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CONTACT: Jessyca Sosa, jsosa@aarp.org, 954-646-4584

**AARP AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS (DOEA) FORM
COLLABORATION ON COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME (CFAL) AND THE
NETWORK OF AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

Miami, Fla. – AARP and the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) have joined together to help make communities better for people of all ages. This collaboration will begin conversations about the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities framework and will provide resources and information to CFAL communities and the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities encourages states, cities, towns and counties to prepare for the rapid aging of the U.S. population by paying increased attention to the environmental, economic and social factors that influence the health and well-being of older adults. By doing so, these communities are better equipped to become great places, and even lifelong homes, for people of all ages.

“AARP is excited to be working with the Department of Elder Affairs with the goal of providing the necessary resources and services so that people of any age can live comfortably and safely in an age-friendly community,” said Jeff Johnson, State Director for AARP Florida.

Age-friendly or livable communities have walkable streets, housing and transportation options, access to key services and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities.

“With the highest percentage of elders in the nation, Florida is looked to as an example for how we serve our seniors,” said Jeffrey Bragg, Secretary for the Department of Elder Affairs. “Through this partnership with AARP, we are thrilled to expand the age-friendly community concept and know that it will have positive and lasting effects on Florida families.

Communities for a Lifetime (CFAL) is a statewide program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs that aims to make all communities a safe and nurturing place for people of all ages, especially older adults. CFAL helps cities, towns, and counties improve the lives of their residents through continuous assessment and improvement, while promoting a spirit of community.

About AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 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 and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals 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; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. 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.

About the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA)

DOEA, Florida's State Unit on Aging, works to help Florida's elders remain healthy, safe, and independent. The Department is responsible for developing policy recommendations for long-term care, combating ageism, creating public awareness of aging issues, understanding the contributions and needs of elders, advocating on behalf of elders, and serving as an information clearinghouse. DOEA works in concert with other federal, state, local, and community-based public and private agencies and organizations to represent the interests of older Floridians, their caregivers, and elder advocates. The organizations and providers that help create a better life for Florida's 5.2 million seniors make up Florida's aging network, including 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that provide a wide range of programs and assistance. Each AAA is managed at the local level and is responsible for selecting the services and providers that assist elders within each county. AAAs are funded with federal, state, and local resources. Through partnerships with the AAAs, the Department provides community-based care to help seniors safely age with dignity, purpose, and independence. This includes services such as meals, adult day care, respite, and help with transportation and chores, to name a few. For more information on programs and services, please visit www.elderaffairs.org or call 850-414-2000.