

SENIORS IN NEED COMMITTEE

History: In January 1998, Mayor Johnson upon approval of the City Council appointed this committee in response to a growing number of older adults in our community with unmet needs. This committee and fund was established in order to help these Senior Citizens continue to live independently with an improved quality of life and to have essential services or vital needs met. Otherwise, they could be forced into homelessness, declining physical or mental health or even into institutional care.

Committee: This Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall have nine (9) voting members as follows:

- One (1) member from Stoughton Senior Center's Commission on Aging.
- Five (5) members from the Community at Large.
- One (1) member from Dane County Human Services.
- One (1) member from Senior Center staff.
- One (1) member from City Hall staff.

Purpose:

1. The Committee shall educate the community about the special needs of older adults to help them retain independence and dignity in difficult times.
2. The Committee shall seek funds from grants and a variety of community resources which may be designated for seniors with needs which otherwise could not be met.
3. The Committee shall consider applications from those with needs and make decisions on the disbursement of funds.

Officers: This Committee shall elect from its membership a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Application Secretary.

Meetings: This Committee shall meet monthly at the call of the Chair or Vice-Chair. Emergency meetings shall require at least a two hour advance notification. Five (5) members present shall constitute a quorum.

Terms: This Commission on Aging representative and the five (5) at large citizen committee members shall serve three (3) year terms. No appointed members may serve more than three (3) full consecutive terms. Committee vacancies shall be filled by Mayoral appointment.

Funds: Funds shall be received and administered through the Stoughton City Finance Office. No tax levy funds shall be used to support this effort.

Eligibility: To qualify for a grant from the Seniors in Need Fund, a senior must live in the Stoughton School District or in the Stoughton Senior Center's service area, be 55 years of age or older, and document a need which cannot be met by current social programs, services, personal resources or assets.

Council adopted: 5/27/03; amended 2/24/04.