

Town of Windham

Office of the Town Manager
8 School Road
Windham, ME 04062

Phyllis Moss, Asst. Town Manager/H.R. Director
pamoss@windhammaine.us

voice 207.892.1907

fax 207.892.1910

MEMORANDUM

To : Town Council
Tony Plante, Town Manager
From : Phyllis Moss, Assistant Town Manager *P. Moss*
Date : September 14, 2017
Re : Recent Legislative Changes to the General Assistance Ordinance

Changes to the General Assistance Ordinance in the 2017- 2018 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) \$838 (2) \$975 (3) \$1,220 (4) \$1,638 (5) \$1,717

Updated to:

(1) \$1,002 (2) \$1,131 (3) \$1,431 (4) \$1,931 (5) \$2,097

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

Unheated:

Last Year:

(0) \$674 (1) \$781 (2) \$983 (3) \$1,355 (4) \$1,377

Updated to:

(0) \$844 (1) \$943 (2) \$1,227 (3) \$1,658 (4) \$1,771

Heated:

Last Year:

(0) \$775 (1) \$905 (2) \$1,137 (3) \$1,543 (4) \$1,606

Updated to:

(0) \$942 (1) \$1,064 (2) \$1,354 (3) \$1,841 (4) \$1,994

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

Last Year:

(1) \$194	(2) \$357	(3) \$511	(4) \$ 649
(5) \$771	(6) \$925	(7) \$1,022	(8) \$1,169

Updated to:

(2) \$192	(2) \$352	(3) \$504	(4) \$640
(5) \$760	(6) \$913	(7) \$1,009	(8) \$1,153

A **slight increase** in the overall monthly maximums for electricity for households with electric hot water (based upon the number of people in the household) as follows:

Last Year:

(1) \$ 82	(2) \$102	(3) \$119	(4) \$139	(5) \$160	(6) \$176
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Updated to:

(1) \$89	(2) \$102	(4) \$119	(4) \$139	(5) \$167	(6) \$176
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There were no changes to the maximum allowed for fuel, electricity for households without electric hot water, supplements for households for children under five and personal care/household supplies. 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 26, 2017 agenda.

Attachments:

2016 – 2017 G.A. Maximums Summary Sheet
2017 – 2018 G.A. Maximums Summary Sheet
G.A. Ordinance Appendices A – D
2017 – 2018 Adoption Sheet

2016

General Assistance Maximums Summary Sheet - Portland

2017

Oct 1, 2016 to Sept 30, 2017 (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)

OVERALL MAXIMUMS

Persons in Household

1	2	3	4	5
838	975	1,220	1,638	1,717

Household of 6 = 1,792

* Add \$75 for each additional person

FOOD MAXIMUMS

Persons	Weekly	Monthly
1	45.12	194
2	83.02	357
3	118.84	511
4	150.93	649
5	179.30	771
6	215.12	925
7	237.67	1,022
8	271.86	1,169

Add \$146 per month for each + person

HEATING FUEL

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

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

BEDROOM	UNHEATED		Heated	
	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

PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

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

ELECTRIC

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	\$14.00	\$60.00
2	\$15.70	\$67.50
3	\$17.45	\$75.00
4	\$19.20	\$86.00
5	\$23.10	\$99.00
6	\$25.00	\$107.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$7.50 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	\$20.00	\$82.00
2	\$23.75	\$102.00
3	\$27.70	\$119.00
4	\$32.25	\$139.00
5	\$37.30	\$160.00
6	\$41.00	\$176.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$10.00 per month.

1-800-442-6003

Revised 10-1-16

2017

General Assistance Maximums Summary Sheet - Portland

2018

Oct 1, 2017 to Sept 30, 2018 (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)

OVERALL MAXIMUMS

Persons in Household

1	2	3	4	5
1,002	1,131	1,431	1,931	2,097

Household of 6 = 2,172

* Add \$75 for each additional person

FOOD MAXIMUMS

Persons	Weekly	Monthly
1	44.65	192
2	81.86	352
3	117.21	504
4	148.84	640
5	176.74	760
6	212.33	913
7	234.65	1,009
8	268.14	1,153

Add \$144 per month for each + person

HEATING FUEL

Month	Gallons	Month	Gallons
September	50	January	225
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		May	50

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

BEDROOM	UNHEATED		Heated	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	196	844	219	942
1	219	943	247	1,064
2	285	1,227	315	1,354
3	386	1,658	428	1,841
4	412	1,771	464	1,994

PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

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.

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ELECTRIC

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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
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3	\$17.45	\$75.00
4	\$19.90	\$86.00
5	\$23.10	\$99.00
6	\$25.00	\$107.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$7.50 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	\$20.65	\$89.00
2	\$23.75	\$102.00
3	\$27.70	\$119.00
4	\$32.25	\$139.00
5	\$38.75	\$167.00
6	\$41.00	\$176.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$10.00 per month.

