



**State:** Ohio

**Community Name:** Worthington

**Population Size:** 14621

**Percentage of Residents Above Age 60:** 25

**Community Structure:** City

**Other:**

**Community Type:** Suburban (offices, apartments and shops), Suburban (mostly residential)

**Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment Name:** Matthew H. Greeson

**Title:** City Manager

**Office Mailing Address:** 6550 N. High Street Worthington, OH 43085

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**Role:** Colleen will work to convene stakeholders and partners to plan and implement the age friendly initiative in Worthington. As Senior Center Manager, and city staff member, Colleen will coordinate the planning committee to include representatives of the following: an active senior resident of Worthington, local resource pantry, elected official, library, faith community, senior services provider, community group and agency on aging. This committee will take the process through data collection and research and focus on potential strategies to raise awareness and implementation of the Age Friendly Initiative. Through focus groups, surveys and community meetings, the planning committee will work to establish a baseline assessment of the community's age-friendliness and develop an action plan based on findings.

**Older Adult Involvement:** The planning committee make up is designed with the purpose of connecting to and understanding the needs of the older adults served in full by the Worthington Community. Each of these representatives on the committee will engage in the planning of the Age Friendly Initiative to connect back to their constituents as well as include the older adults they serve. Mailed surveys, data

collection at community events, public meetings and focus groups will all be ways in which older adults will be included in the efforts to become an Age Friendly Community. As the planning committee moves beyond the data collection and into the action planning phase, older adults will be given similar opportunity to provide feedback and review as we move forward.

**Increasing  
Collaboration  
and  
Coordination:**

As stated above, the planning committee make up is designed to coordinate and collaborate with a large cross section of community resources. As data is collected and focus groups and surveys completed, the planning committee members will work together to establish the action plan based on findings. Partnering with the Senior Recreation Center, Library, Faith Community, older adult residents, senior service organizations, local agencies on aging and community groups will allow a broad conversation to address the needs of older adults in the community and bring an understanding and awareness of the Age Friendly Initiative.

**AARP Team  
Member Contact  
Info:**

Ken Davis AARP Ohio, Manager, Outreach & Volunteer Engagement  
17 S. High St., Suite 800 Columbus, OH 43215 C: 614-738-6007 E:  
[kedavis@aarp.org](mailto:kedavis@aarp.org)

**Most Instructive  
Area of Work:**

The city of Worthington, with such a high density of older adults is located at the heart of Ohio, just on the border of Columbus, is land locked without the ability to expand out and faces challenges that inevitably will need to be addressed as part of the age friendly initiative and could be helpful to others that may experience similar situations. The Worthington Community is one that largely works together with a grassroots spirit that unites the Community as a whole. This spirit, combined with the engagement of the various research and community organizations, like Age Friendly Columbus and the Coalition of Age Friendly Communities of Ohio (CAFCO), will allow our initiative to develop into a testing ground for innovation and implementation of age friendly practices for other communities across the United States; bringing great benefit to those within the network. With The Ohio State University, Age Friendly Columbus and Franklin County in such close proximity and partnership, Worthington will benefit from direct engagement and idea sharing to bring lessons learned and best practices as we move forward in our initiative and allow us to then lead the way for other communities who want to join the network.

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Resolution:**

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**Logo or Image:**

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**Website:**

[www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org)

**Twitter 2:**

**Facebook 1:**

<https://www.facebook.com/WorthingtonOH>

**Facebook 2:**

**Additional Social**

**Media:**

<https://www.instagram.com/worthingtonohio/>