



## 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](mailto: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: 1/15/2020**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: St. Joseph County**

**STATE: Indiana**

**POPULATION SIZE: 270,771**

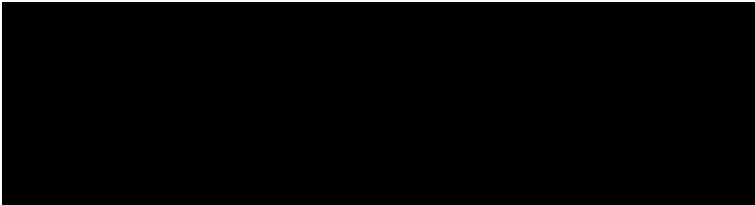
**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21.4%**

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Deborah A. Fleming, DMD;  
Vice-President, Board of Commissioners, St. Joseph County**

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 227 W. Jefferson Blvd., County-City Bldg, 7th Fl., South Bend, IN 46601**

### 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.



**Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:**

Serves as principle contact serves to do most communication between the county's steering committee and sub-committee members. He also keeps notes/minutes of the meetings, and will execute the majority of the day-to-day tasks and oversees individual projects related to the AARP Age-Friendly initiatives.

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](#).

rchallinor@sjcindiana.com; dfleming@sjcindiana.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 County has yet to complete a self-assessment to determine what exists, and what needs to be improved. Through this process, we hope to gain a better understanding of our baseline services, and how we can improve. The county does have quite a few assisted living and nursing homes, as well as group homes for older people, as well as multiple non-profit agencies that cater to seniors. We hope through this process we can improve inter-agency communication, eliminate duplication of services, and better target the needs of our aging population.

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

Through a series of listening sessions at various assisted living centers, nursing homes, community centers, and neighborhood resource centers. Voluntary surveys will also be sent to each of these facilities ahead of the listening sessions to collect data. Surveys will also be sent out through social media targeting people above 60 years of age for our more tech-savvy seniors.

**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.**

We have identified agency and department leaders to either co-chair or serve on sub-committees structured using the AARP Livable Communities initiative. Our initial meeting had attendees from health, transportation, elected officials, real services, community outreach agencies, and other stakeholders that serve our aging population. By engaging them early in the process, and relying on them to serve on sub-committees, we hope to foster improved dialogue between the various service providers throughout the community. As they work to self-assess how they respond to the needs in the community, the Steering Committee from the county will continually mediate conversations between all invested parties to foster collaboration.

**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?**

St. Joseph County is the fifth most populous county in Indiana. Improving services to our aging population of 57,385 benefits not only our local residents, but those visiting, whether attending a football game at the University of Notre Dame, shopping in our various business districts, or attending an event at one of our parks. We hope to not only learn best practices from those communities already in the program, but as hopefully the first county in Indiana to join the network, we hope to be an example to other counties in Indiana.

**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?**

Last year, Commissioner Fleming I was fortunate to attend a meeting in Plymouth, Indiana hosted by the Michiana Area Council of Governments. Two of the presenters, Addison Pollock and Mandla Moyo, represented AARP and spoke on their organization’s network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Inspired by their presentation, Commissionr Fleming assembled a Steering Committee to discuss the feasibility of joining the network. This Committee planned a community event aimed at gaging the community’s interest, and was overwhelmed that over 50 community leaders and stakeholders attended the meeting. The interest was very strong in finding ways to work together to improve the quality of lives for our aging population, and we look forward to working with AARP through this initiative.

**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:**

*A copy of our logo will be sent by email attachment to [livable@aarp.org](mailto:livable@aarp.org).*

