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## Northampton Community Chest Records

1922-1969  
6 boxes (3 linear ft.)  
Call no.: MS 52



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Read collection overview

Community Chest of Northampton, Massachusetts that sought the federation of non-sectarian social service agencies for the raising of funds necessary to carry on the work of several agencies doing welfare work in town. Records include constitution and by-laws, Board of Directors membership lists, minutes, annual reports, campaign reports, ledgers, annual meeting planning documents, scrapbooks, and newsclippings.

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### Background on Northampton Community Chest Association (Northampton, Mass.)

In 1922, the Northampton Chamber of Commerce retired from its leadership in the local Community Chest, and a separate Northampton Community Chest Association was established. The Community Chest sought the federation of non-sectarian social service agencies doing welfare work in Northampton, Massachusetts, for the raising of funds necessary to carry on the work of their several agencies.

The Community Chest Association continued its work until 1933 when four of six agencies withdrew from the Chest. The Community Chest Board then recommended that the Council of Social Agencies serve in the Chest's former capacity and it briefly disbanded. In 1936, however, the Community Chest resumed its work.

The Chest frequently did not meet its campaign goals; public apathy and ignorance of the Chest's purpose were reasons often cited for the failures. Public confidence in the Chest was greatly weakened by a theft of funds from the Chest Office in 1957. The Board minutes reflect an interest in joining the United Fund as early as 1955, but that decision was deferred until 1969, when the Northampton Community Chest association reincorporated as the Hampshire United Fund, Inc.

## Scope of collection

Records consist of constitution and by-laws, Board of Directors membership lists, minutes, annual reports, campaign reports, ledgers, annual meeting planning documents, scrapbooks, and newsclippings.

## Arrangement

This collection is organized into three series:

- [Series 1. Administration, 1922-1969](#)
- [Series 2. Reports, 1940-1964](#)
- [Series 3. Financial Records and Scrapbooks, 1945-1968](#)

## Series descriptions

### [Series 1. Administration](#)

1922-1969

Includes minutes of the Community Chest Association (1922-1934, 1954-1969). Minutes were kept annually and include some correspondence, campaign reports, and committee reports. Annual Meeting/Dinner materials (1961-1965) include minutes of that meeting, presidents' reports, and correspondence concerning dinner and arrangements. Annual Reports (1949-1967), photocopied, summarize the Chest's activities of the year including campaign results and agency disbursements. Agency Allocations (1967-1969) include agency budgets and requests as well as Budget Committee minutes, notes, and final allocations.

### [Series 2. Reports](#)

1940-1964

Campaign analyses (1940-1943, 1964) made by outside agencies. The reports include campaign results by committee (residence, mercantile, industry, school, and institution), committee members, campaign expenses, and conclusions and recommendations.

### [Series 3. Financial Records and Scrapbooks](#)

1945-1968

Divided into two sub-series.

The first sub-series, Financial Records, consists of four scrapbooks (1945, 1956-1962). The scrapbooks contain Community Chest Campaign newspaper clippings. The second sub-series is comprised of ledgers (1958-1968).

## Inventory

Series 1. Administration  
1922-1969  
Constitution and By-Laws  
c.1922-1966  
Box 1: 1  
Board of Directors  
1953-1964  
Box 1: 2  
Council of Social Agencies  
1942-1955  
Box 1: 3  
Minutes  
1922-1934, 1954-1969  
Box 1: 4-11  
Annual Meeting/Dinner  
1948-1965  
Box 2: 12-14  
Annual Meeting/Dinner--Plaque Awards  
1961-1965  
Box 2: 15  
Agency Allocations  
1967-1969  
Box 2: 16-19  
Series 3. Reports  
1940-1964  
Annual Report  
1949-1967  
Box 3: 1-3  
Campaign Report  
1940-1943, 1964  
Box 3: 4-8  
Comparison of Actual Operations with Budgets and Recommended Allocations  
1949  
Box 3: 9  
Series 3. Financial Records and Scrapbooks  
1945-1968  
Campaign Records  
1966-1968  
Box 3: 1  
Scrapbook  
1945  
Box 3: 2  
Scrapbooks  
1957-1962  
Box 4: 3-5  
Ledgers  
1958-1962  
Box 5: 6-9  
Ledgers  
1963-1968  
Box 6: 10-12

## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

## Provenance

## Processing Information

Processed by Anneliese Ostendarp, June 1985.

## Related Material

- [Hampshire Community United Way Records](#)

## Language:

English

## Acknowledgments

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## Copyright and Use ([More information](#) )

Cite as: Northampton Community Chest Records (MS 52). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

- Charities--Massachusetts--Northampton--History--Sources.
- Federations, Financial (Social service)--History--Sources.
- Human services--Massachusetts--Northampton--History--Sources.
- Northampton (Mass.)--Social conditions--Sources.
- Northampton Community Chest Association (Northampton, Mass.)

### Contributors

- Northampton Community Chest Association (Northampton, Mass.) [main entry]

### Genres and formats

- Account books.
- Scrapbooks.

### Link to similar SCUA collections

- [Civic organizations](#)
- [Massachusetts \(West\)](#)



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