

## Immigrant Senior Issues in Mecklenburg County, NC

- ◆ Facts:
  - Over 85,000 Asians within Mecklenburg County. Over 20% of them are an aging population of seniors who have lived here for an average of 15 years and are still denied basic public services.
  - Local culturally specific organizations have formed temporary support center to fill in major gaps in needed services. These organizations need public agency partnerships and funding to be effective and sustainable.
  
- ◆ Denied Equal Access to Public Services which Seniors are Eligible for Including:
  - DSS Services
  - SSI Office
  - USCIS
  - Senior Public Transportation System
  - Human Health Services and Preventative Care – Mental health services
  - Civic Engagement – Representation of local voice
  - Community Service – Contributing to society
  
- ◆ Denied Services because of Barriers:
  - Stereotypes
  - Language / Accent
  - Cultural Differences
  - Lack of Knowledge / Lack of Documentation
  - Lack of Transportation
  - Immigration Status
  - Lack of financing – Citizenship, Transportation, Healthcare fees
  
- ◆ Healthcare Concerns and Need for Preventative Care Support Programs for:
  - Social Health – Isolation / lack of social and community networking
  - Mental Health – Depression / Anxiety
  - Physical Health – Obesity, Diabetes, Hypertension
  
- ◆ Solution / Agenda:
  - Recognition, Partnership and Funding for local effective benefit banks like UISAC (Universal Institute for Successful Aging of Carolinas).
    - Easy access for enrollment of public services and citizenship with culturally competent staff.
  - Break down systemic barriers and red tape for minority and immigrant populations to exercise their right and duties.
  - Increased representation of local diverse population.
  - Centers to assist underserved population in meeting social, healthcare and other needs – SASC (South Asian Senior Center)
  - Create opportunities for exchange of culture and knowledge.
  
- ◆ Contact: UISAC / SASC President Nimish Bhatt – 704-491-1186 [www.UISAC.org](http://www.UISAC.org)
- ◆ Thank you for your valuable time from UISAC / SASC.