



JOHN W. SUTHERS
MAYOR

September 24, 2015

Ms. Morie Smile
AARP Colorado State Director
303 E. 17th Ave Suite 510
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Smile,

On behalf of the City of Colorado Springs, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Colorado and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Along with other esteemed communities in the nation, Colorado Springs is committed to promoting policies to make our city friendly to all ages.

The Colorado State Demography Office projects that the 65 and over population in the Pikes Peak region will increase from 68,000 in 2010 to 176,500 in 2040. This 160 percent increase is triple the 53 percent increase of the total population. The Colorado State Demographer also estimates that during the same time period, the 85 and over population in the Pikes Peak region will more than triple, growing 337 percent from 7,550 in 2010 to 33,000 by 2040 (Aging in the Pikes Peak Region, 2015).


To address the changing demographics of our city and the larger community, the City of Colorado Springs is partnering with Innovations in Aging Collaborative and key stakeholders from the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County to help maintain and grow a well-designed, livable community that promotes health and wellness and sustains economic growth. Our goal is to ensure that residents of all ages have the resources to be healthy, engaged, and to live life to the fullest in our community as we age.

As a prospective participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the City of Colorado Springs to:

- Partner with community based and governmental organizations including El Paso County and the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging, as well as ascertain community interest and input to address the eight domains of livability.
- Include the active engagement of all ages, especially older adults, in this process.
- Work with Colorado Springs City Council to gain a resolution indicating their approval and support towards becoming an Age-Friendly Community.
- Work with the El Paso County Commissioners to gain a resolution indicating their support to pursue this designation.
- Work with Innovations in Aging Collaborative to bring together a group of stakeholders and important constituents from throughout the community to establish a working group tasked with the goal of creating a community-wide Plan of Action.
- Work with Innovations in Aging Collaborative to conduct a comprehensive and inclusive baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of our community, and develop a three year community-wide Action Plan, with indicators to mark progress against this plan.
- Commit to an evaluation process with the community to report on actions steps, progress and evaluation results that will be shared with the community.

We look forward to working with AARP Colorado and Innovations in Aging Collaborative staff and volunteers to ensure our community has the appropriate resources in place so that we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,



John W. Suthers
Mayor, City of Colorado Springs