



Real Possibilities

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: 10/15/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: The City of Lancaster

STATE: Texas

POPULATION SIZE: 38,400

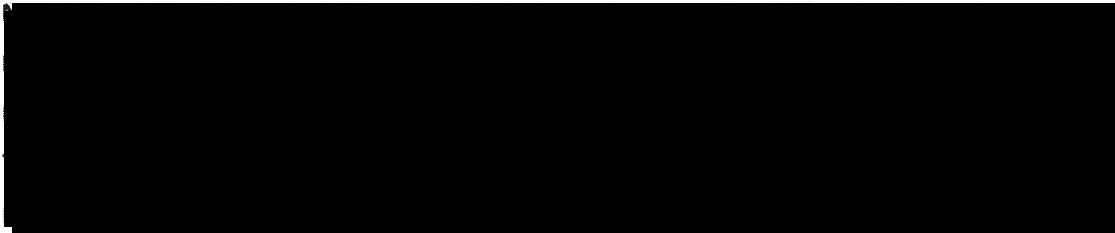
PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 8.6%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Clyde C. Hairston

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 211 N. Henry St. Lancaster, Texas 75146

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.



Carey Neal is the Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Lancaster, Texas. Carey is responsible for all City Council special projects and requests. He is the point of contact for this key initiative of becoming an AARP age friendly community. The Lancaster City Council is committed to being a livable, affordable, and distinctive City; that supports the growth of residents of all ages. One priority of the City is to help senior residents remain in their homes, in spite of the rising cost of living. Lancaster is a place where we embrace public safety and compassionate code enforcement in our neighborhoods, to sustain vibrant residential and business communities. The community celebrates unity and participates in citywide events, recreational and cultural activities. Residents have opportunities for involvement in civic life through boards and commissions, opportunities in recreation, sports teams, City elections, civic academies, school and citywide celebrations. The Lancaster City Council has prioritized senior care initiatives as part of their goals and objectives to ensure Lancaster is an "Age-Friendly City".

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.

Communityrelations@lancaster-tx.com

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 Lancaster has a number of programs geared towards the care of residents 60 and better. The City facilitates those programs through the City's Senior Life Center. The Senior Life Center has a variety of amenities such as; an arts and craft room, a banquet hall, classroom space, computer lab, fitness room, game room, reading club, and so much more. The Senior Life Center is one of the newest facilities in the City, and there is something for everyone. In addition to the amenities, the Senior Life Center host several events for the residents to engage in. Programing includes but not limited to a walking club, knitting and crochet class, water exercise, field trips to various locations around the City, organized shopping, visits to the museum, health fairs, movies, eating and more. The City of Lancaster received a grant for an additional accessible bus to transport seniors to the life center and to grow participation. The police department organized a fishing tournament and donated a pool table for officers to come and play pool, croquet, and pickle ball weekly.

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

The City of Lancaster will utilize the AARP "Age-Friendly" questionnaire, and distribute it through a variety of city venues, such as the senior life center, the library, and the recreation center; to engage as many residents as possible. In addition to the city venues, we intend to distribute the questionnaire through the city operated neighborhood "Next Door" online communication network; along with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to gather information from all areas of the city. The City of Lancaster will commit to spreading this questionnaire at all City hosted special events, such as National Night Out, and bi-monthly Lancaster Markets hosted on the square.

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 Senior Life Center partners with the Dallas Area Agency on Aging, and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services to provide meals through the "Senior Meal Program". The Senior Meal Program, is a daily lunch program that ensures a free and nutritious meal for seniors ages 60 and better. Lunch is served Monday - Friday beginning at 12:00 p.m. while food supplies last or until all eligible participants have received a qualified meal. Lunch is served in the Senior Life Center Dining Hall, and usually concludes by 12:30 p.m. Residents do not have to be a member of the Lancaster Senior Life Center to participate in the free lunch program. In order to join the program, the applicant must complete an intake form and nutritional assessment prior to participation. Participants must also participate in an annual nutrition education session/presentation to remain in the program. There is no cost for this nutrition education session/presentation.

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 City of Lancaster is rapidly growing, and hopes to act as a role model to other cities; on how to keep people of all ages engaged, and healthy by providing an environment that encourages a love for life and community. By combating ageism, and supporting healthy ageing in all policies; Lancaster will raise awareness on the importance of developing age friendly environments. We will document our successful actions, so that surrounding cities may be encouraged to make their communities livable communities.

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?

Lancaster is a place where we embrace public safety and compassionate enforcement in our neighborhoods to sustain vibrant residential and business communities. The community celebrates unity and participates in citywide events, recreational and cultural activities. Residents have opportunities for involvement in civic life through boards and commissions, youth and parent volunteer opportunities in recreation, sports teams, City elections, and Civic Academies, Schools and Citywide celebrations. In 2005, the City of Lancaster donated a large amount of land to the Lancaster High School near the Senior Life Center. The students from that high school visit the Senior Life Center annually to do nails and hair for the senior gala Thanksgiving event.

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.

