Association and Lifespan. Both organizations are active members of the Aging Alliance, which enables us to leverage their expertise, and connections.

**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.**

Rochester and Monroe County has a strong history of collaboration for planning the delivery of services among agencies, governmental units, philanthropy, the United Way, and health care providers (we have a joint corporation formed by the two competing health care systems to redesign healthcare services for the Medicaid population—DSRIP). We also were the first community to obtain NYS Poverty Reduction Funding to address poverty and systems integration. We recognize that 80% of a population's health is determined by factors other than health care. Currently there are efforts underway to strengthen the service delivery system to address those determinants. Our community has engaged with AARP to learn about livable communities' models and the process of "circles of engagements". We have worked with Traffic Safety coalition on safer streets for pedestrians and bicyclists. We have a strong association of providers; both public and private in the Greater Rochester Area Partnership for the Elderly (GRAPE), Common Ground Health has convened several "community groups" around the issues of health and human service and we also have collaborations addressing the needs of the homeless. One of the key mechanisms will be the Rochester/Monroe County Aging Alliance (RMCAA), a dedicated group of community-based aging services providers. This ten member organization already has a significant history of collaboration and cooperation

#### 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?

We intend to be active partners in this initiative with AARP and WHO in order to learn and share best practices and examples of effective strategies in the eight domains, especially to other regions similar to ours – mid size cities, diverse, poor population, etc.

#### 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?

The demographic shift that is represented by the aging of our community, nation, and world has presented a challenge. We believe by working collectively towards an age-friendly/livable community agenda, we have the opportunity to help improve our community for all citizens. In 2006, initiatives to explore livability in Rochester with an emphasis on “Aging in Place” began in Monroe County. By 2012 an Aging Alliance was formed with the following objectives: 1) To build consensus on current needs and challenges facing older adults, 2) To brainstorm solutions based on proven best practices, and 3) To bring forward a community agenda that will advance the development of an age friendly community. Self-described as an entity charged with keeping an eye on the larger perspective of aging issues, it is made up of a network of private non-profits and government aging agencies such as AARP, City of Rochester, Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Monroe County Office of Aging, Rochester Area Community Foundation, United Way of Greater Rochester and many others. The nature of their work is addressing the needs of older adults, while recognizing the need to elevate the value of aging network services and drive better integration of community-based aging services into the larger health care and social services systems. The Aging Alliance is part of our community’s strong foundation of the many programs, services, initiatives currently helping to make the community more livable. By going through this planning process and gaining the "Age Friendly Stamp" - we can ensure the coordinated response is more visible to the community and best practices are incorporated throughout all branches of our local government. We believe that membership in the AARP Network will provide a platform for our message of Age-friendly benefits for all.

**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@aarps.org](mailto:livable@aarps.org).*

