



## 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:** March 4, 2019

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Clarksville/Montgomery County

**STATE:** Tennessee.

**POPULATION SIZE:** 153,205 (U.S. Census estimates, 2017)

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 9 percent.

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Mayor Joe Pitts

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** One Public Square, Clarksville, TN 37040

### 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:**

Clarksville Communication Director coordinates and participates in marketing, communications, and public relations activities for all city departments. The director prepares public service announcements, news, feature articles and social media content. Assists the Mayor, City Council, departments, boards, and commissions in achieving public relations and information goals. Develops internal and external communication strategies; Leads assigned committees; engages the community in programs and activities; and determines programming for special events and projects.

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.**

The City of Clarksville owns the Ajax-Turner Senior Citizens Center/50-Plus Activity Center and helps fund the non-profit corporation that runs the center. The center received a \$2.5 million City-funded expansion in 2018, and provides activities, meals and services to hundreds of senior citizens each week.

The City operates the Clarksville Transit System, which offers special rates for senior riders and customized van services for residents with special needs.

The City's Office of Community and Economic Development administers a variety of housing programs, including renovations, reconstruction and rental assistance services for low- and moderate-income older adults.

The City's Parks & Recreation Department offers a variety of special programs for older adults, including fitness and nutrition classes and activities at three recreation centers. The department sponsors an annual week-long 50-Plus Senior Games competition, featuring dozens of structured athletic events. Facilities at more than 30 parks and greenways offer plenty of ADA-compliant walking and biking trails suitable for use by citizens of all ages.

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

A new Mayoral Administration has made a strong commitment to ensure that all citizens share in Clarksville's growth and prosperity, including older residents. This includes looking for new partners and structures, such as joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities Initiative, and working more closely with other local governments -- Montgomery County, Austin Peay State University, the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System, and leaders at the U.S. Army's Fort Campbell -- to ensure growth and coordination of efforts to become more age-friendly.

The City and County governments will partner with United Way and its member agencies on surveys and feedback sessions at libraries, recreation and seniors centers, the YMCA, churches and other high-traffic locations to identify needs of older residents and build toward age-friendly solutions.

The community is discussing a new "Senior" Leadership Clarksville program, modeled on the successful Leadership Clarksville, to focus on researching quality of life improvements for older adults and to build a set of program graduates who would become "Age-Friendly Ambassadors" in the community.

**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 Montgomery County Health Foundation administers an endowment derived from the sale of the community's historic public hospital. Some of these resources could be leveraged -- based on competitive, success-relevant application -- to improve the community's Age-Friendliness.

The City and County are aggressively pursuing collaborative alignment of health programs and resources to improve overall quality of life. For example, two substance-abuse prevention programs have been combined into a city/county organization, and discussions are under way to combine the county Health Council and the city's Healthy Clarksville program into one group.

Leaders of City, County, C-MC School System, APSU, the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council and Fort Campbell are meeting regularly to collaborate and coordinate efforts on an array of issues, including ways to make the community more Age-Friendly.

**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?**

**Clarksville-Montgomery County is experiencing growth and prosperity, but is also fully aware of many distinct challenges, such as the lack sidewalks and poor walkability; aging housing stocks and decreasing affordable housing options; high rates of tobacco use and obesity and low general health outcomes.**

**A major challenge for the the current generation of leaders is to capitalize on our current good economy and find solutions for these persistent problems. Our goal is to create a strong, balanced and successful future for our community.**

**As part of a Livable Cities Initiative and network, we hope to learn from other communities and, in turn, model and share successful strategies that we discover and develop.**

**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?**

**Community leaders share a profound commitment to "seize the day" thanks to our current prosperity and shape a more livable and Age-Friendly community for the future.**

**Demographically, with a median age of 30.3, Clarksville-Montgomery County is the youngest county in Tennessee. Yet we understand national demographic trends and see growth in the overall numbers of older citizens, in part because of a steady stream of military retirees influenced by our proximity to Fort Campbell. Our goal of a better community for all, requires a commitment to improving health outcomes, mobility and transportation factors and housing affordability for older citizens.**

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:

