



NEWS RELEASE

September 12, 2024

Donald Lewis AERS Fund Receives \$4,000 Grant

Advocates for the Aging of Frederick County (AAFC) has received a \$4,000 grant from the Elder Care Provider Council (ESPC) of Frederick County for services to low-income seniors provided through the organization's Donald Lewis AERS Fund.

Melanie Cox, President of the AAFC Board, thanked ESPC members for this generous gift to the AERS Fund at their September 12th meeting. "We are honored to have ESPC's participation in our advocacy for Frederick County's low-income seniors," she said. ESPC made a similar grant to the fund in 2017.

AERS (Adult Evaluation & Referral Services) is a program of the Frederick County Health Department providing in-home assessments and referrals for elderly and disabled adults at risk for nursing home placements to help them remain in the community. Over the years, the Donald Lewis AERS Fund has supported a wide range of client needs that help improve seniors' quality of life, and that are not funded through other sources. Examples of funded requests range from the very simple, such as a bedside clock radio and orthopedic shoes, to larger needs like prosthetics and specialty wheelchairs. These items help low-income senior stay in their homes with supportive services, maintain their independence and community connections. In 2023, the Fund supported 36 seniors with \$15,625.14.

The AERS Fund was named for the late Donald Lewis, former Thurmont mayor and Frederick County Commissioner in recognition of his philanthropic support of Advocates. Funds are raised on a continuing basis from individual donors and organizations such as ESPC with additional support from AAFC's operating endowment. For more information on the supporting the AERS Fund and other services provided by AAFC, please visit our website at <https://advocatesforaging.org/> and follow us on social media.

The Elder Services Provider Council (ESPC) is a coalition of area organizations, businesses, corporations, and government agencies serving seniors and caregivers. Their 29th annual Caregiver Conference & Elder Expo will be held October 2 and 3, 2024 at Frederick Health Village. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.espcfederick.com/event-5744838>.

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