

Town of Windham

Office of the Town Manager
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Windham, ME 04062

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MEMORANDUM

To : Town Council
Thru : Barry Tibbetts
From : Phyllis Moss *P. Moss*
Date : September 17, 2024
Re : Recent Legislative Changes to the General Assistance Ordinance

Updates to the General Assistance Ordinance in the 2024 - 2025 budget that require adoption by the Town include:

An increase to the overall maximum level of monthly assistance (based on the number of people in the household) as follows:

Last Year:

(1) \$1,367 (2) \$1,593 (3) \$2,045 (4) \$2,611 (5) \$3,201

Updated to:

(1) \$1,451 (2) \$1,663 (3) \$2,141 (4) \$2,715 (5) \$3,332

An increase to the overall monthly housing allowance (based on the number of bedrooms) as follows:

Unheated:

Last Year:

(0) \$1,223 (1) \$1,405 (2) \$1,803 (3) \$2,317 (4) \$2,839

Updated to:

(0) \$1,319 (1) \$1,493 (2) \$1,921 (3) \$2,448 (4) \$3,007

Heated:

Last Year:

(0) \$1,352 (1) \$1,576 (2) \$2,024 (3) \$2,586 (4) \$3,171

Updated to:

(0) \$1,434 (1) \$1,644 (2) \$2,118 (3) \$2,688 (4) \$3,300

A slight increase in the monthly maximum allowed at a Recovery Residence:

Last year: \$1,182

Updated to: \$1,233

“Recovery Residence as defined by MRS Title 5 is “a shared living residence for persons recovering from substance use disorder that is focused on peer support, provides to its residents an environment free of alcohol and illegal drugs and assists its residents by connecting the residents to support services or resources in the community that are available to persons recovering from substance use disorder.”

An increase in the overall monthly maximums for food (based upon the number of people in the household) as follows:

Last Year:

(1) \$ 291	(2) \$ 535	(3) \$ 766	(4) \$ 973
(5) \$1,155	(6) \$1,386	(7) \$1,532	(8) \$1,751

Updated to:

(1) \$ 292	(2) \$ 536	(3) \$ 768	(4) \$ 975
(5) \$ 1,158	(6) \$1,390	(7) \$1,536	(8) \$1,756

Note: For each additional person add \$220.00 per month.

An increase in the allowed amount for cremation as follows:

Last Year: \$1,025

Updated to: \$1,125

The 2024 General Assistance Ordinance has also been updated to include these changes.

There were **no changes** to the maximum allowed for personal care and household supplies; electricity with electric hot water and without electric hot water; and the mileage reimbursement rate for approved employment and necessary medical travel.

The reimbursement rate from the State of Maine remains at seventy (70) percent.

I have attached the adoption sheets for Council signature and respectfully request that it be included in the September 24, 2024, agenda.

Attachments:

2024-2025 G.A. Maximums Reference Sheet – Portland HMFA
2024-2025 GA Ordinance Adoption Sheet
2024-2025 GA Appendices Adoption Sheet

2024

General Assistance Maximums Reference Sheet-Portland HMFA

2025

Oct 1, 2024 to Sept 30, 2025

OVERALL MAXIMUMS (A)**Persons in Household**

1	2	3	4	5
\$1,451	\$1,663	\$2,141	\$2,715	\$3,332

Household of 6 = \$3,407

* Add \$75 for each additional person

FOOD MAXIMUMS (B)

Persons	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$67.91	\$292
2	\$124.65	\$536
3	\$178.60	\$768
4	\$226.74	\$975
5	\$269.30	\$1,158
6	\$323.26	\$1,390
7	\$357.21	\$1,536
8	\$408.37	\$1,756

Add \$220 per month for each + person

HEATING FUEL (E)

Month	Gallons	Month	Gallons
January	225	June – Aug	0
February	225	September	50
March	125	October	100
April	125	November	200
May	50	December	200

NOTE: When the dwelling unit is heated electrically, the maximum amount allowed for heating purposes will be calculated by multiplying the number of gallons of fuel allowed for that month by the current price per gallon. When fuels such as wood, coal and/or natural gas are used for heating purposes, they will be budgeted at actual rates, if they are reasonable. No eligible applicant shall be considered to need more than 7 tons of coal per year, 8 cords of wood per year, 126,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year, or 1000 gallons of propane.

HOUSING MAXIMUMS (C)

BEDROOM	UNHEATED		Heated	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	\$307	\$1,319	\$334	\$1,434
1	\$347	\$1,493	\$382	\$1,644
2	\$447	\$1,921	\$492	\$2,118
3	\$569	\$2,448	\$625	\$2,688
4	\$699	\$3,007	\$767	\$3,300
Recovery Residence			\$286.50	\$1,233.00

PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES (F)

Number in Household	Weekly Amount	Monthly Amount
1-2	\$10.50	\$45.00
3-4	\$11.60	\$50.00
5-6	\$12.80	\$55.00
7-8	\$14.00	\$60.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$1.25 per week or \$5.00 per month.

SUPPLEMENT FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5

When an applicant can verify expenditures for the following items, a special supplement will be budgeted as necessary for households with children under 5 years of age for items such as cloth or disposable diapers, laundry powder, oil, shampoo, and ointment up to the following amounts:

Number of Children	Weekly Amount	Monthly Amount
1	\$12.80	\$55.00
2	\$17.40	\$75.00
3	\$23.30	\$100.00
4	\$27.90	\$120.00

MILEAGE RATE (G)

50 cents (\$0.50) per mile

FUNERAL MAXIMUMS (H)

Burial: \$1,620+; Cremation: \$1,125+

ELECTRIC (D)

NOTE: For an electrically heated dwelling also see "Heating Fuel" maximums below. But remember, an applicant is not automatically entitled to the "maximums" established applicants must demonstrate need.

1) Electricity Maximums for Households Without Electric Hot Water: The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, for lights, cooking and other electric uses excluding electric hot water and heat:

Number in Household	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$19.95	\$85.50
2	\$22.52	\$96.50
3	\$24.97	\$107.00
4	\$27.53	\$118.00
5	\$29.88	\$128.50
6	\$32.55	\$139.50

NOTE: For each additional person add \$10.50 per month.

2) Electricity Maximums for Households with Electrically Heated Hot Water: The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, hot water, for lights, cooking and other electric uses excluding heat:

Number in Household	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$29.63	\$127.00
2	\$34.07	\$146.00
3	\$39.67	\$170.00
4	\$46.32	\$198.50
5	\$55.65	\$238.50
6	\$58.68	\$251.50

NOTE: For each additional person add \$14.50 per month.

1-800-442-6003

(Revised 9/10/24)

[For use when adopting a new version of the GA ordinance or amending the body of the ordinance – not solely adoption of updated appendices]

MUNICIPALITY OF _____
GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(1), the municipal officers of the Municipality of _____, after notice and hearing, hereby enact the attached General Assistance Ordinance with appendices in its entirety. This Ordinance shall supercede and replace all previous Ordinance versions. A copy of this Ordinance will be filed with the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(4), and shall be available for public inspection at the municipal office along with a copy of 22 M.R.S. chapter 1161.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____, by the municipal officers:

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

[Send a copy of the enactment page and ordinance to DHHS, 109 Capitol Street, SHS 11, Augusta, ME 04330-0011]

[For use when adopting **updated appendices only** without amending the body of an existing GA ordinance]

MUNICIPALITY OF _____
GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(1), the municipal officers of the Municipality of _____, after notice and hearing, hereby amend the municipal General Assistance Ordinance by repealing and replacing appendices A through H of the existing ordinance with the attached appendices A through H, which shall be in effect from October 1, 202__ through September 30, 202__. This amendment will be filed with the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(4), and a copy of the ordinance and amended appendices shall be available for public inspection at the municipal office along with a copy of the 22 M.R.S. chapter 1161.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____, by the municipal officers:

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

[Please send a copy of the enactment page only to DHHS, 109 Capitol Street, SHS 11, Augusta, ME 04330-0011]