



**AGENDA**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**  
**LISBON TOWN OFFICE**  
**7:00 PM**

Mark Lunt 2022  
Donald Fellows 2022  
Jason Smith 2022  
Fern Larochelle, Chair 2023  
Harry Moore, Jr., Vice Chair 2024  
Raymond Robishaw 2024  
Christine Cain 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE TO FLAG
2. ROLL CALL
  - \_\_\_ Councilor Lunt                      \_\_\_ Councilor Fellows                      \_\_\_ Councilor Larochelle                      \_\_\_ Councilor Smith
  - \_\_\_ Councilor Moore, Jr                      \_\_\_ Councilor Robishaw                      \_\_\_ Councilor CainTown Clerk reading of meeting rules
3. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION
4. PUBLIC HEARINGS
  - A. Special Amusement Permit for Lisbon Left Hand Club
  - B. Amendment to Chapter 24 Public Safety, Article II Fireworks
5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION & RESPONSE FOR AGENDA ITEMS
6. CONSENT AGENDA
  - 2022-198 ORDER –
    - A. Municipal Accounts Payable Warrants – \$ 463,544.73
    - B. Municipal Payroll Warrants – \$ 174,580.00
    - C. School Accounts Payable Warrants – \$ 231,765.20
    - D. School Payroll Warrants – \$ 18,556.82
    - E. Minutes of September 6, 2022
    - F. Tax Collector Certificate of Settlement (2021 Taxes)
    - G. Special Entertainment Permit and Liquor License for Lisbon Left Hand Club
    - H. Request for Extension of License on Premise for Olive Pit Brewing Co., LLC
    - I. Mobile Home License for Double Eagle Properties, LLC
7. COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES
  - 2022-199 ORDER – Amendment to Library Department Fee Schedule
  - 2022-200 ORDER – Amendment to Chapter 24 Public Safety, Article II Fireworks – Second Reading
  - 2022-201 ORDER – Amendment to Ground Mounted Solar Energy System Ordinance - First Reading
  - 2022-202 ORDER – Christmas Eve Closure
  - 2022-203 ORDER – Amendments to Chapter 14 GA Maximums & Appendices (First Reading)
  - 2022-204 ORDER – Worumbo Waterfront Funding Request for Safety Lighting
  - 2022-205 ORDER – To approve the Interim Town Manager to secure fuel pricing with Maine Power Options
8. OTHER BUSINESS
  - A. Council Committee Reports:
    1. School Committee – Councilor Larochelle
    2. Planning Board – Councilor Fellows
    3. Lisbon Development Committee – Councilor Smith
    4. Conservation Commission – Councilor Moore
    5. Parks & Recreation Committee – Councilor Moore
    6. County Budget Committee – Councilors Moore/Lunt
    7. Library Governing Board – Councilor Lunt
    8. Water Commission – Councilor Fellows
    9. Finance Committee – Councilor Robishaw
  - B. Town Manager's Report
  - C. Department Heads Written Reports
9. APPOINTMENTS
10. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS
11. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION & RESPONSE NEW ITEMS
12. EXECUTIVE SESSION
  - 2022-206 ORDER - Per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters
13. ADJOURNMENT
  - 2022-207 ORDER – To Adjourn

## SUMMARY OF LISBON COUNCIL MEETING RULES

***This summary is provided for guidance only. The complete council working rules may be found on the town website [www.lisbonme.org](http://www.lisbonme.org) on the Town Officials, Town Council page.***

The meeting agenda is available from the town website under Council Agendas and Minutes.

1. Please note the order that agenda items may be acted upon by the Council, however, if necessary, the Council may elect to change the order of the agenda.
2. The Council Chairman presides over the meeting. When the Chairman is not present, the Vice Chairman serves that function. The chair shall preserve decorum and decide all questions of order and procedure subject to appeal to the town council.
3. Public comment is not typically allowed during Council workshops. There may be occasions where public comment may be recruited, but normally, workshops are reserved for Council members to discuss and educate themselves on a variety of issues facing the Town. Prior to the conclusion of a workshop, if time permits, the chair may allow questions from the public.
4. During audience participation, anyone wishing to address council will wait to be recognized by the chair before beginning any remarks. Audience members will move to the lectern to address council, and shall provide name and address prior to addressing the council.
5. Note that "Consent Agenda" items (if there are any) are acted upon first, voted upon as a group, and will most often be voted on without discussion as these items often involve "housekeeping" issues (such as minor parking changes). On occasion "Consent Agenda" items are separated out as stand-alone action items by the Council to allow for more discussion.
6. Public comment on agenda items. General comments on agenda items should be made during audience participation. After introduction of an agenda item, appropriate motions, and time for explanation and council questions, the public may be allowed to comment on that agenda item at the discretion of the chair. During that period of time, the public comment shall address only the agenda item before council.
7. Action on agenda items. As each item on the agenda for any meeting is brought to the floor for discussion:
  - a. The town clerk reads the agenda item and the action being requested of council.
  - b. The sponsor of each item or, if there is no council sponsor, the town manager, or town staff, shall first be allowed to present their initial comments for consideration by the public and councilors.
  - c. Following this introduction of the issue, there will be time devoted to any questions of the sponsor or the town manager or staff regarding the agenda item which any councilor may have which would help to clarify the question presented by the agenda item. The chair may allow questions from the public during this time however; no debate or discussion of collateral issues shall be permitted.
  - d. When authorized by the chair, any additional public comment shall be no longer than two minutes per person and must be to request or furnish new or undisclosed information or viewpoints only.
  - e. Once an agenda item has been explained and clarified by any questioning, the discussion on the specific agenda item will remain with the council. Additional public comment, prior to final council vote; will only be allowed at the chairman's discretion.
8. New business is for the council to receive input on town matters not on the agenda for that meeting. It is not intended, nor shall it be construed as an opportunity for debate of previous agenda items or reinforcement of a point made by another speaker. Comments shall be to furnish new or undisclosed information or viewpoints and limited to a time period of two minutes or less and shall be directed through the chair.
9. If an "Executive Session" is conducted by the Council, State Statute prohibits public attendance for any discussion of the action to be addressed by the Council. Any action taken by the Council on any "Executive Session" matter must be acted upon in a public meeting, and may occur at the end of the "Executive Session" (which has no time element relative to the length of the discussion involved in the "session").



# Town of Lisbon

Ryan McGee  
Interim Town Manager

**Town Council**  
Don Fellows  
Christine Cain  
Fern Larochelle, Chair  
Mark Lunt  
Ray Robishaw  
Harry Moore, Jr., Vice Chair  
Jason Smith

## MEMO

To: Town Council

From: Ryan McGee, Interim Town Manager

Subject: Recommendations

Date: September 20, 2022

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### Consent Agenda Items 2022 – A to I

- F. Tax Collector Certificate of Settlement (2021 Taxes)
- G. Special Entertainment Permit and Liquor License for Lisbon Left Hand Club
- H. Request for Extension of License on Premise for Olive Pit Brewing Co., LLC
- I. Mobile Home License for Double Eagle Properties, LLC

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### Agenda Item 2022 – 199 Amendment to Library Department Fee Schedule *First Reading*

- 1) Town Council review and approval to increase the current \$50 yearly non-resident patron membership fee to \$60 per year. The Library Governing Board and I recommend the increase upon review of increase in hours of operation, more “in-house” and on-line services available and provided to all Lisbon Library resident and non-resident patrons post pandemic.
- 2) Town Council review and approval to eliminate the overdue fine collection fees schedule. We currently have a .10 per day max \$5.00 per item fee policy. Overdue fines had been suspended during & post pandemic months to ensure patrons continued to receive services. Fines were reinstated last fiscal year but have proven to be an ineffective way to encourage the few who reach the billing stage of the overdue process to return their library materials. Our timely and consistent overdue notices and “Bill for Lost Town of Lisbon Property” and library card suspension policy, however, keeps our rate of loss very low.

### Recommendation

**Approve the amendments to the Library Department Fee Schedule as presented and Schedule a Public Hearing for October 4, 2022.**

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**Agenda Item 2022 – 200**  
**Amendment to Chapter 24 Public Safety, Article II Fireworks – Second Reading**

In reviewing ordinances, the proposal is to update the attached Fireworks Ordinance to add “Noise Cannon” to the ordinance.

Attached please find the proposed amendment to our Fireworks ordinance to add “Noise Cannon” to the ordinance.

It would now read ***Sec. 24-31. Sale and use of consumer fireworks and noise cannons.***

*Noise cannon means a device commonly referred to as a noise cannon or air cannon, designed and intended to create a loud noise through the sudden discharge of compressed air.*

**Sec. 24-31. Sale and use of consumer fireworks and noise cannons.**

The purpose of this ordinance is to clearly define the sale and use of fireworks within the Town of Lisbon.

(a) *Definitions.* The following definitions shall apply in this section:

- (1) *Consumer fireworks* shall have the same meaning as in 27 Code of Federal Regulations, section 555.11 or subsequent provision, but includes only products that are tested and certified by a 3rd-party testing laboratory as conforming with United States Consumer Product Safety Commission standards in accordance with 15 United States Code, Chapter 47. "Consumer fireworks" does not include the following products:
  - a. Missile-type rockets, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule;
  - b. Helicopters and aerial spinners, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule;
  - c. Sky rockets and bottle rockets. For purposes of this paragraph, "sky rockets and bottle rockets" means cylindrical tubes containing not more than 20 grams of chemical composition, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule, with a wooden stick attached for guidance and stability, that rise into the air upon ignition that may produce a burst of color or sound at or near the height and gives off light.
- (2) *Display* means entertainment feature where the public or a private group is admitted or permitted to view the display or discharge of fireworks or special effects.
- (3) Noise cannon means a device commonly referred to as a noise cannon or air cannon, designed and intended to create a loud noise through the sudden discharge of compressed air. Noise cannons used for public safety purposes are exempt from this Ordinance.

(b) *Permit required.*

- (1) No person shall use, display, fire, or cause to be exploded, consumer fireworks within the Town of Lisbon without a permit. Permits must be obtained from the office designated by the town manager on the day of use and shall not be issued in advance. This section shall not apply to a person in possession of a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine pursuant to Title 8, MRSA Section 227-A.
- (2) No permit shall be issued on any day with a fire danger class of 3, 4, or 5.
- (3) A person may use consumer fireworks only on that person's property or on the property of a person who has consented, in writing, to the use of consumer fireworks on that property.
- (4) The use, discharge, or ignition of fireworks shall not be permitted in close proximity to any building by maintaining a distance of no less than 100' from said building.



(c) *Fireworks restricted use.* A person shall not use, display, fire, or cause to be exploded consumer fireworks or a noise cannon within the Town of Lisbon except on the following days and during the following times:

- (1) July 4th, beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m.
- (2) Saturday of Moxie Weekend as set by council beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m.
- (3) December 31st, beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 12:30 a.m. the following day.

(d) *Exception.* This section does not apply to a person issued a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine; pursuant to 8 M.R.S.A. § 227-A.

(e) *Violations.*

(1) Any person who uses or possesses consumer fireworks or ~~possess consumer fireworks~~ a noise cannon with the intent to use in the Town of Lisbon in violation of this ordinance shall receive a citation.

(2) The following civil penalties shall be imposed for violations of this ordinance (plus legal fees and court costs for an offense for the following):

First Citation: \$110

Second Citation: \$215

Third Citation: \$425

Fourth Citation and Subsequent Citations: \$500

(f) Sale of fireworks in the Town of Lisbon shall be permitted providing all State of Maine statutes regarding such sale are satisfied and a valid permit to conduct sales is issued by the state fire marshal's office and the Town of Lisbon.

