

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 *P. Moss*
From : Phyllis Moss
Date : September 8, 2021
Re : Recent Legislative Changes to the General Assistance Ordinance

Changes to the General Assistance Ordinance in the 2021 - 2022 budget that require adoption by the Town include:

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

Last Year:

(1) \$1,179 (2) \$1,284 (3) \$1,668 (4) \$2,180 (5) \$2,654

Updated to:

(1) \$1,197 (2) \$1,352 (3) \$1,751 (4) \$2,267 (5) \$2,770

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

Unheated:

Last Year:

(0) \$1,025 (1) \$1,089 (2) \$1,422 (3) \$1,883 (4) \$2,288

Updated to:

(0) \$1,044 (1) \$1,157 (2) \$1,505 (3) \$1,970 (4) \$2,403

Heated:

Last Year:

(0) \$1,126 (1) \$1,222 (2) \$1,596 (3) \$2,096 (4) \$2,551

Updated to:

(1) \$1,144 (1) \$1,290 (2) \$1,679 (3) \$2,183 (4) \$2,667

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

Last Year:

(1) \$204	(2) \$374	(3) \$535	(4) \$680
(5) \$807	(6) \$969	(7) \$1,071	(8) \$1,224

Updated to:

(1) \$250	(2) \$459	(3) \$658	(4) \$835
(5) \$992	(6) \$1,190	(7) \$1,316	(8) \$1,504

There were **no changes** to the maximum allowed for fuel, electricity for households with or without electric hot water, supplements for households for children under five, personal care/household supplies, mileage, and burial/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 14, 2021 agenda.

Attachments:

G.A. Ordinance Reference Sheet
2021 – 2022 Adoption Sheet

2021

General Assistance Maximums Reference Sheet-Portland HMFA

2022

Oct 1, 2021 to Sept 30, 2022

OVERALL MAXIMUMS**Persons in Household**

1	2	3	4	5
\$1,197	\$1,352	\$1,751	\$2,267	\$2,770

Household of 6 = \$2,845

* Add \$75 for each additional person

FOOD MAXIMUMS

Persons	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$58.14	\$250
2	\$106.74	\$459
3	\$153.02	\$658
4	\$194.19	\$835
5	\$230.70	\$992
6	\$276.74	\$1,190
7	\$306.05	\$1,316
8	\$349.77	\$1,504

Add \$188 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	\$243	\$1,044	\$266	\$1,144
1	\$269	\$1,157	\$300	\$1,290
2	\$350	\$1,505	\$390	\$1,679
3	\$458	\$1,970	\$508	\$2,183
4	\$559	\$2,403	\$620	\$2,667

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

*****New - Appendix H Revisions**

Burial Maximum: \$1,475
Cremation Maximum: \$1,025

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	\$19.90	\$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 8-18-21

[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]