

PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

The members of the CCPPDC believe that the 23,000 square foot program realistically balances the need for adequate space to meet the diverse needs of all Lincoln residents both now and into the future, the economic realities of needing to keep the cost reasonable for tax payers, and the benefits and sacrifices of shared space.

In order for the COA, PRD, and community organizations to offer all their programs without sharing space, the facility would need to be at least 5,000 square feet larger. This amount was first determined in the 2012 feasibility study and was confirmed by programming development work in 2015 and 2017. The proposed community center, with 100% of the program space shared, is less generous than other communities' centers such as those in Weston, Concord, and Bedford, where some or most of the program space is designated for either the COA or PRD alone.

Since the two departments have operated in separate spaces for over 15 years, sharing space does require compromise/sacrifice:

- First, programs must be carefully scheduled to ensure that each department and organization has use of rooms at reasonable times for their populations. In many cases, COA programs happen at different times from PRD or community organization programs, but this is not the case all the time. There will be instances when we are not able to schedule a program at all or need to schedule it at a time that is not optimal for the participants.
- Second, a shared facility makes parking more difficult. Seniors and parents with young children all need parking spaces near their activities.
- Finally, sharing space means that we will not always be able to furnish a room to meet the special needs of one population, and we will not be able to leave rooms set up between events. This will be especially limiting for, for example, "Fix It Shop" participants who will need to put away a lot of equipment after each session.

However, the CCPPDC and previous committees, after studying alternatives, strongly believe that the advantages of shared space are worthwhile.

- First, there is obvious economic benefit to having one building with less total square footage than having two separate facilities, each with their own construction, landscaping, and maintenance costs.
- Second, Lincoln has expressed a strong preference for a multigenerational community center where residents of all ages can share experiences and informal interaction, and residents will not feel as if they are being segregated and isolated due to age.

The spaces included in the building design are core programs for both the COA and PRD.

- For the COA these include space for:
 - ✓ congregate meals, drop-in social exchanges, and recreational activities that provide essential emotional peer and staff support
 - ✓ classes for seniors and families to learn about health, legal, and financial issues
 - ✓ health and wellness services
 - ✓ fitness classes specially adapted to the needs of elders
 - ✓ social services, like case management and crisis intervention
 - ✓ medical equipment loan closet
- For the PRD, these include space for:
 - ✓ fitness and sports classes
 - ✓ art activities
 - ✓ STEM programming
 - ✓ recreational and camp experiences for children and youth, and educational enrichment
- Other spaces, such as the fitness equipment room, would provide needed amenities to residents and the public schools, who would use it to enhance their curriculum.

To cut into the planned programming would limit our ability to offer programs whose effectiveness and benefits have been well established by residents, research, and professional expertise.