



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: 5/6/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

POPULATION SIZE: 24,745

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 22.4%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Jamie Bova, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 43 Broadway, Newport, RI 02840

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Mary Alice Smith is the interim coordinator of the Newport for All Ages Initiative. This initiative and the position are funded by the Van Beuren Charitable Trust, a local non-profit. Her role entails helping to coordinate workshops and briefings to the City Council and to the local community. With help from AARP and other local volunteers, Mary Alice has worked to build consensus on the need and desire for Newport to be classified as an Age-Friendly City. She has also worked to gather input from the Council, Senior Centers, locals, and others on ways Newport can improve our initiatives and services for seniors.

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.

Click here to enter text.

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.

Newport has many policies, programs and services targeted toward older people. Two centers serve older adults. The Edward King House offers comprehensive programming including lunch and breakfast programs, lifelong learning, exercise, recreation, and health promotion. The Park Holm Center located near an elderly apartment complex provides a variety of services such as Fllu clinics and assistance with Medicare enrollment. The City has 452 subsidized elder housing units with 58% operated by the City Housing Authority. It also runs a small residence for older men. To assist low-income older residents with housing costs, the City has a property tax credit program and provides loans for home repairs. AARP RI has worked on Complete Street initiatives with City leaders to address pedestrian traffic safety issues and the City has a sidewalk trip hazard removal program. Newport has an abundance of parks and open spaces and its comprehensive Tree, Park and Open Space Master Plan calls for increasing ADA accessibility and universal design and activities across all ages. A review of the City's state-mandated Comprehensive Land Use Plan found alignment with WHO domains of Age-Friendliness. A number of goals, objectives and actions are targeted toward the City's growing older population. The City encourages older residents' volunteer efforts and offers a tax credit for elders volunteering at City Hall. The Newport for All Ages collaborative will build on and enhance programs in place, assist in implementing senior-focused policy objectives embodied in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and seek innovative approaches and best practices in addressing age-friendly domains to make Newport an even greater place to grow up and grow old.

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

Newport has significant experience in engaging the community in its planning efforts. The effort to become more age-friendly will begin with a needs assessment to identify the needs and preferences of the City's older residents and priorities for action, both short and long-range. The needs assessment will include Focus groups targeted toward community-dwelling residents age 50 and over to be conducted at geographically diverse and accessible sites with transportation offered for those no longer able to drive. A survey of persons age 50 and over with content designed with the input of older persons and utilizing both paper and online formats for responding will be implemented. Surveys will be available at the City's senior centers and elderly housing complexes. Key informant interviews of City officials and organizations serving significant proportions of older adults will be carried out. Outreach to the City's business community to elicit opinions on how they perceive the needs of the older population and how they can better serve them will augment the assessment process. Newport data from the expansive Rhode Island Healthy Aging Data report compiled by the University of Massachusetts Gerontology faculty which includes 122 metrics on the older population in each Rhode Island community will also be used to inform community need.

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.

Newport has a strong history of engaging its residents in planning for its future. In developing the Newport Comprehensive Land Use Plan with its required elements for Housing, Transportation, Outdoor Spaces and Community/Health Services the City conducted extensive outreach to engage and solicit input from residents. The resulting document has a significant focus on the City's older population and excellent alignment with Age-Friendly domains. Building on this, a Newport for All Ages Stakeholder group led by the Newport Partnership for Families has been formed. Participants include older residents, City Council members, non-profit organizations, AARP RI representatives, faith-based entities and academia. With the assistance of the group's City Council liaison appropriate City department representatives will participate in the Stakeholder group and become engaged in age-friendly activity. This will include planning, public safety and recreation. Finally, organizations and businesses not yet involved with Newport for All Ages will be invited to participate and join a widening collaborative to inform strategic plan development and contribute to implementation activities.

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?

The WHO/AARP Age-Friendly Network recognizes that every community is unique. What makes Newport, Rhode Island unique is its history, starting with its beginning as a colonial settlement, its ties to the sea with its deep harbors with ships passing from every port in the world, its attraction as an internationally famous tourist location and its ties to the U.S. Navy. Plans and activities to protect the City's historic, natural and cultural resources; preserve its open spaces; and promote its economic well-being need to include innovative responses to the City's distinct characteristics and changing demographics and promote an enhanced quality of life for residents of all ages. The objectives framed in the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, a unique requirement of Rhode Island state law, promotes livability for all ages and life stages and includes goals focused on the needs of the City's older residents. As the City continues its journey toward Age-Friendliness it hopes to both learn from the experiences of other communities engaged in this journey and to contribute and share the lessons learned from its own unique pursuit of becoming an Age-Friendly City.

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?

Our inspiration came from the recognition that the City's demographics were changing as the number of older adults were comprising a greater percent of population while the population itself was not projected to increase. This fact was noted in the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan which states, "Newport's median age is rising in almost all respects. Aging populations require different services and facilities than young populations do." Based on this recognition, a group of residents began research on Age-Friendly communities and visited Salem, MA to learn about their work on Age-Friendliness and how they became an WHO/AARP Age-Friendly Network. Subsequently, a local philanthropic foundation provided funds for a consultant on aging to review the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for alignment with age-friendly domains. Significant alignment was found in the review and the findings and information about Age-Friendly communities was presented to a broadened stakeholder group and City government leaders. This provided the momentum to move to apply to join the AARP Age-Friendly Network.

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:

Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send a JPEG, PDF or PNG of your logo by email attachment to livable@aarps.org.

