



Hennepin County Administration

David J. Hough, County Administrator
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Mr. Will Phillips
AARP Minnesota State Director
1919 University Avenue West, Suite 500
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

Dear Mr. Phillips:

On behalf of Hennepin County, I am pleased to express our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly community and to respectfully request membership in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

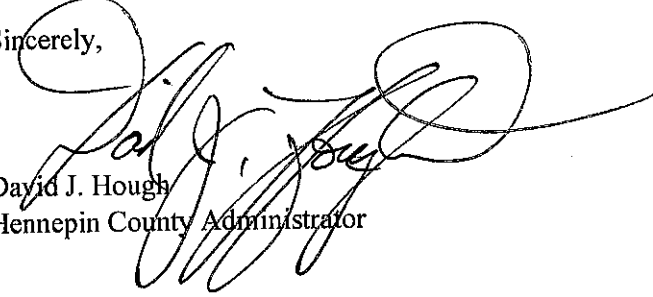
Hennepin County recognizes the importance of age-friendly planning and policies, and is actively working to make our county a great place for people of all ages:

- Every four years since 1998, our nationally accredited Hennepin County Public Health has conducted the Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment (SHAPE). SHAPE assesses the wellbeing of our diverse county and provides data that helps formulate age-friendly programs and policies.
- We participate in the MAAA Eldercare Development Partnership which has goals to expand and strengthen the capacity of home and community-based services, promote risk management strategies, strengthen care transitions, and promote service model sustainability.
- We partner with AARP in our Vital Aging programs, encouraging physical activity and older adult's use of our parks. Hennepin County adopted a complete streets policy, shifting our focus to all modes of transportation. This resulted in an extensive system of bike paths throughout our community.
- We are currently conducting extensive internal and external environmental scans of our departments and our community partners to identify age-friendly gaps, needs, opportunities, and creative ideas. Throughout this process, we are focused on reducing disparities.

Through these and other initiatives, Hennepin County has developed a strong framework to address the World Health Organization's eight domains of livability. We would be honored to join this global network of communities committed to giving older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, safe, and productive lives.

Thank you for your consideration of Hennepin County's membership request.

Sincerely,


David J. Hough
Hennepin County Administrator