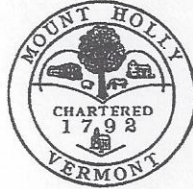


Town of Mount Holly
PO Box 248
Mount Holly, VT 05758
(802) 259-2391



OFFICE HOURS
8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays

Town of Mount Holly Social Service Appropriation Policy

PURPOSE: Under Vermont law, a town may appropriate such sums of money as it deems necessary for the support of social service programs and agencies that provide services to town residents. 24 V.S.A. § 2691. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for managing social service agency appropriations that will be voted upon at the Town of Mount Holly's Annual Meeting.

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to appropriation requests from social services agencies and programs subject to the provisions of Title 24, Chapter 73 of Vermont Statutes Annotated. Such programs include, but are not limited to, transportation, nutrition, child care, medical care, and other rehabilitative services for persons with low incomes, senior citizens, children, disabled persons, drug and alcohol abusers, and persons requiring employment to eliminate their need for public assistance.

This policy does not apply to town membership organizations such as the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, or the Rutland County Solid Waste Management District.

PROCEDURE: Those social service agencies that have not had an appropriation request approved at the most recent annual town meeting, or that are requesting a larger appropriation than that approved at the most recent annual town meeting, must submit a petition for an article requesting an appropriation in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2642. Such petition must be signed by at least five percent of the voters of the town and filed with the Town Clerk not less than 47 days before the day of the annual meeting. The petition should be in substantially the following form:

Petition of Legal Voters of the Town of Mount Holly

We, the undersigned legal voters of the Town of Mount Holly, hereby petition the Select Board to add the following article to the warning for the annual town meeting to be held on Tuesday, March __, 20__:

Shall the Town appropriate \$[insert amount of request] to [insert name of social service agency], for [insert brief description of the purpose of the proposed appropriation] in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Print Name

Address

Signature

Pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2642(a)(3)(C), a petition must contain the petition language on every page on which signatures are collected and must contain the printed name, signature, and street address of each voter who signs the petition.

No proposed article may contain any opinion or comment about the subject being voted upon. Petitions submitted after the deadline will not be honored. Petitions submitted prior to the deadline but not containing the required number of signatures shall be returned by the Town Clerk within 24 hours from receipt stating in writing on the petition why it cannot be accepted. Any petition returned to the petitioners may be amended to correct any stated deficiencies and refiled with the Town Clerk not later than 48 hours after the petition was returned by the Clerk, or the filing deadline, whichever is later. However, supplementary petitions shall not be accepted if the original petition did not meet the filing deadline or did not contain the requisite number of signatures.

Those social service agencies that have had an appropriation request approved at the most recent annual town meeting are not required to submit a petition for an article requesting an appropriation if the amount requested is the same or less than the amount approved by the voters in the previous year. In such case, the agency should make its request by letter to the Select Board postmarked no later than January second. If the last day for filing letters with the Select Board falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be extended to the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. The letter should identify the name of the agency, the amount requested for appropriation, and a person to contact for more information. Agencies that do not submit a letter to the Select Board by the January second deadline must submit a voter-backed petition in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2642.

All social service agencies requesting appropriations under this policy are encouraged to submit a description of the agency's programs for residents to review at the town office and/or for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report. Descriptions must be limited to one page and should describe the program or services provided to Town residents. Agency representatives are encouraged to attend Town Meeting to explain the appropriation request to the voters and answer their questions.

Approved social service appropriations will be paid by the Town during the month of November. Payment is subject to the availability of funds.

The foregoing policy is hereby adopted by the Select Board of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont, this 8th day of December 2020, and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.