(g) *Seizure and disposal.* The town may seize consumer fireworks that the town has probable cause to believe are used, possessed, or sold in violation of this section. Seized consumer fireworks shall be forwarded to the state for disposal.

(C.M. of 10-16-2012, V. 2012-165; C.M. of 8-6-2013, V. 2013-119; C.M. of 10-16-2012, V. 2012-165; C.M. of 8-6-2013, V. 2013-119; C.M. of 8-18-2015, V. 2015-236; C.M. of 8-18-2015, V. 2015-237; C.M. of 9-15-2015, V. 2015-277)

### Recommendation

**To approve the Amendment to Chapter 24 Public Safety, Article II Fireworks as presented.**

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### Agenda Item 2022 – 201

#### Amendment to Ground Mounted Solar Energy System Ordinance - *First Reading*

Proposed Solar Ordinance Revision

Since the State of Maine has adopted decommissioning standards for Ground Mounted Solar Energy Systems, the following change to Sec 70-877 of our Town Solar Ordinance might make sense.

Sec 70-877 – Performance Guarantee

300 Lisbon Street, Lisbon, ME 04250 | Phone: (207) 353-3000 | Fax: (207) 353-3007 | [www.lisbonme.org](http://www.lisbonme.org)

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After the plan is approved but before a permit is issued, the applicant for a Ground Mounted Solar Energy System shall submit to the Town of Lisbon a copy of the decommissioning plan for the system submitted and approved in accordance with MRS Title 35-A SubSection 3495. Requirements of the subsection shall be met in all respects and copies of the required updates shall be submitted to the Town of Lisbon Codes Enforcement Officer in the same manner and timeframes as required by that Maine State statute. Having met the state requirements shall be sufficient to meet the Town of Lisbon requirements for this matter. ~~a performance guarantee in the amount of 150% of the applicant's estimated decommissioning cost of the system subject to a review of such cost by the Codes Enforcement Officer for release of the guarantee at such time that it or its assignees remove the system and associated abandoned structures, and such completed removal is found to be satisfactory by the Codes Enforcement Officer.~~

#### Recommendation

**To approve the Amendment to Ground Mounted Solar Energy System Ordinance as presented and set a Public Hearing for October 4, 2022**

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#### Agenda Item 2022 – 203

##### Amendments to Chapter 14 GA Maximums & Appendices - *First Reading*

**Chapter 14 General Assistance Maximum & Appendices as Presented;** The State of Maine has adopted new General Assistance Maximums that our municipality will now have to adopt. Enclosed is Appendices A-H that have been revised to reflect the State's new maximum levels. The law requires that the municipal officers adopt the local GA Ordinance and yearly Appendices after notice and hearing.

#### Recommendation

**To approve the Amendments to Chapter 14 GA Maximums & Appendices as presented and schedule a Public Hearing for October 4, 2022.**

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#### Agenda Item 2022 – 204

##### Worumbo Waterfront Funding Request for Safety Lighting

In pursuing an estimate for getting some safety lighting at Worumbo Waterfront, Enterprise Electric informed the Economic & Community Development Director that they had just removed 5, 30' LED light poles from a facility in Brunswick and they would like to donate them to the Town of Lisbon in order to see this waterfront developed in a professional manner. We have received the estimate for bringing power to the site from the nearest CMP pole, and installing these five poles along with a power panel to be used for events. The total for this bid is \$51,905.00 as attached. It is recommended that we replace the LED fixtures that are on the donated light poles as they are older and do not provide sufficient coverage. The cost of this replacement is \$5,237.00. This would remove a \$700.00 part from the current estimate making a revised total of \$56,442. The value of the donated poles is approximately \$6,000. Mr. Cunningham is requesting that the council approve the amount requested, to be funded by the Downtown Tiff (Current balance as of 9/6 is \$245,000.27 [\$97,561 added in 2022]), and requesting that the council approve a sole source request as the donation of the light poles is not something we would be able to receive through the bid process.

300 Lisbon Street, Lisbon, ME 04250 | Phone: (207) 353-3000 | Fax: (207) 353-3007 | [www.lisbonme.org](http://www.lisbonme.org)

**Recommendation**

**To authorize funding in the amount of \$56,442. to be funded by the downtown TIF, to provide safety lighting and power to the Worumbo Waterfront and to allow the Town Manager to utilize sole source purchasing to Enterprise Electric.”**

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**Chapter 14 General Assistance Maximum & Appendices as Presented;** The State of Maine has adopted new General Assistance Maximums that our municipality will now have to adopt. Enclosed is Appendices A-H that have been revised to reflect the State’s new maximum levels. The law requires that the municipal officers adopt the local GA Ordinance and yearly Appendices after notice and hearing.

**Recommendation**

**Schedule Public Hearing for the GA Ordinance & Appendices for October 4, 2022.**

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***TOWN OF LISBON***  
*300 Lisbon Street, Lisbon, ME 04250*

*Lisa M. Ward, Town Clerk*  
*Lisa Smith, Deputy Clerk*

## ***PUBLIC HEARING***

### *Ordinance Amendment*

Notice is hereby given that the Lisbon Town Council intends to hold a public hearing on September 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Town Office Public Meeting Room to hear comments on the following amendment:

Amend Chapter 24 Article. II Fireworks, Section 24-31

Copies of the amendments may be viewed or obtained at the Town Clerk's Office, 300 Lisbon Street, Lisbon or online at [www.lisbonme.org](http://www.lisbonme.org).

*The public is invited to attend.*

*Lisa M. Ward, Town Clerk*

**Agenda Date: 09/20/2022**

| Date      | Brenda Martin | Municipal Accts Payable |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 9/6/2022  | 9012022       | \$ 11,322.49            |
| 9/7/2022  | 09062022      | \$ 438,506.72           |
| 9/13/2022 | 9132022       | \$ 13,715.52            |
|           |               | <b>\$ 463,544.73</b>    |

| Date     | Rebecca Hayslip | Municipal Payroll Warrants |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 9/7/2022 | 220908          | \$ 157,591.81              |
| 9/7/2022 | 2209W1          | \$ 16,988.19               |
|          |                 | <b>\$ 174,580.00</b>       |

| Date     | Louise Levesque | School Accts Payable |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 9/6/2022 | 2305            | \$ 231,765.20        |

| Date     | Eva Huston | School Payroll Warrants |
|----------|------------|-------------------------|
| 9/9/2022 | 1028       | \$ 18,556.82            |



**TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022  
LISBON TOWN OFFICE**

Mark Lunt 2022  
Donald Fellows 2022  
Jason Smith 2022  
Fern Larochelle, Chair 2023  
Harry Moore, Jr., Vice Chair 2024  
Raymond Robishaw 2024  
Christine Cain 2022

**CALL TO ORDER.** The Vice Chair, Harry Moore, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL.** Members present were Councilors Fellows, Lunt, Larochelle, Robishaw, Cain and Moore. Also present were Ryan McGee, Interim Town Manager; Glenn Michalowski, Assistant Town Manager; Fire Chief Nate LeClair; EMS Chief Jim MacDonnell; Randy Cyr, Public Works Director; Ross Cunningham, Economic and Community Development Director; and approximately 3 citizens in the audience.

**VOTE (2022-185)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Fellows, moved to excuse Councilor Smith's absence.

**Order passed – Vote 6-0.**

**GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION**

**PROCLAMATION FOR THE  
LISBON SLOVAK CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Whereas** The Slovak Catholic Association was organized on July 12th, 1897, and incorporated on September 4th, 1897, founded by Slovak immigrants, the majority of whom came to the United States of America between 1850 and 1925, *and*

**Whereas** The immigrants migrated from the Kosice region of what was then known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and among the founding fathers of the Association were Michael Borcak, Andre Jakubovic, George Hruby, Michael Karkos Sr., John Jambor, Joseph Proske, Andrew Karkos, and Mike Miller, *and*

**Whereas** The Saints Cyril and Methodius Church and the Slovak Catholic Association were the main organizations of Slovak interaction in this community, *and*

**Whereas** The Association also sponsored an excellent baseball team; the manager/coach of the team was John S. Karkos; and in addition, the Slovak Catholic Sokols (Falcons) sponsored very talented men's and women's track and field/gymnastic teams which each summer attended national "slets" (track meets) held in various cities of the country; and among the drill instructors of the senior men's team were Mr. John Ivansin, Mr. Emery Gensure, Mr. Andrew (Sparky) Adams, and Mr. Emery Stoklas; and instructors of the women's team were Mrs. Anna Sherbak Wakely, Mrs. Katherine Adams Gamache, and Mrs. Veronica Livernois Days, *and*

**Whereas** After World War II, the Association began accepting non-Slovaks because the remaining Slovak members could not financially support the Association, and Slovak fathers-in-law desired membership for their sons-in-law; and although the ethnicity of the current membership is now diversified, the By-Laws governing the rules of membership are basically the same as set forth by the original founders and the association still flourishes to this day, *and*

**Whereas** Presently, the membership has a limit of 450, and is involved in numerous civic projects including annual scholarships totaling \$2500.00 awarded to five deserving high school graduates each year; and this generous benevolence is a testimony of the Association's commitment to assist the young people of the community in their quest for higher education, *and*

**Whereas** In 1997, in honor of the Association's 100th Anniversary, the Town of Lisbon Officials issued a formal Proclamation designating July 12th, 1997 to be "Slovak Heritage Day"; and, in addition, Governor Angus King, Jr. issued a letter of recognition proclaiming July 12th, 1997 to be "Slovak Heritage Day" in the State of Maine; and, an official expression of sentiment from the members of the Maine House of Representatives and Senate recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Association was received, and in October, 1997, Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky presented a commendation to S.C.A. President Eric E. Hutchins honoring the 100th year of our incorporation.

*Now, Therefore, we, the Lisbon Town Council*, do recognize July 12th, 2022 as the 125th Anniversary of the Slovak Catholic Association in Lisbon, Maine, and further extend appreciation to the members of the Association for their valuable service to the community of Lisbon, Maine. We further recognize that July 12<sup>th</sup> continues as the annual Anniversary of the Slovak Catholic Association.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. BOND ORDINANCE FOR PURPOSE OF FINANCING TWO FIRE TRUCKS**

The Vice Chair opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no speakers, the Vice Chair closed the Public Hearing.

### **B. VICTUALER'S AND ITINERANT VENDOR LICENSE FOR KABAYAN PHILIPPINE FOODS**

The Vice Chair opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no speakers, the Vice Chair closed the Public Hearing.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION & RESPONSE FOR AGENDA ITEMS – NONE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**VOTE (2022-187)** Councilor Lunt, seconded by Councilor Robishaw, moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented:

- A. Municipal Accounts Payable Warrants - \$ 1,306,673.22
- B. Municipal Payroll Warrants - \$ 247,751.36
- C. School Accounts Payable Warrants - \$ 231,765.20
- D. School Payroll Warrants - \$ 676,762.48
- E. Minutes for August 16, 2022
- F. Victualer's and Itinerant Vendor License for Kabayan Philippine Foods
- G. Set Public Hearing for September 20<sup>th</sup> for a Special Amusement Permit for Lisbon Left Hand Club

**Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

## **COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES**

**QUESTION 1 BOND ORDER: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION SECURITIES OF THE TOWN OF LISBON IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,700,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING TWO FIRE TRUCKS FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED 20 YEARS BE APPROVED AND RATIFIED. – *Second Reading.***

**INTRODUCTION:** The Finance Director, Kayla Tierney, provided proposals from (2) different financial institutions, as well as from the manufacturer for financing options for the proposed purchase of (2) Fire Trucks. The options are summarized below:

**(1) Androscoggin Bank:** Androscoggin Bank has provided two proposals for the Town's consideration: one for interim financing (BAN) and one for permanent financing (municipal lease). Each of these proposals assumes a closing on November 15, 2022, which should allow for bond work to be completed after authorization is granted. Both the lease proposal and the BAN are for \$1,684,958.86 which is the price of both firetrucks, inclusive of a 6.5% price increase that has already been indicated by the manufacturer.

**a. Lease Proposal:** For the municipal lease financing option, a 15 year term is provided with the first of 15 annual installments of principal and interest due on the first anniversary of closing. If the Town would prefer to make the first installment at closing, we may, which will save the Town on interest.

- **Equipment Cost:** \$1,684,958.86
- **Lease Term:** 15 years
- **Interest rate:** 4.37% (\*the final installment may vary slightly)
- **Total Principal:** \$1,684,958.86
- **Total Interest:** \$647,965.88
- **Total P&I:** \$2,332,924.74
- **First Payment due:** November 15, 2023

- **Estimated Annual Payment:** \$155,528.32

**b. Bond Anticipation Note (BAN):** For the Bond Anticipation Note, options for 6 and 12 months are provided, which would give the option for applying for permanent financing through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) for either their spring or fall offering in 2023.

- **Option A:** For the “As Needed” borrowing of the aforementioned funds over a 6-month term, we offer a fixed tax-exempt interest rate of 3.97% per annum.
  - **Total Principal:** \$1,684,958.86
  - **Total Interest:** \$33,171.53
  - **Total Payments:** \$1,718,130.39
  - **Maturity Date:** May 15, 2023
- **Option B:** For the “As Needed” borrowing of the aforementioned funds over a 12-month term, we offer a fixed tax-exempt rate of 4.07% per annum.
  - **Total Principal:** \$1,684,958.86
  - **Total Interest:** \$68,577.82
  - **Total Payment:** \$1,753,536.68
  - **Maturity Date:** November 15, 2023
- **For Either Term:** Interest will be calculated on an actual/365-day basis on the Note, which will be issued without prepayment penalty. For either term, we understand that the Town of Lisbon will secure permanent financing through either the Maine Municipal Bond Bank or USDA Rural Development and pay off the BAN on or before the maturity date.

**(2) The First National Bank:** Fire Truck production has been a challenge for a number of municipalities. With that in mind, The First National Bank will present two loan amounts as it may be best to aim high and not use the entire available loan amount. There is also a 15 year and a 20-year rate for consideration. The First National Bank will structure it as a line of commitment, which is the same as the Town of Lisbon’s existing loan for the Sewer project that will turn into permanent financing with USDA RD. The Town can draw the funds as needed to a certain spot in time or when all of the funds are used; by doing this, we can lock in the loan and rate this year and not pay interest until we need to pay for the trucks. The line of commitment can also be set up for a 24-36-month line of commitment period; then the loan balance would be re-amortized.

**a.**

|                  |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Loan Amount      | \$ 1,700,000.00 | \$ 1,700,000.00 |
| Loan Term        | 15 Years        | 20 Years        |
| Rate             | 4.65%           | 4.89%           |
| Est. Annual Pmt. | \$ 160,675.32   | \$ 135,967.42   |

**b.**

|                  |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Loan Amount      | \$ 1,750,000.00 | \$ 1,750,000.00 |
| Loan Term        | 15 Years        | 20 Years        |
| Rate             | 4.65%           | 4.89%           |
| Est. Annual Pmt. | \$ 165,401.07   | \$ 139,966.46   |

**3. Allegiance Fire & Rescue (Manufacturer):** Allegiance Fire & Rescue is the vendor that we received a quote on for the purchase of the two firetrucks and the offer financing with Republic First National. Since the delivery time is well over a year (plus) out, the quote is for the first payment to be due in 24 months with 9, 11, & 14 payments, which is a 10, 12 & 15-year term range.

- a. Unit Cost** \$1,670,563



**b. Number of Payments:**

- 9 Payments of \$233,246.03 each year at a rate of 3.95%
- 11 Payments of \$199,684.25 each year at a rate of 4.09%
- 14 Payments of \$167,836.24 each year at a rate of 4.25%

**Finance Committee Recommendation:**

The Finance Committee met on September 1, 2022 in the Town Office with only 2 members. Fire Chief Nate LeClair and the Council Liaison to the Finance Committee, Ray Robishaw were also in attendance. Due to the number of active Finance Committee members, there was no official vote since there was not enough members for a quorum. The Finance Committee had an active discussion about the financing options for the purchase of (2) Fire trucks and came to a general consensus of a recommendation to council during this workshop meeting.

Finance Director, Kayla Tierney, provided all of the above information to the Finance Committee for their review. Nate LeClair answered questions about the replacement of the fire trucks and the age of the fire trucks. Kayla highlighted our options above into two main categories: (1) Permanent Financing or (2) Interim Financing to purchase and receive the trucks that will then be rolled into Permanent Financing at a later time.

The Finance Committee collectively preferred the idea of an interim financing that will later be rolled into permanent financing and we then focused on the details of the BAN with Androscoggin Bank or the line of commitment with the First National Bank; both are great options for the Town's financing needs. Androscoggin had better rates but the concern was the term for the interim financing with the 6 month and 12 month options. Given the supply chain management constraints felt currently, would 6 or 12 months be enough time to align with the production of the fire trucks to draw to pay for the equipment? The First National Bank was offering a 24-36-month period to draw on the line of commitment for \$1,700,000; the additional line would give us the flexibility to align with the production of the trucks and a cushion in case there is another price increase between now and time of payment. Kayla Tierney explained that we have the option to draw up to \$1,700,000 but we are not held to draw all of it. She further explained that with the interim financing options we can do installment payments that can in effect potentially lower the overall cost of both pieces of equipment at the end of it all.

Curtis Lunt inquired about the permanent financing option when all is said and done. Kayla Tierney replied that she will be inquiring to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank as they have historically had good rates and we will have plenty of time to get on the bond bank schedule for permanent financing.

**Recommendation:** It is the Finance Committee's recommendation to accept the First National Bank's proposal for interim financing at the 15-year term for \$1,700,000 and then to do permanent financing after receipt of the two fire trucks.

**Finance Director's Recommendation:**

I, Kayla Tierney, Finance Director for the Town of Lisbon concur with the recommendation of the Finance Committee to accept the First National Bank's proposal for interim financing at the 15-year term for \$1,700,000 and then to do permanent financing after receipt of the two fire trucks. It is my recommendation to do the interim financing to allow the Town to properly finance the exact purchase amount of the firetrucks when that information is actually known. There have been a lot of volatility in the current market for goods and services and the interim financing would support the Town if there was an additional uncontrollable price increase. Additionally, it will allow the Town the option to do installment payments which may be beneficial in the long run. Lastly, the First National Bank's option would allow for more time if the production of the truck ends up taking longer than expected. Once the interim financing is secured, discussion of permanent financing would begin.

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** Vice Chair Moore asked Chief LeClair to speak. Chief LeClair said he plans to help educate the Public regarding the reasons and the process for the purchase of new Fire Trucks.

**VOTE (2022-188)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Fellows, moved to Authorize the Finance Director to accept the First National Bank's proposal for interim financing at the 15-year term for \$1,700,000.00 and then to do permanent financing after receipt of the two fire trucks, and approve the Bond Order to be placed on the November referendum.

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Fellows, Larochelle, Lunt, Moore, Cain, and Robishaw. Nays - None.**

**Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 24 PUBLIC SAFETY, ARTICLE II FIREWORKS – *First Reading*

**INTRODUCTION:** In reviewing ordinances, the proposal is to update the attached Fireworks Ordinance to add “Noise Cannon” to the ordinance. Chief McGee proposed an amendment to our Fireworks ordinance to add “Noise Cannon” to the ordinance. He said it would now read ***Sec. 24-31. Sale and use of consumer fireworks and noise cannons.*** *Noise cannon*

*means a device commonly referred to as a noise cannon or air cannon, designed and intended to create a loud noise through the sudden discharge of compressed air.* Chief McGee said the Police Department had multiple complaints about an air/noise cannon. He said people who have medical conditions, PTSD, and pets have complained. He explained that he reached out to legal to find out how to address the problem to allow a citizen to still use their device while helping other citizens.

**VOTE (2022-189)** Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Cain, moved to Approve the Amendment to Chapter 24 Public Safety, Article II Fireworks as follows and Set a Public Hearing for September 20, 2022:

**Sec. 24-31. Sale and use of consumer fireworks and noise cannons.**

The purpose of this ordinance is to clearly define the sale and use of fireworks within the Town of Lisbon.

(a) *Definitions.* The following definitions shall apply in this section:

(1) *Consumer fireworks* shall have the same meaning as in 27 Code of Federal Regulations, section 555.11 or subsequent provision, but includes only products that are tested and certified by a 3rd-party testing laboratory as conforming with United States Consumer Product Safety Commission standards in accordance with 15 United States Code, Chapter 47. "Consumer fireworks" does not include the following products:

- a. Missile-type rockets, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule;
- b. Helicopters and aerial spinners, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule;
- c. Sky rockets and bottle rockets. For purposes of this paragraph, "sky rockets and bottle rockets" means cylindrical tubes containing not more than 20 grams of chemical composition, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule, with a wooden stick attached for guidance and stability, that rise into the air upon ignition that may produce a burst of color or sound at or near the height and gives off light.

(2) *Display* means entertainment feature where the public or a private group is admitted or permitted to view the display or discharge of fireworks or special effects.

(3) *Noise cannon means a device commonly referred to as a noise cannon or air cannon, designed and intended to create a loud noise through the sudden discharge of compressed air. Noise cannons used for public safety purposes are exempt from this Ordinance.*

(b) *Permit required.*

- (1) No person shall use, display, fire, or cause to be exploded, consumer fireworks within the Town of Lisbon without a permit. Permits must be obtained from the office designated by the town manager on the day of use and shall not be issued in advance. This section shall not apply to a person in possession of a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine pursuant to Title 8, MRSA Section 227-A.
- (2) No permit shall be issued on any day with a fire danger class of 3, 4, or 5.
- (3) A person may use consumer fireworks only on that person's property or on the property of a person who has consented, in writing, to the use of consumer fireworks on that property.
- (4) The use, discharge, or ignition of fireworks shall not be permitted in close proximity to any building by maintaining a distance of no less than 100' from said building.

(c) *Fireworks restricted use.* A person shall not use, display, fire, or cause to be exploded consumer fireworks or a noise cannon within the Town of Lisbon except on the following days and during the following times:

- (1) July 4th, beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m.
- (2) Saturday of Moxie Weekend as set by council beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m.
- (3) December 31st, beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 12:30 a.m. the following day.

(d) *Exception.* This section does not apply to a person issued a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine; pursuant to 8 M.R.S.A. § 227-A.

(e) *Violations.*

- (1) Any person who uses or possesses consumer fireworks or ~~possess consumer fireworks~~ a noise cannon with the intent to use in the Town of Lisbon in violation of this ordinance shall receive a citation.
- (2) The following civil penalties shall be imposed for violations of this ordinance (plus legal fees and court costs for an offense for the following):

First Citation: \$110

Second Citation: \$215

Third Citation: \$425

Fourth Citation and Subsequent Citations: \$500

(f) Sale of fireworks in the Town of Lisbon shall be permitted providing all State of Maine statutes regarding such sale are satisfied and a valid permit to conduct sales is issued by the state fire marshal's office and the Town of Lisbon.

(g) *Seizure and disposal.* The town may seize consumer fireworks that the town has probable cause to believe are used, possessed, or sold in violation of this section. Seized consumer fireworks shall be forwarded to the state for disposal.

(C.M. of 10-16-2012, V. 2012-165; C.M. of 8-6-2013, V. 2013-119; C.M. of 10-16-2012, V. 2012-165; C.M. of 8-6-2013, V. 2013-119; C.M. of 8-18-2015, V. 2015-236; C.M. of 8-18-2015, V. 2015-237 ; C.M. of 9-15-2015, V. 2015-277)

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Fellows, Larochelle, Lunt, Moore, Cain, and Robishaw. Nays - None.**

**Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

#### WORUMBO WATERFRONT FUNDING REQUEST FOR SAFETY LIGHTING

*Chief McGee requested to remove item from agenda due to not receiving a bid in time for the meeting. The Vice Chair approved.*

#### WORUMBO WATERFRONT PARTNER RFQ

**INTRODUCTION:** Mr. Cunningham said the Worumbo Steering Committee is ready to send out an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to identify a partner “not for profit” organization to work with the town to design a landscaping plan, secure grants and public and private funding, develop and manage park infrastructure, and secure events at the waterfront. He said once identified, the Economic & Community Development office will work with this group to draft an MOU (memorandum of understanding) outlining the relationship and responsibilities of both the partner organization and the Town of Lisbon with regards to the Worumbo waterfront.

Mr. Cunningham said they hope this process takes 2-6 weeks, so they can work through the off season to be ready for Spring and that Positive Change Lisbon (PCL) has interest. He explained he is modeling the plan after Congress Square Park in Portland, but a different level than daily. He stated he will send an MOU to Council.

**VOTE (2022-191)** Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Robishaw, moved to Authorize the release of attached Request for Qualifications to identify a partner “not for profit” organization to work with the town to design a landscaping plan, secure grant, public and private funding, develop and manage park infrastructure and secure events at the Worumbo waterfront.

**Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

#### APPROVE FERRY ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> TO THE 23<sup>RD</sup>

##### INTRODUCTION:

Northeast Paving is requesting road closures during the week of September 19th for pipe installation.

Weather and material availability pending, we are requesting daily closures from 7:00 am thru 5:00 pm on Monday and Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. These closures are for the installation of the two 36-inch SICPE pipes located at approximate project stations 104+20 and 97+10.

Their second request, weather and material availability pending, is to request a 24-hour per day, 3-day closure of Ferry Road Wednesday, September 21 thru Friday September 23. This closure will be located at the approximate project stations 11+25 thru 16+00, for the installation of the 60-inch x 46-inch pipe arch.

To keep the public aware of the daily closures, NEP will place a message board at each intersection of Ferry Road and Pinewoods Road indicating how far the roadway is open in each direction. Along with the two message boards, detour signs will be placed at all intersections within Ferry Road, and road closed signs will be placed at the immediate work zone. Messages on message boards will be changed as needed to current conditions.

**VOTE (2022-192)** Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Lunt, moved to approve the closure of Ferry Road for the week of September 19th to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Lunt, proposed an amendment to allow discretion for the Town Manager to close the road for Public Safety reasons and to change the time frame if needed through thirty days. The Amendment to the motion was passed **Vote 6-0**.

**Amended Order passed – Vote 6-0.**

#### VILLAGE STREET IMPROVEMENTS BID RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Generally, bidding sitework this late in the season does not result in favorable pricing as firms rush to complete work before winter conditions set in. With that said, it is not a sure thing that rebidding the project over the winter for 2023 construction will yield lower costs given the uncertainty of what pricing may be next season. We have contacted the contractors who took out bidding packages but did not bid on the project, and can hopefully get their feedback to discuss with the Council as they weigh options on Tuesday night.

As for the evaluation of the overall budget, the project funding can be summarized below:

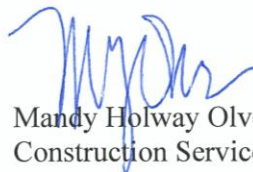
|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Ferry Road Loan             | \$ 2,800,000  |
| Ferry Road Budget Committed | \$ 1,900,000 ( includes Construction, Engineering, Contingency) |

This leaves \$900,000 available. With award of the construction and adding contingency and engineering, about \$850,000 would be needed to proceed with award to Glidden. In summary, there is sufficient funding available to complete both projects with the bond money.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need further information at this time.

Very truly yours,

OLVER ASSOCIATES INC.



Mandy Holway Olver P.E., Vice-President  
Construction Services Manager

MHO/sb

2522/090

CC: Mr. Randy Cyr, Public Works Director

LISBON VILLAGE STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS  
BID TAB

| Item No.  | Item Description                      | Est. QTY | Unit | Glidden<br>Excavating & Paving<br>Unit Price | Glidden<br>Excavating & Paving<br>Total Price | Eurovia Atlantic<br>Coast, LLC<br>Unit Price | Eurovia Atlantic<br>Coast, LLC<br>Total Price |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------|------|--|---|--|---|
| 1         | Tree Removal                          | 1        | LS   | \$ 9,600.00                                  | \$ 9,600.00                                   | \$ 20,000.00                                 | \$ 20,000.00                                  |
| 2         | Mobilization & Traffic Control        | 1        | LS   | \$ 225,000.00                                | \$ 225,000.00                                 | \$ 177,000.00                                | \$ 177,000.00                                 |
| 3         | 2" Milling                            | 7,500    | SY   | \$ 13.50                                     | \$ 101,250.00                                 | \$ 7.50                                      | \$ 56,250.00                                  |
| 4         | Remove & Reset Existing Granite Curb  | 3300     | LF   | \$ 35.00                                     | \$ 115,500.00                                 | \$ 79.00                                     | \$ 260,700.00                                 |
| 5         | ADA Crosswalk Ramp/Detectable Warning | 16       | EA   | \$ 6,750.00                                  | \$ 108,000.00                                 | \$ 2,500.00                                  | \$ 40,000.00                                  |
| 6         | Temporary Erosion Control             | 1        | LS   | \$ 5,500.00                                  | \$ 5,500.00                                   | \$ 15,000.00                                 | \$ 15,000.00                                  |
| 7         | Roadway Pavement                      | 900      | Tons | \$ 130.00                                    | \$ 117,000.00                                 | \$ 175.00                                    | \$ 157,500.00                                 |
| 8         | Sidewalk & Driveway Pavement          | 300      | Tons | \$ 170.00                                    | \$ 51,000.00                                  | \$ 326.00                                    | \$ 97,800.00                                  |
| 9         | Loam & Seeding                        | 1        | LS   | \$ 17,500.00                                 | \$ 17,500.00                                  | \$ 28,000.00                                 | \$ 28,000.00                                  |
| 10        | Striping                              | 1        | LS   | \$ 7,500.00                                  | \$ 7,500.00                                   | \$ 8,000.00                                  | \$ 8,000.00                                   |
| 11        | New Granite Curb                      | 0        | LF   | \$ -   | \$ -  | \$ -   | \$ -  |
| 12        | Sidewalk Gravel                       | 150      | CY   | \$ 130.00                                    | \$ 19,500.00                                  | \$ 155.00                                    | \$ 23,250.00                                  |
| TOTAL BID |                                       |          |      |  | \$ 777,350.00                                 |  | \$ 883,500.00                                 |

PROPOSAL  
VILLAGE STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS  
TOWN OF LISBON, MAINE

Town of Lisbon, Maine  
300 Lisbon Street  
Lisbon, Maine 04250

Greetings:

The undersigned, as Bidder on the above indicated Project, declares that the only persons or parties interested as principals in this Bid or in the Contract proposed to be taken, are named herein; that this Bidder has carefully examined the location of the proposed work, the Drawings and Specifications including the Invitation to Bid, Proposal, Contract, and Technical Specifications; and proposes and agrees if this Bid is accepted that he/she will contract to provide all necessary and proper labor, machinery, equipment, facilities, and incidentals, and to do all the Work and furnish all labor and material necessary or proper to carry out the Contract in the manner and time therein set forth, and that he/she will do all other things required and incidental to the completion of the Work.

All entries in the entire proposal have been made clearly and in ink; total prices bid have been written in both words and figures. All items defined in the Contract Documents have been bid upon.

It is understood that this Bid may not be withdrawn within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

6/30/22

(Date)

Lise Glidden

(Signed)

Name: Lise Glidden

Title: Corporate Secretary

Representing: Glidden Excavating & Paving Inc

Address: 326 New Portland Rd

Gorham ME 04038

BID FORM

BIDDER agrees to perform all Work as described in these Contract Documents for the following unit prices for the payment items indicated:

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION                           | APPROX.<br>QUANTITY | UNITS | UNIT<br>PRICE        | TOTAL<br>PRICE       |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1.   | Tree Removal                          | LS                  | LS    | \$ <u>9,600.00</u>   | \$ <u>9,600.00</u>   |
| 2.   | Mobilization & Traffic Control        | LS                  | LS    | \$ <u>225,000.00</u> | \$ <u>225,000.00</u> |
| 3.   | 2" Milling                            | 7500                | SY    | \$ <u>13.50</u>      | \$ <u>101,250.00</u> |
| 4.   | Remove & Reset Existing Granite Curb  | 3300                | LF    | \$ <u>35.00</u>      | \$ <u>115,500.00</u> |
| 5.   | ADA Crosswalk Ramp/Detectable Warning | 16                  | EA    | \$ <u>6,750.00</u>   | \$ <u>108,000.00</u> |
| 6.   | Temporary Erosion Control             | LS                  | LS    | \$ <u>5,500.00</u>   | \$ <u>5,500.00</u>   |
| 7.   | Roadway Pavement                      | 900                 | Tons  | \$ <u>130.00</u>     | \$ <u>117,000.00</u> |
| 8.   | Sidewalk & Driveway Pavement          | 300                 | Tons  | \$ <u>170.00</u>     | \$ <u>51,000.00</u>  |
| 9.   | Loam & Seeding                        | LS                  | LS    | \$ <u>17,500.00</u>  | \$ <u>17,500.00</u>  |
| 10.  | Striping                              | 1                   | LS    | \$ <u>7,500.00</u>   | \$ <u>7,500.00</u>   |
| 11.  | New Granite Curb (deleted Add#1)      | 0                   | LF    | \$ <u>-</u>          | \$ <u>-</u>          |
| 12.  | Sidewalk Gravel                       | 150*                | CY    | \$ <u>130.00</u>     | \$ <u>19,500.00</u>  |

TOTAL BID (IN FIGURES):\$ 777,350.00

TOTAL BID (IN WORDS): SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN THOUSAND Dollars  
THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS & NO CENTS

\*Note: Asterisk indicates indeterminate quantity for bidding comparison.

The undersigned agrees to the following:

- To furnish all required insurance certificates and bonds within 10 days after formal acceptance of the proposal by the Owner. All insurance certificates and bonds must be furnished before formal execution of the contract by the Owner.
- To substantially complete the work within 75 calendar days and to fully complete the work within 90 calendar days of the formal Notice to Proceed.
- That the Owner may retain liquidated damages of \$750 per day for each day in excess of those mentioned above that the work is not completed as indicated.

