**Membership Application**

Join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

**AARP Livable Communities**

When a town, city, county or state joins the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, it is joining a global effort to be a more livable and age-friendly community.

The AARP network is an organizational affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. (Communities wishing to join the global network instead of or in addition to the AARP program can find application information on the WHO website.)

To enroll your community in the AARP network, please complete and submit the application below.

*Note: Since content added to this form cannot be saved, we advise that you review and download a PDF of the questions in advance, gather the materials and information you’ll need, and draft the narrative responses offline for later pasting into the applicable fields.*

### Section 1: Community Details

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<th>Application Submission Date</th>
<th>11/23/2020</th>
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**State**

California

**Community Name**

City of San Leandro

**Total Population**

90,103

**Percentage of Residents Age 60 or Older**

15

**Community Governance Structure (choose one)**

- [ ] Borough
- [ ] City
- [ ] County
- [ ] Town
- [ ] Township
- [ ] Village

- [ ] Other (explain below)

**Explain here if you selected "Other"**
Community Type (Check all that apply.)
- ☑ Urban
- ☑ Mixed
- ☑ Suburban (offices, apartments and shops)
- ☑ Suburban (mostly residential)
- ☑ Small Town
- ☑ Rural
- ☑ Remote/Frontier
- ☑ Other (explain below)
- ☑ Not sure

Explain here if you selected “Other”

Elected Official Signing the Community’s Letter of Commitment

Name (elected official)
Pauline Russo Cutter

Title
Mayor

Office Mailing Address
835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94577

Community Contact
The community contact is the community staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work. (It is not the AARP staff member the community might be working with.)

Name (community contact)

Email

Phone

Fax

Other
Please describe the named person’s role in the community’s age-friendly initiative (100 words minimum)

The City of San Leandro Recreation and Human Services Department (SLRHS) is comprised of the following divisions: Administration, Human Services, and Recreation. SLRHS receives input from the Senior Commission that advises the City Council on matters relating to the status and condition of senior citizens within the City, assesses and reports to the council on the social, health and other needs of senior citizens, and recommends methods of meeting such needs. The Senior Commission is comprised of one member representing each of six City Council districts and three at large members.

The Director of the SLRHS Department is Jeanette Dong. The Senior Services Supervisor is Susan Criswell. Ms. Criswell will take the lead to organize community-based efforts along with San Leandro Senior Commission Chair Jan Woycheshin, Vice Chair Bella Comelo and support from the San Leandro Senior Commission.

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 subscribe now, visit AARP.org/LivableSubscribe. You will not be disconnected from this page. After completing the newsletter form, AARP will send an email — with the subject line “Action Required” — containing a link for you to confirm the subscription.

Section 2: Community Activities, Engagements and Collaborations

Briefly describe your existing community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people. Please identify how your community plans to become more age-friendly. (250-300 words required)

The San Leandro Recreation and Human Services Department (SLRHS) incorporates a framework of the following values into the Department’s mission of facilitating the provision of excellent recreation and human services that foster sense of community:

- Inclusive - Taking into account the diversity, availability and affordability of the community in the planning and delivery of programs and services
- Excellence - Striving for the highest quality in everything SLRHS does
- Dedicated - Committed to creating community through positive experiences
- Honesty - Truthful in our work to maintain and build trust
- Accountable - What we do is consistent with what we say

The San Leandro Senior Community Center, opened in 2011, provides a safe and welcoming place for seniors to engage in a broad range of activities and services that include:
Classes - Exercise options from seated exercise to cardio workout, arts and crafts, writing, and more
Social Programs - craft circle, swing dance, movies, table tennis and musical jam sessions, and more
Special Events - Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon, Holiday Market, Patriotic Pop Up, and more
Paratransit and Travel services - FLEX RIDES Paratransit, Senior day trips, extended travel opportunities.
Health and Wellness services/resources - Living Well With Diabetes, blood pressure checks, Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, and Community Education Programs.

As part of the Human Services Division, Senior Services focuses on coordinating with the city’s nonprofit agencies, governmental agencies, faith organizations, schools and businesses in identifying and providing programs and services that will improve the quality of life for older adults and their families. The Recreation and Human Services Department plans to become more age-friendly through discussions with other older adults and strategic planning across City departments, thereby expanding Senior Services’ sphere of influence beyond the walls of the Senior Community Center to such initiatives as pedestrian safety, affordable housing, transportation, and more.

How will older adults be involved in the community’s efforts to become more age-friendly? (250-300 words required)

The Recreation and Human Services Department, with the support and guidance of the San Leandro Senior Commission, will strive to engage older adults through the following directives:

• Expanding community resources to ensure a comprehensive service delivery system for San Leandro residents
• Facilitating the provision of programs and services that foster human development
• Promoting health and wellness and strengthening the sense of belonging
• Investing in our community through the development and operation of parks, facilities and open space
• Increasing access to equitable, excellent community services

Implementing the above directives will strengthen San Leandro’s community image and sense of place. A robust outreach effort will be necessary in order to take a data driven approach to determine which Domains of Livability are most desired by the community to become the focus of San Leandro’s Age Friendly action plan.
In order to ensure that the above directives will meet the specific needs of older San Leandro residents, Senior Services staff and the Senior Commission will conduct a broad outreach effort to engage older adults through several different methods that may include but not be limited to community focus/affinity groups and conversations, surveys, stakeholder dialogues, social media, and collaboration with non-profit organizations that serve area residents. The Senior Commission members will reach out to their constituencies via small gatherings and individual interviews to gather additional input. Recommendations from the San Leandro Human Resources Gap Analysis will also be consulted. The feedback from all outreach efforts will be carefully reviewed by Seniors Services staff and the Senior Commission.

