



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
- 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: City of Cranston

STATE: RI

POPULATION SIZE: 81,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 6.19%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Allan W. Fung, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 869 Park Ave. Cranston RI 02920

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:

Executive Director of The Department of Senior Services.

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.

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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.

a. The City of Cranston, Rhode Island is the second largest city in the state. The Cranston Department of Senior Services is the largest Senior Center in the state and possibly in the entire New England area. The Cranston Senior Enrichment Center has seven divisions: Administration, Adult Day Services, Nutrition, Programs, RSVP, Social Services, Transvan, and Health Services.

b. On June 13, 2019 Mayor Allan Fung celebrated a press conference where he directed the Executive Staff of the Cranston Department of Senior Services to start the process of making the City of Cranston an Age/Dementia Friendly Community by organizing a Steering Committee composed of other city departments such as Police and Fire to include representation from the community at large, especially groups who are working to better the life of our aging population.

c. The 3 areas where the City of Cranston can make in impact in becoming an Age/Dementia Friendly Community:

1. The installation of a permanent Advisory Board on Aging Issues and Solutions. This Advisory Board would be composed of representatives from: The Cranston Department of Senior Services, Police and Fire Departments, business community and members from the aging population. This Advisory Board will draft recommendations to enhance the quality of life for our aging population for both the Mayor's Office and the City Council.
2. Taking into account that the City of Cranston has several beautiful parks and recreation spaces, at least one park would be fitted with special aging friendly details and equipment such as:
 - a) Improve control: Provide orientation and way finding with large, visible fonts. "The park layout needs to be legible." Signs should be 54 inches off the ground or lower, so people in wheelchairs can also see them.
 - b) Offer greater choice: "Everyone values options, such as passive or active recreation, sun or shade, single or multiple seating. Chairs should be movable." Brozen emphasized that the group older than 65 is incredibly diverse, from "not old to advanced dementia," so they have different needs.
 - c) Create a Sense of Security: "There should be shade but not too much so it feels enclosed." Parks should enable "eyes on the street." Isolated areas need good maintenance. Sidewalks should be wide and smooth. Check spaces between paved and unpaved areas to make sure there aren't spots where a cane or wheelchair can get caught.
 - d) Accessibility: If a park is a good distance from a senior facility, add benches along the way so there are place to stop. Parks should have no more than a 2 percent grade for those in wheelchairs.
 - e) Social support: Design should facilitate interaction. Parks can feature bulletin boards, outdoor reading rooms, sculptures and fountains that help start conversations.
 - f) Physical activity: Parks should also feature mile markers for encouragement. "These kinds of things are low impact, high benefit." Exercise machines should be under shaded areas.
 - g) Privacy: Use buffer plants to reduce street noise.
 - h) Nature: Make sure they are wheelchair accessible. And lastly, parks should highlight natural beauty.
3. The outreach efforts done by the Cranston Department of Senior Services will greatly expand to offer more programs and services to surrounding senior living facilities (Manors) and other community venues such as Halls.

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

a. The installation of a permanent Advisory Board on Aging Issues and Solutions and the creation of an Advocacy Group composed of members of our aging population to ensure that policy makers will be accountable for transparent and diligent process to make the proposed changes a reality. The City of Cranston recognizes that in order to make the changes that are needed to make a community Age/Dementia Friendly, it is necessary that the aging population be engaged and represented in the decision making and to perform oversight over both the Executive and Legislative branches of City government by engaging in advocacy efforts.b. A survey will be developed and administered in the City of Cranston to measure the current satisfaction of senior services currently offered and to ask what areas of senior services can be offered and/or improved.

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.

a. The installation of a permanent Advisory Board on Aging Issues and Solutions, composed of other city departments such as Police and Fire to include representation from the community at large, especially groups who are working to better the life of our aging population.

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?

a. The Cranston Department of Senior Services will be willing and able to participate in local and regional events that the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities may hold in the region. b. The Cranston Department of Senior Services is completing a one-year grant funded by the Tufts Health Plan Foundation. The scope of work prescribed in the grant encompasses outreach work around bringing awareness, information, and resources on dementia and related illnesses such as Alzheimer's to the aging population in the City of Cranston and neighboring communities. The delivery of information "model" developed by the Cranston Department of Senior Services has been praised by Donna M. McGowan, Executive Director, of the Alzheimer's Association Rhode Island Chapter as a "Model that can be replicated across the State of Rhode Island." The Cranston Department of Senior Services is more than willing to share the knowledge it has accumulated executing the work around bringing Awareness and training to professionals, city government officials, community partners, and the community at large on Dementia, Alzheimer's and Memory Loss. In addition, the Department has bilingual capabilities in English and Spanish both at the language and cultural levels. The Cranston Department of Senior Services can become a great asset to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

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?

a. The Cranston Department of Senior Services has a tradition of being at the vanguard of solving and responding to senior issues, since its inception the center from its magnificent two story building that sits on approximately 2 acres, made its debut delivering services and programs to the aging population in the City of Cranston and neighboring communities. Making the Cranston Department of Senior Services the largest center of its kind in New England. Taking into account the rapid increase of the aging population across the State of RI and especially in the City of Cranston, where the fastest growing demographic are those individuals age 85 plus, it is only the natural progression for the Center to become a member of the movement that is increasing the quality of life for the aging populations in our communities: Age-Friendly Communities.

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:

Will send via email.

