

CHAPTER 11

HUMAN SERVICES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Background
2	Human Services Needs
2	Trends and Projections
3	Funding for Human Services
3	Human Services Needs of Residents
3	Goals and Objectives
3	Goal 1: Services for Seniors
4	Goal 2: Services and Programs for Youth
5	Goal 3: Employment
5	Goal 4: Recreational and Cultural Opportunities
5	Goal 5: Transportation
6	Goal 6: Improve Opportunities for Households Living in Poverty
6	Goal 7: Education about Human Services Programs
7	Goal 8: Human Services Delivery and Coordination
7	Goal 9: Assist Underserved Populations/Minorities
8	Goal 10: Behavioral Health Needs
8	Goal 11: Housing for Persons with Human Services Needs
9	Goal 12: Civic Engagement and Volunteerism

CHAPTER 11 | HUMAN SERVICES





11 | HUMAN SERVICES

Human services is an all-encompassing term relating to helping and supporting people so they can live more satisfying, autonomous, and productive lives. This may include fulfilling basic needs such as food, housing and medical care, or providing greater opportunities to support achieving self-sufficiency. Whether through direct intervention with human services providers or through access to knowledge, resources, and programs, providing human services helps individuals, families, groups, and communities address and/or better cope with economic, health, and social issues to promote their greater functioning within society.

In addition to fostering community responsibility and social equity, the provision of human services emphasizes the value of diversity and respect for people of different incomes, ages, abilities, races, ethnicities, and cultures.

Local municipalities generally have a limited role in addressing human services needs since they rely on a larger infrastructure of government (federal, state, and county) with enhanced funding to efficiently and effectively provide services. Private human services providers complement the efforts of government.

This chapter will articulate services currently provided either directly by Southold Town or those provided by Suffolk County and private agencies; highlight unfulfilled needs that may need to be addressed in the future that are critical to the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in the Town of Southold; and assist the Town's Human Services department with ongoing planning for coordinated and integrated services.

Background

Southold Town has provided human services for over four decades. In response to the federal enactment of the Older Americans Act in 1965, the Southold Town Senior Nutrition Program was established in 1974 at San

Simon by the Sound. Since then the program has broadened its network of services to meet the increased needs. In 1993, the Town of Southold purchased the Human Resource Center (HRC) and established the Southold Town Department of Human Services to serve as a Community Focal Point and to increase capacity for co-location and coordination of programs and services for Town residents. In addition to the services provided directly at the HRC, the HRC serves the community as resource for all human services needs by providing coordination with other public and private agency programs and services (see **Appendix 8** for a list of services provided and coordinated).



Senior Services

Currently, residents belonging to the following categories or in need of the following services are targeted for assistance through the human services goals and objectives of the Town:

- Senior Citizens
- Youth
- Individuals with developmental disabilities
- Individuals with behavioral health needs such as mental illness and/or substance abuse
- Victims of domestic violence
- Households experiencing poverty

- Unemployed and underemployed
- Lack of access to healthcare and medical services
- Underserved minorities who may lack resources or be discriminated against due to their minority status
- Lack of access to recreational programs
- Homeless or living in substandard conditions

Human Services Needs

Through a series of community interviews, the following human services needs were identified:

- **Transportation**
The limited availability of public transportation impedes residents' access to services and programs.
- **Employment**
Additional employment opportunities are needed for Town residents.
- **Housing**
Housing is very expensive and remains completely out of reach for many citizens with or without human services needs.
- **Health Care Costs**
Health care costs have sky-rocketed and policy changes to Medicare and Medicaid have impacted older and low-income residents. Many struggle to obtain accurate information regarding benefits, entitlements, and supportive services.
- **Lack of Spanish Language Resources**
Despite the significant increase in the Latino population, many human service providers do not offer Spanish-speaking staff and/or resources.
- **Opportunities for Youth Activities**
Surveys indicated a desire for a multi-purpose gymnasium and swimming pool complex including a teen center for afterschool activities. In addition, youth reported that they would like the Town to consider creating a Youth Court in conjunction with the Southold Police Department.

Trends and Projections

The following trends and projections in Southold Town's population have been identified:

- **Increase in Senior Population**
Southold's year-round population continues to age. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, seniors 60 years of age or over increased 3.5 percent over the decade and represent one in three people. Nationally one in eight Americans is over the age of 60. Outside

of New York City, Suffolk County has the second-largest senior population in the state. In 2010, 66 percent of all clients served by the Suffolk County Office for the Aging were 75 years of age or older. This population is most likely to have multiple and chronic health conditions and require a variety of services to remain safe and independent in the own homes. The growth of the senior population in Suffolk County and Southold Town has increased the demand for public and private community-based services by senior services network providers on the East End.

- **Increase in Second Homeowners**
The number of homes identified as second (not a primary residence) has increased. Many second homeowners will retire in the future and make the Town of Southold their primary residence, thereby increasing the already aging population of year-round residents.
- **Decline of School-Aged Children**
The number of families with school-age children is declining.
- **Increase in Hispanic Population**
The Hispanic population increased from 982 to 2,382 according to the 2000 and 2010 Census data. This 142 percent increase will require bilingual language programs and services to assist this growing segment of the population.
- **Decrease of Funding from Federal, State, and County Governments**
As governments must do more with less, less funding is available for human services programs and resources.
- **Increase in Requests for Food Stamp Assistance**
From 2007 to 2012, Suffolk County has witnessed an increase of households seeking assistance from the food stamp program.
- **Decrease in Household Income**
When adjusting for inflation over the past two decades, median household income increased in five hamlets (Cutchogue, Greenport West, Laurel, Mattituck, and Southold). However, the median household income decreased in other parts of the Town, including East Marion, Fishers Island, New Suffolk, Orient, and Peconic. While the price of other goods, namely housing, fuel, and groceries, has steadily increased, income levels have not been able to keep up.

- **Decrease in Childcare Subsidies**

Subsidized childcare was a hallmark of “welfare reform” to help get parents back to work. Funding went from the federal to the state to the county governments to provide subsidies for childcare/ daycare. Due to significant funding cuts, Suffolk County has changed eligibility requirements, making it far more difficult to access payments, as parents now must be at or below the federal poverty line. This measure is counterproductive in assisting households near the poverty level, as heads of households frequently cannot work without this assistance.

- **Increase in Incidents of Domestic Violence**

In addition to a correlation with substance abuse, incidents of domestic violence are exacerbated by diminished economic opportunities. The East End’s only provider of domestic violence services, The Retreat, reported in 2012 a significant increase of calls for assistance on its multilingual hotline.

Funding for Human Services

The Town receives funding from various revenue sources to support human services (see **Appendix 8** for detailed list of funding sources and services). It is important to note that there is a trend for diminished funding for human services programs.

Human Services Needs of Residents

There are myriad human services needs for the residents of Southold. Fortunately, many of these needs are currently addressed by existing Town and County programs as well as resources from private providers (hospitals) and non-profits. Although funding from other government entities has diminished over time, the Town will continue to creatively and effectively deliver programs and services to address human services needs.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

🎯 Goal 1: Services for Seniors



Katinka House

Senior citizens make up a major part of the population of the Town of Southold and are valuable assets for the Town’s growth and stability. Seniors are known for supporting local businesses and they provide valuable contributions by volunteering their time and expertise toward Town committees and non-profit services. To meet the needs of its citizens, the Town should continue to fund its rich array of programs and resources for seniors as well as seek to improve their lives through additional resources (see **Appendix 8** for details).

🎯 Objective 1.1

Sustain services for seniors.

