

## **New Jersey Age-Friendly Advisory Council: June 7, 2022**

Topic: More SWOT Report-Out from Work Groups  
(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

### **Janet Sharma's Notes**

#### **Housing & Community**

- Strengths: Several NGOs focus on accessible outdoor spaces – sidewalks, intersections, benches, lighting – accessible to public transportation as well
- Weaknesses: Disjoined system for who's responsible for sidewalks, lighting, timing
- Opportunities: Federal money, complete streets & "Vision Zero" models
- Threats: Lack of consideration for pedestrians and cyclists, lack of investment in maintaining pedestrian-safe features (benches)

#### **Transportation**

- S: Education & training are available to help older adults learn about travel & access public transportation
- W: Inconsistency from system to system
- O: For more and better marketing

#### **Socialization**

- S: COVID brought home-delivered meals or grab-and-go meals
- W: Costs of attending events is expensive, ageist language
- O: Peer-to-peer learning, employment
- T: COVID halted social life; isolation affected health negatively

#### **Health & Well Being**

- O: Collaborative opportunities for state and local NGOs to build a safety net around people; Raise awareness of aging issues
- T: Older adults are fearful of asking for help or of not having anyone to ask
- Increasing number of OAs is a threat as well as an opportunity for increased advocacy

#### **Communication & Outreach**

- W: Digital connectivity
- W: Division of Aging Services needs to better educate County AAAs about Federal programs distributed locally; also need to educate about restrictions
- T: Urgency around issues of equity as needs become more dire

#### **Misc:**

- **Division of Aging Services** has available for all workgroups spreadsheets with comprehensive national/state/county data
- **Question:** How does NJ rank with other states in funding allocated to aging services?