Getting Started

Cities, towns and other localities in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities program commit to improving their age-friendliness and submit to a rigorous membership assessment cycle. Communities interested in joining the network are encouraged to contact their state AARP office. AARP state offices also work to identify cities, towns and counties AARP believes can commit to a continual cycle of improvement in the eight domains the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified as influencing the health and quality of life of older adults.

THE 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY
1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social participation
5. Respect and social inclusion
6. Civic participation and employment
7. Communication and information
8. Community support and health services

INITIATING THE EFFORT (Years 1-2)
1. Obtain the political commitment of the community’s elected officials
   This includes acquiring a written pledge by the community executive (the mayor, county commissioner, etc.) to commit to a continual cycle of improvement. This letter, along with a membership application, should be sent to the community’s AARP state office or the AARP representative the community has been working with. AARP will then advise the World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

2. Organize stakeholders
   A successful age-friendly initiative is based on broad collaboration. An ideal group of stakeholders would include representation from non-profit organizations, businesses, government agencies and community partners and, of course age-50+ residents.

3. Conduct assessments to identify needs
   AARP has developed a survey that can be adapted by communities to help assess available resources and what residents view as important for successfully aging in place. The survey is designed to capture information consistent with the eight domains of a livable community.

4. Establish an advisory committee that includes older adults

IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION (Years 3-5)
AARP's Value Added

Phase 1: Outlining progress against indicators developed in Phase 1 will be required to submit a progress report to WHO at the end of the period of implementation. Then have a three-year period of implementation. bunch up and present on implementation by WHO, cities will submit their action plan to WHO for review and on completion of the planning phase and no later (Year 3-6).

Step 3: Implementation & Evaluation

- Volunteer network to support/organize assessment and survey tools, development of new and existing indicators.
- Program improves the availability of resources for communities/best practices.
- Decision making and organizational guidance.

Step 4: Continuous Improvements

- AARP's Value Added

Program Cycle

AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

Classification of indicators to monitor
- Development of a three-year wide plan of actions based on assessment findings.
- Friendliness of the city.
- A baseline assessment of the Age-Friendly City Cycle.
- other people throughout the Age-Friendly
- Establish mechanisms to involve

This step has four elements:

Step 2: Planning Phase (Year 1-2)

- Streamlining admission into network
- Success criteria
- Liability index (all phases)
- Resources for AARP's Network – future
- social benefit of a more inclusive community
- Providing an understanding of economic and

 Issue (year 3-6)

The issue to be considered (causing the

AARP's Value Added

research, models, and best practices.

entering into further implementation cycles.

continue their membership in the network by

upon completion of Phase 3, cities will be able to

(Year 5+).