

BOZEMAN^{MT}

Mayor

May 16, 2017

Mr. Timothy Summers
AARP Montana State Director
30 West 14th Street
Suite 301
Helena, MT 59601


Dear Mr. Summers,

On behalf of the City of Bozeman, I am pleased to offer this letter of commitment to our ongoing effort toward creating an inclusive livable community and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities. Bozeman recognizes the importance of encouraging and implementing age -friendly planning and policies that will promote independent and purposeful living, support active, healthy lifestyles and sustain economic and social vitality.

We intend to ensure that Bozeman remain "the last best place" by advancing public and aging policy goals of the World Health Organization's eight domains. We take pride in the current initiatives and support systems already established in our small town, and look forward to improving and upgrading them to meet the needs of the changing demographics. Our goals include fostering partnerships among businesses and organizations to offer support systems/ services that will allow all ages and abilities to live full productive lives by improving accessibility and affordability for housing and transportation; creating jobs to help supplement fixed incomes; ensuring adequate medical services and preventive services to allow older adults to remain healthy and age in place successfully; providing activities that address all dimensions of wellness, as well as ensuring social participation and inclusion within the community.

We are committed to providing the necessary infrastructure to allow our citizens to age with dignity. We look forward to working with AARP of Montana representatives, volunteers and stakeholders to establish an advisory committee and create a plan of action that reflects the needs of our community.

Sincerely,


Carson Taylor, Mayor



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 5/30/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Bozeman

STATE: Montana

POPULATION SIZE: 43, 405 - 2015 est. US Census

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 11.9% - US Census 2011-2015 American Community Survey-5 year estimates.

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Carson Taylor, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City Commission Chamber, 121 N. Rouse Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

NAME: Rachel Rockafellow & Cheryl Bartholomew

POSITION: Application Coordinators

EMAIL ADDRESS: HealthMatters.Rachel@gmail.com AND fitseniors@gmail.com

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 406-580-1099 and 406-224-5865

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Rachel Rockafellow is a registered nurse who loves her community. She attended a workshop offered by Cheryl Bartholomew, Business Owner of Seniors 'N Sync, LLC. Together they became motivated to get Bozeman moving on the important issues of making our community ready for the tsunami of elders in Montana. With the assistance of the AARP Montana representative, Steve Reiter, from Helena, MT, we called a meeting of interested parties including the mayor, Carson Taylor, who indicated he would support our efforts. We will be conducting an extensive survey utilizing AARP technology to include Older Adults, Stake Holders and Concerned Citizens in the Bozeman/Gallatin County area in the planning and implementation process. We have already identified 57 potential older adults and stakeholders in the 8 Domains of Livability to target in the planning and implementation process. We will also use the survey and AARP's technology to solicit participation from the community to participate in planning and implementation.

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

Bozeman offers a dynamic Senior Citizen Center that has expanded its programs and activities over the course of several generations. The executive director, Shannon Bondy, is part of our team as well as Peggy Tombre, the Area IV Agency on Aging representative in town. The HRDC (Human Resource Development Council) provides bus transportation through the Galavan program for seniors and all citizens through Streamline bus service. The Bozeman Parks and Recreation Department offers active aging programs as well as water aerobics and two older adult sports: pickleball and badminton. The local newspaper publishes a monthly insert called "Prime," which lists news and items of interest to seniors in Bozeman. The Gallatin Valley Land Trust has partnered with the hospital in the Trails Rx program to get people outdoors and moving, which promotes wellness. Aging Baby Boomers wish to remain engaged in their communities and pursue their purpose in life. We feel there are opportunities for the city to partner with local non-profits and private businesses to enhance the services available to older adults to allow them to achieve their goals. This application seeks to unite the many programs currently available into a more coordinated and easier to access format. With Bozeman's booming building trade, we have the opportunity to educate local builders on affordable housing options specific to older adults to make affordable and appropriate housing readily available as well as consider zoning changes to make this possible. Our ultimate goal is to provide persons of all physical, economic, and cognitive abilities a way to be represented so we can all live a life based on respect and dignity while Bozeman's future continues to provide "the last best place" for people of all ages.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

There is an AARP Age Friendly questionnaire that we will customize, create a Survey Monkey and distribute through a variety of venues to engage as many people as possible (provide the survey monkey link in the "Prime" mentioned above, engage AARP's assistance through use of their state network and Convio to spread the word, hold informative talks and brainstorming sessions at the Bozeman Senior Center, and/or at the Bozeman Public Library to attract the most diverse input we can so all are well represented. We will also utilize the city run neighborhood "Next Door" online communication network to gather information from all areas of the city, in addition to promoting it through the businesses represented on the citizen's committee.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

We are using your guidelines to assemble the stakeholders/representatives for each of the domains (see AARP Livable Communities Stakeholder List for Bozeman). We are contacting more than 50 businesses and organizations to partner and coordinate efforts to meet the guidelines for AARP Livable Communities and World Health Organization Age Friendly . We would like to be the leader in Montana as the first city in our state to apply to your program so we can demonstrate how to address the needs of older citizens, which will improve quality of life for all ages.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Bozeman is a fast-growing rural city that can act as a role model on how to keep people of all ages engaged and healthy by providing an environment that encourages a love of life and community. When we document what we do well in this regard, other rural communities may be encouraged to try making their communities more livable as well.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Cheryl Bartholomew has been very active in healthy aging and senior fitness for years. Having taught classes in a variety of senior venues, it is evident that support systems that allow residents to live independently and proactively engaged in one's community can be enhanced in Bozeman. Her goal is to improve the quality of life for all older adults regardless of mobility or cognitive challenges. Cheryl initiated an "Aging in Place" webinar program at the local library to raise awareness of what it means to be a livable community. Rachel Rockafellow, registered nurse and engaged citizen, responded to this event to initiate the process to support the lifestyle of older adults of Bozeman. She is well respected within our community and driven by her desire to empower older adults to take charge of their lives. For nine and a half years she wrote a monthly health column in the local paper, and for the last 10 years, she's hosted a monthly radio program called "Health Matters" on the local public radio station. Her skills and experience in nursing fuel her creativity and passion. We make a good team because we are committed to creating an inclusive age friendly environment that will empower us to

age successfully, and we compliment one another's strengths. We recognize that a livable community strives to meet the needs of its present and future citizens. It unites us in cause and commitment while dignifying the aging process and denouncing ageism!

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >

