

**TOWN OF WORCESTER
SOCIAL CONCERNS APPROPRIATION POLICY**

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

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to appropriation requests from agencies and programs subject to the provisions of Chapter 73, Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. Such programs include but are not limited to transportation, nutrition, medical, day care, and other rehabilitative services 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 municipal membership organizations such as the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, or the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District.

PROCEDURE: The Town of Worcester Social Concerns Appropriation Policy expands the opportunity for Worcester voters to comment on and debate the merits of funding requests from organizations with a non-profit designation from the IRS which are headquartered out-of-town, and serve Worcester residents.

The selectboard shall appoint a social concerns committee, set out a timeline for their work and establish a budget. Organizations that want funding from the Town of Worcester are requested to fill out an application form for review by the social concerns committee. The committee will review the applications using a common set of criteria and make recommendations to the selectboard. Those organizations approved by the selectboard will be included in a special article(s) for Worcester's Town Meeting.

1. State law allows two ways for a social service appropriation article to appear on the Worcester Town warnings: (1) by petition submitted in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2642 or (2) by the selectboard's own motion. Those social service agencies that have not had an appropriation request approved by the selectboard or refuse funds awarded may submit a petition for an article requesting an appropriation in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2642(a). Such a petition must be signed by at least five percent of the voters of the Town of Worcester and filed with the town clerk not less than 45 days before the day of the annual meeting. Written notice of refusal of funds must be received by the Town Clerk of Worcester no later than the first day of December.

Approved Worcester Selectboard May 2, 2016