AARP is working to help people 50+ in Tennessee live life to the fullest. We advocate for our members on critical priorities, such as strengthening Social Security, protecting seniors’ access to their doctors, and ensuring all Americans have independence and choice as they age. AARP also serves as a one-stop resource for information on the 50+ population in Tennessee.

In 2016, the team of staff and dedicated volunteers at AARP Tennessee worked tirelessly to create meaningful and valuable experiences for people across our state. From free shredding events to supporting family caregivers and cultivating new partnerships, we continue our commitment to improving the lives of people 50+ and their families.

### TENNESSEE – AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AARP Members</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>650,000 (and growing)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28% of Tennessee’s 50+ population are AARP Members</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 50-Plus Population</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>2,358,066</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td><strong>299,883</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td><strong>36,749</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td><strong>26,496</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td><strong>6,843</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Security Beneficiaries</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>1,348,004</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td><strong>860,375</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow(er)s</td>
<td><strong>99,456</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Workers</td>
<td><strong>252,231</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security recipients who rely on Social Security for 50% or more of their income</td>
<td><strong>60.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security recipients who rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income</td>
<td><strong>32.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Medicare Beneficiaries</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>1,109,791</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We greatly value our volunteers in Tennessee and AARP especially appreciates their contribution to our communities. With more than 1,000 active volunteers and 60+ volunteer leaders, we can confidently say they made a significant difference in the lives of Tennesseans in 2016. We have a dozen members of our statewide Executive Council, providing advice and guidance to our work. Each grand division is led by a volunteer leader and staff partner. They lead a team of volunteer leaders in their respective communities; meeting with their elected officials, ensuring that older Tennesseans and their families know of the AARP resources available to them, and serving their neighborhoods and communities. Some of our volunteers are still working. Others are retired and have more time to give back. All of them are valuable to us and prove that age is just a number and what really matters is what you give to others. Our hats are off to our amazing volunteer leaders and we treasure their work!

With thanks,

Rebecca Kelly
AARP Tennessee State Director
AARP’s Andrus Award is the Association’s most prestigious and visible state volunteer award, recognizing people for service which has greatly benefited the community, supporting AARP’s vision and mission, and inspiring others. The award is named for AARP’s founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.

In 2016, AARP Tennessee selected Anna Kapoor as its Andrus Award winner. She earned the honor as a result of her generosity to serve a wide variety of organizations in her community. She regularly makes time to help feed young adults at the Wesley Foundation for East Tennessee State University, volunteers at her church, and regularly brings food to elderly people who are not able to leave their home. Her dedication to service goes far beyond our state and national borders. For more than 20 years, Kapoor has travelled overseas to help provide medical services to needy families.

AARP Tennessee also recognized Dewayne Linger as the 2016 Andrus Award Honorable Mention. Linger saw an urgent need to feed the needy of his community. He started a mission, known as M14, to provide hot meals. Today, M14 has grown to serve more than 2,000 people and provides several hot meals each week. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Linger and his group prepare meals for people who either cannot cook for themselves or are unable to leave their home.
AARP Tennessee identified three programmatic priorities to drive our work in 2016. These areas of focus were chosen based on the needs, prevalence and impact of these subjects on Tennesseans 50+ and their families. During 2016, we deepened our engagement to increase impact through social issue campaigns, volunteer programs, and innovative local partnerships and discounts.

**Caregiving**
Our research shows that an estimated 981,000 Tennesseans provide care to adult relatives or friends. It also revealed the tasks and challenges caregivers face on a daily basis, including the work and caregiving balance. For this reason, AARP Tennessee continues to make support for caregivers one of the main areas of focus statewide.

**Fraud Prevention**
In 2016, there were an estimated 13 million fraud victims nationwide. Common scams include identity theft, auto fraud, government impersonation email scams, intimidation/extortion scams, real estate fraud, and confidence fraud/romance scams. AARP Tennessee is working with community partners and local law enforcement to educate people on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraudulent activity.