- A |** Continue to provide the following programs for seniors through the Town’s Human Services Department:
 - Home-delivered meals
 - Congregate meals
 - Case management
 - Residential repair
 - Transportation for shopping and social events
 - Medical transportation
 - Entitlement counseling
 - Wellness education
 - Telephone reassurance to the homebound
 - Caregiver support groups and counseling
- B |** Continue to provide social model (i.e., non-medical) adult day care services at Katinka House.
- C |** Support the medical model of adult day care services at San Simeon by the Sound.
- D |** Sustain the Town’s collaboration with Eastern Long Island’s Geriatric Center of Excellence and Suffolk County’s New York Connects Program to promote availability of information and resources to benefit seniors.

- E | Continue to provide part-time services to seniors living on Fishers Island.
- F | Continue community outreach regarding vouchers for seniors to enable them to meet their nutritional needs through the New York State Senior Farmers Market Nutritional Program.

🎯 Objective 1.2

Enhance services to seniors.

- A | Continue to partner with non-profits groups to initiate Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) that foster aging in place with independence supplemented by human service agencies.
- B | Investigate funding opportunities through the New York State Office of Mental Health to continue providing mental health screenings to seniors and caregivers.
- C | With the Youth Bureau and schools, develop intergenerational programs helping seniors with property maintenance such as leaf raking and snow plowing.
- D | With Suffolk County, improve access to benefits for eligible seniors through a shared electronic application process.
- **Responsible Parties:** Human Services Department, Southold Youth Bureau
- **Possible Partnerships:** Family Service League, Eastern Long Island's Geriatric Center of Excellence, Suffolk County's New York Connects, San Simeon by the Sound, Peconic Landing, NY State Office of Mental Health, NY State Office for Aging, Island Health Project, Rebuild Together Long Island

🎯 Goal 2: Services and Programs for Youth

Youth are our future. Over the years, the Town has witnessed a decrease of children and young people living in Town. Indeed, many youth do not remain in the community after they graduate from high school due to the lack of employment opportunities and affordable housing.

🎯 Objective 2.1

Sustain services to youth.

- A | Continue annual funding requests with the New York State Office for Children and Family Services for Youth Bureau funding.
- B | Continue annual funding requests with Suffolk County Youth Bureau for assistance with operation of the Town's DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program for elementary students.
- C | Support the funding request for the Family Service League's counseling program.
- D | Continue to solicit funding for the student Summer Works program.
- E | Support the efforts of the Southold Business Advisory program to provide job mentoring and job shadowing experience with Town departments.

🎯 Objective 2.2

Enhance services to youth.

- A | With senior services, expand intergenerational programs for youth.
- B | Improve recreational opportunities for youth.
- C | Seek funding from private corporations to supplement programs for youth.
- **Responsible Parties:** Southold Youth Bureau, Human Services Department, Southold Police Department, Southold Recreation Center, Southold Parks, Beaches and Recreation Committee
- **Possible Partnerships:** Suffolk County Youth Bureau, Family Service League, local schools, Island Community Center, Island People's Project, U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps, Communities That Care, North Fork Alliance, private corporations



Sunflower field in Mattituck

Goal 3: Employment

Chapter 7, “Economic Development,” addresses employment issues in the Town. The important connection between employment and quality of life for residents is reemphasized in this goal.

Objective 3.1

Improve employment opportunities for Town residents.

- A | Co-locate employment counselors at the Human Services Department from Suffolk County Department of Labor to teach skills relating to job search, resume writing, interview skills, etc.
- B | Host “job banks” with local employers seeking employees.
- C | Continue to solicit funding for the student Summer Works program to provide employment opportunities for financially disadvantaged youth.
- D | On Town’s website, provide link for Suffolk County Department of Civil Service for employment opportunities.
- E | Explore utilization of Suffolk County Office of Retired Executives (SCORE) to assist residents with employment search and retention
- **Responsible Parties:** Human Services Department, Southold Youth Bureau, Southold Economic Development Committee
- **Possible Partnerships:** Suffolk County Department of Labor, Suffolk County Civil Service, Suffolk County Office of Retired Executives

Goal 4: Recreational and Cultural Opportunities

Recreational, educational, and leisure activities evolve with time and it is important to remain current while satisfying the needs of a diverse population. Technological advances require that the facilities and activities remain compelling and instructional for all Town residents. Chapter 13, “Parks & Recreation,” addresses this topic in more depth.

