



Town of Middlebury
Policy for the Appropriation of Aid to Health & Human Services Programs
for the Benefit of Middlebury Residents

PURPOSE: Under 24 V.S.A. § 2691, at a meeting duly warned for that purpose, a town or incorporated village may appropriate such sums of money as it deems necessary for the support of Health & Human Services programs and facilities within that town for its residents. Health & Human Services programs, for which a town or incorporated village may appropriate sums of money, include: transportation, nutrition, medical, child 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.

PROCEDURE: Health & Human Services agencies seeking new funding must submit a petition requesting an appropriation in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2642(a). Such petition must be signed by at least five percent (5%) of the legal voters of the Town of Middlebury and filed with the municipal clerk not less than 40 days before the day of the annual town meeting. The petition should be in substantially the following format and the article is required to be formed as a question that may be answered either “yes” or “no” by the voter. No article may contain persuasive language in support of the request.

Petition of Legal Voters of the Town of Middlebury

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

Shall the Town appropriate [amount of request] to [name of Health & Human Services agency], for [brief description of the purpose of the proposed appropriation] in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Print Name

Address

Signature

Agency representatives are encouraged, and may be required, to attend a Middlebury Selectboard meeting to explain the appropriation request and answer questions. The

Selectboard reserves the right to reject, amend, or edit any petitioned article that does not meet the requirements of 17 V.S.A. § 2642(a) and 24 V.S.A. § 2691. Petitions submitted after the statutory deadline for town meeting will not be honored.

Once a Health & Human Services agency's appropriation request has been approved at an annual town meeting, the Selectboard will include the appropriation as a recurring line item in Town budgets presented to the voters in successive years, provided the agency is fully responsive to the Town's annual request for pertinent financial and program information regarding the services provided to Middlebury residents. The Selectboard's ability to continue funding each appropriation at the level originally approved by the voters may vary from year to year based on the need to balance competing budget priorities with taxpayer affordability.

An agency wishing to request an increase to previously approved funding will be required to appear before the Selectboard to substantiate the need and, if supported by the Board, present its case to the voters at town meeting. By statute, if a requested increase in funding is not supported by the Selectboard, an agency retains the right to petition the voters directly.

On a rotating schedule not to exceed five years for any agency, the Selectboard will bring previously approved Health & Human Services appropriations before the voters at town meeting to consider re-authorization.

By statute, the Selectboard reserves the right to bring before the voters, on its own motion, any appropriations for Health & Human Services it deems in the best interest of Middlebury residents.

The foregoing policy is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Middlebury, Vermont, this **24th** day of **June, 2014**, and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.

MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD

Nick Artim

Dean George, Chair

Travis Forbes

Susan Shashok

Gary Baker

Laura Asermily

Brian Carpenter