

November xx, 2014

Mr. Gerald J Cohen
AARP
Oregon State Director
9200 SE Sunnybrook Blvd, Suite 410
Clackamas, OR 97015

Dear Mr. Cohen,

We are pleased to declare our interest in joining the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We adopted the attached resolution during our October 30 board meeting supporting the initiative.

The demographics of Multnomah County are changing. Between 2010 and 2030, the number of people in the region aged 65 and over is projected to more than double. That compares to just a 35% increase in the overall population. With these changes come new opportunities. Multnomah County has responded with several initiatives designed to ensure the assets, skills, experience, and knowledge of older adults are available to the community, and for all generations to have access to appropriate resources as they age.

In 2007, the county convened the Vital Aging Task Force to "assess and identify new opportunities, best practices, barriers and recommendations for enhancing the independence, engagement, and contributions of older adults in Multnomah County and our region." The taskforce produced the Vital Aging Report the following year, leading to the development of new policies and programs at Multnomah County and in the community.

The work of the Task Force, along with other community efforts, helped build and strengthen existing partnerships between local government and senior advocates. In 2010, the City of Portland partnered with the Portland State University's Institute on Aging to apply for membership to the WHO Global Network. Multnomah County was proud to participate in that work, resulting in production of the Age-Friendly Portland Action Plan in 2013.

Currently the county's extensive work with seniors includes providing assistance through our Aging and Disability Services office, funding and operating six senior centers, and participating with Elders in Action (the region's volunteer-led senior advocacy group). Developing an Age Friendly Action Plan for Multnomah County is fitting and our desire.

We look forward to working with AARP Oregon and our regional partners, and joining those across the globe committed to developing communities of respect and dignity for all ages.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**



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