

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**YWCA of Queens Housing Workshop Draws Over 200 Seniors**

**FLUSHING, New York (March 26, 2015) – On Tuesday, March 24, the YWCA of Queens held its first workshop under the Healthy Aging Initiative Planning Grant awarded by the New York Women’s Foundation to address the unmet needs of senior immigrant women in the Queens community.**

Over 200 people joined the YWCA to learn about how to apply for housing, with 98% of attendees over the age of 60. The workshop was presented in Korean by YWCA Case Manager Rachel Hong and covered various aspects of housing, such as the difference between Senior, Public, and Affordable Housing as well as the eligibility requirements and application process. **YWCA Executive Director Helen Kim said, “The high turnout for workshops clearly evidences there is a great need for affordable housing in the Flushing area, particularly for seniors. Many immigrant seniors are unaware of their options, and the YWCA is here to assist them in the language they feel most comfortable speaking.”**

**“We held this workshop because at the moment the waitlist to meet one-on-one with our case manager is 4 months out,” said Director of Senior Services Sung Noh. “During the Q&A, one of the attendees asked if the YWCA could do anything about the lack of available senior housing due to the growing demand and an insufficient supply. We are doing everything we can and we will start by discussing this issue extensively at our Women’s Leadership Council next week.”**

With the Healthy Aging Initiative Planning Grant from the NY Women’s Foundation, the YWCA of Queens has been able pilot a social services project, which started in August 2014 and allows people to meet with a case manager. When the demand for assistance became clear, the YWCA looked to alternative options such as hosting workshop. Another new movement that is underway is the Women’s Leadership Council which includes empowering senior women in leadership roles in hopes that they join the YWCA in advocating for increased senior housing

For more information about how to give your time, talent, tenacity and financial support to the YWCA of Queens, please visit [www.ywcaqueens.org](http://www.ywcaqueens.org).

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**About YWCA of Queens**

The YWCA of Queens, founded in 1978, is a multi-tiered community organization with a wide range of education, career services, home health, and social services programs located at the center of one of the most diverse communities in the country. The YWCA of Queens’ mission is to eliminate racism and empower women through education and advocacy. Visit [www.ywcaqueens.org](http://www.ywcaqueens.org) for more information.