

July 18, 2019

Ruby Haugton-Pitts, State Director
AARP Oregon
9200 SE Sunnybrook Blvd, Suite 410
Clackamas OR 97015

Dear Ms. Haugton-Pitts,

On behalf of the City of Ashland, I am writing this letter of intent to express our interest in joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Ashland is committed to promoting policies and programs to make Ashland friendly to people of all ages and abilities.

Ashland is a city of 20,733 people according to 2017 data. Of that number 44.3% are over the age of 50. In 2016 the city participated in the National Citizen Survey which showed that older people were concerned about housing, cost of living, transportation, and health care.

Ashland has already taken several steps toward becoming friendlier for all ages. The City Council has adopted All Age-Friendly as one its initiatives. The Ashland Senior Advisory Committee of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Division has also identified moving toward being age-friendly as one of its initiatives. We believe that collaboration among different entities in the city is important and we are actively working to communicate and engage city commissions and other groups that serve seniors and other residents.

As a Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities member, we look forward to partner and exchange ideas with AARP to enhance our ability to:

1. Practice sound planning
2. Establish and age-friendly committee that includes active engagement of older adults
3. Develop a plan of action that responds to the needs identified by older adults and other residents and complements other city plans
4. Implement the plan, measure activities, review outcomes, and report on them publicly.

We appreciate your interest in working with Ashland and we look forward to our partnership on this important program.

Sincerely,



John Stromberg
Mayor, City of Ashland

