

**Politifest Idea Tournament Submission
submitted by**

City Heights Seniors, City Heights Town Council

City Heights is a culturally diverse urban community with 95,000 people in 6.5 square miles. The average income for a family of four is between \$19,393 and \$24,400; within the federal poverty level of \$22,050. 7,000 of the residents are over 60 years of age, more than 4,000 of them living alone. The area has several senior housing projects, but no senior gathering place (i.e. senior center).

A group called *City Heights Seniors*, is establishing a place for seniors to congregate, stay healthy and serve the community. The City Heights Town Council is our fiscal agent. We have a donated space near the City Heights Urban Village and plan to start meeting weekly this summer. This has so far been a volunteer effort. We now seek community financial support and will apply for grants for operating costs.

City Heights Seniors hopes to serve a meal to those who attend. To be sensitive to the needs of the various cultures and dietary restrictions, and to keep the expenditures within the community, we want to work with local restaurants to provide the food. SNAP (aka "food stamps") has recently been approved to be used in restaurants, thus giving restaurants we use, many of which are immigrant owned and operated, a way of marketing to seniors. It can also encourage more restaurants to participate in the SNAP program. It's a win-win solution which meets mutually beneficial community interests. We plan to serve 20 seniors to start, expecting to expand when our site and activities become known throughout the community and funding is secured.

Budget: July through December, 2013

1 day/week for 48 weeks	= 48 days.	
20 meals/day x 48 days	= 960 meals @ \$5.00 per meal	= \$ 4,800
Materials for meal service		= \$ 200
	Total Award:	= \$ 5,000

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