

Town of Windham

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MEMORANDUM

To : Town Council
Tony Plante, Town Manager
From : Phyllis Moss, Assistant Town Manager *P. Moss*
Date : August 23, 2016
Re : Recent Legislative Changes to the General Assistance Ordinance

Changes to the General Assistance program in the 2016- 2017 budget that require adoption by the Town include:

An adjustment to the overall maximum level of assistance to be the greater of:

1. Ninety percent of 110% of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) "fair market rental" for federal fiscal year 2016; or
2. The amount achieved by increasing the maximum level of assistance for fiscal year 2016-2017 by 90% of the increase in the federal poverty level from 2015-2016.

Last Year:

(1) \$803 (2) \$956 (3) \$1181 (4) \$1563 (5) \$1641

Updated to:

(2) \$838 (2) \$975 (3) \$1220 (4) \$1638 (5) \$1717

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

Last Year:

(0) \$636 (1) \$757 (2) \$939 (3) \$1272 (4) \$1293

Updated to:

(0) \$674 (1) \$781 (2) \$983 (3) \$1355 (4) \$1377

There were no changes to the maximum allowed for food, fuel, electricity, and personal care/household supplies. The reimbursement rate from the State also remains at seventy (70) percent.

I have attached the adoption sheet for Council signature.

TO: Municipal Officials/Welfare Directors/General Assistance Administrators

FROM: Ian Miller, General Assistance Program Manager

RE: 2016 – 2017 General Assistance Ordinance Maximums

DATE:

Enclosed please find the following items:

- MMA's new (October 1, 2016–September 30, 2017) **“General Assistance Ordinance Appendix”** (A - D).
- **“GA Maximums Summary Sheet”** which consolidates GA maximums into one document. Municipalities do have to insert individual locality maximums from Appendix A and C in the summary sheet where indicated in order to complete the information. The “summary” does not have to be adopted, as it is not an Appendix but a tool for municipal officials administering GA.
- **“GA Maximums Adoption Form”** which was developed so that municipalities may easily send DHHS proof of GA maximums adoption. Once the selectpersons or council adopts the new maximums, the enclosed form should be signed and submitted to DHHS. (*see “Filing of GA Ordinance and/or Appendices” below for further information*).

Appendix A - D

The enclosed Appendices A - D have been revised for your municipality's General Assistance Ordinance. These new Appendices, **once adopted**, should replace the existing Appendices A – D. Even if you have already adopted MMA's model General Assistance Ordinance, **the municipal officers must approve/adopt the new Appendices yearly.**

The Adoption Process

The **municipal officers (i.e., selectpersons/council)** adopt the local **General Assistance Ordinance and yearly Appendices**, even in town meeting communities. The law requires that the municipal officers adopt the ordinance and/or Appendices ***after notice and hearing***. Seven days posted notice is recommended, unless local law (or practice) provides otherwise.

At the hearing, the municipal officers should:

- 1) Allow all interested members of the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed ordinance;
- 2) End public discussion, close the hearing; and
- 3) Move and vote to adopt the ordinance either in its posted form or as amended in light of public discussion.

Filing of GA Ordinance and/or Appendices

Please remember that General Assistance law requires each municipality to send DHHS a copy of its ordinance once adopted. *(For a copy of the GA model ordinance, please call MMA's Publication Department, or visit their web site www.memun.org).* In addition, any changes or amendments, such as new Appendices, must also be submitted to DHHS. DHHS will accept the enclosed "adoption sheet" as proof that a municipality has adopted the current GA maximums.

GA Overall Maximums

Metropolitan Areas

COUNTY	Persons in Household				
	1	2	3	4	5*
Bangor HMFA: Bangor, Brewer, Eddington, Glenburn, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Kenduskeag, Milford, Old Town, Orono, Orrington, Penobscot Indian Island Reservation, Veazie	703	777	981	1,227	1,437
Penobscot County HMFA: Alton, Argyle UT, Bradford, Bradley, Burlington, Carmel, Carroll plantation, Charleston, Chester, Clifton, Corinna, Corinth, Dexter, Dixmont, Drew plantation, East Central Penobscot UT, East Millinocket, Edinburg, Enfield, Etna, Exeter, Garland, Greenbush, Howland, Hudson, Kingman UT, Lagrange, Lakeville, Lee, Levant, Lincoln, Lowell town, Mattawamkeag, Maxfield, Medway, Millinocket, Mount Chase, Newburgh Newport, North Penobscot UT, Passadumkeag, Patten, Plymouth, Prentiss UT, Seboeis plantation, Springfield, Stacyville, Stetson, Twombly UT, Webster plantation, Whitney UT, Winn, Woodville	596	673	836	1,082	1,254
Lewiston/Auburn MSA: Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	575	678	855	1,086	1,241
Portland HMFA: Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Frye Island, Gorham, Gray, Long Island, North Yarmouth, Portland, Raymond, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, Yarmouth; Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Old Orchard Beach	838	975	1,220	1,638	1,717
York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA: Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	967	1,011	1,316	1,693	2,070
Cumberland County HMFA: Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	750	796	1,058	1,542	1,759

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Appendix A

Effective: 10/01/16-09/30/17

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Sagadahoc HMFA: Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	769	851	986	1,302	1,581
York County HMFA: Acton, Alfred, Arundel, Biddeford, Cornish, Dayton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Lebanon, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, North Berwick, Ogunquit, Parsonsfield, Saco, Sanford, Shapleigh, Waterboro, Wells	734	860	1,065	1,439	1,460

*Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.

