



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly 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@aarpp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Knoxville

STATE: Tennessee

POPULATION SIZE: 186,239

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 19.5 % (latest data from 2014)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Madeline Rogero, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 400 Main Street, Suite 691, Knoxville, TN 37902

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY 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:

As the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, Stephanie Cook is responsible for providing reasonable accommodations to employees and members of the public in order for them to participate in City programs, services and meetings, regardless of limitation or disability. Ms. Cook heads up the City's efforts to renovate facilities to increase access for people with disabilities and to ensure that policies are inclusive of all people without regard to age or ability. Ms. Cook has held leadership roles in initiatives on both the local and statewide level to increase our community's accessibility—particularly as it relates to Visitable housing and Aging in Place; she answers inquiries from constituents about their legal rights and responsibilities as people with disabilities when it comes to housing, transportation, public accommodations and employment and has served on numerous boards and committees aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities for more than 20 years. Ms. Cook is currently a member of the Complete Streets Consortium in TN and is staff liaison to the Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI) which is focused on making Knoxville a more Disability and Senior-Friendly city. Ms. Cook has been with the City of Knoxville since 1998.

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.

Currently, the City of Knoxville is engaged in the following activities which are geared towards becoming more age-friendly: CODI is conducting a Disability-Friendly City survey which is based on the eight domains of Livability; the Office of Neighborhoods offers community grants that increase social participation by providing funds for neighborhoods initiatives such as planting community gardens for access to healthy food; the Office of Neighborhoods also provides information to neighborhoods about emergency preparedness on the personal as well as community level, encouraging neighbors to be involved and watch out for each other—a tremendously important thing for anyone who may be living alone with few supports outside the home. The City’s sidewalk repair program focuses on connectivity to other pedestrian facilities and public transit stops as well as puts priority on any area needing accessibility. When a citizen contacts 311 with a sidewalk access problem, Engineering puts the work order at the top of the list for implementation, to ensure access is provided. The Disability Services Office provides information and referral to anyone needing information about agencies, programs or resources to improve access to their community, transportation, housing, employment or independent living. (Please see additional page.)

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

The Disability Services Office will collaborate with area agencies that work specifically with seniors such as the Office on Aging, TN Commission on Aging and Disability, AARP, and the Council on Aging to ensure that older people are made aware of opportunities to learn about livability, provide input to any proposed changes to policy or the creation of any new policies or programs. Outreach will be done via email, public notices on the City’s website, press releases, mailed invitations and scheduled meetings or focus groups for which the purpose is to discuss age-friendly initiatives. In addition, monthly CODI meetings are open to the public and offer a forum for which anyone with a question or need can express it. CODI is very interested in livable communities and is gathering information via a survey right now. Over the next year, there will be a number of public meetings held to get input from people with disabilities and seniors about what they feel is needed to continue to increase Knoxville’s livability.

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 goal is to invite key agencies and City departments to the table for input and to perform as a team to ensure that all relevant areas are represented and key partners are involved from Day One. Probable team members include: AARP, AAAD (Area Agency on Aging and Disability,) Disability Services Office, Office on Aging, East TN Council on Aging & Disability, CODI, the Transportation Planning Organization’s Human Services team (which focuses on providing transportation to the most vulnerable people such as those who must rely on public transit and those who require accessible transportation options;) Knox County Health Department, Active Knox, Knoxville Area Transit (KAT), Parks and Recreation Department and a City Council member.

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 Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

As we move through this process and discover programs, policies or initiatives that need to be updated to provide a more age-friendly community, or develop a new program or policy to further our existing efforts, we will be happy to share it with our partners at AARP and WHO. By making Knoxville a more age-friendly City, it is believed that other Tennessee cities and counties will take note and see that by including everyone in community is the way to make the BEST community for all people and perhaps more Tennessee communities will commit to being an age-friendly community like Knoxville. In addition, Ms. Cook has been invited to be a part of the statewide Livability Council, so any lessons learned at the local level will be shared amongst the state's team.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Upon attending the AARP Livable Communities Conference, it was clear that Knoxville is already working towards being an Age-Friendly City, so it is only natural to join the network.



Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send us your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file of your community. Membership Application: AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities – Page 3

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >