



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: Sioux Falls

STATE: SD

POPULATION SIZE: 183,200 (2018 estimate)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 13%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Paul TenHaken, Mayor of the City of Sioux Falls

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 224 W. 9th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

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 contact information]

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

Mary Michaels is the Public Health Prevention Coordinator for the City's Health Department and leads the Live Well Sioux Falls initiative, which is focused on engaging community partners in health promotion, disease prevention and enhancing livability in Sioux Falls. Live Well Sioux Falls has recently completed its third formal Community Health Needs Assessment, which guides the health department and its community partners in developing strategies to address health needs in the Sioux Falls area. In addition to working on livability and age-friendly efforts at the local level, Mary also serves on the steering committee for Livable 605, a statewide partnership under the umbrella of AARP-South Dakota, which is focused on helping other South Dakota communities connect to livability resources.

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.

Alyssa Gehle, agehle@siouxfalls.org

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.**

The City of Sioux Falls has a long history of implementing policies, programs and services designed to help older residents thrive in our community. From government services to those provided by health care facilities, schools, employers, churches and non-profits, we are a community that is well-positioned to enhance our efforts through membership in the Age-Friendly Network. Examples include: Active Generations, an organization providing educational, social, nutritional and fitness support for older adults (including Meals on Wheels); community education through the Sioux Falls School District; the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) education programs designed for adults 50+; the Helpline Center, offering connections to community volunteer opportunities as well as 24-hour telephone support for health, financial, or family needs; and parish nursing services at many local churches. Our Parks & Recreation department offers programs specifically designed for older adults, and our Human Relations office ensures that all facets of the community, from infrastructure to employment or housing are ADA-compliant and non-discriminatory. Under the leadership of Mayor Paul TenHaken, our City introduced the One Sioux Falls vision in 2018, which is focused on Health & Safety, Accessible Housing, Workforce, and Engaging People. These priorities are designed to promote collaborative efforts among all community sectors to improve the quality of life for all ages. As a member of the Age-Friendly network, we hope to identify and address the needs of older adults in Sioux Falls.

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

The City of Sioux Falls has a number of well-established citizen boards and commissions that will provide opportunities for older residents to be involved in identifying needs and strategies to address them as we work to become more age-friendly. These boards and commissions cover such areas as ADA/accessibility, affordable housing, health and emergency medical services, charter revision (Sioux Falls is a Home Rule Charter City), homelessness, diversity issues, performing and visual arts, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, and public transit. In addition, a number of project-specific teams led by various City departments - such as those looking at housing and public transit - will seek input from older adults. Through Live Well Sioux Falls, our public health promotion and prevention effort, we have strong relationships with community partners that have participated in past community health needs assessments, and this network of partners also provides additional outlets for us to seek input from older residents through surveys, focus groups or key interviews.

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.

The cooperation and collaboration that exists between City Government and other sectors of the community is a long-standing source of pride for Sioux Falls. There are regular meetings and conversations between City and State government, City and County government, between government and the business community through the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Sioux Falls Development Foundation, participation in community-wide efforts such as the Sioux Empire United Way, and widespread participation from all sectors of the community in our Live Well Sioux Falls initiative. The age-friendly community work will be coordinated under Live Well Sioux Falls, which has already seen great success through three collaborative Community Health Needs Assessments that brought together our two competing health systems, along with more than 25 other organizations in the community. We are confident this coalition-based effort will be able to look at community issues through an age-friendly lens in order to enhance services and programs for older adults.

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 Sioux Falls community has a number of resources that we feel will enhance our membership in the Age-Friendly network and allow us to share experiences with other network members. We believe there will be many positive stories to share from our One Sioux Falls vision, and we have regional health care facilities and outstanding universities that can provide opportunities for research and reporting of outcomes. In addition, we know that challenges with housing, transportation, and isolation are especially hard for our residents during the winter months, and participation in this network will allow us to share our experiences as well as learn from other members as we explore effective solutions to the challenges our residents face.

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?

Sioux Falls has received many accolades over the years for its economy, quality of life, business environment and opportunities for employment and education. While we are proud of these accolades, we understand that Sioux Falls has a growing population – and an aging population – and we are not immune to challenges in areas such as housing, transportation and health. We believe in collaboration as the best way to maximize resources and to address needs or challenges in our journey to become a more age-friendly community. We also know there is much to be learned from the other members of the Age-Friendly Network, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with those 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:

City of Sioux Falls logo – email to livable@aarp.org.