## PROPOSAL

## VILLAGE STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

## TOWN OF LISBON, MAINE

Town of Lisbon, Maine  
300 Lisbon Street  
Lisbon, Maine 04250

## Greetings:

The undersigned, as Bidder on the above indicated Project, declares that the only persons or parties interested as principals in this Bid or in the Contract proposed to be taken, are named herein; that this Bidder has carefully examined the location of the proposed work, the Drawings and Specifications including the Invitation to Bid, Proposal, Contract, and Technical Specifications; and proposes and agrees if this Bid is accepted that he/she will contract to provide all necessary and proper labor, machinery, equipment, facilities, and incidentals, and to do all the Work and furnish all labor and material necessary or proper to carry out the Contract in the manner and time therein set forth, and that he/she will do all other things required and incidental to the completion of the Work.

All entries in the entire proposal have been made clearly and in ink; total prices bid have been written in both words and figures. All items defined in the Contract Documents have been bid upon.

It is understood that this Bid may not be withdrawn within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

08/31/2022

(Date)



(Signed)

Name: Wayne A. Berry

Title: Division Manager

Representing: Eurovia Atlantic Coast, LLC dba Northeast Paving

Address: 953 Odlin Road

Bangor, ME 04401



**Eurovia Atlantic Coast, LLC dba Northeast Paving**  
**BID FORM**

BIDDER agrees to perform all Work as described in these Contract Documents for the following unit prices for the payment items indicated:

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION                           | APPROX.<br>QUANTITY | UNITS | UNIT<br>PRICE | TOTAL<br>PRICE |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.   | Tree Removal                          | LS                  | LS    | \$ 20,000.00  | \$ 20,000.00   |
| 2.   | Mobilization & Traffic Control        | LS                  | LS    | \$ 177,000.00 | \$ 177,000.00  |
| 3.   | 2" Milling                            | 7500                | SY    | \$ 7.50       | \$ 56,250.00   |
| 4.   | Remove & Reset Existing Granite Curb  | 3300                | LF    | \$ 79.00      | \$ 260,700.00  |
| 5.   | ADA Crosswalk Ramp/Detectable Warning | 16                  | EA    | \$ 2,500.00   | \$ 40,000.00   |
| 6.   | Temporary Erosion Control             | LS                  | LS    | \$ 15,000.00  | \$ 15,000.00   |
| 7.   | Roadway Pavement                      | 900                 | Tons  | \$ 175.00     | \$ 157,500.00  |
| 8.   | Sidewalk & Driveway Pavement          | 300                 | Tons  | \$ 326.00     | \$ 97,800.00   |
| 9.   | Loam & Seeding                        | LS                  | LS    | \$ 28,000.00  | \$ 28,000.00   |
| 10.  | Striping                              | 1                   | LS    | \$ 8,000.00   | \$ 8,000.00    |
| 11.  | New Granite Curb (deleted Add#1)      | 0                   | LF    | \$ NA         | \$ NA          |
| 12.  | Sidewalk Gravel                       | 150*                | CY    | \$ 155.00     | \$ 23,250.00   |

TOTAL BID (IN FIGURES):\$ 883,500.00

TOTAL BID (IN WORDS): Eight Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Zero Cents Dollars

\*Note: Asterisk indicates indeterminate quantity for bidding comparison.

The undersigned agrees to the following:

- a. To furnish all required insurance certificates and bonds within 10 days after formal acceptance of the proposal by the Owner. All insurance certificates and bonds must be furnished before formal execution of the contract by the Owner.
- b. To substantially complete the work within 75 calendar days and to fully complete the work within 90 calendar days of the formal Notice to Proceed.
- c. That the Owner may retain liquidated damages of \$750 per day for each day in excess of those mentioned above that the work is not completed as indicated.



The undersigned acknowledges the receipt of the following Addenda:

#1, 8/8/2022 -- #2, 8/22/2022 -- #3, 8/25/2022

**NOTES ON PROPOSED SCHEDULE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS BID, IF ANY**

Date: 08/31/2022

Signed: Wayne A. Berry

Name: Wayne A. Berry

Title: Division Manager

Representing: Eurovia Atlantic Coast, LLC dba Northeast Paving

Address: 953 Odlin Road

Bangor, ME 04401

Telephone: 207-945-0873

Fax: 207-945-0874

(Seal - if Bid is by Corporation)  
(Also attached Certificate of Authority  
for signatory to execute contract)

The undersigned acknowledges the receipt of the following Addenda:

#1 - 8/8/22

#3 - 8/25/22

#2 - 8/22/22

**NOTES ON PROPOSED SCHEDULE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS BID, IF ANY**

A MAJORITY OF THE WORK CAN BE COMPLETED  
IN 2022.

OVERLAY PAVING CANNOT BE COMPLETED BY 10/22/22 - PAVING  
DEADLINE

Date: 8/30/22

Signed: Lisa Glidden

Name: Lisa Glidden

Title: Corporate Secretary

Representing: Glidden Excavating & Paving Inc

Address: 326 New Portland Rd

Gorham Me 04938

Telephone: 207 856 9990

Fax: 207 856 9998

(Seal - if Bid is by Corporation)  
(Also attached Certificate of Authority  
for signatory to execute contract)

Mr. Cyr stated that the bids came in much higher than expected, that the contractors are too booked. He stated he felt the bids were too expensive at this time. He said Public Works can use reclaim for now where needed to see if we can go out to bid next spring for better pricing. He said the original estimate was about \$400,000.00, which is nearly half of what the bids are.

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** Council discussed paving and bid options and work the Town can do in advance to prepare. Councilor Larochelle asked the Town Manager to follow up on this. The council was in general agreement that the Town should not accept a bid at this time, but wait for the spring per Mr. Cyr's advice.

**VOTE (2022-193)** For the purpose of discussion, Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Fellows, moved to authorize the Interim Town Manager to accept a Bid for the Village Street Improvements.

**Order failed - Vote 0-6.**

## LISBON GREEN PURCHASING POLICY

### INTRODUCTION:

#### **STATEMENT OF THE POLICY**

It is the policy & practice of the Town of Lisbon to:

Institute practices that reduce waste by increasing product efficiency and effectiveness, and

Purchase products that minimize environmental impacts, toxics, pollution, and hazards to worker and community safety to the greatest extent practicable, and

Purchase products that include recycled content, are durable and long-lasting, conserve energy and water, use agricultural fibers and residues, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, use unbleached or chlorine free manufacturing processes, are lead-free and mercury-free, and use wood from sustainably harvested forests (FSC) when & where possible.

Town employees making purchases requiring three written quotes or the bid process shall refer to this policy and shall include a copy of it in the request for quote or bid.

If a purchase does not conform to this policy, but is the most advantageous option for the town. A department director may request, the Town Manager or his Assistant waive the requirements of this policy at their discretion.

#### **I. PURPOSE**

To recognize the goals set forth in the Town of Lisbon Solid Waste Management Plan and the Lisbon Local Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions and for Lisbon to be a responsible environmental leader.

Lisbon is a significant consumer of goods and services. The purchasing decisions of our employees and contractors can positively or negatively affect the environment. By including environmental considerations in our procurement decisions, along with our traditional concerns regarding price, performance, and availability, we will remain fiscally responsible and promote practices that improve public health and safety; reduce pollution and conserve natural resources. The purpose of this document is to establish the framework for a sustainability-based purchasing program for Lisbon.

By giving preference to environmentally friendly products whose quality, function, and cost are equal or superior to more traditional products, this policy will:

- conserve natural resources
- minimize pollution
- reduce the use of water and energy
- eliminate or reduce environmental health hazards to workers and our community
- support strong recycling markets
- reduce materials that are landfilled
- increase the use and availability of environmentally preferable products
- reward vendors who reduce environmental impacts in their production and distribution systems or services
- create a model for successfully purchasing environmentally preferable products that encourages other purchasers in our community to adopt similar goals
- support locally produced goods and services
- educate ourselves, our vendors, and our end users

It is not the intent of this policy to require a department, buyer or contractor to: to take any action that conflicts with local, state or federal requirements; procure products that do not perform adequately for their intended use; exclude adequate competition; or pursue products not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable period of time.

#### **II. POLICY**

All Town departments shall take every reasonable effort to reduce the amount of solid waste they generate, recycle materials recoverable from their operations, and maximize the procurement of recycled, energy efficient, and non-toxic products. Department Directors shall monitor compliance with the policy.

#### **III. DEFINITIONS**

1. Environmentally Responsible - products or product usage procedures, which are acknowledged to have minimal impact on the environment. Such products or procedures should reduce environmental impact through their composition and/or recyclability or by reduction in quantity and toxicity of waste products, energy use or water consumption.
2. Fiscally Responsible - The cost factor or purchase price for recycled products, or for more environmentally responsible items, should be consistent with a suggested variance of 10% above the acquisition cost for similar or less environmentally responsible items. Additional costs should be counter balanced by savings from improved usage procedures.
3. Recycled Product(s) - Products made with an identifiable percentage (1% - 100%) of post-consumer material content or of discarded virgin materials salvaged from the industrial waste stream. High-content recycled products contain a minimum of 50% of post-consumer material.
4. Waste Reduction - The act of avoiding, eliminating and reducing the amount of solid waste at the source of generation, at the point of usage and at the time of its discard.
5. Non-Toxic Product(s) - Any item which is not considered hazardous waste and that does not otherwise pose a threat to short or long-term human health during its use.
6. Energy-Efficient Product(s) – Products that meet the US Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star qualifications or US Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) and vehicles that meet the US Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Way qualifications.
7. Life-Cycle Cost – The total cost of a product including procurement, use, maintenance, and disposal.

#### IV. PURCHASING

All Town employees shall make every reasonable effort to reduce the impact of purchased products and to purchase environmentally responsible products.

1. All Departments shall purchase products that are made with recycled, non-toxic, and/or recyclable materials and that minimize environmentally harmful processes and products in their production, as long as those items meet or exceed specifications and required quality levels set forth by the Town and meet cost guidelines laid out in this policy. The Town will give special attention to the purchase of products and materials made from post-consumer recycled materials.
2. When purchases are necessary, strong consideration shall be given to durable items, items having minimal packaging, and items that are readily recycled when discarded.
3. Town departments are encouraged to use independent, third-party, environmental product or service label standards when writing specifications for, or procuring, materials, products, or services.
4. Town departments shall make every reasonable effort to procure chemicals and products that have low toxicity or are non-toxic, except for water treatment purposes. Products with the following attributes should be favored:
  - a) Have the fewest adverse health effects such as skin, eye, nose, throat, and lung irritation from toxic compounds.
  - b) Contain the fewest chemicals that can enter the food chain to be consumed by aquatic plants and animals.
  - c) Contain the fewest volatile organic compounds (VOC's) that can escape during product use.
  - d) Avoid unnecessary additives such as fragrances and dyes.
  - e) Reduce product packaging and use recovered/recoverable materials when packaging is necessary.
5. Departments shall purchase and use rechargeable batteries where applicable.
6. Departments shall purchase and use recycled paper (minimum 20% post-consumer recycled content) for all documents whenever possible. Documents printed on recycled paper shall include the recycling symbol when possible.
7. All departments shall be provided with a constant supply of recycled paper in a 20-100% post-consumer range, with 100% post-consumer recycled paper being the goal depending on availability and quality.
8. All new business cards shall be printed on recycled card stock and shall display the recycling symbol.
9. All formal requests for

#### V. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

1. New and replacement equipment for lighting, heating, ventilation, refrigeration and air conditioning systems, water consuming fixtures and process equipment and all such components shall meet or exceed Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) recommended levels, whenever practicable.
2. All products purchased by the Town of Lisbon and for which the U.S. EPA Energy Star certification is available shall meet Energy Star certification. See [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). When Energy Star labels are not available, products shall meet or exceed the FEMP recommended levels.
3. Solar thermal or on-demand water heaters shall be purchased whenever practicable. Where renewable forms of energy are unavailable or not practicable, natural gas shall be used where available in lieu of non-solar powered electricity for water heating.

#### VI. TRAINING

1. All new employees will be made aware of this policy and the reasoning behind it during New Employee Training.
2. A catalog of Environmentally Preferable Products made available through the Finance Department and shall be available on-line to increase awareness of opportunities to purchase Environmentally Preferable Products.

#### VII. COST

Department Directors are advised that the purchase of some Environmentally Responsible products may exceed the costs of comparable products. This factor alone should not determine whether an Environmentally Responsible product should be purchased, although it should be a factor in the decision. All purchases shall be handled in a fiscally responsible manner. Generally, for non-paper products, if the life-cycle cost of the environmentally responsible product does not exceed the cost of the alternative by more than 10%, and the product meets all necessary specifications, departments are required to request that the environmentally responsible product be purchased. Recycled paper should be purchased whenever possible, regardless of incremental cost.

#### VIII. PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director shall evaluate the success of this Policy's implementation and provide an annual report to the Town Manager. The report shall relate progress in meeting the goals and objectives of this Policy and note any barriers encountered, recommendations for resolution, and or/description of assistance needed to continuously improve staff's ability to meet this Policy's objectives for the procurement of environmentally preferable products and services.

#### IX. CONTRACTORS

1. Vendors, contractors, and grantees shall comply with applicable sections of this policy for products and services provided to the Town of Lisbon. In particular, vendors, contractors and grantees providing written materials to the Town shall do so using both sides of the paper and on recycled paper meeting minimum standards of the US EPA Guidelines and labeled as such. In addition, the use of binders, plastic covers, and other items that impede the recycling process are especially discouraged.
2. If the buyer making the selection from competitive bids or requesting department seeks to purchase products that do not meet the environmentally preferable purchasing criteria in this Policy, the buyer or department shall provide a written justification to the Town Manager for why compliance is not practicable, e.g., the product is not technically practical, economically feasible, or available within the timeframe required.
3. If a vendor that is under contract with the Town of Lisbon is no longer able to provide a product that meets this Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy, it shall notify the Department Director and provide written justification for why compliance is not practical. Prior written consent from the, authorized Town purchasing agent, shall be required before substituting any alternative product in addition to other standard contract amendment procedures.
4. Contractors and grantees whose contracts with the Town total less than \$1,000 are exempt from this policy, but are encouraged to follow this policy to the greatest extent possible.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS: Councilor Fellows recommended to remove the first sentence in part I: Purpose since it was inadvertently left in from the template that was used to create the policy.

Council was in general agreement to run this by the Department Heads before bringing back to Council and having Legal review it.

**VOTE (2022-192)** Councilor Fellows, seconded by councilor Lunt, moved to Table the matter until the October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting.

**Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. School: Councilor Larochelle said he had nothing to report.
2. Planning Board: Councilor Fellows said they will meet on Thursday and discuss the sign ordinance issues.
3. Lisbon Development Committee: Mr. Cunningham said the next meeting is next Wednesday, they are working on the Banner project and Abandoned Properties.
4. Conservation Commission: Councilor Moore said that equipment is now in place for the Dam Project.
5. Recreation Committee: Councilor Moore said that Mark Stevens, Parks & Recreation Director, is in Scotland with 40 Seniors.
6. County Budget Committee: Councilor Lunt said he had nothing to report.
7. Library Governing Board: Councilor Lunt said the Summer Reading Program was a big success.
8. Water Commission: Councilor Fellows said they will meet next week.
9. Finance Committee: Councilor Robishaw said the Committee did not have a quorum when they met but they were able to make a recommendation for the Council.

### **B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Interim Town Manager Ryan McGee offered the following updates for Council:

- Updates with the Parks and Recreation Department: Mark Stevens advised his decision and selected the new Parks and Recreation Assistant Director to be Kate Madore. Kate was the Administrative Assistant for Parks and Rec and Mark stated the following: "her experience and knowledge she has acquired in the past 2.5 years with the department has made it an easy decision, she has proven leadership qualities with coordination of the Moxie Festival and many other aspects of the Recreation world." Congratulations to Kate on her new position at the Rec Department. This will now open up an Administrative Assistant position at the Rec Department.
- The ATV ride is scheduled for Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at Left hand club, currently we have Councilor Robishaw that will be attending, and I also will be attending. We have had one ATV committee meeting since the last council meeting, this included both ATV clubs in town, the warden service and also a representative from CMP. The meeting was productive and went very well. We have another ATV meeting schedule in September as well and will continue working with our ATV clubs to improve access to each other's trail systems.
- Main Street: McGee Construction has to close Main Street in two parts due to the water line in the middle of the road they are replacing from Union Street north towards School Street. This will expedite the work by closing it. The time frame of paving downtown Main Street is by the end of September. I have asked for them to come up with a plan to make downtown Main Street two-way traffic once it is paved, to allow more downtown traffic to the businesses.
- Ferry Road project: Met with new England pavement and they are looking at finishing the Ferry Road Project by end of October, and looking to reclaim road pavement the week of Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, place pavement binder on the week of Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, work on driveways and handwork on sides of roads and place surface pavement week of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Chief McGee has requested they add and paint the white fog lines as part of the project, as concerns were brought forward of safety while walking on that roadway.
- Local Road Assistance Program: Chief McGee is requesting Council Permission to apply and sign the application for the (LRAP) Local Roads Assistance Program through the Maine Department of Transportation. This program would give us \$68,804.00 in Urban Road funding and \$32,292.00 for Rural Road funding, totaling \$101,096.00. This funding is to be used for road capital improvements and/or maintenance of roadways. It can also be used for Traffic Safety signal safety, and he would like to use some of the funds for a few solar Electronic Speed signs and will work with the PW Director to fund some of the road projects for this upcoming year. This funding can also be used for roads, sidewalks, culverts, and bridge repairs.

**VOTE (2022-192A)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Fellows, made a motion to give the Interim Town Manager the authority to sign the application for the LRAP and to apply for this no-match funding that is available to the Town of Lisbon.

**Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

- Update on the Upper Dam Project: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, one of the partners and supporters of the Upper Dam removal project, is planning a press event to celebrate the ground breaking start of the project. In the larger context of this event, our Lisbon Upper Dam project is the very first project to break ground that is funded by the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He confirmed today the date and time for the event will be September 15<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:00 pm. Representatives from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Massachusetts Regional office and members from the DC office will be in attendance. The Commissioner from the Maine Department of Marine Resources will also be in attendance along with members of the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Chief McGee would like to welcome the Council and members of the public to join the groundbreaking event.

LISBON EMERGENCY 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

# LISBON EMERGENCY, INC



**42 Village Street**  
**Lisbon, Maine 04250**  
**207-353-4079**



## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

### Opening Statement

It is with pleasure that I report on the activities of Lisbon Emergency. Lisbon Emergency was able to purchase a new ambulance that was scheduled to be a demo model for the dealership. Lisbon Emergency locked in the purchase price in March, by the time we took delivery in June, the cost of a new ambulance increased by \$50,000 and lead time increased to 24-36 months (we saved \$50,000).

Lisbon Emergency changed ambulance billing company in 2020; our new billing company has proven to be a good move. Ambulance income has increased and billing fees have decreased. Lisbon Emergency has partnered with local ambulance transfer services to start providing medical transport for non-emergency transports. This has enabled Lisbon Emergency to staff our second ambulance on most Fridays and has increased revenue.

In July 2021, Lisbon Emergency, with approval from the Board, took Topsham Fire off our mutual aid run card. Topsham Fire wanted to start charging for mutual aid services and bill the patient. This is against the Center for Medicare Service insurance rules; Lisbon Emergency wanted no part in this billing practice. There has been no negative effect on patient care.

One of the biggest challenges facing EMS is the reimbursement rates. The reimbursements by insurance company rates have not keep up with current cost to run an ambulance service. For example: Lisbon Emergency is paid \$250.00 from the insurance companies for working a cardiac arrest on scene. Our cost is approximately: (many factors go into the cost):

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| • Labor cost (average cardiac arrest is 2.0 hours with 3+ providers) | \$135.00  |
| • EZ-IO drill needle (Intraosseous)                                  | \$195.28  |
| • IV needle  | \$ 3.69   |
| • IV Extension Set   | \$ 1.96   |
| • Tegaderm and Tourniquet  | \$ 2.79   |
| • Fluid Drip Set   | \$ 2.49   |
| • Normal Sodium Chloride 0.9%  | \$ 4.68   |
| • IV/IO flushes  | \$ 7.68   |
| • Fluid Pressure Infusion Bag  | \$ 18.28  |
| • Multi-Function Defibrillator Pads                                  | \$ 42.99  |
| • King Airway Tube   | \$ 55.99  |
| ◦ If an ET tube is only used cost drop by \$30.23                    |           |
| • EtCO2 line   | \$ 12.29  |
| • ET/King Holder   | \$ 5.79   |
| • Lucas Suction Cup  | \$ 65.99  |
| • Video Laryngoscope Blade   | \$ 48.99  |
| • Oral and Nasal Airway  | \$ 3.99   |
| • Suction Canister   | \$ 4.89   |
| • Suction Tubing   | \$ 3.99   |
| Sub Total  | \$ 669.65 |

### Call Volume

Lisbon Emergency answered 1,409 calls for service the pass fiscal year. This is a record year; our average year is 1,040 calls.

### 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

|        | Bowdoin | Lisbon/Fall | Lewiston | Durham | Topsham | Sabattus | Misc/Can | Total |
|--------|---------|-------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|----------|-------|
| Jul-21 | 24      | 66          | 5        | 1      |         |          |          | 96    |
| Aug-21 | 18      | 80          | 9        | 1      |         | 2        |          | 110   |
| Sep-21 | 16      | 69          | 5        | 5      |         |          | 1        | 96    |
| Oct-21 | 22      | 75          | 13       | 2      |         |          | 2        | 114   |
| Nov-21 | 22      | 93          | 34       | 2      |         | 4        | 1        | 156   |
| Dec-21 | 14      | 80          | 52       | 1      | 1       | 6        | 4        | 158   |
| Jan-22 | 20      | 71          | 22       | 3      |         | 3        | 3        | 122   |
| Feb-22 | 11      | 71          | 19       |        |         |          | 3        | 104   |
| Mar-22 | 16      | 74          | 18       | 1      | 1       | 2        | 3        | 115   |
| Apr-22 | 15      | 60          | 1        |        |         |          | 6        | 82    |
| May-22 | 14      | 109         | 4        |        |         | 1        |          | 128   |
| Jun-22 | 20      | 87          | 5        | 2      |         | 1        | 13       | 128   |

1409

- 79 calls were non-emergent transfer out of the 1,409
- Emergency calls
  - 2021/2022 1,330
  - 2020/2021 1,091
  - 2019/2020 1,047
  - 2018/2019 1,066
- Other ambulance services are seeing major increase in call volume. Sacopee Rescue call volume is up by 50%.

