



# Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **Real Possibilities World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

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- 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.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 12/20/2017**

## Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Delaware County**

**STATE: Ohio**

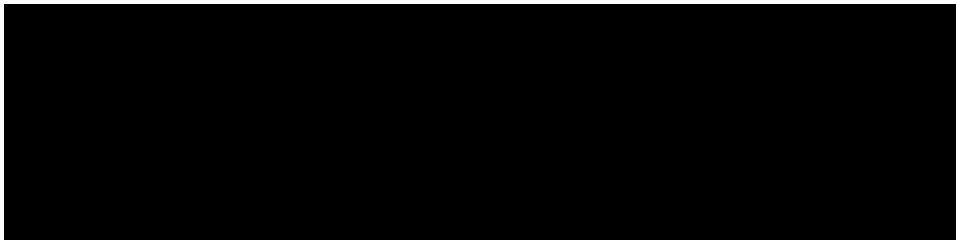
**POPULATION SIZE: 196,463 est. 2016**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 18%**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Delaware County Commissioners, Barb Lewis, Gary Merrell, and Jeff Benton**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 101 N. Sandusky St., Delaware, Ohio 43015**

**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:**

Amelia will be responsible for coordinating meetings with the stakeholders, as well as overseeing the contractual relationship with Delaware General Health District to ensure that the assessment captures the critical and required information for the 8 defined domains. She will coordinate sharing the assessment information with the stakeholders and advisory committees, providing technical support to the various communities within our county as they work with their advisory committees on the planning phase.

**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.**

The Delaware County community has been dedicated to supporting older adults as represented by their overwhelming approval of our senior services levy which supports programs, activities, educational and fitness programs, as well as in-home care services which are planned, coordinated, and provided by SourcePoint. The first senior services levy passed in 1994, and has received wonderful support by the voters every 5 years, since that time. In 2006, the voters supported a bond issue which funded the building of a 55,000+ square foot building which houses the administrative and social work staff and offers a state of the art enrichment center, including a warm water therapy pool, fitness center, and industrial size kitchen which produces more than 200,000 meals each year. The Delaware County community keeps the needs of older adults at the forefront of all social service and governmental planning. This is evidenced by SourcePoint's involvement in numerous community coalitions, tasks forces, and planning groups. Examples include, the Agency Conference Group, the Community Paramedicine Group, the Transportation Advisory Council, The Delaware Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Drug-Free Delaware Coalition, the Delaware County Falls Coalition, the Hoarding Task Force, the Partners for a Healthy Delaware, the Multi-Agency Critical Incident Team, the Safety Awareness for Everyone Coalition, the Family and Children First Council, the Housing Coalition and the Delaware County Aging Task Force.

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

SourcePoint has experience in engaging older people in planning, as demonstrated by each of SourcePoint's strategic plans. As the lead agency, SourcePoint will use this experience to be sure older people are included in all parts of the age-friendly process from the data collection to stakeholder involvement. In the early stages of age-friendly planning, SourcePoint is working with the Delaware General Health District to disseminate the community assessment throughout Delaware County. This includes assisting in identification of Delaware County's senior groups, reaching out to older people connected to SourcePoint's various programming and services, and capitalizing on Source Point's partnerships with other agencies serving older adults to increase participation. As the stakeholder groups and needs of the community begin to materialize, these same methods will be utilized to identify older people who may act as representatives on the stakeholder groups.

**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.**

SourcePoint and the Health District will be reaching out to the community partners already working with these two agencies to serve older people. In addition to inviting a county commissioner to serve as a stakeholder, various township trustees will also be invited to ensure that we are inviting the entire county to participate. A stakeholder survey has been developed to disseminate to those identified as serving older people. This survey will allow SourcePoint and the Health District to not only identify potential gaps in services but also to finalize the list of stakeholders needed to address the community's age-friendly needs. Once this list has been finalized, SourcePoint will lead the initiation of invitations to join the stakeholder group. SourcePoint plans to create a full stakeholder group as well as develop sub-groups to address each of the 8 domains. The stakeholders will be invited to join the full group and during early planning, agencies and community partners will assess which of the 8 sub-groups they are most suited to participate in.