Objective 4.1

Provide for a variety of recreational, educational, and leisure experiences and programs to meet the diverse needs of the community.

- A | Issue annual surveys to assess parks and recreational needs of the community and facilitate focus groups.
- B | Develop and enhance recreational programs based on responses from the community; include cultural programs (Peconic Lane Community Center).
- C | Partner with existing entities (East End Arts Council, Peconic Landing, North Fork Community Theatre, Southampton Cultural Center, Northeast Stage, etc.) that provide cultural programming to offer educational classes, performances, art exhibits, concerts, and other leisure activities.
- D | Enhance technological capacities of the Recreation Center and Peconic Lane Community Center to promote cutting-edge program offerings.
- E | Create additional cultural and recreational programs for people with developmental disabilities that could include youth volunteers.
- **Responsible Parties:** Southold Recreation Department, Southold Parks, Beaches and Recreation Committee, Department of Data Processing and Information Technology, Planning Department, Southold Developmental Disabilities, Human Services Department, Southold Youth Bureau
- **Possible Partnerships:** Peconic Landing, Fishers Island Community Center, historical societies, libraries, East End Arts Council, North Fork Community Theatre

Goal 5: Transportation

Getting around in the Town of Southold can be challenging for some residents since public transportation is limited. The current limitations of public transportation particularly affect low-income families who cannot afford to purchase a vehicle, seniors who can no longer drive, youth who are not old enough to acquire a license, and individuals with disabilities.

Local public transportation is restricted to one bus line, the S92, which is provided by Suffolk County Transit and travels from Orient Point, through the Village of Greenport to East Hampton along New York State Route 25. Buses typically run once every 15 minutes in the westbound direction during the weekday morning peak of 5 to 7 AM and once every 25 minutes in the eastbound direction during the evening peak of 5 to 8 PM. Weekend service is also available with lesser frequency, with buses running every 40 minutes at peak times and every hour otherwise.

Opportunities to transfer to other bus lines throughout Suffolk County exist; however, there is often a prolonged wait time. Suffolk County Accessible Transit (SCAT) serves individuals with disabilities, but certain program limitations exist including no door-to-door assistance provided (curbside pick-ups only); pick-up limited to within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from a Suffolk County Transit fixed bus route; and reservations that are made on a first-come first-served basis and cannot be made beyond a week in advance. Travel by train is even more limited as the Long Island Rail Road provides fragmented service at odd times that frequently does not coincide with work schedules.

🎯 Objective 5.1

Improve public transportation opportunities to enable residents to travel throughout the Town and the County, and to enable employers to attract employees without vehicles.

- Work with Suffolk County and New York State to increase public transit opportunities.

🎯 Objective 5.2

Expand transportation services to increase access to human services programs. (e.g., youth programs, recreation programs for people with developmental disabilities).

- Explore the feasibility of repurposing Town fleet vehicles for alternative uses that address transportation needs for human services programs.
- **Responsible Parties:** Human Services Department, Youth Bureau, Southold Developmental Disabilities
- **Possible Partnerships:** Suffolk County Office for Aging, Suffolk County Youth Bureau, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Long Island Rail Road, East End Transportation Commission, Southold Transportation Committee

🎯 Goal 6: Improve Opportunities for Households Living in Poverty

While most households in Southold do not experience poverty, a safety net must be in place to help those who struggle daily to survive and to help households who struggle to subsist and meet their economic and healthcare needs. The impact of poverty on individuals and families has many ramifications to everyday life.

🎯 Objective 6.1

Continue the support of human services that remediate the impact of poverty on residents of Southold Town and Greenport Village.

