

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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To: Welfare Officials and Contracted Agents
From: Sara Denson, Program Manager, General Assistance
Date: September 7, 2022
Subject: New GA Maximums for October 1, 2022

Enclosed please find the following items:

- MMA's new (October 1, 2022–September 30, 2023) “**General Assistance Ordinance Appendices**” (A – G).
- Recovery Residence Housing Maximums (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023)
- “**GA Ordinance Adoption Form**” which was developed so that municipalities may easily send DHHS proof of the adoption of any updated or changed GA Ordinance. Once the selectpersons or council adopts the new ordinance, the enclosed form should be signed and submitted to DHHS. (*see “Filing of GA Ordinance and/or Appendices” below for further information*).
- “**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*).

Updates

Please note that updates have been made to the General Assistance Ordinance, Appendix A (overall maximums), Appendix B (food maximums), Appendix C (housing maximums), Appendix D (electricity maximums) and Appendix G (mileage rate). There is also a new Recovery Residence Housing Maximums guide. We anticipate an updated the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) GA Ordinance will be released soon. You can find information about the MMA Model Ordinance on the Maine Welfare Director’s Association (MWDA) website at www.mainewelfaredirectors.org.

Appendix A – G

The enclosed Appendices A – G have been revised for your municipality’s General Assistance Ordinance. These new Appendices, **once adopted**, should replace the existing Appendices A – G. Even if you are not updating your GA 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 conduct a ***notice and hearing*** prior to the adoption of the Ordinance and/or Appendices. 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 and/or appendices either in its posted form or as amended in light of public discussion.

Municipalities May Establish Their Own Maximums

Municipalities may establish their own maximum levels of assistance provided that the proposed levels of assistance are reasonable and meet adequate standards sufficient to maintain the health and safety of applicants in the municipality. The municipality must submit to the Department documentation to justify these levels of assistance and verify that the figures developed are appropriate to maintain health and decency.

A municipality's maximum assistance level for Food may not be below the Department provided figures which are issued by the USDA and published annually following a study of cost of food for various family sizes. A market basket survey may be used to establish food maximums if the maximums provided by the USDA are insufficient to maintain health in the municipality. (C.M.R. 10-144, Chapter 323, Section V).

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, should that ordinance differ from the MMA Model. Any changes or amendments, such as new Appendices, must also be submitted to DHHS. DHHS will accept the enclosed "adoption sheet" as proof that your Municipal Officers have adopted the current MMA Model GA maximums and/or ordinance.

2022-2023 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	826	955	1,219	1,515	2,071
Cumberland County HMFA: Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	1,016	1,075	1,409	1,865	1,991
Lewiston/Auburn MSA: Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	795	859	1,099	1,427	1,728
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	789	792	1,043	1,302	1,420
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	1,263	1,463	1,893	2,415	2,958
Sagadahoc HMFA: Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	874	1,031	1,253	1,650	1,880

Appendix A

Effective: 10/01/22-09/30/23

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
York County HMFA: Acton, Alfred, Arundel, Biddeford, Cornish, Dayton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Lebanon, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, North Berwick, Ogunquit, Parsonsfield, Saco, Sanford, Shapleigh, Waterboro, Wells	1,072	1,082	1,355	1,717	1,984
York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA: Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	1,237	1,293	1,699	2,194	2,934

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

Non-Metropolitan Areas

Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Aroostook County	692	754	881	1,185	1,353
Franklin County	728	774	909	1,229	1,566
Hancock County	890	925	1,110	1,397	1,529
Kennebec County 2021	776 819	794 835	990 1,038	1,299 1,360	1,387 1,451
Knox County	844	848	1,038	1,378	1,471
Lincoln County	925	941	1,178	1,463	1,912
Oxford County	814	815	993	1,400	1,627
Piscataquis County	701	752	926	1,227	1,477
Somerset County	755	790	1,017	1,323	1,416
Waldo County	970	972	1,155	1,441	1,970
Washington County	756	758	982	1,228	1,343

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

Appendix B

Effective: 10/01/22 to 09/30/23

2022-2023 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, 2022, those amounts are:

Number in Household	2021 Weekly Maximum		Monthly Maximum	2021
1	\$ 47.44	65.35	\$ 281.00	204
2	86.98	120.00	516.00	374
3	124.42	172.09	740.00	535
4	158.14	218.37	939.00	680
5	187.67	259.53	1,116.00	807
6	225.35	311.40	1,339.00	969
7	249.07	344.19	1,480.00	1071
8	284.65	393.26	1,691.00	1224

Note: For each additional person add \$211 per month.

