

COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY



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August 27, 2019

Ms. Beth Finkel
AARP New York State Director
1 Commerce Plaza, Suite 706
Albany, NY 12260

Dear Ms. Finkel:

On behalf of Schenectady County, I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment to support the work of the Schenectady County Department of Senior and Long Term Care Services and Schenectady County Public Health Services for the opportunity to join with AARP New York and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community.

In the winter of 2017, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced New York State was designated as the first Age-Friendly State in the nation by AARP and WHO. Schenectady County recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to help support New York State's commitment to continual improvements that create livable communities which support the unique needs of seniors and improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

To support efforts regarding New York State's Age-Friendly designation, Schenectady County will create a County-wide coalition to address the ever changing demographics and needs of our community. The Schenectady County Age-Friendly coalition will be comprised of a diverse group including leadership from non-profit agencies, funding agencies, policy makers, advocacy groups, older New Yorkers, and community stakeholders. This group will work to gather baseline assessments of the age-friendliness of Schenectady County via surveys and community engagement sessions. This baseline assessment will guide the development of a Schenectady County Age-Friendly Community Action Plan which will be implemented and monitored by the champions involved in the coalition. The Schenectady County Age-Friendly Community Action Plan will include smart growth principles as well as address the eight domains of livability as identified by AARP.

Through this collaborative effort, Schenectady County will support the creation of (or expansion of) activities and policies that support and enhance the lifestyle and neighborhoods of our residents at every age. We look forward to joining this global network of communities committed to improving livability for individuals throughout their lifetime.

Thank you for your consideration of membership for Schenectady County to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

Rory Fluman
County Manager