



City of Cleveland  
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

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# Letter for WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities

October 22, 2014

John Beard, MD  
Department of Aging and Life Course  
World Health Organization  
Global Network of Age Friendly Cities  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Beard:

I am submitting this letter for the City of Cleveland to be considered for the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age Friendly Cities designation. The City of Cleveland is home to approximately 70,000 adults 60 years of age and older, representing about 17.8% of the city's total population. Our mission is to improve the quality of life in the City of Cleveland by strengthening our neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing the diversity of our citizens, and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work, raise a family, shop, study, play and grow old.

The City's Department of Aging is charged with ensuring Cleveland is an elder friendly community by enhancing the quality of life for older adults through advocacy, planning, service coordination and the delivery of needed services. Working in partnership with community organizations the City has undertaken a number of initiatives to address the needs of our older population. Some of the most impactful initiatives include:

- Working with the Senior Transportation Connection, a non-profit provider of transportation for seniors, we are able to offer a city wide transportation service for older adults averaging 25,000 trips annually.

- Through the Senior Initiative multiple city departments work together to address difficult housing, health and social service concerns of some of our most vulnerable older adults.
- The City's Department of Aging serves as the Cleveland Aging and Disability Resource Center within the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging network of service providers serving as the starting point for answers to questions about community services and supports for both older adults and adults with disabilities.
- Through a team of partner agencies, case management is provided to assist older adults improve their economic security.

We have a strong framework to build upon to address the eight domains the WHO has identified that influence both the quality of life and health of older adults. We are committed to the Network Cycle of Continual Improvement defined by the WHO: establishing mechanisms to involve older adults throughout the cycle; conducting a baseline assessment of the age friendliness of the city; development of a plan of action based on the assessment findings; identification of indicators to monitor progress; implementation of the plan and progress evaluation.

An assessment, planning and implementation process of this size will require additional resources. To this end the Director of Aging has had positive meetings with foundations in the philanthropic community who have expressed interest in supporting this work should our application be approved.

Thank you for considering the City of Cleveland for participation in the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities.

Sincerely,



Mayor, City of Cleveland



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Mr. John Beard, M.D., Director  
Department of Aging and Life Course  
World Health Organization  
Global Network of Age Friendly Cities  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Beard:

The Council on Older Persons (COOP) is an advisory committee of The Center for Community Solutions serving as a resource to support communities, organizations, and institutions to promote the well-being of older adults through education, awareness and advocacy.

COOP's mission is to promote a better understanding of aging and address the issues and concerns of older persons in Greater Cleveland through citizen led needs assessment, policy development, community education and advocacy.

COOP is in support of the City of Cleveland Department on Aging's application to the World Health Organization to become a designated age-friendly city. At the September COOP meeting, the membership voted to support the application submission, and also to actively participate in planning, implementation, evaluation and continual improvement activities should Cleveland, Ohio be selected.

Cleveland is a dynamic city, and is committed to improving the environmental, social and economic factors that influence the health and well-being of older adults.

We hope you positively consider the application to make the City of Cleveland the next partner in the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Dzigiel  
Chair, Council on Older Persons



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October 27, 2014

John Beard, MD, Director  
Department of Aging and Life Course  
World Health Organization  
Global Network of Age Friendly Cities  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Dr. Beard,

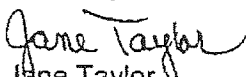
AARP Ohio is pleased to see the City of Cleveland apply to participate in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age Friendly Cities. The Cleveland metro area is an aging community with 1.5 million people age 50+ and 630,000 over the age of 65. This is the first city in Ohio to seek this designation.

AARP is involved with Age Friendly Cities across the country and serves as the institutional affiliate, provide resources and connectivity to the 37 cities nationwide. These resources are available on the AARP web site. Perhaps, in the future, Cleveland will join with the other cities through AARP so that best practice and other information of value can be shared.

Although AARP Ohio is based in Columbus, we have a staff member serving the area and many volunteers working to better the lives of Ohioans as they age. We have a strong legislative agenda and many community education and outreach programs that fit our mission. We welcome you to learn more from our website [www.aarp/oh.org](http://www.aarp/oh.org).

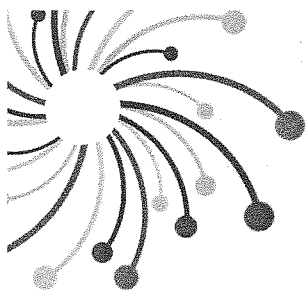
We hope to stay informed as this project moves forward and assist, as appropriate, in this important project.

Sincerely,

  
Jane Taylor  
State Director

c: Jane Fumich, Director, Cleveland Department of Aging  
Mike Barnhart, President, AARP Ohio  
Doug Tayek, ASD Outreach, AARP Ohio

Real Possibilities



# GLOBAL CLEVELAND

October 28, 2014

John Beard, MD, Director  
Department of Aging and Life Course  
World Health Organization  
Global Network of Age Friendly Cities  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Beard:

On behalf of Global Cleveland, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the City of Cleveland's Department of Aging's participation in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age Friendly Cities.

By helping Cleveland become more age-friendly, the intent of the Age-Friendly Communities Program is consistent with Global Cleveland mission which is to increase the population of Greater Cleveland and strengthen the region by working with employers, colleges and universities and community organizations to attract newcomers, connect them to the region's opportunities, resources and services and promote the region as a welcoming place for all.

We look forward to working with Jane Fumich, Director of the Cleveland Department of Aging in the Age-Friendly Communities Program's planning group or task force that will be formed to implement the program's initiatives. Through Global Cleveland's outreach initiatives into the area's international and ethnic communities, we can help ensure that the assessment, plan development and implementation involve residents from diverse cultures and communities.

I am pleased to support this application and the work of the Age-Friendly Communities Program. Thank you for your consideration of the City of Cleveland's request.

Sincerely,

Joy Roller  
President