

**Organizing the Main Functions of Senior Centers**  
**--DRAFT TWO--**  
**November 30, 2009**

**Socialization**

- Socialization; combating social isolation
- A third place -- sense of place and community
- Activity; staying active
- A place to participate in culture with peers
- Recreation - to have a good time/fun
- A place where people can go to help one another
- Place for intergenerational activities
- A place fostering personal growth

**Link to Public Benefits and Services**

- Information, resources, and connection to services
- A place for information and access to people with disabilities
- A place to get tangible goods and services (e.g., flu shots, food vouchers, transportation)
- Central hub to help overcome siloed services; a place to get information about what is available
- A focal point for deploying volunteers and services that can help people stay in their homes (e.g., DMM, friendly visitors)
- Place to offer educational programs, like HIV/AIDS prevention
- Place to support grandparents raising grandchildren
- Promotes financial security (mobilizes public and private resources)

**Link to Community Resources**

- Place for learning
- Structured environment for civic engagement, volunteerism, and giving back to the community
- Place for employment opportunities
- Place for leadership development, social action, advocacy, and empowerment
- Place to get help evaluating information and choices; reliable and trusted source of answers

**Food**

- Nutrition

**Health Promotion and Linkage**

- Wellness center: physical and mental
- Places that recognize that 'wellness' means different things in different cultures
- Part of a continuum of community-based long term care
- Sites that can alert us to early indicators of problems (canary in the coal mine)

**Cross Cutting Themes/Attributes**

- Prevention (more broadly meant than health)
- Accessibility
- Input/participation of older adults in governance and decision-making
- Safe place
- Culturally competent