



Montpelier Senior Activity Center's Rationale and Data for Town Meeting Funding Requests in our Six "Supporting Towns"

2020 Town Meeting Funding Requests for FY2021 Operations

We are requesting funding from your town—with increases over each of the last year's requests—to use toward operations in FY21, for several reasons:

1. We understand that **MSAC continues to be a valuable resource for residents of our supporting towns**, particularly your older residents age 50+. They come for our over 75 affordable weekly classes, two dozen regular free drop-in activities, delicious meals at no cost for age 60+ twice weekly, and a warm, welcoming facility where they can avoid social isolation, maintain or improve their health, get their tax returns completed for free, use our computer lab and DVD collection, and keep their minds and bodies flexible regardless of town of residence. More information about available services and programs is on our website at www.montpelier-vt.org/msac, and we have a weekly e-letter for announcements available upon request by free subscription to all.
2. We are facing **increases in the operating expenses** necessary to maintain and continuously improve our high-quality and diverse healthy aging and lifelong learning services and programs, and we **seek equitable ways to continue spreading the burden** across many revenue streams, including **proportionately fair requests across many towns** whose residents benefit from MSAC as residents of "supporting towns." (Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Moretown and Worcester)
3. The number of **documented participants from all towns increased in the past year to at least 1576** people, while the actual number is likely over 1600 since we have many free events and drop-in activities for which no registrations are required, and people from all surrounding towns attend. We offer financial aid for dues and class fees to ALL who request it.
4. We are **seeking increases** (ranging from \$200 to \$2500) **from all six of the towns** from which we request funding. The changes from 2019 to 2020 are:

<u>Town and Increase</u>	<u>Minimum # of people served last year</u>
a. Berlin: \$12,500 to \$15,000	57 (including Meals on Wheels in Berlin only)
b. Calais: \$4,300 to \$4,900	58
c. East Montpelier: \$8,000 to \$9,000	113
d. Middlesex: \$5,500 to \$7,000	85
e. Moretown: \$900 to \$1,100	14
f. Worcester: \$2,600 to \$3,000	44

Total: \$33,800 to \$40,000

371 (25% of all appr. 1500 people served)

(\$6,200 and 18% increase)

Compared with 341 last year (8.8% increase)

5. We calculated our requests with a starting range of \$60-\$80 per person, **based on the number of people actually served at MSAC from each supporting town last year**. For comparison sake, the **City of Montpelier taxpayers**, budgeted to directly contribute \$134,795.65 next year toward our \$629,444.58 annual budget, are slated to support other towns' residents at an additional cost of approximately \$85-\$90 per person based on average annual attendance. (That figure does not include many other Montpelier taxpayer funded services that also support MSAC operations).
6. We believe that **our services complement rather than compete with other senior centers and senior organizations**. Each senior center and other agency brings something unique to the table, with different programming and services serving different needs and seniors, while some people attend more than one senior center and/or receive services from multiple agencies serving seniors.

If you have questions about our requests, please contact MSAC Director, Janna Clar, at jclar@montpelier-vt.org or by calling 223-2518.

We'd love to hear from you if you are willing to speak on behalf of MSAC at your town's Town Meeting, or to write a letter to the editor or post on Front Porch Forum in advance of Town Meeting. Thank you!