



For Immediate Release

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## **AARP Community Challenge announces 159 Grantees Including Five New Hampshire Recipients**

*Grantees include Marion Gerrish Community Center, Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail, HomeShare Mount Washington Valley—Gibson Center, Town of Londonderry, and Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission*

**Concord** – AARP announces the awardees for its 2019 AARP [Community Challenge grant](#) program, including five recipients right here in New Hampshire. A total of nearly \$1.6 million will be distributed to fund 159 “quick action” projects across the country, helping communities make immediate improvements and jump-start long-term progress to support residents of all ages.

Nearly 1,700 applications were received from nonprofits and government entities for the program, now in its third year. Each of the projects, which must be completed by November 4, is designed to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- **Create vibrant public places** that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.
- **Demonstrate the tangible value of “Smart Cities”** by engaging residents and policymakers in accessing, understanding and using data to increase the quality of life for all.
- **Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options** that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.
- **Support the availability of a range of housing** that increases accessible and affordable housing options.

Grantees in New Hampshire include:

- **Marion Gerrish Community Center** in Derry. In an effort to further promote community bonding and to encourage multi-generational connections, this project will purchase several outdoor yard games such as cornhole, bocce, chess, jenga, connect four, and others for use around the community center.
- **Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail**. The new wayfinding and informational signage will help make the community’s trail rail safer for users of all ages, as well as provide helpful destination information and enhance safety at road crossing situations.
- **HomeShare Mount Washington Valley – Gibson** in Madison. Building a website to inform and facilitate HomeShare matches between homeowners with extra living space and homeseekers will to live in shared spaces.
- **Town of Londonderry**. This project will install ten park benches throughout the Town Common and Kent Allen Town Forest to enhance accessibility to public open spaces for people of all ages.
- **Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission** in Lebanon. This project will develop an Open Data Portal to host data and maps in an accessible and interactive framework

that encourages community engagement and dialogue around housing, particularly for the needs of underserved groups.

The full list of grantees can be found at [www.aarp.org/communitychallenge](http://www.aarp.org/communitychallenge).

“AARP New Hampshire continues to hear from mayors, community leaders and local residents of the value of getting quick wins to create long-term change,” said AARP New Hampshire State Director Todd Fahey. “The Community Challenge Grant is designed to answer that call and build momentum for more livable communities not only in New Hampshire, but across the country.”

The Community Challenge grant program is part of AARP’s nationwide [Livable Communities](#) initiative which helps communities become great places to live for residents of all ages. As part of this, AARP staff and volunteers are working across the country, engaging and mobilizing residents, delivering technical assistance and expertise to local leaders and organizations, and supporting the work of 381 communities and four states that have enrolled in the [AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#).

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