

## SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD ALLOCATIONS CRITERIA

The SSAB serves the City of Manhattan by evaluating the social service needs of the City, evaluating what role the City should play in funding those needs, and establishing guidelines for determining whether or not a particular activity is a social service. The purpose of a social service is to assist individual functioning and self-sufficiency, promote the general welfare and quality of life, and maintain and enrich the social order. Social services represent the collective action of a community in addressing basic human needs.

The SSAB uses the following definition of *social services*:

Those not-for-profit activities, programs, or agencies that are primarily engaged in providing basic human needs services such as temporary shelter, protection, nutrition, care, emergency support, and guidance to those members of our community who are in need because of their dependence, income status, health or other immediate circumstances, when those needs cannot be adequately met by other private or public services or agencies.

The SSAB recommends funding only for social services agencies that meet the above criteria and that demonstrate effectiveness in meeting its stated objectives and a reasonable degree of continuity and permanence.

Guided by the above definitions, the SSAB strives to serve the City with the wisest use of limited funds. We examine three tiers of priorities:

- Basic human needs, as defined above
- Prevention, especially as regards services for children
- Prevailing community needs

Within these priorities, for each agency, SSAB reviews in relatively equal level of importance:

- Current needs of the agency and how they match the needs of the community overall
- Numbers of people served for the most effective use of limited funds
- History of the agency and past use of City funds
- Accountability
- Amount of money returned to the community as a direct result of the agency's work
- Whether the agency has other funding sources, private or public, that might adequately meet its needs
- To what extent the agency's work enhances the quality of life in Manhattan
- Effectiveness of the agency considered individually, as well as how effectively agencies work with each other in the community
- Whether there is duplication of services between agencies

Social services needs in Manhattan consistently outpace the amount of money made available; this imbalance will be especially and increasingly evident during difficult economic times. SSAB members are impressed, on a regular basis, by the overwhelming amount of energy and dedication that each agency expends to deliver services for the good of the community and we know that every agency needs a great deal more than what the City can fund.