



## CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: 11/6/2023  
Reviewed by: NA

**SUBJECT:** AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities Application

**REPORT BY:** Sid Schoenfeld, Recreation & Community Services Director  
Isabelle Leduc, Assistant City Manager

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### **SUMMARY**

The action before the Council is to authorize staff to complete the application and send a letter of commitment to join the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) Network of Age-Friendly State and Communities. Using the AARP Eight Domains of Livability framework, the City will pursue the active engagement of older adults in a community needs assessment and planning process, and establish and implement an action plan to increase livability, track progress, and evaluate and report on the impact of the work.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2023-72, authorizing staff to complete the application and send a letter of commitment to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly State and Communities.

### **BACKGROUND**

AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities is the United States affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for a rapid aging of the population and the parallel trend of urbanization. AARP's participation encourages older adults to take a more active role in their communities and have their voices heard on a variety of initiatives, including housing, caregiving, community engagement, volunteering, social inclusion and combating isolation among older residents.

### **DISCUSSION**

People of all ages benefit from the adoption of policies and programs that make neighborhoods walkable, feature transportation options, enable access to key services, provide opportunities to participate in community activities, and support housing that's affordable and adaptable. A

livable community is one that is safe and secure. It equitably serves residents of all ages, ability levels, incomes, races, ethnicities, and other backgrounds. A livable community enhances the personal independence of its residents, allows them to remain in their homes and communities as they age, and empowers them to engage fully in civic, economic, and social life. A livable community includes public spaces that benefit everyone.

## **ANALYSIS**

As a participant in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, the City is committing to creating an age-friendly environment that promotes successful aging and improves the quality of life for all residents. Using the AARP Eight Domains of Livability framework (which emphasizes both built and the social environments), the City will pursue the active engagement of older adults in a community needs assessment and planning process through outreach at the Albany Senior Center to organizations and providers of aging services, churches, and events. The City will establish and implement an action plan to increase livability, track progress, and evaluate and report on impact of the work.

## **SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS**

Creating an age-friendly environment promotes successful aging and equitably serves and improves the quality of life of all residents.

## **CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES**

- GOAL 4: Encourage Community Connectivity Through Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity; OBJECTIVES: Enhance programs and services for residents across the full lifespan, Increase accessibility and enhance communication to residents on City resources and information.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is no cost associated with the application process. Implementation of the assessment and subsequent actions will require staff time to complete.

## **Attachments**

1. Resolution No. 2023-72
2. Engagement Letter
3. Two-page flyer introduction to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities



# ALBANY CALIFORNIA



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ALBANY, CA 94706  
[www.AlbanyCA.org](http://www.AlbanyCA.org)

AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities  
[AARPAge-FriendlyNetwork@AARP.org](mailto:AARPAge-FriendlyNetwork@AARP.org)

November 6, 2023

To AARP Age-Friendly Community Network CA staff:

On behalf of the City of Albany, California, I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly environment. We are excited to join AARP's Age-Friendly Communities network. The City of Albany is committed to becoming a livable community to promote health and sustainable growth and to contribute to the well-being of citizens in all stages of life.

As the City of Albany considers its action plan, we want to promote successful aging and improve the quality of life for all residents. There is great value in utilizing the AARP's Eight Domains of Livability in establishing a more age-friendly city: making outdoor spaces and buildings more senior friendly, increasing the accessibility and affordability of transportation and housing, increasing access and opportunities for social participation and inclusion through programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, supporting work and volunteer opportunities, access to communication and information, and supporting the ability of older people to age in place through community support and health services.

As a participant in the AARP Age-Friendly State and Communities network it is the intent of the City of Albany to:

- Pursue the active engagement of older adults in the planning process through outreach at the Albany Senior Center to organizations and providers of aging services, churches, and events.
- Establish a plan of action that responds to the needs identified by older people.
- Develop a means to measure our activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and plans to determine whether we are meeting our goals.
- Keep the public, especially older people, informed throughout the process.

We look forward to working with AARP to make our city a place where all can age with dignity.

Sincerely,

Mayor Aaron Tiedemann



# AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

An age-friendly community is livable for people of *all* ages

## America's Population Is Rapidly Aging

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by 2034 the nation will have more people age 65 or older than under 18. By 2060, nearly 1 in 4 people in the United States will be at least 65 years old.

This demographic shift presents an opportunity for communities that are prepared. Well-designed, age-friendly communities foster economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages.

The **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** supports the work of local, regional and state governments as they prepare for the nation's changing demographics. Established in 2012, the network includes towns, cities, counties and states that have made a commitment to being more livable for people of all ages, and especially older adults.

The program's framework equips local leaders and residents with resources for assessing the needs of older adults related to housing and transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities to participate in community activities. Once identified, those needs can be incorporated into an action plan.



