

Town of New London

Guidelines for Municipal Appropriations to Social Service Agencies

Purpose

Given the impact of state and federal funding reductions and the impact of current economic conditions, the Town has seen a need for a clear, well-defined policy to guide the budget allocation of the Town's limited resources in terms of the number of requests and dollars requested by social service agencies which provide a variety of services to New London and other residents in the region.

General Concept

Under the New Hampshire Constitution, the Town of New London is prohibited from appropriating funds for anything that is not a valid public purpose, even if it is for a deserving non-profit organization. *Opinion of the Justices*, 88 N.H. 484 (1937) requires a 'quid pro quo' such that Town funds cannot be granted to a private organization unless that private organization takes on some obligation to benefit the Town; and further, that the Town has some ability to enforce and obtain that benefit for the public. That said, the services provided by certain agencies may fill gaps in critical services that the Town of New London would be obligated to provide through welfare or other general assistance laws if these agencies did not provide such relief.

Policy Statement

Municipal appropriations to social service agencies will be awarded because there has been a clear demonstration that the agency provides a critical service to New London residents that the Town would otherwise need to cover through providing these services itself or as a municipal welfare function. To demonstrate their eligibility for a municipal appropriation from the Town of New London, requesting agencies will be required to submit the "Social Services Funding Request Form" to show that they meet *all* of the following criteria –

1. The agency serves a core group of New London residents;
2. The agency provides a service that the Town of New London would otherwise be obligated to provide either directly as a Town service or would need to pay for through its municipal welfare function;
3. The services provided by the agency directly or indirectly reduce Town expenditures;
4. The agency must clearly demonstrate a financial need; and
5. The services provided by the agency demonstrably enhance the quality of life in the New London community.

Proposed Municipal Funding Application Process

1. A completed funding application form must be submitted by the agency no later than September 15th. Agencies submitting late or incomplete funding applications will not be

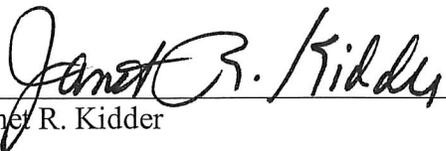
considered as part of the Municipal Funding Application Process. A copy of this form is attached.

2. Regardless of previous history of funding or non-funding, an application will be required of all agencies seeking funding in a particular budget year, and each application will be reviewed carefully each year.
3. Town staff will make an initial determination as to whether the agency submitted a complete application. If yes, Town staff will include the agency's funding request into the proposed municipal budget. If no, the request will not be factored into the proposed municipal budget presented to the Select Board and the Budget Committee.
4. All social service agency funding applications in their entirety will be presented to the Selectmen as supplementary information. Agencies will be discouraged from sharing information not specifically requested in the application form such as glossy brochures, informational pamphlets, etc.; if received, these items will not be made part of the supplementary budget information provided to the Selectmen.
5. Representatives from all of the social service agencies requesting funding will be invited and strongly encouraged to attend the appropriate Budget Meeting where the Social Services proposed budget will be discussed.
6. The Select Board will determine what agencies are clearly serving New London residents and satisfy all of the five criteria; the requests of these agencies will be included in the Select Board's proposed budget to go before Town Meeting.
7. If the Select Board and Budget Committee determine that a requesting agency does not meet the required criteria and denies its funding request, the agency has the option of pursuing a municipal appropriation through securing signatures of 25 registered New London voters for a petitioned warrant article on the Town warrant.

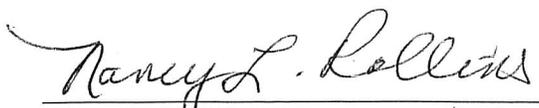
Adopted by vote of the New London Board of Selectmen on November 27, 2017.



G. William Helm, Jr., Chairman



Janet R. Kidder



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