



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

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 8/27/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Schenectady County

STATE: New York

POPULATION SIZE: 154,727

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 21%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Rory Fluman, County Manager

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 620 State Street, 6th Floor, Schenectady, NY 12305

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.

[Redacted contact information]

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

The Public Health Education Coordinator will serve as the project manager for all activities related to age-friendly initiatives. The Coordinator will be responsible for participating in all AARP age-friendly related meetings, webinars, conference calls, and completing required assessment surveys and documentation. This individual will also lead the County wide coalition, assist with the development of an outreach plan to engage older residents, facilitate community engagement sessions, and lead the development of the three year age-friendly community action plan for Schenectady County.

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.

Click here to enter text.

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 Schenectady County Department of Senior and Long Term Care Services is the entity responsible for the policies, programs and services within the county related to older individuals. The mission of the Schenectady County Department of Senior and Long Term Care Services is to promote the long term health and well being of Schenectady County residents and assure that they receive the necessary community-based services that they are entitled to in order to remain safely in the community. These services are provided without regard to race, color, sex, including gender identity or expression, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, age, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status or domestic violence victim status. To fulfill this mission, the Department provides the following programs and services either directly or through sub-contractors: Annual Senior Picnic; Senior Trips Program; Health and Wellness Fair; Farmers' Market Coupon Program; Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP); DSS – Long Term Care Program; Care at Home Program for medically fragile children; NY Connects/No Wrong Door Information and Assistance; Congregate Breakfast and Lunch Programs; Home Delivered Meals Program; Legal Program; Caregiver Support Services; Older New Yorker of the Year Awards Program; Nutrition Education and Counseling; Health Insurance Information and Counseling Assistance; Distribution of Thanksgiving Baskets and Holiday Gifts; and Public Education and Outreach. The community will work collaboratively with this Department along with other organizations, to ensure currently existing programs and services are strengthened to address AARP's eight domains of age-friendly communities where applicable, as well as to implement new policies, programs and services to address any gaps. The community will work together to create a community action plan to incorporate existing work and strengthen programs in areas to ensure all eight domains are met to better serve all residents within Schenectady County.

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

The community and older residents will be involved in the process in a number of ways. Community agencies and associations will be invited to participate in the Schenectady County Age-Friendly Coalition. In this coalition, community members and agencies will be involved in the entire age-friendly process from analyzing baseline data regarding opportunities and services within the county, prioritizing need within each of the eight domains of age friendly communities and developing and implementing a community wide action plan. Other community residents outside of the coalition, will have an opportunity to share their opinion regarding improvements related to the eight domains via surveys, community focus groups and town halls, and an open comment period for the community action plan.

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.

Schenectady County is well known for collaborating and working together to ensure the most effective programs and services are being implemented. To ensure the planning and implementation of Schenectady County's Age-Friendly Community Action plan has representation from different agencies, departments, and neighborhoods, Schenectady County will create an Age-Friendly coalition. Agencies from different sectors across the county will be invited to be involved with the development and implementation of the age-friendly community action plan to ensure Schenectady County is more age-friendly. Representatives participating in the coalition will each represent at least one of the eight AARP domains and serve as the lead entity to ensure the action plan is implemented within years 3-5 of the age friendly cycle.

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?

Schenectady County hopes to be an example of how an entire county can collaborate with organizations and residents to work towards becoming age-friendly. Schenectady County hopes to bring helpful project ideas that can be implemented by non-profits/government agencies as well as projects that can be implemented by neighborhood associations and other groups. The goal of the Schenectady County Age-Friendly Coalition will be to ensure County-wide projects that range from small to large scale, and that they are tangible for all sectors to be involved in some capacity, and that they are transferable to other counties and regions across the nation.

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?

New York State Office for the Aging released a Request for Applications to a New York State Age-Friendly Planning Grant Program. Within this request, applicants are required to complete step one of the AARP Age Friendly application. Prior to deciding to apply for this grant our department did some research regarding AARPs Age-Friendly Communities and were enticed to become part of this global network based on all of the great work that other counties and regions had shared. After learning more about the AARP and WHO’s network of age-friendly communities we wanted to become part of the global initiative and that is what motivated Schenectady County to join the AARP network.

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:

Logo is attached.

