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Aging in New York Fund hosts Bronx forum on food insecurity, seniors

Approximately 22.7 percent of Bronx seniors live below the federal poverty level, contributing to food insecurity. The Sept. 20 event seeks to raise awareness and open a conversation about reducing food insecurity among older New Yorkers.

NEW YORK (Aug. 29, 2016) — At a time when 22.7 percent of Bronx seniors live below the federal poverty level, the Aging in New York Fund (ANYF) is partnering with BronxWorks, Hostos Community College, the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), the State Society on Aging of New York and United Neighborhood Houses of New York to host “Hunger, Health and Aging: A Bronx Food Insecurity Forum” to raise awareness of and identify solutions to the problem of seniors sometimes going hungry.

The forum, which will feature a panel discussion and question-and-answer segments, will provide an opportunity for Bronx community leaders and nonprofits to learn about food insecurity, local projects and future programs that address the issue, initiatives at the city policy level, and the importance of healthy eating for seniors. Information identifying places where seniors can obtain low-cost or free food will be distributed during the event.

The forum will feature speakers from community-based organizations that are invested in the goal of reducing food insecurity among Bronx seniors. Confirmed program panelists include:

- Eileen Torres, executive director of BronxWorks
- Nick Freudenberg, director of CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute
- Iris Mercado, associate professor and dietician at Hostos Community College
- Joel Berg, executive director of Hunger Free America
- Barbara Turk, director of food policy at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, who will serve as moderator

“More than 1 in 10 older New Yorkers are food insecure, according to data from Hunger Free America,” explains **ANYF President and DFTA Commissioner Donna Corrado**. “Food is a necessity, not a luxury.”

“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.”

Since the start of ANYF’s project to highlight local initiatives and increase awareness of food insecurity in NYC, three forums have been held in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

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

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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 work for the empowerment, independence, dignity and quality of life of New York City's diverse older adults and for the support of their families through advocacy, education and the coordination and delivery of services.