



- 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: December 12, 2018**

**Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Lancaster**

**STATE: Pennsylvania**

**POPULATION : 59,708**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: - 9.8% over age 65**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: -  
The Honorable Danene Sorace, Mayor of the City of Lancaster**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: - 120 N. Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602**

**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:**

### 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.**

1.) For the second consecutive year, US News and World Report has ranked Lancaster as one of the top two places in the US to retire - #2 in 2017 and #1 in 2018! This is just one of the testimonies to Lancaster's policies, programs and services targeted toward older people. Happiness, housing affordability, desirability, taxes for retirees, healthcare quality, and job market were among the measurements used by US News and World Report. In addition, Lancaster has a robust tourism and arts industry, a Walk Score of 82, and is routinely included in media lists of "best places to live."

Curb cuts, complete streets, a sidewalk repair fund, and a critical repair fund are all policies and programs integrated within Lancaster's infrastructure. "QUEST," educational program; Lancaster's recreation and senior centers; and our door-to-door paratransit service are among Lancaster's offerings tailored for older adults.

Three foundational indicators of the how Lancaster will plan to become more age-friendly are:

1.) The catalyst for this Age-Friendly Initiative, Lancaster Area Senior Services (LASS) began by convening community conversations across business, education, civic, and social services sectors and garnered support for further promoting Lancaster city as an age-friendly community.

2.) A triad of organizations have already committed to provide time and resources to launch the initial steps toward Age-Friendly Lancaster. These are:

- Lancaster Downtowners
- City of Lancaster Department Leaders
- Landis Communities

3.) Millersville University School of Social Work (MU) has now begun conducting an environmental scan of services and opportunities for older adults in throughout Lancaster and County. After partnering with their Geography Department to map the data, MU will convene conversations with community stakeholders to share the information.

Lancaster will continue to build on its strengths, exchange ideas with other communities in order to remain an affordable and desirable city for people of all ages.

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

2.) "Nothing about us without us" is a motto that can guide the Lancaster Age-Friendly planning process.

In addition to the dedicated staff of the City, two organizations that have already committed to provide time and resources to launch the initial steps toward Age-Friendly Lancaster. These are:

- Lancaster Downtowners – a member of the National Village to Village Network, and
- Landis Communities — created the first 55+ market rate rental apartments in downtown Lancaster.

Residents of Steeple View Lofts, and members of the Lancaster Downtowners have already been advocates for the Age-Friendly initiative and will continue to be involved in the launch of our planning efforts. This input can guide our process to incorporate even more older adults in our age-friendly planning.

**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.**

3.) Lancaster has a culture of collaborative partnerships, innovation, and supporting neighbors that will be a natural fit for cross-sector cooperation.

From inception, the concept of collaboration across sectors has been central to the vision of Age-Friendly Lancaster. LASS hired Age2Age Consultant, Chris Kennedy, to guide the process of convening conversations with multiple organizations and key stakeholders that directly or indirectly deal with the quality of living in Lancaster. It has been paramount to share the vision that this project does not belong to any one siloed organization and that a collaborative approach and shared resources will yield collective impact.

This vision of collective impact throughout our community has guided the preliminary planning of a list of possible next steps to commence the 5-Year Process of Continual Improvement includes:

- Convene all City department heads to learn about WHO Age-Friendly Cities & Lancaster’s shifting demographics -- the challenges and the opportunities
- Collect information about what is already happening
- Conduct a visioning workshop – create the mission statement
- Develop an Age-Friendly Steering Committee or Task Force - specifically including cross-discipline professionals and older adults
- Consider and design community convenings – what, when, where
- Explore new funding sources to support “Lancaster: An Age-Friendly City”

**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?**

4.) Everything that has been done in Lancaster to introduce the Age-Friendly initiative has been done with the idea in mind of being able to share our collaborative cross-sector process with other communities.

The initiative began with 16 businesses – all members of Lancaster Area Senior services (LASS) collaborating to be the catalyst for the GNAFCC with the city and county. After convening cross-sector meetings to introduce the program and collect feedback, LASS created collateral that helped capture the background, benefits and process of becoming a member of the GNAFCC.

Lancaster has already demonstrated its sharing culture in other areas such as:

1.)The Coalition to Combat Poverty 2.) our welcoming and integration of refugees at a rate 20x more than the rest of the United States.

We look forward to demonstrating the value of a cross-discipline focus in age-friendly/intergenerational ideas and sharing these practices with other members of the GNAFCC .

**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?**

5.) The catalyst for Lancaster’s journey to learn about the WHO’s Age-Friendly initiative has been the Lancaster Area Senior Services (LASS) -- an association of 19 non-profit retirement communities that provide homes and services for over 13,100 Lancaster residents and employ more than 8,200 people. This unique collaboration among competitors is just one of the examples that speaks to the values of this community of people, organizations and businesses.

All LASS members also belong to “LeadingAge” – the national trade association for providers of housing and services for older adults. One LeadingAge motto is “Be the Voice of Aging;” LASS stepped up to this challenge.

“The aging of our county’s population presents both opportunities and challenges,” said Renny Magill, VP of Development for Brethren Village and Coordinator for LASS’s Age-Friendly information program. “We saw that the values and vision of the GNAFCC are aligned with those of Lancaster City and County; LASS wanted to share this collaborative approach with our community leaders.”

**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>



*Logo sent via attachment with application*

The logo for the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania is inserted here, and included as an attachment.

