



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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 8/23/2019

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Jackson

STATE: Tennessee

POPULATION SIZE: 65,211

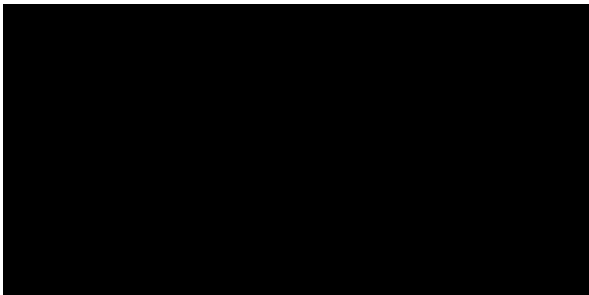
PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 15.4% Note: The Census has this broken down as 62 and older so the percentage is higher.

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Scott Conger

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 121 E Main St. Suite 301 Jackson, TN 38301

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:

The Special Projects Manager for the City of Jackson is responsible for planning and implementing all community-focused projects and initiatives through the Mayor's Office. The Special Projects manager works directly with many community groups and organizations, and also serves as the staff liaison for the Anti-Poverty Task Force. The Special Projects Manager will work closely with the Aging Commission that will be formally established by the City of Jackson on September 2, 2019. The Special Projects Manager will also work closely with the City of Jackson's department heads and the Communications Director to effectively coordinate and communicate about community initiatives. Depending on the project, the Special Projects Manager will be directly responsible for community engagement and planning efforts, fundraising, grant writing, and evaluation.

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.

Since opening in January 2013, the LIFT Wellness Center has become an incredible resource for older adults in West Tennessee. The LIFT is a state of the art medical fitness facility that offers a variety of classes and equipment for therapeutic and restorative care. The LIFT now has over 5,000 members, with a sizeable older adult population that utilizes the facility on a daily basis. The Jackson Walk area surrounding the LIFT development has become a model development for Jackson in areas of walkability, accessibility, health and vitality – all things that are important for ensuring livable communities for older adults. Many other private and nonprofit agencies provide services to older adults in our community. In particular, the Area Agency on Aging (Southwest Tennessee Development District) coordinates services like MyRide West Tennessee, a volunteer senior transportation service that provides transportation assistance for Senior Citizens age 60+. The City of Jackson supports these community services, and intends to continue making the community more age-friendly by establishing an Aging Commission to serve as the City’s planning and engagement task force on age-friendly initiatives. In particular, the Aging Commission will be tasked with developing a long range plan for building a senior citizens center in Jackson. Currently, the only senior citizens center in the area is near the county border and not very accessible by city residents.

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

We will utilize the Aging Commission to serve as a connector for citizens, agencies, and departments. We also intend to involve local and regional AARP volunteer leadership, and partner with organizations like the United Way of West Tennessee, RIFA, Habitat for Humanity, and other groups who serve seniors in our community. We will utilize all forms of communication to reach seniors, to include in-person surveys, bulletins, flyers, public service announcements, radio, newspaper articles, and social media posts that are targeted to reach as many older adults in our area as possible. The Aging Commission will be tasked with developing a strategic plan to better serve older adults in Jackson. As part of this strategic planning process, we will host panel discussions, community feedback and planning sessions, and other events at conveniently located places throughout the city of Jackson. We will prioritize this feedback as we plan and adjust our programs, services, and facilities.

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 of Jackson Aging Commission will serve as a key resource for facilitating collaboration between the City of Jackson, Madison County, and other public and private agencies for better serving older adults in our community. The Aging Commission will be tasked with developing a strategic plan for serving our aging population. This plan will include recommendations for each department in the City, from communication strategies to parks and sidewalk designs. Various departments and partner agencies will collaborate to implement and evaluate the plan.

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?

In 2018, Jackson was awarded the “Most Livable” city in America with a population under 100,000. We hope to contribute ideas and resources to the Network from our experience in improving and promoting livability in our city. We also hope to be an example to other cities in how we engage older adults in public service opportunities, prioritizing an inter-generational approach to planning and problem solving. This includes the Aging Commission as well as other opportunities to serve the community. We are also striving to be an example to other communities in areas related to pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and quality, affordable housing solutions.

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?

We recognize and believe that the aging population is a growing population in our city that deserves our attention and respect. By joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities, we believe we will receive vital support and guidance on how we can best plan and care for older adults in our community. We desire to be more proactive in our planning efforts instead of reactive, with the ultimate goal of providing the highest quality of life for all citizens regardless of their age or abilities.

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 >



Logo attached.