



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@aarp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 3/5/2020

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Wayne Township

STATE: New Jersey

POPULATION SIZE: 55,154

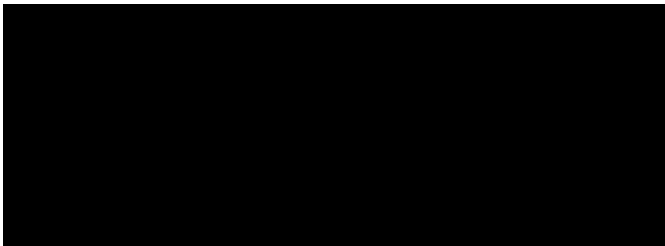
PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 24.5%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor C. Vergano

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Wayne Township, 475 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470

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.



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

Rosemary Acampora, Senior Services Director, is currently involved with many of the senior groups in Wayne Township. She serves on different senior boards; is the secretary for Wayne Township's Senior Advisory Committee; works with various senior organizations (including: OLC Senior Group, St. Timothy's Prime Timers, Wednesdays at the YMCA, Golden Age Circle, Wayne Adult Community Center, Sisco Village, Siena Village, Summer Hill and the list goes on); and has an office in the township, where she is employed full time. The director will serve as a co-coordinator for Wayne Township's Age-Friendly Community Program alongside co-coordinator and Wayne resident, Robyn Kohn, MA, CDP Director of Programs and Services Alzheimer's Association, Greater NJ Chapter with oversight for 14 counties in New Jersey including Passaic. Robyn holds a MA in Educational Psychology, credentialed in medical education and is a dementia care lecturer with over 25 years of healthcare and medical education experience across public and private health sectors. Robyn leads multi-factorial initiatives to address high unmet needs with healthcare solutions for providers, patients and communities. In her position with the Alzheimer's Association Robyn directs dementia-related disorders and Alzheimer's education and wellness programs, care and support services, caregiver support groups, allied health/professional education and training, and leads academic and community partnerships for Alzheimer's Association Greater NJ region. Robyn as a

member of the Mayor's Senior Committee and Rosemary in her role have working relationships with many different community and government stakeholders and will collaborate with them and the various senior groups within our municipality. Our partnership will ensure that we engage with community leaders on all levels and apply an age friendly lens when planning, making decisions and implementing initiatives established by the group. Together, it will be our goal, to form partnerships, to create opportunities, to work together to become more age-friendly and to make Wayne Township a place for people of all ages to enjoy living.

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.

Wayne Township is very responsive to our seniors. Not only do we have a Senior and Social Services Department that is available to assist seniors with questions and concerns but many departments within the municipality are sensitive to issues involving our seniors. That starts from the top down. The Mayor meets with residents, of all ages, one night per week. He also hosts the Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee, where seniors come to express their concerns. At the meetings, the Mayor discusses upcoming changes or improvements that involve Wayne and then opens the floor to the residents. Areas of concern are identified through this process and work is done to make improvements. For example, one of the senior residents brought up a concern about a portion of sidewalk in front of the library that needed fixing. As a result of that meeting, a new segment of sidewalk was installed, making it safer for all to navigate. Another senior expressed disappointment that there is no bus stop, within safe walking distance, near one of the newer senior complexes. In response, the Mayor is working with the Department of Transportation and other entities to get a bus stop installed near the complex. Other senior centered programs offered to our residents are: Health department screenings and programs, including the annual Senior Expo; Parks & Recreation Departments annual Senior Picnic and the Senior Olympics; the Wayne Alliance offers senior friendly programming as well as volunteer opportunities; and the Tax Department assists with Senior Tax Freeze forms. In addition, Wayne has two senior buses that pick up and drop off seniors citizens throughout town and drive them to weekly scheduled stops within the municipality. The Senior Services Department and the Parks and Recreation Department regularly partner to offer a variety of new and exciting senior programs. For example, during the township's free summer concert series, free busing is now available to and from the concerts for those living in our low-income senior facilities. We believe our focus on improving the lives of our seniors, and all our residents for that matter, makes us a perfect candidate to become a member of AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

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

Wayne Township has 55 and older communities, three low income senior housing units, numerous senior organizations, the Wayne Adult Community Center as well as a Senior Advisory Committee. Our seniors are a big part of our community, almost 25%. We plan to hold regular Age-Friendly meetings using members of the Senior Advisory Committee first and then evolving from there. We will provide incentives for seniors to complete the age-friendly surveys that we need to disseminate in order to get a baseline assessment of our community. We will contact leaders of different senior organizations in our community and ask them to bring back information to their groups so we can attract more interest and participation in the Age-Friendly mission. We will involve the Age-Friendly group in creating a three-year community-wide action plan, which will be based on the results of our assessment. We will work to improve Wayne's livability for people of all ages. We will do that by implementing the action plan and evaluating our progress. We will accomplish this by identifying indicators to help monitor our progress with the intention of constantly improving. At the end of the five year commitment we will submit a report outlining our progress.

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 plan to initiate an Age-Friendly Committee and invite senior members of our community to take part. Other members of the committee will include representatives from the county, the municipality, the Alzheimer's Association, other non-governmental and private sector stakeholders across the eight domains of health. The Age-Friendly Committee will develop clear goals and create subcommittees to work toward them. With the strong foundation we currently have, along with the Mayor and Administration's support, I believe we will attract a dynamic group that will be ready for the tasks at hand.

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?

Our goal is to come up with innovative programs, that meet the needs of our senior citizens, and share them with other members of the network. We'd like to learn from others as well. It's helpful to see successful programs run in other communities and to get ideas as to how to implement them in our municipality. We will also collect, and share our age-friendly data to be used to help advance age-friendly interventions network-wide. We hope to be active participants in the Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Our activities will be measurable and will communicate findings and learnings to partners to assure compatibility and support for our network partners.

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?

The concept of joining a world-wide network of age-friendly communities is important to our Township's health and wellness representative of our seniors, residents, families and community. Our township represents intergenerational neighborhoods of all ages striving for similar life values; good education, transportation, fair housing, diversity and inclusion, medical care, social engagement, and social equity. As our residents across generations age we must create living arrangements for our residents to age well by staying physically and cognitively active, engaging in social activities and adapting healthy behaviors and lifestyle. As residents, educators and social service professionals we believe our plans will provide a more enriching and engaging life experience and have sustainability for our youth and future residents. The passion, motivation and forward-thinking work we plan to initiate with the senior community and our networks of family and professionals will instill a healthier and enriching living space for our township of Passaic County. We would be honored to be the first Passaic County municipality for this important designation representative of our youth and seniors that make-up our culturally diverse families and addressing the unmet needs with solutions for all our populations of Wayne Township.

6) 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 >



www.waynetownship.com