State Membership Application
To join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States 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.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: March 22, 2019

Section 1: STATE DETAILS

NAME OF THE STATE: United States Virgin Islands

POPULATION SIZE: 107,268

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: Click here to enter text.

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Albert Bryan Jr., Governor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 1105 King Street, Christiansted, St. Croix U.S.V.I 00820

Section 2: STATE CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY STATES
(The State contact is the staff member who is primarily responsible for carrying out the state-level work.)

Please describe the named person’s role and department in the state’s age-friendly initiative:

Rick Grant leads specialized programs for the Office of the Governor. He serves as a community-minded business partner who promotes humanitarian efforts throughout the territory. As an advocacy arm of the Office of the Governor he leads projects and initiatives and champions causes that restore family and community values, improves the way of life for members of the community and solicits support from private sector establishments to foster, supports and promotes meaningful community engagement through volunteerism and community service. His role is to provide oversight of the local AARP Network of the Age-Friendly Communities and to serve as a liaison between AARP and the Office of the Governor. He will advocate for, promote, coordinate, and manage the planning and administration of all special projects related to age-friendly engagement; as well as develop the requisite council to address the needs of the older population. He will defend and support the interests of the Age-friendly persons in the territory, will develop, implement and monitor policies and procedures and respective protocols that will govern the administration of the local AARP Network of the Age Friendly Communities. He will ensure compliance with all AARP organizational principles Local and Federal laws and regulations as well as with organizational policies and procedures and develop wide-ranging community support.
Section 3: STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of policies, programs, funding and services that are targeted toward older people and how the state plans to become more age-friendly.

Honoring the service of our older community is vital to the Virgin Islands. Older persons were trailblazers and laid much of the ground-work and developed various community foundations for generations to build on. The Virgin Islands will establish itself as a pioneer in the care and engagement of Age friendly community outside of the continental United States. The Office of the Governor will develop, and champion legislation intended to increase services that will engage older residents. We will develop targeted programs that address concerns related to holistic health and care of the older population. We will explore community based protective services, sustainability plans, care giver support, community accessibility, employment options and alternative services.

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

In order to engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly, the Government, through the Council, will engage in dialog through area canvasing, town hall meetings, listening sessions and data collection methods to better understand the engagement level and varied needs of the older population. The Council will lead awareness campaigns to ensure the community wide education on the issues and solutions regarding developing a more age-friendly community. We will engage in partnership with special boards and commissions to further advance the development of the Virgin Islands’ as a truly age-friendly community.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the state has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

Collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments is vital to the success of any community minded endeavor. The Governor and the Council will schedule regular work sessions to review issues, develop solutions and engage as many agencies, departments, and organizations to maximize the impact of the intent of the Age-Friendly community.
4) Briefly describe the mechanisms the state has or is planning to put in place to facilitate engagement with communities to identify unique and disparate needs throughout the state.

In order to facilitate engagement with communities and identify unique and disparate needs throughout the territory we will conduct research on the needs of the community and devise appropriate and relevant outreach initiatives to meet those needs. We will engage in alignment activities with community and national partners and external stakeholders to advance community partnerships, encourage civic involvement, and capacity building and lead community engagement meetings. We will develop and lead targeted task-forces, as needed, to address community issues, increase civic involvement and ensure goal alignment and collaboration between community organizations. These task-forces will serve as a working group and will bring together members of the community with the requisite skill set applicable to the interest of the task-force and will be formed for a specific and time-limited purpose; to accomplish a short-term task.

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.

5) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities/States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The United States Virgin Islands is committed to uphold the values and virtues of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities/States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities. We pledge to continue the level of excellence that is synonymous with AARP by proposing and devising innovative and wide-range activities that support holistic engagement offering educational, social and economic benefits to the Territory through meaningful community engagement, volunteerism and community service. We will engage other learned professionals.

4) What motivated your State to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities/States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The motivation behind joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities is deeply rooted in our will to explore and add innovative opportunities and initiatives to the system that will:

1. Ensure the public good
2. Provide the people of the Territory opportunities to flourish in an age friendly community
3. Increase services that will engage older residents, and;
4. Prepare people of all generations to live productive lives through substantive engagement that will improve the quality of life as they age.
6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your state.

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

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.