

NYC Department for the Aging

Approach to Determining Community District Resources and Needs for the Innovative Senior Center Solicitation

The New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) employed US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) sample data from 2005-2007 in order to determine the relative level of need among seniors by NYC community district. Data concerning senior center resources allocated to the community districts (CDs) were then compared with the need data as a means of ranking districts by “resource-to-need” ratio. Following is information concerning the need and resource calculations:

Need

To determine need, DFTA took into account seven elements as shown in the first table below; each element is expressed in terms of the number of people within the individual CDs who fall within each of the categories. Weights were applied to each element in order to give greater weight to certain factors that DFTA deemed of particular importance or urgency related to the needs of senior participants. Once weights were applied, DFTA was able to determine a “weighted number of seniors” in each CD who are characterized by one or more of the seven elements. The following table lists the elements and the weights applied to each:

| Weighting of Factors to Calculate Population in Need (PIN) | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Persons 60 to 74 | Persons 75 & Over | Minorities 60 & Over | 125% Poverty 60 & Over | 150% Poverty* 60 & Over | Frailty 60 & Over | In US 5 - 10 yrs. 60 & Over |
| x1 | x2 | x2 | x6 | x1 | x1 | x3 |

Having calculated the “weighted number of seniors” in each CD, DFTA was then able to determine each CD’s portion of the city wide total “weighted number of seniors.”

Resource-to-Need Ratio

DFTA also calculated the amount of DFTA senior center funds in each CD. This figure was then divided by each CD’s portion of the borough wide “weighted number of seniors” described above to arrive at a resource-to-need ratio for each CD. Following is a hypothetical CD to illustrate this calculation:

| Borough | CD | % of Borough Budget | % of Borough PIN | Borough Resource/ Need Ratio |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| X | ABC Community District | 3.00% | 5.05% | 0.59 |

For a CD with a ratio of 1.0, the amount of senior center resources equals the level of needs in that CD. CDs with a resource-to-need ratio below 1.0 have relatively fewer resources compared to their need than do CDs with a resource-to-need ratio above 1.0. For the first round of the Innovative Senior Center initiative, DFTA has chosen to solicit proposals for each of the 29 CDs with resource-to-need ratios below 1.0.