

Mr. Jeff Johnson
State Director
AARP Florida
400 Carillon Pkwy., #100
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of Pinellas County government, we seek the opportunity to join with AARP Florida and the World Health Organization to become an Age-Friendly Community. Pinellas County is committed to promoting programs and services that are friendly to its diverse population.

There are 24 municipalities in Pinellas County each offering unique and diverse housing options, recreational opportunities and engaging community experiences. In addition, Pinellas County's proximity to the Gulf of Mexico with miles of white sandy beaches, low cost of living, cultural and recreational opportunities and year-round cultural and sporting events contribute to the desirability to live, work and play here. The 2010 Census counted 194,099 people in Pinellas County aged 65 and older.

The Age-Friendly Pinellas Initiative aligns well with Pinellas County's strategic plan to:

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare by: providing planning, coordination, prevention and protective services to ensure a safe and secure community.

Pinellas County's Human Services Department is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all residents and has begun identifying existing resources and partners to assist with the Age-Friendly Pinellas Initiative.

Initial efforts include:

- Developing an Age-Friendly Blueprint that responds to residents needs identified through a series of community focus groups comprised of a representation of Pinellas' diverse population including multi-generations, LGBT representatives, academia, health care and mental health care providers and the business community.
- Created an on-line resource of programs and services important to the aging population and caregivers.
- Introduced the Age-Friendly Blueprint in a public format and provide quarterly updates.

We look forward to working with AARP Florida and the distinguished network of Age-Friendly communities to ensure that Pinellas County has the framework needed for its residents to age with dignity and in the place they desire.

Sincerely,

Janet Long, Chairman
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners