

Hamilton Council on Aging: Senior Center Participation Policy

Eligibility:

The Hamilton Senior Center's mission is to serve Hamilton residents aged 60 and over. However as an accommodation, most of the programs, services, and activities at the Center are open to non-residents, disabled individuals, and those 50 years of age and over. If demand exceeds openings for any given program, service or activity, the Council on Aging reserves the right to give preference to Hamilton residents who are aged 60 and over. Participants are not permitted to bring children to the Senior Center. Please note the following standards of independence and behavior with respect to senior center attendance:

Participants at the senior center must:

1. Be responsible for their own personal health and medical care, including the taking of medications, monitoring special diets, etc. Senior center staff is not responsible for providing assistance with medication and/or other personal health, medical care, or dietary issues.
2. Take responsibility for their own personal care, including ambulation, hygiene, toileting, continence, and eating.
3. Be reasonably oriented, capable of independent decision-making and capable of planning their own activities, e.g., transportation, lunch, etc.
4. Be able to exercise self-control, and avoid causing disturbances or disruptions, and show respect for other participants, staff and volunteers, the building facilities and the personal property of others.
5. Violence or threats of violence are not permitted and will result in the participant being asked to leave; possible temporary or permanent suspension of senior center privileges may result.
6. Refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol or using illegal substances on the premises. Participants who appear to be under the influence of alcohol or other illegal substances may be asked to leave the premises, or the police may be called.
7. If any inappropriate behavior is witnessed or reported, the staff will use discretion to take corrective action, e.g., asking the participant to refrain from the inappropriate behavior, or if necessary, contact the police, doctor, ambulance or emergency contact person. Violations may result in the participant being removed from the premises; temporary or permanent suspension of senior center privileges may result.

If a participant experiences a mental health episode, but is otherwise capable of conforming their conduct to these standards in the opinion of staff, then reasonable accommodation requests will be considered. Otherwise, permanent suspension may result.

The staff is committed to providing a welcoming atmosphere for as many community seniors as possible. However, if a participant cannot meet the required standards, participation may be refused. Staff is available to share resources and discuss options for alternative services.

It is also strongly recommended that participants provide the staff with the name and telephone number of a person to contact in case of an emergency. If a participant experiences a medical problem while on the premises, it is expected (but not mandatory) that the participant will follow the recommendation of the senior center staff to seek appropriate medical attention.

Adopted: 10/1/2025