**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?**

Delaware County is a unique county in population make-up and growth. Delaware County is the fastest growing county in the state of Ohio and one of the fastest growing in the United States. Delaware County's southern portion is densely populated and considered generally affluent, while the northern portion is considered rural with pockets of extreme poverty. SourcePoint has continually worked to address the varied needs of all of Delaware County's ever growing population of older people. Delaware County's age-friendly project hopes to become an example to other communities attempting to deal with similar population extremes within their older population. Likewise, as an organization which is already held as an exemplary organization, among those in the field of aging, SourcePoint is visited by those seeking to learn from our model. SourcePoint will utilize its position of esteem in encouraging visitors throughout the state and country to engage in the age-friendly community assessment and planning process within their own 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?**

As stated previously, SourcePoint has been serving the Delaware County community for 25 years. SourcePoint has always strived to be an example to all community-based organizations on how to best serve older people. In partnership with the Delaware General Health District, SourcePoint believes the Age-Friendly designation will demonstrate Delaware County's commitment to supporting older people within our community.

**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 >



**AGE-FRIENDLY,**  
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WHEREAS, in 2012 people aged 60 and older comprised 11 percent of the global population and will reach 22 percent by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in the United States one in five residents will be age 65 or older by 2030; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2030, the growth of Ohio's over-60 population will grow by 47 percent, and the population of over 85 will grow by 46 percent, compared to a 2 percent population growth overall; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2030, the growth of Delaware County's over-60 population will grow by 153.2 percent, and the population of over-85 will grow by 187 percent; and

WHEREAS, research shows older adults wish to remain in their homes and communities as they age; and

WHEREAS, access to quality health care and long-term services and support is essential for individuals to remain living in their homes and communities, and

WHEREAS, approximately 49 percent of Delaware County older adults experience recurrent falls and 67 percent have fallen at least once since turning 60; and

WHEREAS, transportation barriers lead to barriers to accessing health care and opportunities to engage with the communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, in older adults, loneliness is associated with higher rates of mental illness; and social isolation is associated with higher rates of self-reported poor health; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County community benefits from the many contributions offered by our older residents, including their years of experience and expertise in both volunteer work and paid employment; and

WHEREAS, the older residents of Delaware County provide support to their families and help make our community a great place to live and work, and

WHEREAS, active aging is a life-long process, whereby an age-friendly community is not just "elder-friendly" but also intended to be friendly for all ages and abilities, and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with AARP, has developed a network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities to encourage and promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older Americans; and


WHEREAS, SourcePoint, in partnership with the Delaware General Health District, and the support of the Delaware County Commissioners, wish to join in making Delaware age friendly in "one of the most effective policy approaches for responding to demographic aging," and

WHEREAS, SourcePoint and the Delaware General Health District seek to assist the leaders of Delaware County in creating a community that supports optimum health and quality of life of its older residents through the eight domains of community life, as identified by WHO:

- r. Outdoor spaces and buildings! Accessibility to and availability of clean, safe community centers, parks, and other recreational facilities and spaces,
2. Transportation. Safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation, "Complete Streets" types of initiatives; hospitable built environments,
3. Housing: Wide range of housing options for older residents; aging in place and other home modification programs; housing that is accessible to transportation and community and health services,
4. Social participation: Access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for older residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people;
5. Respect and social inclusion: Programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity; programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue; programs to combat loneliness and isolation among older residents;
6. Civic participation and employment Promotion of paid work and volunteer opportunities, for older residents, opportunities for older residents to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their
7. Communication and information. Promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far; and
8. Community support and health services. Access to home-care services, clinics, and programs to promote active aging, including physical exercise and healthy habits.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Delaware County Board of Commissioners, do hereby endorse and support the initiatives and opportunities led by SourcePoint, in partnership with the Delaware General Health District, to designate Delaware County an Age-Friendly Community.

  
Jeff Benton

  
Gary Merrell

  
Barb Lewis