



## 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](mailto: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: 11/10/2019**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Milbank**

**STATE: South Dakota**

**POPULATION SIZE: 3300**

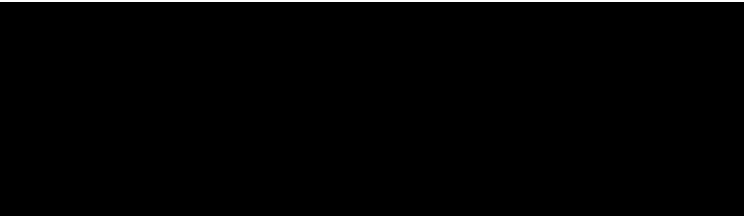
**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 20.5%**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Pat Raffety, Mayor**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 1001 Est 4th Ave, Milbank, SD 57252**

### 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:

*Bobbie Bohlen is the Executive Director for the Grant County Development Corporation. The organization is committed to encouraging and advancing the development of private enterprise, community development, area tourism, industry and business to the best interest of Grant County.*

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](http://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.**

We picked three areas that we felt we needed to provide some focus and energy to; Community Connection & Engagement, Health & Healthcare, & Park Recreation & Outdoor Amenities. We are choosing to put focus there because these areas apply to everyone across the age range. Our focus is to provide more opportunities for older folks to engage in outdoor activities which ties into being healthy and healthcare in general. Park & Rec includes one-stop for hunting /fishing license, encourage useage of parks, increased participation and tracking of Parks & Rec Programs. This leads us to becoming a a "healthy lifestyle community"

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

We have started that process by reaching out to groups that are specifically geared to the older generation including study clubs, the local card group in the Visitor Center, organizations such as Kiwanis and the churchs. Those groups can be overlooked. Our local Index includes Community Connection & Engagement column, as well as a Health & Healthcare, the target market being older. Those indicators include "Neighbor Check-In", Give 10 Volunteer for adults, Community Day of Giving. In addition our loca workout center has a specific time set aside for older walkers and swimmers.

**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.**

In late 2018 early 2019 Milbank and the surrounding area conducted a project with its citizens to understand " What Matters Most" We took input electronically, on facebook thru listenposts to understand what matters to the citizens in Grant County. From that information we developed an Index. The Index is made up of criteria that was identified by Community Members. We use this index to guide and direct projects. It gives us a definition of how we value success in our community, rather prescribing to a predetermined deffintion of sales tax and population. One of the pillars in our Index is Health & Healthcare . This is just an example where are pillars match the livability index. The Milbank index includes indicators for City Adminisrtaion, Healthcare, education and general well being.

#### 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?

It is our hope that smaller communities will be encouraged by our participation. The uniqueness of Rural Communities are what makes them livable. Projects do not have to be big! Mental health is all about being connected and valued in a family, community or neighborhood. We believe we have an advantage in that respect over larger areas.

#### 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?

When we realized that we had already built and Index that matched up with the Livability guidelines we were encouraged / motivated to further our own project by joining the AARP Network. By bringing a spotlight to the work that has already been done it will motivate our community to keep going and continue to add the Index as we check off projects that have been accomplished. It feels like a half time pep talk from the coach. The goal is to provide a community that thrives into the future.

#### 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](mailto:livable@aarps.org).*

