



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: 3/10/2020 **NAME OF THE**

COMMUNITY: City of Bellbrook

STATE: Ohio

POPULATION SIZE: 7200

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 19%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Michael

Schweller OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 15 East Franklin Street, Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

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.



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

As City Manager, Melissa is committed to engaging the community as a whole in making decisions and creating policies to move the City forward. It is imperative that intentional dialogue occurs and this initiative is a way to ensure that happens. Melissa will spearhead this initiative and oversee the program from start to finish.

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](#).

Jessica Hansen - j.hansen@cityofbellbrook.org

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 City of Bellbrook is in the process of revitalizing. We are committed to creating a more walkable, accessible downtown and community by investing in infrastructure related to this goal. We have a number of organizations in the community that serve the older population but the City needs to do a better job to engage them. We have a senior citizens center in our community that provides services and resources along with the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Family Resource Center. To become a more age-friendly community really starts with understanding the needs of the different populations. We have not made an intentional effort to target different age groups to get feedback and this program will encourage us to do exactly that. Once we have identified the needs we will be able to dedicate resources and create policies to meet those needs.

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

We plan to hold a focus group possibly at the senior center or in one of our neighborhoods that houses a lot of our seniors. We will also create a survey and publish the link on our website and in our newsletter that goes out to the entire community three times per year. We will then assess the level of feedback from those two methods and adjust accordingly.

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.

The City Manager is very engaged with the various organizations and agencies in our area as are our department heads. The City contains a number of organizations within its own boundaries and there are also a number that represent and serve the entire county. This collaboration has always been strong and we plan to continue building on those relationships.

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?

We hope to contribute by sharing the information we gather that could be helpful to others as well as any programs or policies that we implement that could also be beneficial. Collaboration and sharing are both key to the success of every community and we plan to share as much as we possibly can to help others.

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?

With the hire of a new City Manager in 2018 and the implementation of the first update of the City's Comprehensive Plan since its adoption in 1974, it is a time of welcomed and needed change in the community. Understanding the needs of all of the populations in the community is very important in order for us to adequately serve and carry out our mission to provide services to the entire community. This network will just add to our toolbox of resources to help us continue to move forward and ensure that all voices have the opportunity to be heard.

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:

Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send a JPEG, PDF or PNG of your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.

