



Spotlight on Weston
Weston Department of Social Services
Guest Column

by
Director of Social Services Allison Lisbon, LCSW

The mission of the Town of Weston's Department of Social Services is to promote the physical and mental well-being of Weston residents through information sharing, referrals, direct programming, and advocacy.

Department staff and services are available to support residents of all ages. We are here for families, senior citizens, adults, and children. We provide resources and referrals for all types of services including mental health, crisis intervention, family conflicts, substance abuse, senior planning, aging in place, Medicare guidance, and financial assistance for those who qualify.

Our services are always confidential, nonjudgmental, and available free of charge. We are available to meet in person in the office or by phone to assess your situation and needs. If you have a question please email us or give us a call. If we don't know the answer we can usually guide you to someone who does.

Below are some of the many ways in which we can help:

Department Services and Resources:

- ***Information and Referral Services***
 - Assisting with referrals to community, regional, state, and national agencies
 - Guidance in accessing aging resources such as senior living facilities, home care respite services, Lifeline response services, and aging in place planning
 - Linking individuals with appropriate mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse support services.

- ***Programs***
 - Offering a Caregiver Support Group at the Weston Senior Center
 - Facilitating access to the Weston Food Pantry and a fresh produce program
 - Managing local Meals on Wheels

- Collaborating with Town agencies, including the Weston Senior Activities Center, Weston Youth Services, Weston Schools, Weston Police, EMS, the Health District, and the Weston Parks & Recreation Dept. to provide year-round programming and assistance
 - Expediting annual Thanksgiving and holiday meals and gifts programs, as well as, back-to-school programming and summer camperships
 - Providing Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) Medicare CHOICES* counseling.
 - Running the Town's Reassurance List by contacting by phone each participant before and during town-wide emergencies and connecting them with local resources
- ***Financial Aid Services for Individuals and Families:***
 - Evaluating financial needs and connecting qualified residents with state and national support programs
 - Helping residents access benefits from local non-profit organizations such as the Weston Warm-Up Fund, Weston Arts, the Weston Kiwanis Foundation, the Salvation Army, United Way of Fairfield County, to name a few
 - Helping residents access emergency funds to meet basic needs for food, electricity, and home heating
 - Providing guidance about state and local tax relief programs and renter relief programs to eligible seniors and individuals with disabilities

**Weston Department of Social Services
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Office hours: Monday through Thursday 9 AM- 4 PM and Friday by appointment.

Department Staff:

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(The Director also serves as Weston's Municipal Agent for the Elderly & Municipal Agent for Veteran Affairs)

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** CHOICES: Connecticut's Programs for Health Insurance Assistance, Outreach, Information and Referral, Counseling, and Eligibility Screening.*