- Continue funding of human services through the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that provide assistance to food pantries, child care and afterschool programs, shelter to the homeless, counseling services, and other related programs.
- **Responsible Parties:** Town Board, Human Services Department, Community Block Grant Reviewing Committee
- **Possible Partnerships:** Family Service League, North Fork Early Learning Center, Community Action of Southold Town, North Fork Parish Outreach, Suffolk County Office for Aging, Suffolk County Department of Health, Suffolk County Department of Social Services, Peconic Community Council, Catholic Charities, Island Harvest

🎯 Goal 7: Education about Human Services Programs

Many residents who could benefit from services are unaware and sometimes reluctant to ask about existing resources.

🎯 Objective 7.1

Expand awareness of and access to human services information and resources.

- A | Develop a comprehensive resource directory of human service agencies and resources.
- B | Continue to update and produce a Youth Bureau Resource Directory.
- C | Host educational forums to inform public about resources.
- D | Expand distribution of information brochures and other print materials Town-wide.
- E | Use the Town's website to post important information and to provide direct links to other human services agencies and resources including local libraries.
- F | Coordinate with public and private community organizations and local media to inform residents of available services and resources.

- G** | Feature an educational item in print media and on the Town’s website (e.g., Did You Know...?).
- H** | Ensure that communications are developed in Spanish and other languages as needed.
- **Responsible Parties:** Southold Human Services, Southold Youth Bureau, Department of Information Technology
- **Possible Partnerships:** Health Care Issues and the Elderly Committee, Family Service League, North Fork Early Learning Center, Community Action of Southold Town, North Fork Parish Outreach, North Fork Apostolate, college student interns, volunteers

🎯 **Goal 8: Human Services Delivery and Coordination**

Effective and efficient delivery of human services is crucial. It is essential that all service delivery agencies, public and private, collaborate and continue to build strong interrelationships to maximize service delivery and minimize duplication of efforts and cost. In addition, more comprehensive data collection and on-going sharing of information is necessary as regional human services providers develop implementation plans and identify potential funding sources.

🎯 **Objective 8.1**

Continue efforts currently funded by Southold Town to provide for the coordinated, efficient, and effective delivery of human services that integrate programs and reduce duplication of services.

- A** | Develop a standardized reporting tool that can be utilized by service providers for more comprehensive program evaluation and planning. Data can also be used for grant applications and program development. Seek grant funds from the Long Island Community Foundation for development and implementation of standardized monitoring tools. Host workshops to invite human services providers to broaden their knowledge about more effective reporting and evaluation tools.
- B** | Schedule quarterly meetings with human services providers to enhance networking and information exchange.
- C** | For improved clarity for residents, consider renaming the “Human Resource Center” (sometimes referred to as the “Senior Center” or the “Nutrition Center”) to “The Department of Human Services”

(including signage, website, and other references to the department) to broaden an awareness of the diverse programs available to address human services needs.

- **Responsible Parties:** Human Services Department, Southold Community Development Reviewing Committee
- **Possible Partnerships:** Regional non-profits, Long Island Community Foundation

🎯 **Goal 9: Assist Underserved Populations/Minorities**

Populations identified as underserved can benefit from additional assistance from the human services delivery system through education, access to resources, and specialized programs. Underserved populations may include Hispanics, African Americans, Women, Veterans, Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Minorities (gay, lesbian, transgendered), Physically and Mentally Disabled, and others (see **Appendix 8** for detailed census data). Underserved populations may be more vulnerable and socially isolated because of their minority status. The Department of Human Services currently provides a “community services room” to allow greater access for all residents including those in the underserved populations.

Minorities may experience discrimination in housing and employment. An extreme form of discrimination is bias crimes against minorities. The Town must exhibit a welcoming atmosphere for all underserved populations and affirm its zero tolerance for discrimination and bias.

🎯 **Objective 9.1**

Provide resources and programs that can benefit underserved populations.

