



Memo

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Carrie Monforte
Date: 4/13/2018
Re: Scholarship Funds for Seniors to Participate in Recreation Programs

As the demographics of South Whidbey have changed, with a decreasing youth population and increasing senior population, we're trying to increase programs that appeal to seniors.

Many seniors are on fixed incomes with limited resources to put toward fitness and recreation, but we know that their health and well-being are benefited by these kinds of activities and community involvement.

Our existing scholarship fund is limited to youth. It may be time to discuss expanding our recreation scholarship fund to include a needs-based option for senior applicants.

For the youth scholarship fund, we utilize the USDA guidelines for free & reduced lunch at schools, which compares household size with gross income. Should we choose to expand or add in order to include seniors, we'll need to define "Senior" and determine the qualifying criteria (income and other assets). It is possible to use the same guidelines, however they don't include a view of an individual's assets.

Adding scholarship funds would impact the budget. We currently have \$500 budgeted for youth scholarships. Additionally, they can apply to the HIYI scholarship fund for sports/fitness programs. This is a separate fund. In 2017, \$1384 from HIYI was awarded to applicants for our programs.

Some organizations offer senior discounts solely based on age, but I don't believe this would work well in our situation, where most of the programs are run by instructors who receive a set percentage of the fees received.

This is an item for discussion to get some feedback from the board and look at options.