1-800-442-6003

Revised 10-1-17

2017-2018 GA Overall Maximums

Metropolitan Areas

Persons in Household

COUNTY	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	714	788	994	1,242	1,506
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	605	682	847	1,095	1,269
Lewiston/Auburn MSA: Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	641	726	915	1,169	1,397
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	1,002	1,131	1,431	1,931	2,097
York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA: Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	982	1,025	1,333	1,714	2,173
Cumberland County HMFA: Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	761	807	1,072	1,561	1,780

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Sagadahoc HMFA: Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	781	863	999	1,318	1,600
York County HMFA: Acton, Alfred, Arundel, Biddeford, Cornish, Dayton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Lebanon, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, North Berwick, Ogunquit, Parsonsfield, Saco, Sanford, Shapleigh, Waterboro, Wells	745	872	1,079	1,457	1,477

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

Non-Metropolitan Areas

Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Aroostook County	618	642	760	965	1,049
Franklin County	646	671	793	985	1,400
Hancock County	693	787	992	1,249	1,367
Kennebec County	722	746	928	1,216	1,297
Knox County	754	755	928	1,186	1,315
Lincoln County	783	834	987	1,234	1,470
Oxford County	630	646	771	1,110	1,343
Piscataquis County	595	672	828	1,090	1,125
Somerset County	675	704	835	1,133	1,146
Waldo County	680	751	887	1,206	1,281
Washington County	630	645	763	985	1,173

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

Appendix B

Effective: 10/01/17 to 09/30/18

2017-2018 Food Maximums

Please Note: The maximum amounts allowed for food are established in accordance with the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan. As of October 1, 2017, those amounts are:

Number in Household	Weekly Maximum	Monthly Maximum
1	44.65	192
2	81.86	352
3	117.21	504
4	148.84	640
5	176.74	760
6	212.33	913
7	234.65	1,009
8	268.14	1,153

Note: For each additional person add \$144 per month.

2017-2018 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	130	559
1	111	476	134	578
2	130	558	159	684
3	167	718	204	878
4	177	762	221	949
<u>Franklin County</u>				
Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	117	503	137	587
1	117	503	141	607
2	137	591	167	717
3	173	743	209	898
4	258	1,108	302	1,300
<u>Hancock County</u>				
Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	124	535	147	633
1	139	599	167	720
2	183	788	213	915
3	227	976	270	1,159
4	242	1,041	294	1,264
<u>Kennebec County</u>				
Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	131	564	154	662
1	131	564	158	679
2	168	724	198	851
3	219	943	262	1,126
4	226	971	278	1,194

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Knox County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	139	596	161	694
1	139	596	161	694
2	168	724	198	851
3	212	913	255	1,096
4	230	989	282	1,212
<u>Lincoln County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	145	625	168	723
1	150	646	178	767
2	182	783	212	910
3	223	961	266	1,144
4	266	1,144	318	1,367
<u>Oxford County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	110	472	133	570
1	110	472	135	579
2	132	567	161	694
3	195	837	237	1,020
4	237	1,017	288	1,240
<u>Piscataquis County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	106	457	126	540
1	118	508	143	613
2	147	630	177	759
3	198	853	235	1,011
4	198	853	240	1,034
<u>Somerset County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	120	517	143	615
1	121	519	148	637
2	147	631	176	758
3	202	869	243	1,043
4	202	869	243	1,043

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Waldo County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	121	522	144	620
1	131	563	159	684
2	159	683	188	810
3	217	933	260	1,116
4	222	955	274	1,178
<u>Washington County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	110	472	133	570
1	110	472	134	578
2	130	559	160	686
3	166	712	208	895
4	208	847	249	1,070

Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Bangor HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	129	556	152	654
1	140	600	168	721
2	184	790	213	917
3	225	969	268	1,152
4	275	1,180	326	1,403
<u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	104	447	127	545
1	115	494	143	615
2	149	643	179	770
3	191	822	234	1,005
4	219	943	271	1,166
<u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	112	483	135	581
1	125	538	153	659
2	165	711	195	838
3	208	896	251	1,079
4	249	1,071	301	1,294

Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Portland HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	196	844	219	942
1	219	943	247	1,064
2	285	1,227	315	1,354
3	386	1,658	428	1,841
4	412	1,771	464	1,994
<u>York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	192	824	214	922
1	195	837	223	958
2	263	1,129	292	1,256
3	335	1,441	378	1,624
4	430	1,847	481	2,070
<u>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	140	603	163	701
1	144	619	172	740
2	202	868	231	995
3	299	1,288	342	1,471
4	338	1,454	390	1,677
<u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	145	623	168	721
1	157	675	185	796
2	185	795	214	922
3	243	1,045	286	1,228
4	296	1,274	348	1,497
<u>York Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	136	587	159	685
1	159	684	187	805
2	203	875	233	1,002
3	275	1,184	318	1,367
4	269	1,156	320	1,374

Appendix D

Effective: 10/01/17 to 09/30/18

2017-2018- ELECTRIC UTILITY MAXIMUMS

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:

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	Monthly
1	\$14.00	\$60.00
2	\$15.70	\$67.50
3	\$17.45	\$75.00
4	\$19.90	\$86.00
5	\$23.10	\$99.00
6	\$25.00	\$107.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$7.50 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	\$20.65	\$89.00
2	\$23.75	\$102.00
3	\$27.70	\$119.00
4	\$32.25	\$139.00
5	\$38.75	\$167.00
6	\$41.00	\$176.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$10.00 per month.

NOTE: For electrically heated households, the maximum amount allowed for electrical utilities per month shall be the sum of the appropriate maximum amount under this subsection and the appropriate maximum for heating fuel as provided below.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

APPENDICES A-D

2017-2018

The Municipality of _____ adopts the MMA Model Ordinance GA Appendices (A-D) for the period of Oct. 1, 2017—September 30, 2018. These appendices are filed with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in compliance with Title 22 M.R.S.A. §4305(4).

Signed the _____ (day) of _____ (month) _____ (year)
by the municipal officers:

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)