How will the efforts to become more age-friendly increase collaboration and coordination among relevant community agencies and departments? (250-300 words required)

Since its opening in 2011, the San Leandro Senior Community Center (SCC) has been a thriving and essential hub for the San Leandro community to recreate and receive services. With an average of 250 visitors per day (prior to current closure due to pandemic), the SCC has grown in programs, classes, and outreach; i.e. from Line Dancing classes, Ukulele lessons, hot meals, grocery giveaways, to Wellness Calls/Checks, low-cost transportation alternatives, tax and health insurance assistance, and multi-cultural events and programming.

The department has strong existing working partnerships within the community; partners include Spectrum Community Services, LIFE ElderCare, Alameda Healthcare System, Legal Assistance for Seniors/Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. SLRHS will increase collaboration and coordination by building on what we know and what we will learn as we venture into becoming an age-friendly community. Senior Services, along with the City’s Senior Commission, will be key partners in the planning and implementation of the Age-Friendly Project.
Within the City staffing structure, there are avenues in place, such as regular Department Head, City Manager, and Commission meetings, to facilitate planning efforts and form leadership teams in order to address the Domains of Livability that are identified by the community engagement efforts conducted by Senior Services staff and the Senior Commission. We anticipate closer cooperation between SLRHS and other city departments including Community Development, Engineering and Transportation, and Public Works in order to ensure that the needs of San Leandro’s elders are incorporated into project planning in the areas of housing, pedestrian safety, transportation, and capital improvements.

Section 3: Network Membership

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your community’s membership in the age-friendly network and enable AARP to better understand how to support the network.

1-a. What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (100 words minimum)

Acknowledging the fact that there are approximately 45 million Americans who are age 65 or older and by 2030 that number will reach 73 million, the San Leandro Senior Commission recognizes the need for and importance of the City of San Leandro joining the movement to become part of the Age-Friendly Initiative. San Leandro Senior Commissioners Jan Woycheshin (Chair), Bella Comelo (Vice-Chair), David Anderson, Darlene Daevu, Kathe Frates, Mary Jo Knueven, Claudia McHenry, and Fred Simon have all been inspired and motivated by other Bay Area cities that have embraced the Age-Friendly Initiative.

In stride with the City's Mission Statement, "[we] are dedicated and committed to serving the citizens of this community. We strive at all times to achieve the highest professional standards, to communicate a vision of the future, and to enhance the quality of life of every citizen." As stated in the AARP Livable Communities, we too "believe that communities should provide safe, walkable streets; age-friendly housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in community life."
1-b. If you have consulted with an AARP State office or the national AARP Livable Communities team to discuss enrollment, please provide that person’s name, title and e-mail address or phone number.

Rafi Nazarians, AARP California, Associate State Director
200 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 400
Pasadena, CA 91101-2422

2. What aspect of your community's current or intended age-friendly work could be useful to other communities in the network? (100 words minimum)

The City of San Leandro is one of the most diverse cities in the nation, located at the center of the dynamic San Francisco Bay Area. As such, we are positioned to bring the voices of many stakeholders to the table to join in the process of determining what our community needs to become a truly Age Friendly City. We anticipate that as the result of our conversations, our City will produce a unique and eclectic framework of Domains of Livability that will guide our progress for years to come. We eagerly anticipate sharing the results of this process to inspire other communities to embrace the concept of creating a community that is truly welcoming and supportive of the well-being of older adults.

Section 4: Required Materials

1-a. Letter of Commitment
Provide a digital file (PDF preferred) of the signed document.

1-b. Resolution or Proclamation (optional)
If your community issued either document in addition to the commitment letter, provide a digital file (PDF preferred) here.

2. Logo or Image
Provide a digital file (JPG preferred) and/or a link to a downloadable logo or other image that represents your community and for which you have reprint rights and permission to provide for use by AARP and the World Health Organization.

*Please email attachments of items 1-a, 1-b and your community’s logo or image to Livable@AARP.org.*

Website URL

https://www.sanleandro.org/

Section 5: Social Media

Provide the most applicable Twitter handle(s) and Facebook account(s) for your community (i.e. an age-friendly coalition, the local government, key elected officials and/or local partners).
Twitter 1:
@CitySanLeandro

Facebook 1:
https://www.facebook.com/cityofsanleandro/

Twitter 2:
@mayorcutter

Facebook 2:
https://www.facebook.com/sanleandrorec/

Additional social media accounts (optional):

Section 6: Agreement

I have read and understand the requirements for my community to become a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, including the need to conduct a community assessment; develop and acquire approval of an action plan; implement the plan; submit an annual best practice and provide periodic updates, including a five-year progress report.

☑ Yes, I understand the requirements.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY’S APPLICATION TO THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY STATES AND COMMUNITIES

Receipt of the application will be acknowledged by AARP within 24 hours of submission or during the next business day.