



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: 8/8/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Sheboygan

STATE: Wisconsin

POPULATION SIZE: 49,288 (2010 census)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 18.8%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Michael Vandersteen

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Office of the Mayor, 828 Center Avenue, Sheboygan WI 53081

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:

Wendy Schmitz participated in the City of Sheboygan's strategic planning sessions and is responsible for attaining the goals regarding civic and community engagement by older adults. She maintains contact with the regional AARP coordinator, has established a mentor relationship in East Lansing, Michigan and will chair the Task Group. As a City of Sheboygan Department Head and active member of the Chamber of Commerce's Non-Profit Roundtable she is a liason between both worlds.

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.

A list of community policies, programs, and services available in Sheboygan with brief descriptions is found on the accompanying PDF document.

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

There are various ways the City of Sheboygan plans to engage and involve older people in the process of becoming more age friendly. The Sheboygan Community is lucky to have fantastic non-profit organizations and partners such as the Senior Activity Center, Mead Public Library, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Nourish, and other social and civic clubs that many older residents are already a part of. Many of these institutions serve as community gathering places, are centrally located, and can be a reliable place to push out educational and informational materials as well as gather input and create a dialogue with the public. Some of the specific actions the city will take to involve the older population in this process are: holding focus groups, facilitating community cafes, holding an informational open house, inviting seniors to perform walkability surveys, create informational kiosks at the Mead Public Library and Senior Activity Center, display information at City Hall and in city buses. The city will also utilize its social media platforms and website as a way to communicate information and updates, as well as gather feedback.

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.

Directly following the acceptance of Sheboygan's application, the city will create a task force directed toward implementing action steps, many already outlined in the city's Strategic Plan, for the advancement of Sheboygan's age friendliness. The task force will meet on a regular basis and will develop a plan for action step implementation. This task force will operate under the direction and advisement of the city and will engage diverse facets of the Sheboygan community by including representatives from the following:

- Non-profit organizations
- Coastal Connections Young Professionals Network
- Staff from city departments
- Habitat for Humanity
- The education sector
- Service clubs
- Private industry
- The arts community

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?

The City of Sheboygan will contribute to these networks by becoming an involved partner, actively learning from what other communities in the network are doing, putting best practices into use, and developing our own creative solutions that can be shared with other communities. As the first mid-sized city in Wisconsin to become a member in these networks, Sheboygan will work to inspire other cities that share our demographics to join in this age-friendly movement, not just in Wisconsin, but across the upper Midwest. Sheboygan will work toward educating and engaging all residents on what it means to live in a livable, age-friendly community.

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?

Sheboygan has a growing senior population and in response to, and in recognition of, their worth the city is moving forward to become an age-friendly community. This designation and the work that will ensue won't just benefit the senior population, but will be a boon to the quality of life for all that live in and enjoy Sheboygan. Working toward improving age-friendliness will have the following additional benefits for Sheboygan:

- The aging population will have the opportunity to become more active and engaged
- Working toward this goal will allow Sheboygan to reach objectives already set in our Strategic Plan
- Retain and expand Sheboygan's reputation as a desired retirement location
- Resource sharing opportunities
- Seniors will positively and productively contribute to making our community richer

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

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



A JPG file of the logo has been attached to the email with this application and email to livable@aarp.org