

## Immigrant Affairs and Social Services

### Introduction

This preliminary action plan addresses 5 principles that revolve around the following issues: jobs and economics, housing, language access, support for immigrant families in their adjustment to American life. A common concern that was echoed over and over again but not addressed in any single point in the preliminary action plan is the need for our community to collaborate and cooperate together. While, these issues overlap with all the other working groups and may even be repeated in the other preliminary action plans, we have tried to focus on the specific needs of immigrants in our plan. The last point (#5) addresses social services for all residents as well as specifics relating to immigrants.

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>Protect the rights of all immigrants and workers by fostering increased education and outreach among employees and employers about workers rights and employment discrimination.</b></p>	<p>Conduct a bilingual public education campaign to educate workers about their rights through activities such as workshops, conferences, and literature dissemination</p>	<p>NYS Dept. of Labor, NYC Commission on Human Rights, NYS Human Rights Commission, local community based organizations, labor unions, non profit law firms, pro-bono law firms/lawyers, NYC Bar Association, Department of Small Business Services</p>
<p><b>Increase local employment opportunities for neighborhood residents</b></p>	<p>Identify current job placement &amp; training agencies in the community (public, non-profit, and private), create inventory of their services, and evaluate the quality of services. Research to better understand how immigrant workers utilize employment agencies in order to provide trustworthy, non-exploitative options.</p> <p>Conduct research on work characteristics of residents and where they work. Research job placement/training agencies – services provided, types of jobs neighborhood residents being trained for and place into, in what area are they being placed (neighborhood, city, state)</p> <p>Keep track of jobs that are being availed to people in Chinatown</p> <p>Establish a local employment center utilizing a public/private partnership model</p> <p>Through regulations or incentives, negotiate that a minimum percentage of workers hired in new development contracts be local residents (such as Chatham Square re-zoning )</p> <p>Establish/augment job readiness training programs targeting industries that have been identified to be expanding in Chinatown so that more local residents can work in local area</p> <p>Encourage and support new businesses in the community to hire local residents</p>	<p>Economic development committee of CB 1,2, and 3, Lower East Side Business Improvement Districts, CPLDC, Dept. of Small Business Services, state and city local elected officials (City Council Member District 1 and 2, State Assembly Member district 63, State Senator District, Empowerment Zone</p>

<p><b>Improve translation and interpretation services among institutions (schools, hospitals, city, state, federal agencies) that serve immigrants in our community.</b></p>	<p>Monitor and ensure that the Mayor's Executive Order 120 (sets basic standards for all city agencies to follow when serving individuals who are not proficient in English) is being implemented by city agencies that serve immigrants in our community.</p> <p>Create a pool of trained, qualified interpreters</p> <p>Involve organizations from all sectors of the community in this process</p>	<p>Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, NY Immigration Coalition, Local elected officials, family associations, business associations, community based organizations</p>
<p><b>Ensure that truly affordable housing (for tenants or homeowners) is available in the community for new immigrants with low/moderate incomes and limited resources.</b></p>	<p>Utilize a locally defined area median income</p> <p>Conduct a neighborhood wide tenants rights education campaign</p> <p>Create and disseminate a "guide to housing" for new immigrants (includes information such as types of housing available, how to find housing, resources, where to go for help, etc..)</p> <p>Require that new developments "replace" same # of affordable housing units destroyed/lost</p>	<p>NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), NYS Dept. of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), community based organizations, Office of the Borough Manhattan President</p>
<p><b>Take steps decrease incidents of police harassment of Chinatown residents and improve police-community relations</b></p>	<p>Ensure that the NYC Police Dept provides interpretation services in order to facilitate communication with non-English speaking immigrants, when interacting with Chinatown residents</p> <p>Encourage NYC Police Department Fifth Precinct to address issues of police harassment with the broader Chinatown community</p>	<p>NYC Police Dept</p>
<p><b>Support families - youth, senior citizens, parents. Address family issues including domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention.</b></p>	<p>Increase/improve networking, communication, resource sharing, space sharing between entities that provide services to community (entities such as social service agencies, legal service providers, religious organizations, settlement houses, family associations, other community based organizations)</p> <p>Increase and strengthen partnership between neighborhood public schools (school administrators, school teachers, parent associations) and the community to reach and provide services to school children and their families</p> <p>In a neutral space, create a clearinghouse of neighborhood services. Make sure it includes all types of services for all age groups. Make sure it can be accessed electronically (internet, websites) as well as by traditional methods (outdoor and indoor bulletin boards).</p> <p>Increase efforts to reach the "harder to reach" immigrant population in our community (e.g. not literate, without internet access). Make sure to reach. Utilize local language radio, television, and newspaper. Utilize community bulletin boards such as those that already exist in the parks.</p>	<p>(see agencies listed on next page)</p>

