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## ***AARP welcomes Oshkosh as nation's 482<sup>nd</sup> Age-Friendly Community***

**Madison, Wisconsin** – AARP Wisconsin today announces that the City of Oshkosh & Surrounding Areas has been officially accepted as the seventh Wisconsin member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

The Network is an affiliate of the [World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program](#), an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for rapid population aging and the parallel trend of urbanization. The program has participating communities in more than 20 nations. An age-friendly community is livable for people of all ages.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities helps participating communities become great places for *all* ages by adopting such features as safe, walkable streets; better housing and transportation options; access to key services; and opportunities for residents to participate in civic and community activities.

Sam Wilson, State Director of AARP Wisconsin, said "We're incredibly pleased to welcome the City of Oshkosh & Surrounding Areas as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Oshkosh & Surrounding Areas join nearly 500 communities across the country that are actively working toward making their town, village, city, county or state a great place for people of all ages."

"Oshkosh prides itself on committing to many age-friendly practices," said Oshkosh Mayor Lori Palmeri. "In addition to talking about it, the city has committed resources to age friendly living through fall prevention programs, robust senior center resources, supporting accessible housing, and

inclusively welcomes multi generational living, working, learning, and recreation in the community.”

Healthy Lifespan Supervisor Alana Erickson from the Winnebago County Public Health Department added, "Data shows that a sense of belonging and inclusion are related to better health outcomes. While the concept of Age-Friendly Communities seems simple, it is a very intentional commitment with strategy and measurements. At WCHD we are excited this initiative will bring service providers, policymakers and residents together to improve decisions directly impacting their environment. It's not just about saving money preventing chronic conditions, it's expanding the notion of 'my community' to more residents."

Bill Topel, PsyD Winnebago County Human Services Director, said, "We are extremely pleased that the City of Oshkosh has been added to the list of AARP Age-Friendly Communities in Wisconsin. We will continue to work with other communities in Winnebago County to hopefully get all municipalities to join the list. A big thank you to all who have participated in this important accomplishment. Winnebago County cares deeply about its seniors and it shows."

Oshkosh & Surrounding Areas join six other Wisconsin communities that have earned the Age-Friendly designation, including Greendale, La Crosse, Madison, Sheboygan, Shorewood, and Wausau.

“We know from our research at AARP that 80 percent of older adults want to stay in their communities as they age, and Oshkosh & Surrounding Areas are at the forefront of making sure our communities are not only great places to grow up and work, but are also thriving areas for older adults,” Wilson said.

Oshkosh & Surrounding Areas have taken the initial steps to enter the Network, which demonstrates its commitment to actively engage in an inclusive cycle of continuous improvement in the “8 Domains of Livability” that the World Health Organization has identified as influencing the health and quality of life of older adults.

To help shape age-friendly efforts in your community, share your voice by completing the Community Survey here: [bit.ly/AgeFriendlyWinnebago](https://bit.ly/AgeFriendlyWinnebago). In the spirit of shaping our age-friendly community please help a neighbor complete the survey.

For information about the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities or to help your community become an Age Friendly Designated Community, visit: [www.aarp.org/livable](http://www.aarp.org/livable).

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment security and retirement planning. We advocate for consumers in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org); AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP VIVA, a bilingual news source. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org).