



## 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](mailto:livable@aarpp.org).
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE:** April 27, 2020

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** City of Gardiner

**STATE:** Maine

**POPULATION SIZE:** 5,667

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 26%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Patricia Hart, Mayor

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** City of Gardiner, 6 Church Street, Gardiner, Maine 04345

### 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:**

City employee and support staff to Age-Friendly Gardiner Committee.  
Ad Hoc city committee includes representatives from social service and community health agencies, citizens and elected officials, is open to discussion to all residents.

### 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.

During the Heart & Soul, the city established a series of value statements to guide policymaking. An important focus of this process was families. The age-friendly initiative rounds out and balances these values by bringing attention to people of all ages.

Gardiner already has a number of programs currently in place that make the city age-friendly:

- Property tax relief program
- Sewer/water bill relief
- Walkability/sidewalk initiative to improve downtown sidewalks
- Public safety officers conduct wellness checks
- Voluntary organizations including Oldies but Goodies and Gardiner Main Street

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

The Ad Hoc age friendly Gardiner committee includes mostly older people, and meetings will continue to be open to the general public. The committee will hear from groups and service providers who work with older residents, both by inviting them to bring their concerns to the committee, and by meeting with them at their locations. The goal is to use the snowball sampling approach to identify organizations that work significantly with older persons in the community: asking them to identify people and groups who else the committee should speak with until all groups have been identified.

The committee will work with these groups on the following:

- What do you do now that makes Gardiner age-friendly
- What needs do you know of that could be better met/what would make Gardiner more age-friendly from your perspective?
- What would you like to do yourself to be more age-friendly (and what would you need to do it).

Once we hear from the various groups, we will compile their suggestions and team up with the appropriate partners and groups to set priorities.

#### 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.

Committee members include a mix of municipal officers and representatives of civic organizations. The committee will work with municipal and city-sponsored agencies like, Heart and Soul/Duct tape committee, Gardiner Main Street, public safety and other civic/non-civic groups to make sure that the coordination across the board is included in the implementation process.

#### 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?

We will participate in local, regional and statewide conferences, meetings and educational activities.

We will share best practices and lesson learned.

We will coordinate with neighboring age-friendly communities to develop regional approaches to address shared concerns, such as transportation.

The City's Economic Development Director currently sits on the State of Maine Age Friendly Advisory Committee.

#### 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?

Gardiner understands the value of the Age-Friendly communities initiative and continues to build on the framework of Heart and Soul and broadening inclusivity across all ages.

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:

