

**WARRANT ARTICLE 45: Equitable Distribution of Social Service Funding** (submitted by officers of Housing For All: Kevin Eddings, Ellie Manire-Gatti, Hwei-Ling Greeney)

In light of the loss of \$450,000 CDBG funding which is translated to a loss of \$90,000 CDBG funding in social service projects, the Town Manager proposed a prioritized list in his proposed FY 2014 municipal budget by including \$90,000 funding to fund some of the CDBG social service projects. Select Board has voiced its support for the Town Manager's social service funding proposal.

Housing For All (HFA) is very grateful that our Select Board and Town Manager support social services in FY 2014. We hope our esteemed Town Meeting members will support the addition of \$90,000 from the Town budget for social service projects. However, we ask that Town Meeting to fund not just some of the CDBG projects, but ALL the projects submitted for CDBG consideration.

Under CDBG funding guidelines, only five social service projects can be funded. So, of the nine projects submitted last September, the CDBG Advisory Committee was only able to choose five. The Select Board and Town Manager are here to ask the Town Meeting to restrict itself to fund four projects. Housing For All wishes to ask you to reconsider their recommendations.

We recommend that Town Meeting to fund all the projects submitted for consideration. Since our municipal funding come from the Town, and is not the same as CDBG funding which is from the federal government, Housing For All believes Town Meeting should have a say on how to distribute the funds for social service projects. We ask you to consider fund all the projects and not just some of them. During this interim period when there is not a system set up to decide how much to fund each project, we also ask you to fund them in an equitable way: every project receives the same amount of funding. In other words, Town funding would be divided evenly across these projects. We believe this method of distribution, as imperfect as it might be, is the most equitable way to do it. Once we get through this year, Housing For All asks that the former "Human Service Funding Committee" or "Community Development Committee" be revived to carry on the work it did for many years: making recommendations to the Town Meeting on funding social service projects.

It is inappropriate for all CBDG transitional funds to be given to Craig's Place without supplying funds to the eight organizations that had also filed for CBDG funding. Therefore, \$90,000 from the Town Budget should be divided among these agencies. These eight organizations provide people in need with services that can keep them becoming homeless, educate them for employment, and keep them healthy. Amherst's Survival Center's Food Pantry provides healthy food while career coaching provided by the Center for New Americans and from GED to Jobs taught through the Literacy Project can assist immigrants and others to receive the training needed for employment. Young people participating in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters are provided with additional assistance to grow into capable adults able to hold jobs.

Here is the summary of the eight projects submitted. We sincerely hope you will support this Warrant Article.

<b>Social Service Project</b>	<b>Population Served</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Town Manager Recommendation</b>	<b>Housing For All Recommendation</b>
Homeless Shelter	Homeless individuals	\$90,500	\$90,000 (from CDBG)	Same as Town Manager's
Flexible Emergency Funds	Low-income individuals and families	\$7,500	\$15,000 (from Town)	\$7,500 (from Town)
Mentoring Program	Low-income youths	\$25,000	\$25,000 (from Town)	\$11,700 (from Town)
Resource Caseworker	Low-income families	\$30,000	\$20,000 (from Town)	\$11,700 (from Town)



Food Pantry	Low-income people	\$40,000	\$10,000 (from Town)	\$11,700 (from Town)
Rental Assistance	Low-income people	\$18,500	0	\$11,700 (from Town)
Education and Career Coaching for Immigrants	Low-income immigrants education and job training	\$29,000	0	\$11,700 (from Town)
GED to Jobs Program	Low-income adults	\$30,150	0	\$11,700 (from Town)
Housing and Stabilization	Homeless or at-risk individuals	\$40,000	0	\$11,700 (from Town)

For the past thirty plus years, the Town has relied on the following committees for decisions on allocating social service funding:

- FY 1979 ---1989, *Charitable Funds Committee* made recommendations on social service projects.
- FY 1990 ---2006, *Human Services Funding Committee* made recommendations on social service projects.
- FY 2007 --- 2009, *Community Development Committee* made recommendations on both social service projects, and on CDBG-related projects.
- FY 2010 --- present, *Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee* made recommendations on CDBG-related projects.

HFA noted that, based on the data available, Town Meeting has appropriated funds--in today's dollar, ranging from \$71,000 to \$ 198,000 to fund between seven (7) to seventeen (17) agencies. If Town Meeting agrees to appropriate \$90,000 this year to support social service agencies, shouldn't it follow the past tradition and supports as many as possible and not be restricted to just four (4) entities? We urge you to broaden the scope and to fund equitably of the eight (8) projects submitted for funding.

Here is a sample of Town funding for social service projects.

Fiscal year	Total Amount/adj. for 2013 dollars	Individual Social Services Funded by Town Meeting
1992	\$93,900/ \$155,384	Twelve (12) agencies were funded by Town Meeting.
1993	\$90,000/ \$144,601	Seventeen (17) agencies were funded by Town Meeting.
2002	\$153,495/\$198,089	Seventeen (17) agencies were funded by Town Meeting.
2004	\$137,700/ \$164,322	Fourteen (14) agencies were funded by Town Meeting.
2005	\$125,321/\$148,977	Thirteen (13) agencies were funded by Town Meeting.
2009 (Town funds ended)	\$66,000/ \$71,423	Seven (7) agencies were funded by Town Meeting.
2014	\$90,000 (proposed)	Town Manager/SB recommends four (4) agencies. HFA recommends eight (8) agencies.

