



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 or call 202-434-2430
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Cutler Bay

STATE: Florida

POPULATION SIZE: 44,321

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 23%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Peggy R. Bell, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 10720 Caribbean Blvd. Suite 105 Cutler Bay, FL 33189



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: Rafael G. Casals

POSITION: Town Manager

EMAIL ADDRESS: rcasals@cutlerbay-fl.gov

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 305-234-4262

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

Rafael G. Casals is the Town Manager for the Town of Cutler Bay. Mr. Casals is responsible for the day-to-day Operational & Administrative functions of the Town. This includes; but is not limited to, supervising the following Departments: Police, Community Development, Public Works, Administrative Services, Parks & Recreations, and Stormwater Utility.

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 Town of Cutler Bay (Incorporated, 2005) is the youngest municipality in Miami-Dade County. With an estimated population of 45,000, the Town has made great strides to improve the quality of life for all residents. In 2009 the Town joined the Florida's Communities for a Lifetime (CFAL) Initiative (Town Resolution #10-21) and formed a volunteer board that consists of five (5) community members and one (1) Town Councilmember. The CFAL Committee works with Town staff to organize events through the year that target older adults. Some activities include; Annual Intergenerational Cultural Arts Program, Annual Senior Games, Cutler Bay Bus Party to promote the Town's circulator bus, Falls Prevention Workshops, Safe Homes Workshops, Health and Wellness Workshops, Scam Jam Document Shredding, Social Outings to local attractions and live performances, and Car Safety Education. The Town is now in the process of establishing a Community Center that will target older adults. This center will be located in the Town Hall building and will feature a community room, offices for social services, exercise equipment and work areas for art & crafts. The Town of Cutler Bay was the recipient of the 2015 Service to Seniors by an Organization Award presented by the Florida Council on Aging.

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

In 2013, the Town invested approximately \$15,000 (cash/in-kind) to conduct a Senior Needs Assessment and found that the senior population is the fastest growing population in the Town. This document provides the framework for the policies and services offered at the Town. Residents expressed a to engage in a wide range of activities and maintain their independence. In 2014, the Town began the process of updating their Strategic Master Plan. The Town held a series of eight (8) public input workshops including three (3) at local senior housing facilities (offered in English and Spanish). The Town continues to engage with the older adult community by scheduling "Open Mic" nights throughout the community, including at senior housing facilities and coordinating monthly Communities for a Lifetime (CFAL) Committee meetings. These meetings are attended by at least one (1) member of the Town Council. The Town Manager also attends these meetings several times throughout the year. The CFAL Committee is now in the process of holding "visioning sessions" in which they have been tasked with (1) developing a Mission Statement, (2) Establish committee goals based on public input and the Senior Needs Assessment, (3) Develop a list of activities/action items to reach each of the identified goals.

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.

The Town has ten (10) Master Plans ranging from Street Tree to Parks and Recreation. All of these plans take into account how they will affect all residents regardless of age and physical ability. For example, residents residing in a nursing/ALF requested improved pedestrian facilities along one of the Town's main roads. The Public Works Department and the Town Manager's Office worked together to assess the concern and identify funding. The Town successfully obtained a grant to make these improvements and the project is scheduled for implementation during FY2016. An example of how the Town coordinates with different agencies is that during the many public involvement workshops, residents requested that the Town expands the schedule for the Town's Circulator Bus. Immediately the Town went to work contacting Miami-Dade County Transit. Within months, the Town expanded the days and hours of the Circulator Bus (3,000 riders monthly) which provides free transportation to seniors with a Golden Passport to major shopping outlets and entertainment venues throughout the Town. The Circulator Bus also links riders to Miami-Dade Transit's public bus system. The Town also works closely with neighboring municipalities, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Miami-Dade/Monroe Alliance for Aging, local elected officials and other agencies that will assist the Town in improving services to the community.

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?

The Town reviewed the list of "Age-Friendly Communities" located in Florida and found that none of them are located in South Florida. The Town of Cutler Bay is located in South Miami-Dade County. Residents voted to incorporate the Town in 2005 because they did not feel that their needs were being met by the County. Residents wanted better representation and improved access to their local government. Ten (10) years later the Town has been successful in improving the infrastructure, parks, economic development and quality of service for residents while continuing to keep the tax burden low. This has been done by operating one of the leanest governments within Miami-Dade with only 32 full-time employees. The Town hopes to contribute to the AARP Network and World Helath Organization by demonstrating ways to integrate and adapt existing Master Plans to benefit all residents. The Town also hopes to demonstrate how municipalities can work together with the county to expand services, avoid duplication and enhance the level of services to the resident.

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?

The Communities for a Lifetime Advisory Committee researched the Livable Communities website and found that while the Town has implemented many of the principles identified in the "Livability Fact Sheets" document, there are some oppotunities for improvement. This motivated the Town to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities in order to access valuable resources to assist in ongoing planning and implementation of community projects and services.

6) Please provide a digital 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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