



County of **Saratoga**
Board of Supervisors

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KEVIN TOLLISEN
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August 13, 2019

Ms. Beth Finkel, Director
New York State AARP
780 Third Avenue, 33rd Floor
New York, NY 10017-2003

Re: AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

Dear Ms. Finkel:

Please accept this letter requesting admission in to the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, the U.S. affiliate of the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program. Saratoga County has the fastest growing older adult population in all of New York State, and we have declared 2019 the "Year of the Senior."

We value the tremendous contributions that our older citizens make to our civic, cultural, and community life. And, we wish to support healthy ageing across the life span; thereby, improving the health, well-being, and quality of life of all of our citizens, including those 60 and over. Saratoga County already puts great emphasis on the health and well-being of its citizens, throughout all of its programs, policies, and practices, as reflected by the fact that Saratoga County consistently ranks in the top five healthiest counties in New York State according to the Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings.

However, given the tremendous demographic changes that will likely result in a significant portion of our population ageing through 2050, we understand the importance of planning for changes in infrastructure, communication, transportation, housing, and every aspect of community life that such a shift will entail. Therefore, we intend to convene an interdisciplinary/ interdepartmental "age-friendly" advisory committee to assess the degree to which our County is already age-friendly, identify areas in which we can improve, and draft a strategy for improving our age-friendly status that will include indicators with which we can monitor progress. Our goal is to have at least twenty-five percent of the committee members be residents of the County, including older residents.

We look forward to working with AARP and learning from the age-friendly communities already in the network.

Sincerely,

KEVIN TOLLISEN, CHAIRMAN
Saratoga County Board of Supervisors