- A** | Expand opportunities to groups that service minorities to co-locate at the community services room. This could include Suffolk County Offices of Minority Affairs, Office for Women, and the North Fork Spanish Apostolate (bilingual resources).
- B** | Partner with the County's Minority Business Development Council and Women's Business Enterprise Coalition to increase business opportunities for minorities.
- C** | Highlight information and resources in Human Services Resource Directory.

- D | Provide workshops for the Town and local businesses on federal mandates under the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Rehabilitation Act.
- E | Promote literacy through enhancing the provision of English as a Second Language (ESL) services to minorities at Town sites and local libraries.

Objective 9.2

Ensure Town infrastructure is ADA compliant

- Enact an ADA Transition Plan and designate an ADA Coordinator for Town infrastructure according to Title 6 Federal regulations.

Objective 9.3

Discourage and remediate acts of discrimination and bias.

- A | Host workshops for businesses on equal opportunity practices.
- B | Sponsor educational forums on discrimination and bias.
- C | Continue anti-bias education initiative with local schools.
- D | Document and monitor incidents of hate crimes and bias acts.
- **Responsible Parties:** Human Services Department, Southold Police Department, Southold Town Engineering Department, Southold Anti-Bias Taskforce, Economic Development Committee, Southold Youth Bureau
- **Possible Partnerships:** Regional non-profits, Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency, Suffolk County Office of Minority Affairs, Suffolk County Office for Women, Long Island Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgendered Network, Long Island AIDS Coalition, North Fork Women for Women Fund, North Fork Women's Resource Center, The Retreat, North Fork Spanish Apostolate, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, local libraries

Goal 10: Behavioral Health Needs

Behavioral health issues such as untreated substance abuse and mental illness can have a serious impact on individuals, their families, and the community as a whole. Increased access to education and available resources in the community can provide greater opportunity for improved health and a better quality of life.

Objective 10.1

Coordinate resources to address behavioral health issues and promote wellness.

- A | Partner with public and private service providers to host educational workshops featuring speakers and resources on various topics relating to behavioral health needs. In addition, work with local hospitals and providers to increase the awareness about the availability of behavioral health services for Town residents.
- B | Co-locate in the Human Services Department community services room the human services providers who give information and referrals for behavioral health needs.
- C | Work with schools to prevent and address behavioral health needs of students.
- D | Continue wellness seminars and workshops for seniors and caregivers with relevant topics (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, depression, senior nutrition)
- **Responsible Parties:** Human Services Department, Southold Youth Bureau
- **Possible Partnerships:** Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, Peconic Bay Medical Center, South Oaks Hospital, Mental Health Association of Suffolk County, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Long Island Chapter, Suffolk County Health Department, Communities that Care, North Fork Coalition, regional schools

Goal 11: Housing for Persons with Human Services Needs

Persons with human services needs have acute housing needs that may be different from those of the general population. Safe and affordable housing is vital to a community's stability. Many residents are in need of affordable housing, particularly low-income individuals and families who rely on government subsidies.

Southold has an unusually large number of senior citizens where 40 percent of year-round residents are age 55 or older. This sizable segment of the population will require special forms of housing and assistance to make it possible for them to age in place and continue living in the Town. As the Town's population of retirees and senior citizens continues to grow, the need for a younger, stable workforce will also increase.

Objective 11.1

Provide additional diversified housing from existing stock in all of the Town's hamlets to help meet the needs of current year-round residents.

