

# Aging

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## Introduction

During the recent Reality Check Workshops, topical experts and members of the public worked together in small groups to examine a particular topic in-depth. During the two-hour workshops they worked with a trained facilitator to complete the following exercises:

- 1) Review of Ideas. Participants reviewed all of the ideas related to their topic that were collected during the community Idea Gathering Sessions.
- 2) Critical Questions. Participants engaged in a discussion of two Critical Questions, which had been identified by the *Vision for Staten Island* Steering Committee. The facilitator recorded the results of the discussion on flipchart paper, and then helped the group summarize major areas of agreement and disagreement.
- 3) Implementation Recommendations. At the end of the discussion period, each participant wrote down two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps to help Staten Island achieve its vision for their topic.

The results from the Aging group are provided below. Note that responses have been recorded verbatim, and some errors may remain due to handwriting legibility. Responses are numbered for reference purposes only; this does not indicate any sense of priority.

### Critical Question 1:

What services or programs are most essential to help seniors remain in their neighborhoods and/or on Staten Island?

1. Services for homebound
2. Affordable housing, utilities, tax, and services
3. Wellness program
4. Food, healthcare and medicine within walking distance
5. Transportation
6. Accessible pet care
7. More medical alert/alarm (affordable)
8. Nutrition program
9. Case management/coordination of services
10. Home modification, ramps, home repair/maintenance
11. Service education/outreach
12. Funding

### Critical Question 1 SUMMARY:

1. Affordable housing
2. Service provisions

**Critical Question 2:**

How should these services and programs be delivered (e.g. a la carte, comprehensive programs) and by whom?

1. Funding
2. Schools large role in intergenerational
3. Clearinghouse of services
4. Services as needed/unique needs
5. Community education piece
6. Train professional
7. For-profit/non-profit organizations
8. Government should take a role
9. Depends on situation

**Critical Question 2 SUMMARY:**

1. Funding
2. Publicity, outreach, community education
3. Venue by need
4. Clearinghouse of services
5. Trained professionals in for-profit and non-profits
6. Service with excellence

**Implementation Recommendations:**

Consider the draft vision statement, the ideas gathered from the public, and your group's discussion of critical questions. Please recommend two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps that you would recommend to help Staten Island achieve its vision for your topic.

1. Fund as needed senior services using experienced personnel to achieve outcomes that will ultimately help the seniors
2. Create educational curriculum toward informing both the older as well as the younger populations about positive reality based aging
3. Increased role of schools/universities in education/training individuals about elder care issues and promoting intergenerational dialogue/programs
4. Harness funding from businesses and non-profits to increase capacity to serve senior populations or organizations
5. Increase senior housing throughout the economic and need spectrum
6. Better tie seniors with available services based on need
7. The development of various levels of safe affordable housing is critical for older adults on Staten Island
8. Service programs to allow seniors be maintained in their homes need to be funded, publicized, and neighborhood based
9. Survey seniors in various groups, i.e. senior centers, AARP's, retirement groups, places of worship, as to their concerns, needs, and thoughts about services that are needed to live/remain on SI
10. Survey aging service providers as to their ideas on what are the critical needs for the older adult to remain/live on SI

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