

# Town of Windham

Office of the Town Manager  
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Windham, ME 04062

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## MEMORANDUM

To : Town Council  
Thru : Robert Burns *P. Moss*  
From : Phyllis Moss  
Date : September 15, 2025  
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) \$1,451      (2) \$1,663      (3) \$2,141      (4) \$2,715      (5) \$3,332

Updated to:  
(1) \$1,517      (2) \$1,721      (3) \$2,212      (4) \$2,798      (5) \$3,429      (6) \$3,504

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

Unheated:

Last Year:  
(0) \$1,319      (1) \$1,493      (2) \$1,921      (3) \$2,448      (4) \$3,007  
Updated to:  
(0) \$1,373      (1) \$1,539      (2) \$1,981      (3) \$2,520      (4) \$3,094

Heated:

Last Year:  
(0) \$1,434      (1) \$1,644      (2) \$2,118      (3) \$2,688      (4) \$3,300  
Updated to:  
(0) \$1,496      (1) \$1,698      (2) \$2,185      (3) \$2,767      (4) \$3,393

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

Last year: \$1,233

Updated to: \$1,273.50

***“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.”

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

Last Year:

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

Updated to:

(2) \$ 298	(2) \$ 546	(3) \$ 785	(4) \$ 994
(5) \$ 1,183	(6) \$1,421	(7) \$1,570	(8) \$1,789

Note: For each additional person add \$218.00 per month.

The mileage reimbursement rate for approved employment and necessary medical travel has increased from \$.50/mile to \$.54/mile.

The 2025 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 cremation.

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

I have attached the adoption sheet for Council signature and respectfully request that it be included in the September 23, 2025, agenda.

Attachments:

2025-2026 G.A. Maximums Reference Sheet – Portland HMFA  
2025-2026 Housing Maximums: Recovery Residences  
2025-2026 GA Ordinance Adoption Sheet

# 2025-2026 GA Housing Maximums

## Recovery Residences

The following Recovery Residence maximums are in effect from 10/1/2025- 9/30/2026

<b>Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas</b>	<b>25 Beds or less</b>		<b>26+ Beds</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
Aroostook County	\$147.00	\$633.00	\$102.90	\$443.10
Franklin County	\$158.25	\$681.75	\$110.78	\$477.23
Hancock County	\$195.00	\$838.50	\$136.50	\$586.95
Kennebec County	\$168.75	\$726.00	\$118.13	\$508.20
Knox County	\$168.00	\$723.00	\$117.60	\$506.10
Lincoln County	\$207.75	\$892.50	\$145.43	\$624.75
Oxford County	\$160.50	\$689.25	\$112.35	\$482.48
Piscataquis County	\$159.75	\$687.00	\$111.83	\$480.90
Somerset County	\$171.00	\$734.25	\$119.70	\$513.98
Waldo County	\$192.00	\$825.00	\$134.40	\$577.50
Washington County	\$148.50	\$639.00	\$103.95	\$447.30

<b>Metropolitan FMR Areas</b>	<b>25 Beds or less</b>		<b>26+ Beds</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
Bangor HMFA	\$210.00	\$901.50	\$147.00	\$631.05
Cumberland Cty. HMFA	\$251.25	\$1,080.00	\$175.88	\$756.00
Lewiston/Auburn MSA	\$186.75	\$802.50	\$130.73	\$561.75
Penobscot Cty. HMFA	\$165.00	\$708.75	\$115.50	\$496.13
Portland HMFA	\$296.25	\$1,273.50	\$207.38	\$891.45
Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA	\$219.75	\$946.50	\$153.83	\$662.55
York Cty. HMFA	\$247.50	\$1,065.00	\$173.25	\$745.50
York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA	\$289.50	\$1,243.50	\$202.65	\$870.45

A. Recovery Residences are 75% of 1 BR heated rate.

B. Recovery Residences with 26 or more BR are 70% of the <26 RR rate(A).

Revised 08/22/2025

# General Assistance Maximums Reference Sheet-Portland HMFA

SFY 2026: Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026

OVERALL MAXIMUMS (A)				
Persons in Household				
1	2	3	4	5
\$1,517	\$1,721	\$2,212	\$2,798	\$3,429
Household of 6 = \$3,504				
*Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.				

HOUSING MAXIMUMS (C)				
	Unheated		Heated	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	\$319	\$1,373	\$348	\$1,496
1	\$358	\$1,539	\$395	\$1,698
2	\$461	\$1,981	\$508	\$2,185
3	\$586	\$2,520	\$644	\$2,767
4	\$720	\$3,094	\$789	\$3,393
Recovery Residence			\$296.25	\$1,273.50
26+ rooms			\$207.38	\$891.45

FOOD MAXIMUMS (B)			
Persons	Weekly	Monthly	
1	\$69.30	\$298.00	
2	\$126.98	\$546.00	
3	\$182.56	\$785.00	
4	\$231.16	\$994.00	
5	\$275.12	\$1,183.00	
6	\$330.47	\$1,421.00	
7	\$365.35	\$1,571.00	
8	\$416.05	\$1,789.00	
Note: For each additional person add \$218 per month.			

FUNERAL MAXIMUMS (H)	
<b>Burial</b>	\$1,620
Additional costs that may be allowed:	
* A cremation lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery.	
* Urn, not to exceed \$55.	
* Transportation costs at a reasonable rate per mile.	
<b>Cremation</b>	\$1,125
Additional costs that may be allowed:	
* Wholesale cost of cement liner, if required.	
* Opening and closing of gravesite.	
* A lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery unless they can provide a lot in a municipally owned cemetery.	

ELECTRIC (D)					
Without electric heat/hot water			WITH electric heat/hot water		
# in HH	Weekly	Monthly	# in HH	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$19.95	\$85.50	1	\$29.63	\$127.00
2	\$22.52	\$96.50	2	\$34.07	\$146.00
3	\$24.97	\$107.00	3	\$39.67	\$170.00
4	\$27.53	\$118.00	4	\$46.32	\$198.50
5	\$29.88	\$128.50	5	\$55.65	\$238.50
6	\$32.55	\$139.50	6	\$58.68	\$251.50
For each additional person, add \$10.50/mo			For each additional person, add \$14.50/mo		
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:			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:		
<b>HEATING FUEL (E)</b>			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.		
Month	Gallons				
January	225				
February	225				
March	125				
April	125				
May	50				
June - August	0				
September	50				
October	100				
November	200				
December	200				

PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES (F)		
# in HH	Weekly	Monthly
1-2	\$10.50	\$45.00
3-4	\$11.60	\$50.00
5-6	\$12.80	\$55.00
7-8	\$14.00	\$60.00
For each additional person add \$1.25/wk or \$5 per month		
Mileage Rate (G)		\$ .54 per mile

SUPPLEMENTS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5 (F)		
# of Children	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$12.80	\$55.00
2	\$17.40	\$75.00
3	\$23.30	\$100.00
4	\$27.90	\$120.00
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, up to the following amounts:		

GA Hotline: 1-800-442-6003, option 2 then 1

Revised 09/04/2025

[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)

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(Print Name)

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(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

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