- A | Encourage the development of accessory apartments in existing barns and garages that can be renovated into small apartments for singles or couples or that allow the homeowners (retirees, etc.) to downsize.
- B | Continue to work with the Family Service League to expand its HomeShare Long Island program, which provides affordable housing for both seniors and non-seniors, generally in the form of rooms within existing homes.
- C | Promote universal design elements in the building code to accommodate seniors ageing in place and persons with physical disabilities. Establish loans and grants from the Town's CDBG funding to convert larger homes from existing stock into units of affordable rental housing.
 - **Responsible Parties:** Housing Advisory Commission, Southold Senior Services, Building Department, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Architectural Review Committee, Community Development Block Grant
 - **Possible Partnerships:** Suffolk County Economic Development and Workforce Housing, Suffolk County Office for Aging, Family Service League, Walsh Park Benevolent Association, Habitat for Humanity, Community Development Corporation of Long Island, Long Island Housing Partnership

Objective 11.2

Encourage the development of diversified housing to help meet the needs of current year-round residents, including senior citizens.

(This sub-goal is also in Chapter 8, "Housing," along with more details on the housing needs of the Town).

- A | Develop units of moderate-income home ownership through the Town's inclusionary zoning policies, Suffolk County 72 H transfers (tax default properties), a change of zoning to Affordable Housing District, and partnerships with non-profit housing developers utilizing New York State HOME funding. This could include consideration of changing the building code to allow smaller homes

than have been previously envisioned (fewer than 850 square feet).

- B | Develop partnerships with non-profit housing developers to build age-restricted apartments using HUD's Section 202 funding.
- C | Develop moderate-income home-ownership units (condos, etc.) with age restrictions through inclusionary zoning policies, change of zoning to Affordable Housing District, and partnerships with housing providers.
- D | Explore the feasibility of identifying potential locations that would be appropriate for higher-density affordable housing readily available to potential sponsors for development. Identification of such locations would be part of a public meeting process with the Town Board, Planning Board and Housing Advisory Commission.
- E | Support the development of assisted-living facilities in appropriate locations.
 - **Responsible Parties:** Housing Advisory Commission, Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals
 - **Possible Partnerships:** Suffolk County Economic Development and Workforce Housing, Community Development Corporation of Long Island, Long Island Housing Partnership, Housing Urban Development, New York State Homes and Community Renewal, Walsh Park Benevolent Association, Community Land Trust of Southold, Private Developers, Independent Group Home Living, Inc., Aid for the Developmentally Disabled

Goal 12: Civic Engagement and Volunteerism



East Marion Volunteer Fire Department

The implementation of human services strategies requires the engagement of Town residents to improve the condition of lives for individuals, families, and neighbors. The high demand for human services requires a dedicated base of volunteers to assist the Town and community service groups to help others improve their lives. In addition, volunteer efforts by local firefighters and emergency technicians are invaluable to the Town's safety and well-being.

🎯 Objective 12.1

Promote civic engagement and volunteerism.

- A** | Facilitate an array of volunteer opportunities through community meetings with non-profits, hospitals, faith-based institutions, etc.
 - B** | Develop "job descriptions" of positions available.
 - C** | Initiate a "Southold Community Service Day" with networking opportunities to enable potential volunteers to learn about opportunities.
 - D** | Formalize a "Town of Southold Community Service" program for youth and the general population, especially retired seniors.
 - E** | Continue Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) telephone assurance program to homebound seniors.
 - F** | Continue provision of Elderlaw clinics for seniors.
 - G** | Explore opportunities for free legal counseling for non-seniors.
 - H** | Continue the Town's participation in providing community service opportunities with the Justice Court.
 - I** | Where feasible, support efforts of Fire Departments so as to assist their recruitment and retention of volunteers and enable teaching and re-certification.
 - J** | Engage underserved minorities to increase their participation in civic affairs and volunteerism.
 - K** | Promote mobile Town Board meetings throughout the community to increase access and citizen engagement.
- **Responsible Parties:** Human Services Department, Southold Town Board, Southold Youth Bureau, Southold Justice Court, Southold Anti-Bias Taskforce, local civic associations
 - **Possible Partnerships:** Community Action Southold Town, Family Service League, North Fork Early Learning Center, Robert Perry Day Care, Peconic Community Council, faith-based institutions, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, local hospitals, fire districts, U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rotary Clubs, Lions Club