Age-Friendly Communities  
Are Livable for  
People of All Ages  
[aarp.org/livable](http://aarp.org/livable)

### Membership in the network:

- Serves as an organizing structure for making community improvements
- Fosters partnerships among community groups and local stakeholders
- Provides resources for identifying and assessing community needs
- Enables community improvements that benefit people of all ages

### Membership provides local leaders with:

- Access to expert-led webinars and technical assistance from livability professionals
- Connections to a national network of more than 700 enrolled communities
- A private group forum for discussions, asking questions and finding answers
- Support, guidance and best-practice resources from AARP about creating an action plan and documenting progress

Membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities is *free!*

### Membership matters:

- 68% of communities successfully advanced policy changes
- 86% of communities overcame barriers
- More than 100 million people in the United States live in a community that is committed to being age-friendly.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA: "Demographic Turning Points for the United States: Population Projections for 2020 to 2060," *Current Population Reports*, P25-1144, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C., 2020

AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY STATES AND COMMUNITIES DATA: 2022 Member List and Survey

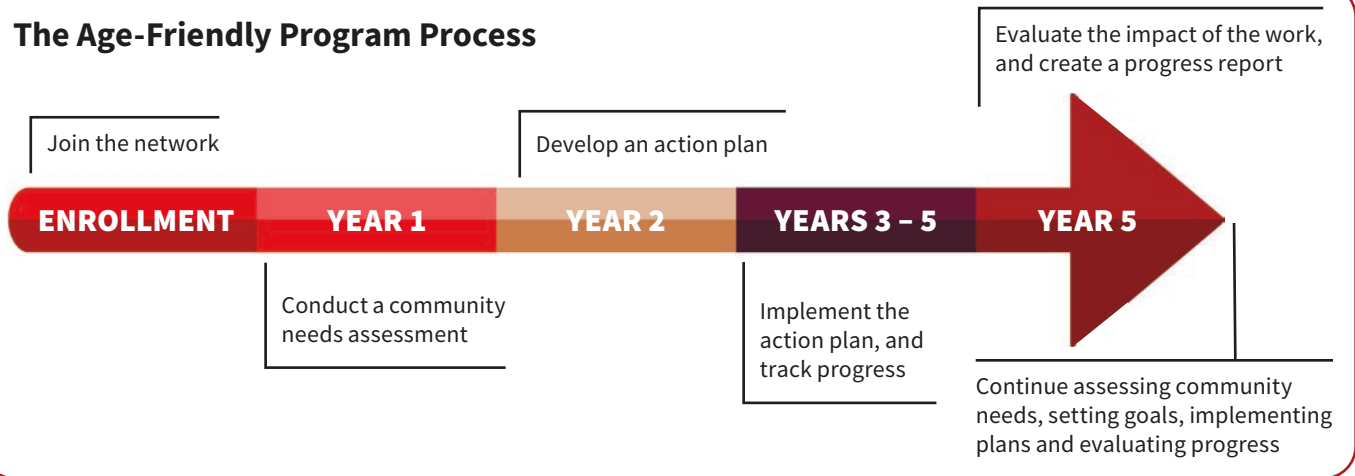


## Enrolling in the Network

Communities enroll individually or as part of a region. A governor can choose to enroll an entire state. All towns, villages, townships, boroughs, cities, counties and states seeking to enroll in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities are required to submit a membership application. The community must also provide a letter of commitment signed by the jurisdiction's highest elected official (e.g., a governor, mayor, county executive) or a legislative body can pass and provide a resolution in support of membership.

Learn more and find the membership application via [AARP.org/AgeFriendly](https://www.aarp.org/AgeFriendly).

### The Age-Friendly Program Process

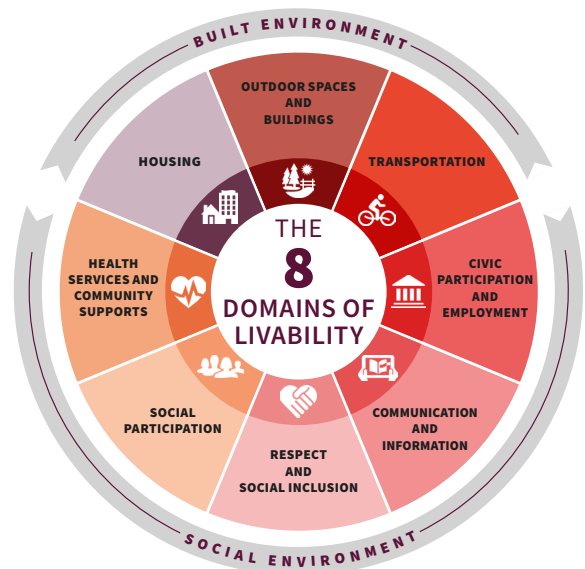


## The Program Steps

Members of the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** commit to an assessment process and cycle of continuous improvement, the steps of which typically require the member community to:

1. Establish a way to include older residents in all stages of the age-friendly process
2. Conduct a community needs assessment (*AARP provides survey examples and access to an online tool*)
3. Develop an action and evaluation plan based on the assessment results and submit to AARP for review
4. Implement the plan and work toward its goals
5. Assess the impact of implementing the plan and submit progress reports
6. Share solutions, successes and best practices across the age-friendly network
7. Repeat!

The **8 Domains of Livability** is the framework used by states and communities enrolled in the network to organize and prioritize their work. The availability and quality of these community features impact the well-being of older adults and people of all ages.



## LEARN MORE, GET IN TOUCH

- **Website:** [AARP.org/AgeFriendly](https://www.aarp.org/AgeFriendly) or [AARP.org/Livable](https://www.aarp.org/Livable)
- **Twitter:** @AARPLivable
- **Free Newsletter:** [AARP.org/LivableSubscribe](https://www.aarp.org/LivableSubscribe)
- **Email:** [AARPAge-FriendlyNetwork@AARP.org](mailto:AARPAge-FriendlyNetwork@AARP.org)
- **Locate Your AARP State Office:** [AARP.org/States](https://www.aarp.org/States) or call 1-888-687-2277

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