

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**  
**Report for the Village**  
**3/7/2023**

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>  | <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>             |
| Motion to Authorize Contribution to DuPage Senior Citizens Council | Dave Fieldman<br>Village Manager |

**SYNOPSIS**

A motion has been prepared to authorize a \$30,000 contribution for FY23 to the DuPage Senior Citizens Council for the Meals on Wheels program.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

The goals for 2021-2023 include *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The FY23 budget includes \$30,000 in the General Fund for this contribution.

**RECOMMENDATION****UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION**

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda at the February 21, 2023 Village Council meeting and tabled to the March 7, 2023 Village Council meeting. No changes to the funding amount were made. Future funding for the DSCC and other not-for-profit agencies will be discussed during 2023-2025 Long Range Planning process scheduled to take place this summer. Staff recommends approval on the March 7, 2023 Consent Agenda.

**BACKGROUND**

The DuPage Senior Citizens Council provides a Senior Nutrition Program, well-being checks, health and wellness education and a Home Maintenance Program for senior residents of DuPage County.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Correspondence from the DuPage Senior Citizens Council

# VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY

INITIATED: Village Manager DATE: March 7, 2023  
(Name)

RECOMMENDATION FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ FILE REF: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Board or Department)

**NATURE OF ACTION:**

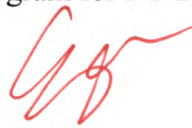
**STEPS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT ACTION:**

Ordinance

Motion to authorize contribution of \$30,000 to the DuPage Senior Citizens Council for the Meals on Wheels program for FY 2023.

Resolution

Motion



Other

**SUMMARY OF ITEM:**

Adoption of this motion shall authorize contribution of \$30,000 to the DuPage Senior Citizens Council for the Meals on Wheels program for FY 2023.

**RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN:**

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## DuPage Senior Citizens Council

*Providing Meals and More...*

January 30, 2023

Feb 21

Mayor Bob Barnett  
Village of Downers Grove  
801 Burlington Road  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Dear Mayor Barnett,

Every community has a vulnerable senior population that needs assistance. These elderly persons have earned respect and deserve to live with dignity; however, many of them have become frail or otherwise lack the resources to provide for their own needs and rely on others for help. It is our responsibility to do what we can to help them.

After yet another year of maneuvering through challenges caused by the pandemic, we salute you and the Village of Downers Grove for all of your good works.

We are happy to report that as your partner, the DuPage Senior Citizens Council (DSCC) never missed a beat during this extremely difficult year either. We adjusted our services to accommodate social distancing and in 2022, have been addressing the effects of the economy, and lack of available part time staff. Through it all, we have provided services to the 40% increase in the number of older adults requiring our services to ensure that no Downers Grove senior fell through the cracks.

### **How we are Connected with Downers Grove**

For over 40 years, DSCC has been serving the needs of seniors in DuPage County with Home Delivered Meals, Well-Being Checks, Minor Home Repairs, and other needed services. Our dedicated staff and volunteers meet the needs of seniors in Downers Grove day in and day out.

### **Our Investment and Commitment to Downers Grove and Older Adult residents**

In Downers Grove, DSCC invested over **\$285,420** in serving seniors in need, last year alone. However, that investment is greater than the amount of funds that are available for Downers Grove, which means we have a shortfall. This shortfall will continue to increase as the aging population increases.

### **Our Plan is hopefully Downers Grove's Plan**

The strategic plan for DSCC includes continued investment in Downers Grove so that the growing needs of the senior population can be met. Here is how you can help DSCC and seniors in Downers Grove:

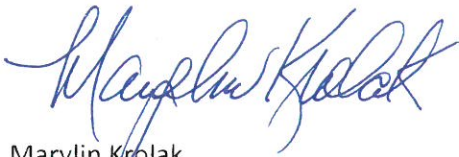
- Continue and increase your support and investment in DSCC.
- Become more aware of how DSCC cares for seniors in Downers Grove and the cost savings to you.
- Get involved with DSCC as a partner and become an advocate.

As you continue to partner with DSCC, you continue to take an active role in your commitment to your senior residents. Knowing that DSCC has been consistently supporting Downers Grove through the years should assure you that your financial support has multiplied many times over.

Being a consistent partner with DSCC, you can be assured that seniors who are in need will have access to the programs and services that will help them live independently in Downers Grove. Without proper funding, the services that seniors depend on will be reduced or eliminated.