**Livable Communities**
AARP Tennessee is working with local city and county officials to make communities more livable for people 50+. This includes affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community services and adequate mobility options, all of which facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life.
Tennessee
2016 State Priority: Caregiving

AARP Tennessee loves caregivers. While the way we give care has changed through the years, the reasons we do it remain the same. As long as there are loved ones who need us, we will be there to care.

AARP Tennessee works to support family caregivers. While caregivers across our state provide a wide variety of support for loved ones, they also share specific challenges, like work/life balance as well as emotional and financial stress. AARP has resources to help.

Quick Facts About Tennessee Caregivers
Family caregivers in TN: 981,000
Total time spent caregiving in TN: 1.08 billion hours
Annual value of unpaid caregiving work: $11 billion
TN caregivers balancing full-time jobs: 31%

Find Caregiving Resources: www.aarp.org/caregiving
AARP significantly increased its commitment to fraud prevention in Tennessee during 2016. Our goal is to educate the state’s residents about common scams and schemes, and equip them with the tools to protect themselves and their families from con artists. Through partnerships with local law enforcement and local media, panel discussions and free shredding events were held across the state to increase awareness and participation in the Fraud Watch Network.

In 2017, the discussions will continue and our relationships will deepen as we continue to work in partnership with communities statewide.

**Fighting Fraud Across Tennessee**

2016 Fraud Prevention events: 23
Material shredded: 77,841 lbs.
New FWN members for 2016: 1,759
Total FWN members in TN: 24,867
AARP Livable Communities is an initiative designed to help make communities better places to live for people of all ages. AARP defines a Livable Community as a place that offers “affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community services, and adequate mobility options, which facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life.”

We work closely with our volunteers, key partners, organizations and local governments on a wide-range of livability issues. In 2016, we collaborated with elected officials and leaders in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville, while also reinforcing our presence in Clarksville, Crossville, Jackson, Murfreesboro and Tri-Cities. We expect this effort to grow in 2017.

Working to Create Livable Communities

• Delivered the results of a livability survey in the Memphis neighborhood of Orange Mound with community leaders.
• Supported increased mobility options through volunteer driver programs in Nashville, Crossville/Fairfield Glade and Blount Co.
• Funded free senior (65+) ride program on Clarksville city buses, leading to 176% increase in ridership.
• Recognized Kingsport as the first city in Tennessee to join the AARP Age-Friendly community network.
• Began working with Nashville mayor’s office toward becoming an AARP Age-Friendly city.
Advocacy, at all levels of government, is an important part of the AARP mission. Working with volunteer leaders and community partners, we champion positive social change in order to enhance the quality of life for all as we age.

To help you keep up with our advocacy efforts in Tennessee, we have compiled notable outcomes from our legislative agenda during 2016, year two of the 109th Tennessee General Assembly. This report showcases the policies that align with our state priorities and have the greatest potential impact on people 50+ across Tennessee.

For easy reference, we have categorized bills by AARP Tennessee focus area: Financial Security, Fraud Prevention, Caregiving and Livable Communities.
Tennessee 2016 Legislative Recap
AARP Priority Area: Caregiving (Long-term Care/ Health Security)

Nurse Licensure Compact
Summary: HB1678/ SB1725 specifies seven purposes, including responsibility to protect public health, exchange of information in areas of nurse regulation, compliance with nursing laws, accountability for meeting state practice laws and decreasing redundancies.
AARP Position: Supported
Status: Passed Into Law

Caregiving Language Clarification
Summary: SB1848 cleans up language on background checks, specifying what is needed to improve some issues around protecting vulnerable adults.
AARP Position: Supported
Status: Passed Into Law

Healthcare Funds Re-direction
Summary: SB790 would allow TN to join a compact and for TN to ask Congress to have all healthcare dollars re-directed, including Medicare.
AARP Position: Opposed
Status: Successfully Defeated
**Tennessee 2016 Legislative Recap**

AARP Priority Area: Livable Communities

**Autonomous Driving Technology**

Summary: SB598/ HB1561 allows TN to explore autonomous driving technology and allow for certification of this technology. Stops local governments from banning the technology, so that it can be explored at all levels in TN.

