Neighborhood *Aging Agenda* Survey

Purpose: To provide supplemental information for, and to facilitate analysis of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) Interview and Forum qualitative research. Quantitative data specific to the *Houston/Harris County Aging Agenda* will be collected from the same AI sample population, plus an equal or greater number of similar individuals from the same neighborhoods who could not be included in the Appreciative Inquiry research.

Background: The Houston Aging in Place Innovations (HAPI) project will be the first formal application of the *Aging Agenda*, focusing on four low-income, minority elder-concentrated Houston neighborhoods. The first objective of the HAPI Project is that neighborhood aging-in-place assets and gaps related to the *Aging Agenda* will be measured. The Appreciative Inquiry (AI) Interviews and Forums in each project neighborhood will provide unique, rich and invaluable qualitative data. They do not focus specifically on the *Aging Agenda*, but should identify and narrate most of the same issues. The AI process can include a relatively small number of participants due to time and resource limits, and it is not easy to repeat annually to track changes over time. All of this pointed to a need to supplement the AI process with a quantitative survey based on the *Aging Agenda* specifically.

Survey Design: The survey questionnaire is based on the eight (8) domains of the *Houston/Harris County Aging Agenda.* Within each domain several statements representing 'needs' or 'aspirations' are listed as objectives to be rated on a 4-point scale from 'the most important' to 'not very important' to you. The objectives were derived from the *Aging Agenda* and through deliberations of the Evaluation Workgroup of Care for Elders. At the end of the questionnaire are an additional ten questions regarding other aspects of aging in place, drawn from sources such as the AdvantAge Initiative (www.vnsny.org/advantage) and the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (www.cdc.gov/BRFSS). The questionnaire requests detailed respondent information but it is anonymous. The questionnaire has a readability grade level of 7.9 in English. It will be translated into Spanish.

Administration/ Methodology: The questionnaire along with a prepaid, pre-addressed return envelope will be given to each AI interviewee and Forum participant by their interviewer, who asks the interviewee to voluntarily complete the questionnaire and mail it in within a day or two. This distribution to 50 interviewees, and another 20 AI Forum participants in each of the three neighborhoods, totals 210 for the project. Due to the personal nature of this distribution, a high return rate of 85% or **180** is expected.

       The survey questionnaires will also be hand-delivered to all Senior Center and Home Delivered Meals participants in the three project neighborhoods, with a personal appeal to complete the questionnaire and return it within a day or two. A relatively low number of questionnaires also will be distributed to direct care workers employed in the neighborhoods and other providers of services to seniors in the three neighborhoods. The questionnaires will be inconspicuously marked to indicate the different respondent groups – AI participants, Senior Center participants, home delivered meals recipients, service providers. A statistical software program will be used to analyze the data.