

State: Massachusetts

Community Name: South Hadley

Population Size: 17625

Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 19

Community Structure: Town

Other:

Community Type: Rural

Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment Name:

Michael J. Sullivan

Title: Town Administrator

Office Mailing Address: 116 Main Street, South Hadley Ma 10175

Community

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Role: Mrs. Hennessey is the Director of the South Hadley Council on Aging and manages the day to day operations of the senior center. Ms. Hennessey has been a member of the South Hadley Age Friendly Designation Committee since 2018.

Older Adult Involvement: South Hadley is a community that is committed to including our older adults in decision-making and civic engagement. We will encourage participation and feedback from our center members and the older adult community because we value their wisdom and experience. The Council on Aging produces a monthly newsletter which is distributed to 3,200 residents and will be used to provide awareness and education about our age friendly endeavors. We plan to recruit older adults to participate in a working group to develop an Age Friendly Action Plan for the next five years. This work may involve additional engagement of older adults through surveys and focus group discussions as we develop and refine the report in the coming year.

Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:) South Hadley is already a designated Dementia Friendly Community. In order to achieve this distinction, community agencies, principle stakeholders and municipal departments vowed to come together to ensure that members of our community with Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, or any other memory loss illness were guaranteed that policies and procedures were developed and put in place to ensure their inclusion in South Hadley's community. The Town's commitment to earning an age-friendly distinction is equally important. A commitment to this cause has already been established by South Hadley's original

work on the three-community Age Friendly Communities Initiative and by our inclusion in the newly formed Age Friendly Pioneer Valley Collaborative. South Hadley members of the three-community steering committee included municipal staff from several Town departments including the senior center, the Town Administrator's office, the planning department, the board of health and representatives from South Hadley's independent and assisted living communities and elder service providers.

AARP Team

Member Contact Info: The Age Friendly Director of AARP for Massachusetts is Antron Watson, Age-Friendly Director, AARP ? awatson@aar.org, p 617-305-0564

Most Instructive Area of Work: South Hadley is currently constructing a state-of-the-art senior center that will be a hub for senior activities, resources, and programs. In addition, we plan to work with the newly formed Age Friendly Pioneer Valley Collaborative facilitated by the PVPC to allow cities and towns that are working on age and dementia friendly planning to share ideas and experiences with designation and assessment, and to consider initiatives that could be promoted on a regional level

Optional

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Logo or Image: Error in form input for this field only.

Website: <https://www.southhadley.org/>

Twitter 2:

Facebook 1: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthHadleyMA?fref=ts>

Facebook 2:

Additional Social Media: