

Connecticut Senior Centers 2008 Special Funding Initiative

Statement of Purpose

The Department of Social Services, Aging Services Division is requesting that senior centers, apply for one-time funds to be used to develop or enhance an existing senior center program for older adults. This one-time only funding should support senior centers educational, social, health and human service programs for older adults and their caregivers as outlined in the Connecticut State Plan on Aging.

All senior centers within municipalities are encouraged to apply. Each municipality will receive up to three thousand (\$3,000.00) in grant funds to develop or enhance a program that will provide activities and services to older adults. Funds must be spent by June 30, 2008. Funds may not be used for capital improvements. A final programmatic and financial report is due on August 15, 2008.

Rationale:

Nationally, there are approximately 16,000 senior centers. In Connecticut, there are approximately 159 senior centers. The history of senior centers for older adults began in 1943 when the William Hudson Community Center was established in New York City by its welfare department. The idea of a center came about when social workers noticed how desperately older adults sought communication to escape the loneliness and isolation of their lives.

Since 1943, senior centers have evolved into a community facility in which older adults come together to fulfill many of their social, physical, and intellectual needs. Senior centers help expand older adults interests, tap their potential, and develop their talents. The center is also a bridge linking the senior community to the community at large. Senior centers provide a single setting in which older adults can take part in social activities as well as have access to essential services. Senior centers offer a broad spectrum of activities and services such as nutrition, health/wellness services, education, information and assistance, transportation, supportive services, employment, creative arts, recreation and volunteer opportunities. Services are provided through center paid and volunteer staff. Senior Centers are used by community agencies as a base to provide services. Through service linkages and referrals to other agencies and through outreach to other older adults unable to attend the center, the overall needs of the community are met.

Senior centers serve as community resources for information on aging, for training professionals and lay leadership and for developing new approaches to aging programs. Senior centers are an essential part of the community continuum of care. The Older Americans Act describes senior centers as community focal points designed to serve older adults with dignity and respect, supporting their capacity to grow and to develop and facilitate their continued involvement in their community.

The rapid growth of the aging population, has created a demand for a societal response to ensure that the needs of older adults are met and that senior centers have support and funding.

Available Funds: A total of \$500,000; Up to \$3,000 per senior center

Proposals must be forwarded electronically to Cheryl Jackson at Cheryl.Jackson@ct.gov no later than the close of business day **March 14, 2008**.

Instructions for Completing the Proposal

The following information must be provided in writing by the above due date:

1. Cover Sheet:

A cover sheet must be included with the proposal. The cover sheet must include the following information:

- a. Project Name
- b. Senior Center Name
- c. Senior Center Director
- d. Senior Center Address
- e. Senior Center's Telephone Number
- f. Senior Center's Fax
- g. Senior Center Director's Email Address
- h. Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)

2. Project Overview:

The project overview describes in detail the proposed initiative. It must state the project's goals and objectives clearly, concisely and in measurable terms. Also indicate:

- a. A written statement on the management of the center, including information on paid and volunteer staff;
- b. The senior center mission; and
- c. A written statement of its goals and objectives based on its mission and on the needs and interests of older adults in the community. Indicate if the senior center is a focal point designated by the area agency on aging or if it is working towards this designation.
- d. The description of the proposed project must include:
 - A list of towns that will be served by the initiative, and
 - Estimated total number of people that the initiative will serve.
- e. It must also identify the number of people that will be served in specific target populations. These populations must include but are not limited to:

- Number of individuals that will be served between the ages of 60 and 74;
- Number of individuals age 75 and older that will be served;
- Number of minority individuals who will be served;
- Number of low-income individuals who will be served at or below 125% of the poverty level;
- Number of individuals served who reside in rural areas;
- Number of individuals served who have limited English-speaking ability;
- Number of individuals served who have disabilities; and
- Number of caregivers of older adults or of those with disabilities served.

3. Fiscal:

The fiscal section must identify all the project's anticipated costs and all the resources that will be used to pay for these costs. The following information must be included in this section:

- a. Resources
All resources must be identified, including:
State Funds – the amount specified in this proposal
- b. Line Item Budget for the utilization of the requested funds
- c. A Budget Narrative that explains all budget items.

All questions regarding this proposal should be directed to:

Cheryl Jackson, Field Representative
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E-mail: Cheryl.Jackson@ct.gov