

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

The Municipal Agent for the Elderly program was established in 1972 by the Connecticut State Legislature in order to assure that elderly persons in each town have an officially appointed representative who is responsible for providing elders with information and assistance on services and benefits.

In accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut Volume 2 Title 7 Chapter 97 Section 7-127b, the municipal agent for the elderly shall (1) disseminate information to elderly persons and assist such persons in learning about the community resources available to them and publicize such resources and benefits; (2) assist elderly persons in applying for federal and other benefits available to such persons; (3) submit written reports annually covering the period extending between July 1 and June 30 to the chief elected official, chief executive officer, legislative body and committee or commission on aging of the municipality, if any, and to the Department of Social Services on the services they have provided, the needs and problems of the elderly and any recommendations for municipal action with regard to elderly persons.

The position of Municipal Agent for the Elderly is incorporated into the Senior Services Coordinator's position. Information, referral, and assistance is available by contacting the Russell Mercier Senior Center Monday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at 228-1700.

For the period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 the following inquiries/referrals were handled:

Service Category	# Inquiries	Service Category	# Inquiries
Abuse/Neglect/Fraud	2	Food Pantry/Other	4
Adult Day Care	3	Food Stamps	3
Adult Foster Care	0	Health Insurance (CHOICES)	18
Assisted Living	5	Home Health Aide/Visiting Nurse	24
Chore/Homemaker/Friendly Visitor	24	Home Share Program	0
Companion/Live-In	6	Housing	18
Congregate Meals	10	Income Tax	24
Conservatorships	2	Legal	4
ConnPACE/ConnMAP	12	Long Term Care	4
CT Homecare Program	8	Managed Care/Medigap	18
Energy Assistance	40	Medicaid	8
Medicare	8	Tax/Rent Rebate	10
Meals on Wheels	6	Transportation	36
Nursing Home	3	Veteran's Program	8
Respite	6	Wills/Trusts	8

Social Security	4	Support Groups	6
State Supplemental/SSI	1	TOTAL INQUIRIES	333

As indicated in the above statistics, the top three needs/problems of Hebron's elderly are in the areas of Energy Assistance, Transportation, and in-home assistance.

- Energy Assistance - In 2005 and 2007 respectively, the Russell Mercier Senior Center became an intake site for the State of CT's winter heating assistance programs and Operation Fuel.
- Transportation - Through a grant from the North Central Area Agency on Aging, senior transportation has been expanded with the allocation of funding for the operation of a town-owned car in addition to one of the town-funded senior/disabled vans.
In July 2006, an additional senior/disabled van was acquired entirely with State of CT Contingency Needs Funding. Operational dollars are provided through the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation.
- In-home assistance - In 2006, the Senior Center embarked on a collaboration with AHM Youth Services in order to institute the Youth Chore Program. This program provides local youth, paid through grant funding from the North Central Area Agency on Aging, who can assist Hebron seniors with a means to get simple indoor and outdoor household chores accomplished, at no cost to the senior. Teenage workers are available for light household cleaning, yard work, etc.