### **Second Calls**

Lisbon Emergency staffs one ambulance, a second call happens when the first is already on a call.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Calls given to mutual aid 78 calls
  - Average 1.7 per week
  - Cost to staff a second ambulance is \$9,408/week
    - Projected income is only \$1,020/per week
    - Would need a third ambulance at \$500,000+ (ambulance plus equipment)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Calls given to mutual aid 6 calls
- 4<sup>th</sup> Calls given to mutual aid 4 calls

### **Response Times**

The response time is the time from Lisbon Emergency receiving the call from Lisbon Comm Center until arriving on scene. The average time for Lisbon/Falls was 7.19 minutes and average time for Bowdoin was 16.49 minutes



## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

### **Runs by Provider Impression (top 5)**

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Sick Person        | 16.75% of the calls |
| Medical-Weakness   | 10.16% of the calls |
| Behavioral         | 4.00% of the calls  |
| Pain-Abdominal     | 3.85% of the calls  |
| Cardiac-Chest Pain | 2.59% of the calls  |

### **Runs by Response Disposition (top 4)**

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Treated – Transported by EMS        | 75.46% of the calls |
| Patient Treated – Refused Transport | 6.23% of the calls  |
| Patient Refuse Care and Transport   | 5.63% of the calls  |
| Canceled                            | 3.85% of the calls  |

### **Runs by Dispatch Reason (top 7)**

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Sick Person                 | 16.38% of the calls |
| Falls                       | 12.45% of the calls |
| Transfer                    | 10.23% of the calls |
| Breathing Problem           | 10.16% of the calls |
| Traffic Incident            | 6.23% of the calls  |
| Chest Pain- (non-Traumatic) | 4.97% of the calls  |
| Behavior                    | 3.85% of the calls  |

### **Procedure Administered by Providers (top 5)**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| IV-Peripheral Vein                  | 17.68% out of 752 calls with procedure |
| 12 Lead Electrocardiogram           | 14.68% out of 752 calls with procedure |
| 4 Lead Electrocardiogram monitoring | 13.57% out of 752 calls with procedure |
| Blood Glucose Analysis              | 9.42% out of 752 calls with procedure  |
| ETCo2 Monitoring                    | 1.89% out of 752 calls with procedure  |

### **Medications Administered by Providers (top 6)**

|                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Oxygen           | 7.95% to all patients transported |
| Ondansetron      | 3.88% to all patients transported |
| Aspirin          | 2.19% to all patients transported |
| Fentanyl         | 2.19% to all patients transported |
| Nitroglycerin    | 2.13% to all patients transported |
| DuoNeb/Combivent | 1.88% to all patients transported |

### **Calls by Patient Age**

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| < 1   | .74%  |
| 1-9   | 2.89% |
| 10-19 | 3.41% |
| 20-29 | 6.00% |
| 30-39 | 8.45% |
| 40-49 | 6.52% |
| 50-59 | 9.86% |

## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| 60-69   | 17.42% |
| 70-79   | 20.46% |
| 80-89   | 12.08% |
| 90 plus | 5.11%  |

### Runs by Destination Name (area EDs)

|                       |     |        |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|
| Central Maine Medical | 432 | 32.02% |
| Mid-Coast             | 256 | 18.98% |
| St. Mary              | 192 | 14.23% |
| Maine Medical Center  | 20  | 1.48%  |

### Cardiac Arrest

|           | Total | Return of Spontaneous Circulation |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 2020-2021 | 8     | 2                                 |
| 2021-2022 | 19    | 1                                 |

### Pediatric Calls (age up to 18 years old)

- Total pediatric calls 42
  - 30 Transported by Lisbon Emergency
  - 2 Transported by Life Flight
  - 10 Parent Refused Transport
- Complaint Reported by Dispatch (Top 3 reasons)
  - Sick Person
  - Psychiatric
  - Traffic Incident

### Activity Tracking Report

- Total Charges \$1,038,004.66
- Total Allowable by Insurance Companies \$ 417,549.66
- Total Collected \$ 393,047.40
- Percent Collected 94.35%

### Payor Mix (% of Revenue)

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Medicare                                | 45.07% |
| Other Insurance                         | 22.08% |
| Medicaid/Maine Care                     | 18.41% |
| Blue Cross                              | 6.93%  |
| Self-Pay – Insured (Co pay)             | 3.49%  |
| Veterans Administration                 | 2.41%  |
| Self-Pay Uninsured                      | 1.47%  |
| Facilities (hospitals and nursing home) | 0.14%  |

### Collections

- Patient's Accounts Sent to Collection 211
  - 18.15% of billable calls
- Dollar Amount Sent to Collection \$137,565.87
- Amount Collected \$ 2,208.00
  - 0.016% Collected

## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

- 4 account close to bankrupt
- 11 accounts closed deceased
- Total amount with collection since 2006 \$1,670,756.33

### Transfers

Lisbon Emergency started doing transfers with the second ambulance. November to April for United Ambulance Service. From May to June for Northeast Mobile Health.

- Project Income (using a BLS rate) \$34,496.00
  - United transfers 87
  - Northeast transfer 11
- Project Mile Income \$14,866.10
  - United 393.3
  - Northeast 239.3
- **Total Projected Income** **\$49,362.10**

### Expenses

- Labor \$10,221.39
- Food Allowance \$ 982.08
- PPE \$ 292.00
- Medical Supplies \$ 300.00
- Fuel unknown
- **Projected Expense** **\$11,795.47**

**Profit and Loss from Transfers** **\$37,566.63**

### **Recruitment and Retention**

There is a major EMT and Paramedic shortage cross the county and in Maine. All 50 states are studying how to solve the problem. In the next ten years, how emergency medical care is performed will look totally different than the current model. Changes we could see:

1. Paramedics would be health care providers with a very limited public safety role. They would have college degrees, have a diverse education and have a better understanding of the basic sciences. They would have an enhanced skill set and would be a part of a health care system more aligned with a hospital or similar facility. They would not be in a primary response role, except for previously defined calls where ALS skills are immediately needed.
2. EMTs would be public safety providers who would handle the majority of EMS care and transport. We would abandon the current concept of basic life support and advanced life support and look specifically at the tasks needed for adequate care and then educate the EMT in those skills that may be beneficial, regardless of whether they were once considered BLS or ALS.
3. Not every patient needs ambulance transport. We need to modify the legal and regulatory systems so that non-emergent patients can be evaluated by EMS providers. Those meeting non-emergent criteria can be given referrals to non-hospital-based care facilities or primary care providers. Alternate transport methods, including ride-sharing and similar modalities, can be used. This would serve to make ambulances more readily available and would decrease ED crowding.
4. EMS would be empowered to take unique patient conditions to more appropriate facilities. Those with alcohol use disorders and other substance abuse issues could be routed to sobering facilities and/or substance abuse treatment centers instead of emergency departments. Homeless individuals can be an enormous burden on the EMS system as they tend to be a higher user of resources. They can be routed to facilities that aid the homeless. Psychiatric patients would be directed to predesignated psychiatric assessment and treatment facilities.

## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

5. Specialized treatment and transport systems (e.g., medical helicopters, critical transport vehicles, bariatric transport vehicles) would be an integrated part of the EMS system and strategically placed based upon demand and geography
6. Technologies without demonstrated benefit (e.g., stroke ambulances, paramedics on motorcycles, horses and bicycles) would only be utilized when there has been bona fide scientific evidence of benefit.<sup>1</sup>

### **Goals for 2022/2023**

Data Collecting Report for the Center for Medicare Service

Up-date the "Continuous Quality Improvement" Plan

Develop a service "Safety Plan"

Up-Date 2018 By-Laws

Audit

### **Balance Sheet**

|                                 | <u>Jun 30, 22</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                   |                   |
| Current Assets                  |                   |
| Checking/Savings                |                   |
| 1050 · TD Bank                  | 18,797.33         |
| 1100 · LCCU Checking            | 51,586.33         |
| 1110 · LCCU Savings             | 132,729.79        |
| 1115 · LCCU Capital Savings     | 70,871.53         |
| 1120 · LCCU Money Market        | 58,748.51         |
| 1135 · LCCU Donations           | 2,137.34          |
| 1150 · Androscoggin Bank        | 10,993.72         |
| 1170 · Petty Cash               | <u>228.35</u>     |
| Total Checking/Savings          | 346,092.90        |
| Other Current Assets            |                   |
| 12100 · Inventory Asset         | <u>416.24</u>     |
| Total Other Current Assets      | <u>416.24</u>     |
| Total Current Assets            | 346,509.14        |
| Fixed Assets                    |                   |
| Accumulated                     |                   |
| Accum Depr Building             | -80,034.00        |
| Accum Depr Leasehold Improvemen | -48,127.00        |
| Accum Depr Machinery & Equipmen | -301,344.60       |
| Accum Depr Motor Vehicles       | <u>-86,460.00</u> |
| Total Accumulated               | -515,965.60       |
| Fixed Assets                    |                   |
| Building                        | 223,121.00        |
| Leasehold Improvements          | 63,440.00         |
| Machinery and Equipment         | 353,954.50        |

<sup>1</sup> [The Paramedic Shortage – Opportunity or Crisis? - JEMS: EMS, Emergency Medical Services - Training, Paramedic, EMT News](#)

## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

|                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Motor Vehicles                        | 218,880.73                      |
| 12500 · Medical Equipment             | 18,071.94                       |
| Fixed Assets - Other                  | <u>418.65</u>                   |
| Total Fixed Assets                    | <u>877,886.82</u>               |
| Total Fixed Assets                    | <u>361,921.22</u>               |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                   | <b><u><u>708,430.36</u></u></b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>       |                                 |
| Liabilities                           |                                 |
| Current Liabilities                   |                                 |
| Accounts Payable                      |                                 |
| 1300 · Accounts Payable               | <u>-2,690.48</u>                |
| Total Accounts Payable                | -2,690.48                       |
| Credit Cards                          |                                 |
| 1401 · WEX                            | <u>1,858.44</u>                 |
| Total Credit Cards                    | 1,858.44                        |
| Other Current Liabilities             |                                 |
| 1201 · Village Street Loan            | 41,698.71                       |
| 1206 · 44 Loan                        | <u>168.71</u>                   |
| Total Other Current Liabilities       | <u>41,867.42</u>                |
| Total Current Liabilities             | <u>41,035.38</u>                |
| Total Liabilities                     | 41,035.38                       |
| Equity                                |                                 |
| 32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets       | 533,533.28                      |
| Net Income                            | <u>133,861.70</u>               |
| Total Equity                          | <u>667,394.98</u>               |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> | <b><u><u>708,430.36</u></u></b> |

### **Profit & Loss**

|                                       | <u>Jul '21 - Jun 22</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense               |                         |
| Income                                |                         |
| 1001 · Ambulance Income               |                         |
| 1001B · Income from Collection Agency | 4,856.49                |
| 1001 · Ambulance Income - Other       | <u>522,158.64</u>       |
| Total 1001 · Ambulance Income         | 527,015.13              |
| 1002 · Charitable Donations           | 2,137.30                |
| 1003 · Interest Income                | 325.98                  |
| 1004 · Event Coverage & CPR Classes   | 6,038.50                |
| 1007 · Long Term Capital Gain         | -1,449.99               |
| 1011 · Town of Bowdoin Income         | 52,851.32               |
| 1012 · Town of Lisbon Income          | <u>199,841.24</u>       |
| Total Income                          | <u>786,759.48</u>       |
| Gross Profit                          | 786,759.48              |

## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

### Expense

#### 2100 · 42 Village Expenses

##### Repairs & Maintenance

##### 2110 · Building Supplies

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| 2110a · Bottle Water | 46.66 |
|----------------------|-------|

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 2110 · Building Supplies - Other | 606.39 |
|----------------------------------|--------|

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Total 2110 · Building Supplies | 653.05 |
|--------------------------------|--------|

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 2121 · Building Service Contracts | 279.00 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 2122 · Landscaping and Plowing | 2,943.49 |
|--------------------------------|----------|

|                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 2123 · Building Repairs & Maintenance | 744.93 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 2124 · Trash Removal | 719.55 |
|----------------------|--------|

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Repairs & Maintenance - Other | 125.00 |
|-------------------------------|--------|

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Total Repairs & Maintenance | 5,465.02 |
|-----------------------------|----------|

