



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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TOWN'S 2020 BUDGET CONTINUES TO PROVIDE VITAL SERVICES TO OUR KIDS, OUR SENIORS AND OUR HARD-WORKING FAMILIES

East Hampton, N.Y. – The 2020 Tentative Budget released late last month calls for \$2,948,298 in spending across seven Human Services programs. These programs include:

- \$787,895 Senior Nutrition Program
- \$752,295 Human Services
- \$601,370 Senior Transportation
- \$325,877 Adult Day Care
- \$322,346 In Home Services
- \$108,515 Youth Services
- \$50,000 Substance Abuse Counseling Services

Research on healthy aging recognizes that Seniors who embrace wellness as part of their everyday life receive significant benefits. The Town recognizes the importance of “wellness,” as wellness is not merely the absence of illness or disease, but a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being.

A decade ago the Senior Center focused exclusively on nutritious meals, bingo, and blood pressure screenings. While those programs are still in high demand, the addition of program offerings that center on body, mind and spirit, such as QiGong, Meditation, Healing Circle, Core Balance and Total Body Exercise, have been broadly embraced by Seniors 60+. Which is why the Human Services Department has made it a goal to offer activities, classes and dietary selections that appeal to baby boomers, while continuing to meet the needs of older seniors.

To that end, the Town will be increasing the Senior Nutrition Program food line by \$15,000 to a total of \$85,000 to provide a more varied menu including vegetarian and vegan meals as well as to keep pace with the increased cost of food. In addition, Subcontract lines have been increased a total of \$5,695 to allow for an increase in Wellness programs offered at the Senior Center, Montauk Playhouse and Ashawagh Hall. These budget increases as well as partnerships with the Springs Improvement Society (Ashawagh Hall) and the YMCA give us the ability to increase wellness offerings in 2020.

Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, liaison to the Town's Human Services Department, stated, "It has always been my assertion that the Town's budget is an accounting of our community's priorities, or put another way, a reflection of what we value. As proposed, the 2020 Human Services Budget not only funds essential Town programs but it provides crucial grant funding to local not-for-profit agencies, all in an effort to deliver vital services to our kids, our seniors and our hard-working families."

Grants in the 2020 Tentative Budget to support our youth and our hard-working families include:

- Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center \$90,000
- Project MOST \$45,000
- Phoenix House \$50,000
- Family Service League \$50,000
- South Fork Community Health Initiative \$27,500
- East End Special Players \$15,000
- The Retreat \$15,000 (an increase of \$5,000 over 2019)
- i-tri \$3,000
- Community Council \$2,500
- Montauk Youth \$2,500
- Pediatric Dental Fund of the Hamptons \$2,000 (an increase of \$1,500 over 2019)

Grants in the 2020 Tentative Budget to support our Seniors include:

- Montauk Senior Nutrition Program is \$120,000
- East End Hospice \$13,000 (first time award)
- Meals on Wheels \$10,000
- Springs Food Pantry \$5,000
- RSVP \$5,000
- East End Disabilities \$5,000
- Southampton Hospital East End Wellness Initiative \$5,000

Director of Human Services Diane Patrizio stated, "The Human Services Department, with 27 employees, is a staff of dedicated and skilled individuals. Since 2016 five staff members have been promoted, eleven staff members have had their positions/titles upgraded, eight staff members have had their hours increased, typically from 35 to 40 hours per week, and two staff members have received merit raises. These promotions, regrading and increases to hours worked enable our staff to provide crucial services to our community with compassion and caring."

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