



**State:** Wisconsin

**Community Name:** City of Oshkosh and Surrounding Area

**Population Size:** 66729

**Percentage of Residents Above Age 60:** 16

**Community Structure:** City, Other (explain below)

**Other:** City of Oshkosh and surrounding areas may include local townships and other local cities

**Community Type:** Mixed

**Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment**

**Name:** Lori Palmeri  
**Title:** City of Oshkosh Mayor

**Office Mailing Address:** 212 W. Parkway Ave.

[Redacted address information]

**Role:** As the Aging & Resources Program Supervisor and Older Americans Act (OAA) Director, Bryn is responsible for Winnebago County’s Federal Older Americans Act (OAA) funds as well as supervisory responsibilities within Winnebago County’s Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Bryn oversees eight staff to include the County’s Adult Protective Services (APS) team. The APS team is responsible for preventing, investigation and acting upon reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation of adults at risk and those adults 60 and older. In her role, Bryn is responsible for applying & utilizing Winnebago County’s Elder Abuse grant funds. Additionally, Bryn is responsible for Winnebago County Department of Transportation (85.21) grant funds to meet the ADA and specialized transportation needs of individuals with disabilities and those adults 60 years and older. Bryn also oversees 20 County grant agreements with community partners to include: older adult nutrition programs, grandparents raising grandchildren / caregiver

support programs, evidence-based health promotions programs for older adults and active older adults programming with local YMCAs. For these reasons, she has been named as the Community Contact. Bryn has subscribed to the AARP Livable Communities Weekly e-Newsletter.

**Older Adult Involvement:**

We will engage the community specifically older adults in becoming a more age-friendly community by building upon what we already know. In 2019, Winnebago County Health Department conducted a Falls Prevention project. Hosting a variety of community talks and partnering with local fire departments, health care systems and other agencies working directly with older adults, much was learned. Their research uncovered the most likely causes of falls among older adults. Armed with this information, our community was able to prioritize & begin to address the common causes for falls. Both with information learned recently from this project and with ongoing feedback from City of Oshkosh older adult residents, the Age-Friendly workgroup will develop an action plan. Priorities will be based on citizen feedback and those involved with the Age-Friendly workgroup. Means of engaging older adults will be through the City of Oshkosh's Committee on Aging, surveying local Senior Center and YMCAs older adult participants as well as with the work of our local Dementia Care Specialist and Older Americans Act Director. A recent example of community engagement would be a grant awarded to our local senior center. The technology grant is designed specifically for addressing barriers with older adults and technology. Oshkosh Seniors Centers efforts include one-on-one classes, small group classes, assisting with technology purchases and more. This work comes at remarkable timing allowing seniors to connect with family and loved ones amidst COVID-19, stay-at-home orders and social distancing recommendations.

**Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:**

At current our Age-Friendly workgroup holds local government representatives, a local health care systems representative, public health, the City of Oshkosh representation and Oshkosh Seniors Center representation. Given the breadth and depth of knowledge of those currently involved in the workgroup, initial plans can be formed. It is likely the make-up of the workgroup will fluctuate at times. For example, there may be Action Plan priorities that require more public health involvement than other priorities. There may be great involvement from specialized transportation providers, DOT and others when addressing transportation issues. We hope when surveying older adults & city residents we are able to identify some who have an active interest and will become permanent members of our Age-Friendly workgroup. Bringing older adult voices will strengthen our community commitment & help us to grow as an Age-Friendly Community.

**AARP Team Member**

**Contact Info:** N/A

**Most Instructive Area of Work:**

In 2019, Winnebago County Health Department conducted a Falls Prevention project. Hosting a variety of community talks and partnering with local fire departments, health care systems and other agencies working directly with older adults, much was learned. Their research uncovered the most likely causes of falls among older adults. Some initial opportunities are to promote already existing falls prevention

programs and evidenced-based health promotions classes; promote independence through use of in-home supports, mobility aids, and provide education supporting older adults in their own homes. Destigmatize aging and falls by encouraging safe practices at all ages and more. Armed with this information and ideas for next steps, our community was & is able to prioritize & begin to address the common causes for falls. Both with information learn recently from this project and with ongoing feedback from City of Oshkosh older adult residents, the Age-Friendly workgroup will develop an action plan that may be of assistance to other communities in the network.

**Optional**

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**Website:**

**Twitter 2:** N/A

**Facebook 1:** <https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoHealth/>

**Facebook 2:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Government-Organization/ADRC-of-Winnebago-County-1186987914692853/>

**Additional**

**Social Media:** <https://www.facebook.com/DementiaFriendlyWinnebagoCounty/>