2022-2023 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

Aroostook County		Unheated		Heated			
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly		
0		123	528	157	676		
1		126	541	171	735		
2		140	604	200	859		
3		197	846	270	1,159		
4		218	935	308	1,323		
Franklin County							
Franklin County		Unheated		Heated			
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly		
0		131	564	165	712		
1		131	564	176	755		
2		147	632	206	887		
3		207	890	280	1,203		
4		267	1,148	357	1,536		
Hancock County							
Hancock County		Unheated		Heated			
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly		
0		176	755	204	875		
1		176	755	211	908		
2		205	883	253	1,089		
3		260	1,120	319	1,373		
4		276	1,187	349	1,500		
Kennebec County							
Kennebec County		Unheated		Heated			
Bedrooms		Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly		
0	145	159	623	168	187	804	723
1	145	159	623	170	190	818	732
2	173	189	744	213	237	1,017	918
3	233	252	1,082	283	311	1,336	1,215
4	237	258	1,020	299	331	1,422	1,284

2022-2023 GA MAXIMUMS SUMMARY SHEET

Note: The overall maximums found in *Appendices A, B, C, D, E, and F* are effective from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

APPENDIX A - OVERALL MAXIMUMS

<u>County</u>	<u>Persons in Household</u>					
	1	2	3	4	5	6

NOTE: For each additional person add \$75 per month.

(The applicable figures from Appendix A, *once adopted*, should be inserted here.)

APPENDIX B - FOOD MAXIMUMS

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Weekly Maximum</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Monthly Maximum</u>
1	47.44	\$ 65.35	204	\$ 281.00
2	86.98	120.00	374	516.00
3	124.42	172.09	535	740.00
4	158.14	218.37	680	939.00
5	187.67	259.53	807	1,116.00
6	225.35	311.40	969	1,339.00
7	249.07	344.19	1071	1,480.00
8	284.65	393.26	1224	1,691.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$211 per month.

APPENDIX C - HOUSING MAXIMUMS

<u>Number of Bedrooms</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0				
1				
2				
3				
4				

(The applicable figures from Appendix C, *once adopted*, should be inserted here.)

FOR MUNICIPAL USE ONLY

APPENDIX D - UTILITIES

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:

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1	14.00	\$19.95	60.00	\$ 85.50
2	15.70	\$22.52	67.50	\$ 96.50
3	17.45	\$24.97	75.00	\$107.00
4	19.90	\$27.53	86.00	\$118.00
5	23.10	\$29.88	99.00	\$128.50
6	25.00	\$32.55	107.00	\$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:

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1	20.65	\$29.63	89.00	\$127.00
2	23.75	\$34.07	108.00	\$146.00
3	27.70	\$39.67	119.00	\$170.00
4	32.25	\$46.32	139.00	\$198.50
5	38.75	\$55.65	167.00	\$238.50
6	41.00	\$58.68	176.00	\$251.50

NOTE: For each additional person add \$14.50 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.

APPENDIX E - HEATING FUEL

<u>Month</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
September	Same	50	January	Same	225
October	}	100	February	}	225
November		200	March		125
December		200	April		125
			May		50

FOR MUNICIPAL USE ONLY

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.

APPENDIX F - PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Weekly Amount</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Monthly Amount</u>
1-2	Same	\$10.50	Same	\$45.00
3-4	S	\$11.60	S	\$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:

<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Weekly Amount</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Monthly Amount</u>
1	Same	\$12.80	Same	\$55.00
2	S	\$17.40	S	\$75.00
3		\$23.30		\$100.00
4		\$27.90		\$120.00

Appendix G

Effective: 10/01/22-09/30/23

2022-2023 Mileage Rate

This municipality adopts the State of Maine travel expense reimbursement rate as set by the Office of the State Comptroller. The current rate for approved employment and necessary medical travel etc. is 46 cents (46¢) per mile.

