



State: Minnesota

Community Name: St. Cloud

Population Size: 67344

Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 16

Community Structure: City

Other:

Community Type: Mixed

Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment

Name: Dave Kleis

Title: Mayor

Office Mailing Address:

400 Second St. S., St. Cloud MN 56301

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Role:

Jennifer Wucherer, City of St Cloud Aging Services staff member will be the community contact person responsible for carrying out the Age-Friendly work within the City of St Cloud. Jennifer will work with the Age-Friendly St Cloud steering committee to engage additional community members, volunteers and partners to join our local initiative. Jennifer will work alongside the committee to ensure the completion of a community needs assessment, develop an action plan, implement and work toward the goals of the plan. Jennifer has served in the field of aging since 2000, primarily through her work with the Greater St. Cloud RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). Jennifer has promoted healthy aging by engaging senior volunteers to actively serve at over 170 human service organizations. Jennifer serves on the Expo for Seniors and MN Senior Games executive committees, bringing these large-scale community events to the area and has chaired the Aging Network and St Cloud Area Volunteer Administrator Associations. She understands the changing trends in demographics as the 65+ population is anticipated to double between 2010 and 2030.

Older Adult Involvement:

Older adults will be involved in all stages of the age-friendly planning and implementation process, starting with steering committee involvement. We have a wealth of human capital to tap into and engage older adults in the process. RSVP Senior Corps has

pre-identified volunteers interested in serving in leadership positions as well as on boards and councils. To begin, we intend to reach out to the vigorous RSVP volunteers that reside in St. Cloud to seek committee members. We will also promote Age-Friendly steering committee involvement through Whitney Senior Center, the Central MN Council on Aging and through the United Way of Central MN. It will be critical that we have older adult representation from the variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds that represent St. Cloud. The older adults on the steering committee will give input to the community needs assessment survey and help implement the survey. They will also be encouraged to conduct focus groups with peers and networks of older adults to solicit additional feedback. As the process and program cycle continues, older adults will be invited to analyze and review the data, assist with developing an action plan, assist with grant writing efforts and implement plans within the 8 AARP Age-Friendly domains. St Cloud State University, located in St Cloud is already invested in the Age-Friendly initiative. The Gerontology Department recently received a grant to become an Age-Friendly SCSU. We are fortunate to have relationships with both retired and current professors in the 50+ age group and will also invite their involvement in the greater Age-Friendly community process.

**Increasing
Collaboration and
Coordination:**

The initial efforts to become an Age-Friendly community has already stimulated collaboration within the City of St. Cloud departments (Administration, Aging Services and the Planning Department) and between the City of St. Cloud and the Central MN Council on Aging. Early connections have also been made with the United Way of Central MN, CentraCare Health, and St Cloud State University Gerontology Department to join the conversation to become more age-friendly. Other relevant community agencies and partners will also be invited to participate in the initiative and will inevitably increase partnerships. Coordination efforts between multiple individuals and organizations focused on aging is a welcomed addition to create greater awareness of resources and encourage new initiatives to meet the needs of our aging community. We also envision this effort will form new avenues to collaborate with neighboring communities. Our intent is to bring forth the concept to the local cities of Sauk Rapids, Sartell, St. Joseph and Waite Park to explore a regional age-friendly approach. This region is interconnected on many levels with numerous programs and services in place to support older adults that go beyond city lines and jurisdictions. The St. Cloud area has an active structure for intergovernmental forums that can be used to communicate about the age friendly initiative. The six local Mayors and elected officials meet regularly, as do the six City Administrators. The City of St. Cloud, Mayor Dave Kleis understands that a thriving community is comprised of many organizations and governments intertwined in partnership. Further, he promotes the city as a central component for providing an atmosphere for people, organizations, and business to flourish.

**AARP Team
Member Contact
Info:**

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**Most Instructive
Area of Work:**

Our intention to become an age-friendly region may be a model for the future. As noted, numerous programs and services are in place to support older adults that go beyond city lines and jurisdictions. The number of older adult that travel between the multiple surrounding cities for programs, services and housing is considerable. Bringing the region together to analyze gaps in services and prioritizing opportunities to allow residents to thrive at every age and every life stage within the region could be advantageous to other communities. The WSC staff have been notably vigorous in shifting programming to virtual and hybrid models during the current pandemic. We believe that this technology and expertise can be leveraged to assist other communities to deliver programming.

**Optional
Resolution:**

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Logo or Image:

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Website:

www.stcloud.mn.us

Twitter 2:

Facebook 1:

City of St. Cloud- Aging Services Department
@CityOfStCloudMNAgingServices

Facebook 2:

City of St. Cloud, MN @cityofstcloudMN

**Additional Social
Media:**

Central MN Council on Aging @cmcoa