



Senior Task Force of Champaign County

Dear Members of the Senior Task Force of Champaign County,

As members of the Champaign-Urbana Age-Friendly Steering Committee, **we write to ask for your organization's endorsement of our efforts to obtain the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP designation of Age-Friendly Community.** This is an international effort to address the needs of a growing number of older adults worldwide.

We believe that participating in this effort will ensure that we offer the best of opportunities and services for Champaign and Urbana's older adults, persons with disabilities, and residents of all ages to remain healthy, active and engaged. To this end, the community at large and the Center on Health, Aging, and Disability at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, are working together to join the AARP network of Age-Friendly Communities. More information can be found at <http://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/>

The first step in obtaining the designation of Age-Friendly Community is to conduct a community assessment of areas such as outdoor spaces, housing, transportation, respect and social inclusion, communication, and health services. Surveys currently are being distributed to collect these data. The results of the assessment will assist us in developing a multi-year plan to guide improvements in these areas and to implement action strategies.

Your endorsement will help us demonstrate a broad base of interest and support and strengthen our application for the Age-Friendly Community designation. As the need arises, we may contact you to ask for information, and of course we will keep you informed of our progress, including the results of the surveys being collected. **An example letter of endorsement is attached.**

If you have questions, please contact Wendy Bartlo, of the University's Center on Health, Aging, and Disability, at wbartlo@illinois.edu or 217-300-4323. Please send the letter of endorsement to her email address as well.

Sincerely,

The Age-Friendly Champaign-Urbana Steering Committee:

Ben LeRoy, Associate Planner, City of Champaign

Elizabeth Tyler, Community Development Director and City Planner, City of Urbana

Preston L. Williams Jr., Retired Superintendent Urbana School District

Patrick Harness, Community Liaison, Health Alliance

Debra Reardanz, President and CEO, Clark-Lindsey Village

Joe DeLuca, Executive Director, Champaign Park District

Tim Bartlett, Executive Director, Urbana Park District

Rosanna McLain, Director, Senior Resource Center

Traci Nally, Vice President of Human Resources, the News-Gazette

Linda Coleman, Chair, Board of Directors, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Kathleen Holden, Retired UIUC Administrator

Sue Grey, President and CEO, United Way of Champaign County

Linda Tauber-Olson, Regional Director, Volunteers and Faith in Action, Presence Health

Dawn Henry, Director of Rehabilitation, Carle Foundation Hospital