Non-Metropolitan Areas**Persons in Household**

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Aroostook County	609	624	750	948	1,037
Franklin County	636	662	783	973	1,383
Hancock County	653	737	936	1,231	1,277
Kennebec County	612	663	846	1,075	1,141
Knox County	743	745	916	1,172	1,299
Lincoln County	672	743	935	1,163	1,379
Oxford County	572	621	761	1,040	1,325
Piscataquis County	583	663	817	1,035	1,106
Somerset County	665	694	824	1,119	1,122
Waldo County	655	741	876	1,191	1,266
Washington County	584	633	752	957	1,159

* Please Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.

GA Housing Maximums (Heated & Unheated Rents)

NOTE: NOT ALL MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD ADOPT THESE SUGGESTED HOUSING MAXIMUMS! Municipalities should ONLY **consider** adopting the following numbers, if these figures are consistent with local rent values. If not, a market survey should be conducted and the figures should be altered accordingly. The results of any such survey must be presented to DHHS prior to adoption. **Or, no housing maximums should be adopted and eligibility should be analyzed in terms of the Overall Maximum—Appendix A. (See Instruction Memo for further guidance.)**

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Aroostook County</u>				
Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	111	476	129	556
1	111	476	131	565
2	130	558	159	682
3	167	718	202	870
4	177	762	220	947
<u>Franklin County</u>				
Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	117	503	136	583
1	117	503	140	603
2	137	591	166	715
3	173	743	208	895
4	258	1,108	301	1,293
<u>Hancock County</u>				
Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	114	489	137	590
1	126	543	155	667
2	163	699	198	853
3	220	948	264	1,136
4	220	948	271	1,166
<u>Kennebec County</u>				
Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	104	448	128	549
1	109	469	138	593
2	142	609	177	763
3	184	792	228	980
4	186	801	240	1,030

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Knox County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	135	579	158	680
1	135	579	158	680
2	158	679	194	833
3	207	889	250	1,077
4	223	959	276	1,188
<u>Lincoln County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	119	513	142	609
1	128	549	157	673
2	162	698	198	852
3	205	880	248	1,068
4	242	1,039	295	1,268
<u>Oxford County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	95	408	118	509
1	101	427	128	551
2	122	524	158	678
3	176	757	220	945
4	229	985	282	1,214
<u>Piscataquis County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	104	447	123	530
1	116	500	140	604
2	144	621	174	749
3	186	798	222	956
4	192	824	236	1,016
<u>Somerset County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	120	517	141	606
1	121	519	147	631
2	143	615	175	753
3	202	869	241	1,038
4	202	869	241	1,038

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Waldo County</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		116	497	138	592
1		127	547	156	671
2		149	639	184	793
3		211	908	255	1,096
4		215	926	269	1,155
<u>Washington County</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		98	420	121	521
1		102	439	131	563
2		120	515	156	669
3		157	674	200	862
4		191	819	244	1,048

Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Bangor HMFA</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		125	539	149	640
1		135	583	164	707
2		173	744	209	898
3		219	944	263	1,132
4		255	1,097	308	1,326
<u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		101	432	124	533
1		111	479	140	603
2		139	599	175	753
3		186	799	230	987
4		213	914	266	1,143
<u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		96	411	119	512
1		112	484	141	608
2		144	618	180	772
3		187	803	230	991
4		210	901	263	1,130

Metropolitan FMR Areas

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<u>Portland HMFA</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		157	674	180	775
1		182	781	210	905
2		229	983	264	1,137
3		315	1,355	359	1,543
4		320	1,377	373	1,606
<u>York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		187	803	210	904
1		190	817	219	941
2		251	1,079	287	1,233
3		328	1,410	372	1,598
4		402	1,730	456	1,959
<u>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		136	586	160	687
1		140	602	169	726
2		191	821	227	975
3		293	1,259	337	1,447
4		330	1,419	383	1,648
<u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		141	605	164	706
1		153	657	182	781
2		174	749	210	903
3		237	1,019	281	1,207
4		289	1,241	342	1,470
<u>York Cty. HMFA</u>		<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0		133	570	156	671
1		155	666	184	790
2		193	828	228	982
3		269	1,156	313	1,344
4		269	1,156	314	1,349