AARP Position: Supported

Status: Passed Into Law

**Temporary Housing for Caregivers**

Summary: SB2375 encourages local governments to allow temporary housing structures to be placed behind homes to care for loved ones. It is permissive, and local governments can choose to allow or not, but it does give options to communities, and caregivers. This bill also asks TennCare to ask Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services if nursing home services/dollars can be re-directed to keep people at home.

AARP Position: Supported

Status: Passed into Law
State Property Tax Relief
Summary: SB1796 added an additional $8 million to the program for low income elderly, disabled and disabled veterans. Additionally, the income cap is removed for 100% disabled veterans and the assessed value for the low income elderly and low income disabled was increased by $500, to $23,500.
AARP Position: Supported
Status: Passed Into Law
Tennessee

Special Focus: Multicultural Engagement

AARP Tennessee is committed to engaging multicultural audiences in our work across the state. Our efforts include sharing AARP messages and programs through trusted media sources, community leaders and organizations.

We have had a concentrated presence for several years in the greater Memphis area, including Orange Mound, which has been a community presence focus for our outreach initiatives. Orange Mound was the first planned subdivision for African-Americans in the United States, having celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2015.

We are also cultivating relationships within the Hispanic-Latino community and have developed new partnerships, participated in local events and initiated meaningful conversations to address important community issues, like fraud prevention.

We look to expand our outreach efforts and further develop these core relationships in 2017.
Because Tennessee is home to more than 500,000 veterans, AARP is dedicated to making veterans outreach a focus for our work. AARP Tennessee is ramping up its involvement on issues affecting veterans of all generations, helping them in the transitions they face in civilian life. This effort continued to grow in 2016 as we worked to serve those who have bravely served our country.

**AARP Tennessee 2016 Partnership Highlights:**

- Developed a mentoring program for military personnel transitioning out of service.  
  *Partners: Workforce Essentials, Tennessee Department of Labor and Fort Campbell.*
- Provided free professional headshots during Fort Campbell job fairs.  
  *Partner: Tennessee Department of Labor*
- AARP fraud prevention outreach event in April and in October.  
  *Partner: USO at Fort Campbell*
- Engaged more than 1,000 participants as a sponsor of the 2016 Mountain Man Memorial March.
- Hosted two statewide veterans outreach tele-town halls about Caregiving and scams and fraud prevention, reaching 160,000+.  
  *Partner: AARP Kentucky*
- Sponsored annual veterans luncheon and arranged keynote speaker (Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Holmes)  
  *Partner: Dixie Stampede*
Connecting with AARP

**Office Address:**
AARP Tennessee
150 4th Avenue, N., Suite 130
Nashville, TN 37219

**PHONE:** 1-866-295-7274 (toll-free)

**EMAIL:** tnaarp@aarp.org

**Online Resources:**
National website: [www.AARP.org](http://www.aarp.org)
AARP Bulletin Today: [www.aarp.org/bulletin](http://www.aarp.org/bulletin)

**AARP Tennessee News and Updates:**
- AARP Tennessee webpage: [www.aarp.org/tn](http://www.aarp.org/tn)
- AARP TN on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/aarptennessee](http://www.facebook.com/aarptennessee)
- AARP TN on Twitter: [www.Twitter.com/aarptn](http://www.Twitter.com/aarptn)

**Advocacy:**
TN Action Alerts – sent to E-Advocates when specific action from members is needed on an issue AARP supports or opposes.
Sign up: [www.aarp.org/getinvolved](http://www.aarp.org/getinvolved)
Volunteer with us!

We’re always looking for new people with fresh ideas!

Send us an email – tell us about yourself and share your interests and we’ll find a great fit for you on one of our volunteer teams.

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