



Introduction

In July of 2012, Mayor Rahm Emanuel secured a place for Chicago in the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities. The Mayor appointed the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) to lead the Age-Friendly Chicago Plan. DFSS worked with the Buehler Center on Health, Aging and Society to assess the needs of older adults and determine the most effective way to enhance the quality of life for aging Chicago residents.

Description

The overwhelming conclusion of the Age-Friendly Chicago needs assessment, is that seniors want to age in place, in their own homes, in their communities. We are initiating a pilot beginning in the Englewood Senior Satellite Center, shortly followed by the Austin Senior Satellite Center, Pilsen, Edgewater Senior Satellite Center, and NE Levy Regional Senior Center and incrementally all 21 Senior Centers, to create Village Interdependent Collaboratives (VICs) to identify, bring resources to and reintegrate isolated seniors back into their communities thereby reducing their risk.

The VIC pilot is patterned after the village model successful in affluent neighborhoods such as Lincoln Park, Streeterville and Hyde Park, however, it differs in that there is no fee for seniors to become members. It creates an infrastructure of community partners to build a safety net around older residents who are aging in place and reintegrates them back into the community once they are stabilized with city services. Salvation Army will train a collaboration of churches and community organizations to form volunteer networks to shop, provide snow shoveling/yard work, and simple home repairs. The Salvation Army will conduct all background checks and trainings.

Mission

The mission of the City, through DFSS/Senior Services, is to support older persons to live independently in their own communities and homes for as long as possible; ensure that those who reside in institutions are treated with dignity and care, and ensure that older adults have access to full and accurate information to participate in their communities.

Partners

DFSS/Senior Services; Catholic Charities; Salvation Army; CDPH, SACCC, SANA, CFD and multiple community organizations and churches.

More Information visit <http://www.cityofchicago.org/agefriendlychicago>

