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Aging in New York Fund hosts Queens food insecurity forum

More than 48,000 Queens seniors live at or below the federal poverty level, contributing to food insecurity. The April 6 event seeks to raise awareness and open a conversation about reducing food insecurity among older New Yorkers.

NEW YORK (March 29, 2017) — The Aging in New York Fund (ANYF) is partnering with Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults (JSPOA), the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), the State Society on Aging of New York, United Neighborhood Houses of New York and CUNY’s York College to host “Hunger, Health and Aging: A Queens Food Insecurity Forum” to raise awareness of and identify solutions to the problem of seniors who have to choose between buying food and other necessities.

The forum, which will include a panel discussion, will provide an opportunity for Queens community leaders and nonprofits to learn about food insecurity as well as local projects and programs that address the issue. Information identifying places where older adults can obtain low-cost or free food will be distributed during the event.

The forum will feature the following panelists:

- Joel Berg, executive director of Hunger Free America
- Nick Freudenberg, director of CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute
- Jenique Jones, director of Program Operations for City Harvest
- Amy Richards, Partnership for a Healthier Queens coordinator for Make the Road NY
- Barbara Turk, director of food policy at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, who will serve as moderator

According to U.S. Census data, more than 48,000 Queens residents age 60 and older – or approximately 12 percent – live at or below the federal poverty level, which contributes to food insecurity.

“DFTA works to combat food insecurity by providing meals to thousands of homebound New Yorkers daily, by serving millions of meals annually at senior centers and by distributing farmers market coupon booklets,” explains **DFTA Commissioner and ANYF President Donna Corrado**. “Improving access to nutritious food is a priority for DFTA.”

“Older New Yorkers should not have to choose between paying for their medicines and paying for food,” says **ANYF Chairman John David Mahder**. “We must put an end to food insecurity among seniors, and this event – and many more to come – is one way to do just that.”

ANYF, which is the nonprofit arm of DFTA, has previously hosted four food insecurity forums: two in Manhattan, one in Brooklyn and one in the Bronx.

Organizations and individuals interested in attending “Hunger, Health and Aging: A Queens Food Insecurity Forum” are encouraged to RSVP [here](#). Questions can be submitted through the RSVP form.

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The **Aging in New York Fund** is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older New Yorkers by identifying innovative pilot programs that fill critical gaps in the aging-services continuum and by providing fiscal and administrative support to partners, such as the NYC Department for the Aging and other NYC nonprofits in their efforts to offer essential services to seniors and caregivers.

The mission of the **NYC Department for the Aging** is to eliminate ageism, to ensure the dignity and quality of life of New York City’s diverse older adults, and to support caregivers through service, advocacy and education.