Please review our request for funding for continued services for senior residents. If we haven't already received it, we look forward to your contribution for 2022 and respectfully request an increase from the Village of Downers Grove for the upcoming year.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marilyn Krolak". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marilyn Krolak  
Executive Director

cc: David Fieldmah, Village Manager  
Robin Lahey, Finance Director  
Commissioners

encl: *Attachment A – Request for Funding & Support Overview*  
*Attachment B – DSCC Services & Statistics - Village of Downers Grove*

## Attachment A

### Request for Funding & Support Overview

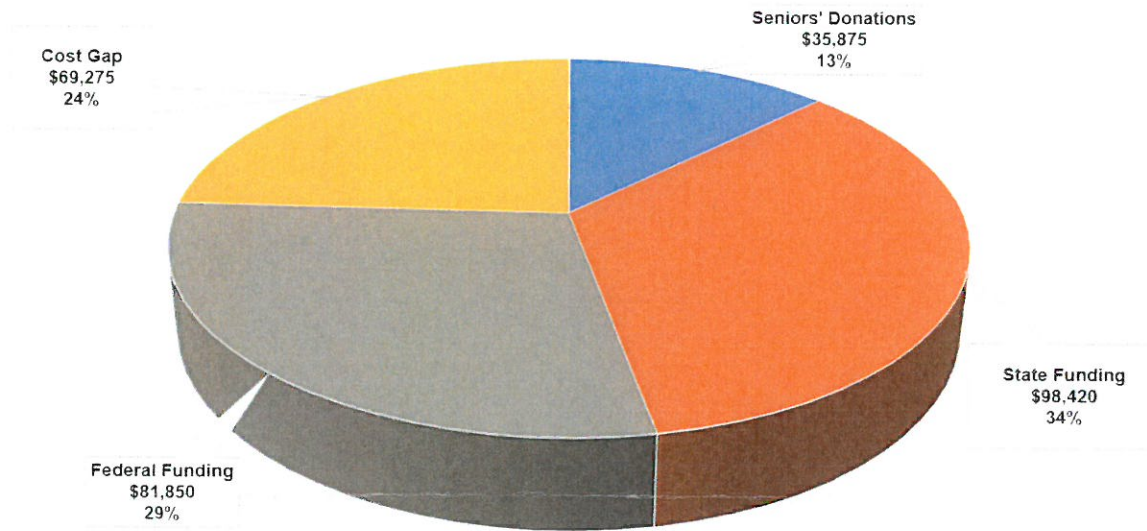
During the past year, DSCC invested over **\$285,420** to serve the senior residents in Downers Grove. However, we only received grants, donations, and funding that covered **\$216,145**, leaving us with a **\$69,275** deficit for Downers Grove.

DSCC historically receives grant awards from Federal and State sources that cover approximately 60-70% of our overall funding. That is why support from municipalities is needed so we can maintain service levels for the increasing number of seniors and avoid cutting critical life-saving components.

The chart below shows the breakdown of the funding and donations designated for Downers Grove specifically.

### Cost Analysis - Downers Grove Senior Residents (60+) All Programs

*DSCC Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21 – 9/30/22)*



Projections for 2023/2024 indicate that more funding is needed to support the seniors we are currently serving, plus the huge increase of additional seniors needing services.

Downers Grove has supported DSCC in the past. Below is a chart of the support we have received in the past.

| CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DOWNERS GROVE |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| DSCC Fiscal Year                 | Contribution Received |
| FY 2016                          | \$50,000              |
| FY 2017                          | \$30,000              |
| FY 2018                          | \$30,000              |
| FY 2019                          | \$30,000              |
| FY2020                           | \$30,000              |
| FY2021                           | \$30,000              |
| FY2022                           | \$30,000              |
| FY2023                           |                       |
| FY2024                           |                       |

#### Supporting DSCC/Downers Grove Seniors

The services that we provide to seniors in Downers Grove have been consistent. To continue the service level and meet the growing needs of the seniors, we are asking for your partnership and continued/increased financial support.

**To help offset the shortfall projected for 2023-2024, we are asking for an increase in support – we need your assistance to help fill as much of the \$69,275 cost gap as possible.**

We truly value the seniors we serve in Downers Grove, and we look forward to working closely with you in 2023-2024.

If you have any questions or need additional information, don't hesitate to contact me directly at 630-620-0804, press 7, then 8, or 630-546-0626, cell; or email [Marilyn.Krolak@DupageSeniorCouncil.org](mailto:Marilyn.Krolak@DupageSeniorCouncil.org).

## Attachment B

### DSCC Services & FY2022 Statistics - Village of Downers Grove

#### **About DSCC and Those We Serve**

DSCC is a non-profit agency committed to seniors and operates several programs, including the Meals on Wheels program in DuPage County. Since starting in 1975, our mission has been to promote the ability of elderly persons to live in dignity with as much independence as possible.

Most of our clients are homebound seniors who live alone, and nearly 99% of them are at or below the poverty level. DSCC is a safety net for many individuals who might not otherwise eat a meal during the day, have someone to help with a task or have someone to check in on them. Below are a few of the services that seniors in Downers Grove depend on the most.

#### **DSCC Services**

##### **Home Delivered Meals and Shelf Stable Meals**

Our Home Delivered Meals on Wheels program delivers hot/fresh meals each weekday to frail and homebound seniors in Downers Grove by DSCC staff and volunteers. Additional Shelf Stable meals are delivered monthly. All meals served are balanced, nutritious, and meet special dietary needs such as low salt, vegetarian, or diabetic. Each meal is equivalent to 1/3 of the Dietary Reference Intake for adults 60 and over.

- **We delivered 27,790 meals to 355 unduplicated seniors in Downers Grove last year.**

##### **Health and Wellness Education**

Keeping seniors informed about issues and topics that are relevant to them is important. COVID-19 education was paramount, along with a variety of educational information given directly to seniors through mailings, direct delivery, and friendly phone calls from our volunteers and staff to our homebound seniors. As seniors become aware of preventive measures and helpful topics, they stay safe and improve their health.

- **We educated approximately 355 senior residents each month in Downers Grove last year**

##### **Well Being Checks and Emergency Follow-Ups**

Every senior who receives a service from us also receives a Well Being Check, which allows DSCC to observe any changes in a senior's physical or mental health or physical surroundings. We provide this service and maintain social distancing protocols. This extra step has resulted in several documented cases where staff and volunteers have saved lives by finding a fallen or injured senior or uncovered a dangerous household situation.

When we find a senior is not at home when they should be, our Emergency Follow-Up procedure allows crucial collaboration between the Downers Grove police and fire departments to ensure every senior is safe and accounted for. These Well Being checks and Emergency Follow-Up procedures provide real cost-savings to Downers Grove compared to the cost to dispatch an EMT service.

- **We performed over 15,165 Well Being Checks and Emergency Follow-ups for seniors in Downers Grove last year.**

**Friendly Phone Calls & Assistance**

Social Isolation and a decline in mental health are currently significant concerns. We converted our Friendly Visit to a Friendly Phone Call service to help seniors with companionship and socialization through this difficult year. Seniors sometimes need someone to talk to. Our volunteers take the time to interact and engage with seniors who could benefit from a friendly call.

- **We performed 1,625 hours of Friendly Phone Calls & Assistance for seniors in Downers Grove last year.**

**Home Maintenance Program (adjusted to provide social distancing)**

Living alone as a senior has its challenges, and everyday tasks can be impossible or dangerous for seniors. DSCC's Home Maintenance program provides low-cost minor home repairs to assist older persons with basic home responsibilities associated with daily living. Home repairs include repairing or replacing leaky faucets or toilets, light fixtures, locks, or deadbolts. Additional services that enhance a senior's safety and security include installing bath benches, grab bars, and non-slip strips and repairing and reinforcing walkway steps and stair railings. In cases where homes require larger repair services, DSCC also offers estimates and provides contractor referrals to seniors. These services help seniors stay in their homes longer.

- **We performed over 40 Minor Home Repairs & Yard Clean Up Services to seniors living in Downers Grove last year.**

**Additional Assistance:**

Due to COVID-19, DSCC adjusted our services to accommodate social distancing and focused on the 40% increase in the number of older adults that required our help. DSCC provided additional shelf-stable meals to all of our Meals on Wheels clients and created Drive-Thru Food Events at various locations throughout DuPage County to reach older adults that were not part of the Home Delivered Meals service but were prone to food insecurity.