



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CASPER

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April 18, 2017

Sam Shumway
AARP Wyoming State Director
2020 Carey Avenue, Mezzanine
Cheyenne WY 82009

Dear Mr. Shumway,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to express the City of Casper's interest in pursuing admission into the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative. Throughout my career in public service, I have fought to preserve the independence of aging Casper residents while working to improve the lives of persons 50 years of age and older. Ensuring the aging community has access to necessary services, is valued and able to contribute to all aspects of life, and has a healthy and supportive environment where they can safely age in place is a prime focus of the City of Casper.

In May 2016, Casper City Council adopted the Senior Services Study Update. This update reviewed and expounded upon the City's previous Senior Services Study that was completed in 2008 with assistance from the University of Wyoming School of Social Work. The 2016 Senior Services Study Update recognized that joining AARP's Age-Friendly Communities program would be an excellent tool to be used in our mission of improving the community for seniors.

With an ever-increasing population of seniors in the Casper community, we have convened a Senior Advocacy Committee comprised of a diverse group of citizens, including policy makers, funding agencies, executives from non-profit providers, and academia. Our goal is to ensure our seniors have the resources they need in order to live healthy, safe, integrated, and independent lives.

Partnering and exchanging ideas with AARP will help enhance our ability to accomplish the tasks identified in our Senior Services Study Update of 2016 in the areas of Community Design; Transportation; Financial; Healthcare; Housing; Lifelong Learning, Social and Civic Engagement, and Recreation; and Workforce/Employment and Volunteer Opportunities.

We look forward to working with AARP Wyoming staff and volunteers as we endeavor to make Casper a great place to live for people of all ages.

Sincerely,

Kenyne Humphrey
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@aarpp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 4/28/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Casper

STATE: Wyoming

POPULATION SIZE: 60,300

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 13.5%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Kenyne Humphrey,
Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 200 North David Steet, Casper WY 82601

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: *David Hough*

POSITION: Member AARP-Wyoming Executive Council

EMAIL ADDRESS: drhough@bresnan.net

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 307.259.3120

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

Mr. Hough worked for the City of Casper as the Community Development Director for a period of 10 years and as the Parks Division Planner and Manager for a period of six (6) years. During that time he helped establish a fixed-route transit system and made numerous age-friendly improvements in Casper's parks. David is past president of Reveille Rotary of Casper, a group dedicated to enriching the lives of seniors in the Casper area. He serves as the Rotary "Benches for Seniors" committee chairman. In 2008, David served on the committee that worked with the University of Wyoming School of Social Work on the preparation of the City of Casper Baby Boomer Study. He also served on the 2015 committee that assisted with an update of the 2008 study titled the "Senior Services Study". He is currently chairing the "Community Design, Transportation and Housing" committee involved in the implementation of the 2016 study.

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.

The City of Casper provides the most direct service to seniors through its support for the Casper Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, the United Way, and the Casper Area Transit Coalition (CATC). The Casper Senior Center building is owned by the City which rents the building to the seniors at a fraction of the market rate. As owner of the building, the City provides maintenance and repairs and manages the grounds including mowing and snow removal. The City provides partial funding for operations to the Senior Center as well as Meals on Wheels, the United Way, and CATC. The City owns and maintains the CATC buses and provides office and garage facilities. The most direct way in which the community will become more age-friendly is through the implementation of the Senior Services Study. Beyond an assessment of the communities needs with regard to support for seniors, the study contains 87 specific tasks or action items that fall within 51 project areas. These tasks all fall within seven (7) guiding themes: housing, transportation, community design, financial, healthcare, lifelong learning and engagement, and workforce and volunteerism. In addition to the tasks or action items, the study outlines the groups or agencies who need to be involved to successfully complete the task.

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

The successful implementation of the Senior Services Study will require the involvement of seniors from all facets of the community. The Study calls for numerous workshops, surveys, and opportunities to get involved in the implementation steps. The Natrona County Public Library, Casper College, the Casper Senior Center, the Casper Recreation Center, and the Casper Senior Network all work to provide seniors opportunities for learning, socialization, and enrichment. The greater their success at engaging seniors the greater their voice will be in community affairs.

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.

As noted above, the City of Casper, Senior Center, Casper College, Natrona County Library, and Senior Network work together in a variety of ways to assist seniors. Though this has been the case for a number of years, the 2016 Senior Services Study pulled these groups together in a more focused manner than had previously been the case. The City-led Housing Coalition is an example of a collaborative effort involving 44 agencies dedicated to the reduction of homelessness in the community. Many of those who benefit from their efforts are seniors.

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?

Initially, the individuals and groups involved in senior services in the Casper area will reach out to other communities across the state to help identify local issues and concerns, and share resources that can be used to address them. AARP is already assisting in this area by facilitating workshops where individuals such as Mr. Hough can work with groups around the state. Discussions are taking place with representatives in Jackson, WY, regarding some of their issues, and a workshop has recently taken place in Sheridan, WY, to discuss issues there. AARP and the Casper community may reach out to other towns and cities in the state through the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM). Through the AARP network, members of the Casper community will work with others within the region, and nationally, to share ideas on what has worked in this community.

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?

Based on projections of senior population growth and increasing demands on social services, the City of Casper, with assistance from the University of Wyoming School of Social Work launched into a study of senior needs in 2008. The 2016 update of that study included a review of the AARP Age-Friendly Communities program. It was recognized as a tool that the community could use to help achieve its goals related to improving the community for seniors, and is referenced as a study project area.

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 >



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