Please refer to the Office of the State Controller for changes to this rate at 626-8420 or visit <http://www.state.me.us/osc/>

2021 .44 ¢

2022-2023 GA Housing Maximums Recovery Residences

The following Recovery Residence maximums are in effect from 10/1/2022- 9/30/2023

Substance use facilities

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Aroostook County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	128.63	551.25

<u>Oxford County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	139.83	599.25

<u>Franklin County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	132.13	566.25

<u>Piscataquis County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	128.28	549.75

<u>Hancock County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	158.90	681.00

<u>Somerset County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	135.28	579.75

<u>Kennebec County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	143.15	613.50

<u>Waldo County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	167.13	716.25

<u>Knox County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	145.43	623.25

<u>Washington County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	129.68	555.75

<u>Lincoln County</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	161.70	693.00

Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Bangor HMFA</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	164.15	703.50

<u>Portland HMFA</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	253.05	1084.50

<u>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	185.15	793.50

<u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	177.45	760.50

<u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	147.35	631.50

<u>York Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	186.38	798.75

<u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	135.63	581.25

<u>York/Kittery/S Berwick HMFA</u>	<u>Recovery Residence Rates</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	223.30	957.00

HH = household

Updated for July 2022

SNAP STANDARDS										
NUMBER IN HH		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	ADD
GROSS 200%	Jul. 2022	2,265	3,052	3,839	4,625	5,412	6,199	6,985	7,772	787
GROSS 165%	Oct. 2021	1,771	2,396	3,020	3,644	4,268	4,893	5,517	6,141	625
GROSS 130%	Oct. 2021	1,396	1,888	2,379	2,871	3,363	3,855	4,347	4,839	492
NET 100%	Oct. 2021	1,074	1,452	1,830	2,209	2,587	2,965	3,344	3,722	379
MAX	Oct. 2021	250	459	658	835	992	1,190	1,316	1,504	188
SNAP DEDUCTIONS										
HH of 1-3 Standard Deductions	Oct. 2021	177	Full Standard (FSUA)					Mar. 2022		886
HH of 4		184	Non-Heat Utility (NHUA)					Mar. 2022		299
HH of 5		215	Telephone Only (PHUA)					Mar. 2022		51
HH of 6 or More		246	2021 MAINE STATE Minimum Wage							12.15
SHELTER CAP	Oct. 2021	597	2022 MAINE STATE Minimum Wage							12.75
HOMELESS SHELTER	Oct. 2021	159.73	FEDERAL Minimum Wage					July 24, 2009		7.25
CATEGORICALLY ELIGIBLE 1-2 MEMBER HH MINIMUM BENEFIT								Oct. 2021	20	
NON-CATEGORICAL ASSET TEST FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED SNAP (effective Jan 1, 2022)										
No HH members disabled/60+ years old		2,500	HH includes members disabled/60+ years old							3,750
<i>Per SNAP 333-1, households that qualify as Categorically Eligible have no asset limit.</i>										
HOPE										
GROSS 185%		2,096	2,823	3,551	4,279	5,006	5,734	6,462	7,189	728
TANF STANDARDS effective October 1, 2021 - ALTERNATIVE AID STANDARDS effective January 1, 2022										
ADULT INCLUDED - BASIC										
NUMBER IN HH		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	ADD
ALT AID 133%	Jan. 2022	1,507	2,030	2,553	3,076	3,599	4,122	4,646	5,169	524
STANDARD OF NEED		362	569	763	960	1,153	1,348	1,544	1,740	195
BASIC MAX GRANT		298	469	628	791	948	1,108	1,270	1,431	160
ADULT INCLUDED - SPECIAL NEED										
SN STANDARD OF NEED		662	869	1,063	1,260	1,453	1,648	1,844	2,040	195
SN MAX GRANT		598	769	928	1,091	1,248	1,408	1,570	1,731	160
GAP										
MAXIMUM GAP		64	100	135	169	205	240	274	309	35
CHILD ONLY - BASIC										
NUMBER IN HH		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	ADD
STANDARD OF NEED		214	409	605	798	995	1,190	1,385	1,579	195
BASIC MAX GRANT		178	339	500	657	820	979	1,140	1,299	160
CHILD ONLY - SPECIAL NEED										
SN STANDARD OF NEED		514	709	905	1,098	1,295	1,490	1,685	1,879	195
SN MAX GRANT		478	639	800	957	1,120	1,279	1,440	1,599	160
GAP										
MAXIMUM GAP		36	70	105	141	175	211	245	280	35
STANDARD EARNINGS DISREGARD					108 and 1/2 the Remainder					
STEP DISREGARD, Step 1 (Months 1-3) see Chapter IV					100% of Earned Income					
STEP DISREGARD, Step 2 (Months 4-6) see Chapter IV					75% of Earned Income					
CHILD CARE CAP UNDER 2					200.00					
CHILD CARE CAP 2 AND OVER					175.00					

Revised August 11, 2022

[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 G of the existing ordinance with the attached appendices A through G, 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]