



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: 3/1/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Montgomery County

STATE: Tennessee

POPULATION SIZE: 200,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 9.1% Note: The Census has this broken down as 65 and older so the percentage is higher.

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Jim Durrett

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 1 Millennium Plaza Clarksville, TN 37042

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:

The communications director for Montgomery County Government serves in a community relations capacity for multiple community initiatives. This individual works with many community groups and organizations, serves on boards on behalf of the County as well as personally and works to promote and share information about the organization's involvement in community activities. Depending on the type project, the communications director will also identify/lead committees and/or subcommittees to involve members of the community. Additionally, depending on the initiative, the communications director will work to solicit general community involvement and feedback.

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](#).

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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.

Montgomery County has a tax relief program for senior homeowners through the Montgomery County Trustee's Office. The most visited County park (Rotary Park) had an extensive ADA accessible trail system added in mid-2014. In late 2014 Spur Line Trail, a small park in a residential neighborhood with a higher than average 60+ population in the community, was completed. The park has ADA compliant sidewalks, lots of trees and greenery as well as several benches on the trail. In April of 2018, Montgomery County completed a park in the middle of Downtown Clarksville, directly across from the main transit station, offering older residents a place to enjoy, rest, and actively engage with their grandchildren on the great lawn or at one of the many community events hosted at the park. The area in the center of downtown where this park was located had previously been an abandoned bank building surrounded by a cement parking lot. In summer 2017 a Clarksville-Montgomery County Sustainability Report was completed to identify where the community was in terms of sustainability, what had been accomplished and goals for the future. Some of initiatives, such as improved walkability, increased transit opportunities, alternative transportation options, and actions that would improve air and water quality all impact the quality of life for older adults. In fall of 2019, Montgomery County will open a 25 acre addition to an existing County Park that will be especially geared toward people with disabilities. In addition to the special equipment in the playground areas there will be ADA compliant trails and wheelchair pads next to each bench in that area of the park. Montgomery County also has a Healthier Montgomery Streets and Neighborhood Initiative that began in 2017 to engage people of all ages to become more active and to live their healthiest life longer. The objectives outlined in the initiative are based on the lifestyles of healthy and active eighty-year-olds throughout the world. A sidewalk initiative is also a priority for the City, County, and the Montgomery County Health Council in moving forward to plan for growth.

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

We are counting on involvement from some of the AARP volunteer leadership in Montgomery County and plan to work collaboratively with organizations like the United Way of Clarksville and the Clarksville and Montgomery County Health Councils. Additionally, we will use surveys, Public Service Announcements, our Ajax Turner Senior Citizens Center, bulletins at various places such as the library, county clerk's office and other offices and businesses that are frequented by seniors. We will also host community sharing/feedback sessions throughout conveniently located places in Montgomery County. Much of the work will be done in collaboration with the City of Clarksville. We have also discussed implementing a Clarksville-Montgomery County "Senior" Leadership Class that would be educated on where we are in terms of quality of life for older persons and what our goals are and should be as we move forward. Similar to Leadership Clarksville they may be assigned projects to research and come up with solutions. They would become Age-Friendly ambassadors for our community sharing the knowledge and goal to become more age-friendly.

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.

Currently we have the Montgomery County Health Council and the City of Clarksville has a city health council. The discussion of merging is currently being studied. As of January 2019, City, County and Fort Campbell leadership have been working together on several efforts for the betterment of the community. The city and county mayors and chiefs of staff meet every other week for collaboration and planning purposes. City and county leadership also meet regularly with Austin Peay State University and Fort Campbell leadership as well as with the leadership of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System and the Clarksville Area Chamber of Commerce. The synergy between the organizations is quite possibly at the highest point in our community's history. As a result, city and county departments and other community agencies are readily poised to broaden their collaborative efforts.

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?

We hope to contribute our experiences as a community as we walk through the process to become a more age-friendly community. Being in the South, one of the major challenges we must overcome is an infrastructure almost solely designed for automobiles. Data shows that people who live in communities that are not pedestrian and bike friendly tend to be unhealthier and more overweight. As we make changes, we plan to be an example to other communities in the South that struggle with the same issue.

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?

Although we are the youngest county in the State of Tennessee with a median age of 30.3, we understand that the aging population is a growing population. We desire to be proactive in our work with AARP to prepare for our aging community and to better serve the aging community which already exists in Montgomery County.

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 enter text.