## Immigrant Affairs and Social Services (continued)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>Support families - youth, senior citizens, parents. Address family issues including domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention. (continued)</b></p>	<p>Increase funding and resources to help immigrant families and community prevent or deal with serious problems such as domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking.</p>	
	<p>Increase the amount of affordable, decent community space for programming. Increase funding for Beacon programs that utilize public school space during after-school hours for adult and youth community programming. Increase access to parks and other outdoor spaces for community programs.</p>	<p>Community based organizations, NYC Dept of Education, neighborhood public schools, neighborhood health clinics and medical facilities, City Council members representing Chinatown/Lower East Side, State Assembly members and State Senators (representing Chinatown/Lower East Side), Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, NYC Office of the Public Advocate, Office of the Manhattan Borough President, NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Community Boards 1, 2, 3, Asian American Health and Social Service Council (network that meets monthly), NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), NYC Dept. for the Aging (DFTA), Independent Press Association of NYC (network of local and ethnic press), Neighborhood English, Chinese, and Spanish language press (newspaper, radio, and television) that covers Chinatown and Lower East Side</p>
	<p>Hold activities that allow immigrant families to socialize, meet others, share ideas and experiences. Utilize parks and outdoor spaces for these activities. (Examples: family-friendly recreational/sports/cultural activities, "family discussion/social groups" where participants can talk, share experiences, learn from each other)</p>	
	<p>Hold programs that bring immigrants to parks and other open space outside Chinatown community in order to create awareness of other spaces, cultures outside of local community.</p>	
	<p>Advocate for increased support and recognition of neighborhood groups (formal or informal) that utilize park space to hold classes and other activities that promote sports or recreation enjoyed by new immigrants.</p>	
	<p>Increase/improve networking, communication, resource sharing, space sharing between entities that provide services to community (entities such as social service agencies, legal service providers, religious organizations, settlement houses, family associations, and other community based organizations).</p>	
<p>Increase and strengthen partnership between neighborhood public schools (school administrators, school teachers, parent associations) and the community to reach and provide services to school children and their families.</p>		
<p>Better utilize volunteer resources in the community.</p>	<p>Conduct a more coordinated effort to train and utilize volunteers of all ages.</p>	

## Immigrants and Parks: Immigrant Affairs and Social Services (continued)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p>Increase support for senior citizens.</p>	<p>Educational materials: Ensure that places where senior citizens congregate and receive services (such as senior citizen centers) have the information about services, benefits, entitlements. Materials should be in all the appropriate languages.</p> <p>Address elder abuse (physical, financial, emotional); connect community with financial institutions to raise their awareness of financial abuse.</p> <p>Increase support to caregivers.</p> <p>Ensure that there are enough high quality facilities for senior citizens such as day time senior citizen centers.</p> <p>Ensure adequate and affordable senior citizen housing and nursing homes.</p> <p>Devote additional resources for local hospitals to provide enough geriatric services and beds for senior citizens.</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">Identify and provide support to grandparents who are caregivers of their grandchildren especially in situations where families are separated because parents are working outside the New York region</p>	<p>Community based organizations, neighborhood public schools, neighborhood health clinics and medical facilities,</p> <p>City Council members representing Chinatown &amp; /Lower East Side, State Assembly members and State Senators (representing Chinatown &amp; Lower East Side),</p> <p>Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, NYC Dept of Education (NYCDOE), NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, (NYCDOHMH) NYC Office of the Public Advocate, Office of the Manhattan Borough President, NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Community Boards 1, 2, 3, Asian American Health and Social Service Council (network that meets monthly), NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS), NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), NYC Dept. for the Aging (DFTA),</p>
<p>Address the problem of inadequate primary health care and dental care.</p>	<p>Increase the number of facilities providing primary health care and dental care including hospitals, school based clinics, and neighborhood clinics.</p>	<p>Independent Press Association of NYC (network of local and ethnic press), Neighborhood English and Chinese language press (newspaper, radio, and television) that covers Chinatown and Lower East Side</p>
<p>Services for the disabled.</p>	<p>Improve community outreach for effective and appropriate services for the disabled.</p> <p>Continue funding Access-A-Ride and/or other paratransit services until NYC subways and taxis are accessible to all people. In doing so, ensure that services provided by these companies meet the needs of local languages and cultures.</p>	<p>Independent Press Association of NYC (network of local and ethnic press), Neighborhood English and Chinese language press (newspaper, radio, and television) that covers Chinatown and Lower East Side</p>
<p>Mental health services.</p>	<p>Improve community outreach for effective and appropriate mental health services.</p>	