##### Utilities

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 2131 · Cable TV, Internet, Telephone | 3,613.92 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| 2132 · Electricity | 1,952.55 |
|--------------------|----------|

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| 2133 · Heating Oil | 1,807.07 |
|--------------------|----------|

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| 2134 · Propane | 406.80 |
|----------------|--------|

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 2135 · Water & Sewer | 780.16 |
|----------------------|--------|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Total Utilities | 8,560.50 |
|-----------------|----------|

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 2100 · 42 Village Expenses - Other | 58.03 |
|------------------------------------|-------|

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Total 2100 · 42 Village Expenses | 14,083.55 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 2150 · P.R. & Community Outreach | 445.14 |
|----------------------------------|--------|

#### 2200 · Bank Fees

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 2210 · Interest Expense | 2,320.54 |
|-------------------------|----------|

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 2200 · Bank Fees - Other | 85.00 |
|--------------------------|-------|

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Total 2200 · Bank Fees | 2,405.54 |
|------------------------|----------|

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 2250 · Credit Card Fees | 247.92 |
|-------------------------|--------|

#### 2300 · Employee

##### 2310 · Education & Training

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 2311 · In House Training Fee Expense | 342.00 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 2312 · Specialty ABC Classes | 294.21 |
|------------------------------|--------|

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 2310 · Education & Training - Other | 650.00 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Total 2310 · Education & Training | 1,286.21 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|

##### 2320 · Employee Benefits & Gifts

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 2322 · Food Allowance | 591.90 |
|-----------------------|--------|

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 2320 · Employee Benefits & Gifts - Other | 292.20 |
|--|--------|

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Total 2320 · Employee Benefits & Gifts | 884.10 |
|--|--------|

##### 2330 · Payroll

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| 2331 · Agency Payments | 999.73 |
|------------------------|--------|

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 2335 · Payroll Processing Fees | 1,762.80 |
|--------------------------------|----------|

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| 2336 · Payroll Taxes | 123,028.90 |
|----------------------|------------|

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 2337 · Wages & Salaries | 330,960.35 |
|-------------------------|------------|

## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 2338 · Payroll Expenses                     | 140.70           |
| 2330 · Payroll - Other                      | <u>13,284.08</u> |
| Total 2330 · Payroll                        | 470,176.56       |
| 2340 · Stipends                             | 0.00             |
| 2350 · Uniforms                             | 688.88           |
| 2360 · Infection Control/Employee Heal      | <u>348.58</u>    |
| Total 2300 · Employee                       | 473,384.33       |
| 2400 · EMS Operations                       |                  |
| 2410 · ALS Intercept Fees                   | 7,300.00         |
| 2420 · Dispatching                          | 6,500.00         |
| 2430 · Medical Equipment                    |                  |
| 2431 · Medical Equip PM & Service Con       | 3,633.00         |
| 2432 · EMS Equipment                        | 2,139.97         |
| 2433 · Ambulance Medication Cost            | 465.70           |
| 2430 · Medical Equipment - Other            | <u>-110.20</u>   |
| Total 2430 · Medical Equipment              | 6,128.47         |
| 2440 · Medical Supplies                     |                  |
| 2441 · Medical Oxygen                       |                  |
| 2441b · Oxygen Rental                       | 1,602.04         |
| 2441 · Medical Oxygen - Other               | <u>1,243.48</u>  |
| Total 2441 · Medical Oxygen                 | 2,845.52         |
| 2442 · Medical Supplies                     |                  |
| 2443 · Member PPE                           | 1,360.90         |
| 2442 · Medical Supplies - Other             | <u>17,929.50</u> |
| Total 2442 · Medical Supplies               | 19,290.40        |
| 2440 · Medical Supplies - Other             | <u>2,085.68</u>  |
| Total 2440 · Medical Supplies               | 24,221.60        |
| 2445 · Medical Director                     | 1,250.00         |
| 2450 · Monthly Billing Fees                 | 17,067.26        |
| 2460 · Radio's, Pager, & Equipment          | 1,073.23         |
| 2470 · Vehicle expenses                     |                  |
| 2471 · Registration & Inspection            | 40.00            |
| 2472 · Vehicle Repair & Maintenance         |                  |
| 401 · 401 Repairs                           | 8,938.26         |
| 44 · 44 Repairs                             | 6,532.91         |
| 2472 · Vehicle Repair & Maintenance - Other | <u>25.96</u>     |
| Total 2472 · Vehicle Repair & Maintenance   | 15,497.13        |
| 2473 · Vehicle Fuel                         |                  |
| F401 · 401 Fuel                             | 6,117.34         |
| F403 · F44 - New Ambulance Fuel             | <u>11,777.63</u> |
| Total 2473 · Vehicle Fuel                   | 17,894.97        |
| 2470 · Vehicle expenses - Other             | <u>646.15</u>    |
| Total 2470 · Vehicle expenses               | <u>34,078.25</u> |

## 2021-2022 YEAR END REPORT

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Total 2400 · EMS Operations           | 97,618.81  |
| 2474 · Reimbursement for Mileage      | 135.65     |
| 2500 · Office                         |            |
| 2510 · Computer & Software            | 2,923.37   |
| 2520 · Office Supplies                | 1,180.64   |
| 2530 · Postage                        | 192.85     |
| Total 2500 · Office                   | 4,296.86   |
| 2600 · Professional Fees              |            |
| 2610 · Accountant Fees                | 600.00     |
| 2620 · Insurance Expense              |            |
| 2622 · Liability Insurance            | 6,835.50   |
| 2623 · Workman's Comp. Insurance      | 28,472.28  |
| 2624 · Health Insurance               | 13,579.18  |
| 2620 · Insurance Expense - Other      | 8,141.00   |
| Total 2620 · Insurance Expense        | 57,027.96  |
| 2630 · Legal Fee                      | 1,707.50   |
| 2640 · Licenses & Permits             | 873.32     |
| 2650 · Service Licenses               | 25.00      |
| 2600 · Professional Fees - Other      | 35.00      |
| Total 2600 · Professional Fees        | 60,268.78  |
| 2810 · Misc. Expense                  | 11.20      |
| 66900 · *Reconciliation Discrepancies | 0.00       |
| Total Expense                         | 652,897.78 |
| Net Ordinary Income                   | 133,861.70 |
| Net Income                            | 133,861.70 |

### **Closing**

Lisbon Emergency would like to thank the Towns of Lisbon and Bowdoin for their support. We look forward to providing emergency medical care and training to the resident and visitors of Lisbon and Bowdoin. Any comments or concerns, please call the station at 207-353-4079

James MacDonnell, Chief

Chief MacDonnell presented the report to Council and fielded questions. Councilor Moore asked for a copy of the audit. Chief MacDonnell said they hope to have it by January. Councilor Moore suggested the Town Manager assist with getting an auditor for that.



**UPDATE FROM CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS**

Simon Thorne from Consolidated Communications/Fidium updated the Council on their progress installing fiber optics in Lisbon. Mr. Thorne stated they are nearly done, but there is one area that will not receive service due to a lack of conduits underground. He said they include all the private roads that comprise Town & Country Trailer Park. Councilor Moore suggested it might be revisited in the future, and Mr. Thorne encouraged the residents in that area to contact Fidium to request service. He suggested any interested in the new service could go to [fidiumfiber.com](http://fidiumfiber.com).

**APPOINTMENTS—NONE****COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS—NONE****AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION & RESPONSE FOR NEW ITEMS**

Mr. Richard Nadeau of Summer Street said that there is a safety issue at the MTM Recreation Center. He said there are a lot of children and it is great to see, but there should be more sidewalks along the side streets that surround the park to keep the children safer.

Mr. Nadeau also informed the Council that he would like to try to get a Garden Club started in town.

Bill Kuhl, President of Positive Change Lisbon, said PCL will offer an RFQ for running the Worumbo event venue. He said he would like to have a designated member of the Council on board, and suggested a naming competition for the space since it will be a “venue” and not a “park.”

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**VOTE (2022-195)** Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Larochelle, moved to go into Executive Session Per 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters at 8:39 PM.

**Order passed – Vote 6-0.**

The Council came out of executive session at 9:15 PM.

**VOTE (2022-196)** Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Lunt, moved to adjourn at 9:15 PM.

**Order passed – Vote 6-0.**

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Lisa M. Ward, Council Secretary

Town Clerk

Date Approved: September 20, 2022



# Town of Lisbon

Ryan McGee  
Interim Town Manager

## Town Council

Fern Larochelle, Chair  
Harry Moore Jr., Vice Chair  
Don Fellows  
Mark Lunt  
Christine Cain  
Raymond Robishaw  
Jason Smith  
Mark Lunt

---

To: Lisbon Town Council

From: Diane Nadeau, Library Director

Date: 09/20/2022

Reference: Amendment to Fee Schedule

- 1) Town Council review and approval to increase the current \$50 yearly non-resident patron membership fee to \$60 per year. The Library Governing Board and I recommend the increase upon review of increase in hours of operation, more “in-house” and on-line services available and provided to all Lisbon Library resident and non-resident patrons post pandemic.
- 2) Town Council review and approval to eliminate the overdue fine collection fees schedule. We currently have a .10 per day max \$5.00 per item fee policy. Overdue fines had been suspended during & post pandemic months to ensure patrons continued to receive services. Fines were reinstated last fiscal year but have proven to be an ineffective way to encourage the few who reach the billing stage of the overdue process to return their library materials. Our timely and consistent overdue notices and “Bill for Lost Town of Lisbon Property” and library card suspension policy, however, keeps our rate of loss very low.

Respectfully,

Diane Nadeau  
*Library Director*



# Town of Lisbon

Ryan McGee  
Interim Town Manager

## Town Council

Fern Larochelle, Chair  
Harry Moore Jr., Vice Chair  
Don Fellows  
Mark Lunt  
Raymond Robishaw  
Jason Smith  
Christine Cain

---

Date: 9/20/2022

Reference: Noise issue (air/noise cannon)

To: Lisbon Town Council

From: Ryan McGee Interim Town Manager

In reviewing ordinances the proposal is to update the attached Fireworks Ordinance to add "Noise Cannon" to the ordinance.

Attached please find the proposed amendment to our Fireworks ordinance to add "Noise Cannon" to the ordinance.

It would now read ***Sec. 24-31. Sale and use of consumer fireworks and noise cannons.***

*Noise cannon means a device commonly referred to as a noise cannon or air cannon, designed and intended to create a loud noise through the sudden discharge of compressed air.*

Respectfully,

*Ryan McGee  
Interim Town Manager*

---

## Sec. 24-31. Sale and use of consumer fireworks and noise cannons.

The purpose of this ordinance is to clearly define the sale and use of fireworks within the Town of Lisbon.

(a) *Definitions.* The following definitions shall apply in this section:

- (1) *Consumer fireworks* shall have the same meaning as in 27 Code of Federal Regulations, section 555.11 or subsequent provision, but includes only products that are tested and certified by a 3rd-party testing laboratory as conforming with United States Consumer Product Safety Commission standards in accordance with 15 United States Code, Chapter 47. "Consumer fireworks" does not include the following products:
  - a. Missile-type rockets, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule;
  - b. Helicopters and aerial spinners, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule;
- c. Sky rockets and bottle rockets. For purposes of this paragraph, "sky rockets and bottle rockets" means cylindrical tubes containing not more than 20 grams of chemical composition, as defined by the state fire marshal by rule, with a wooden stick attached for guidance and stability, that rise into the air upon ignition that may produce a burst of color or sound at or near the height and gives off light. (2) *Display* means entertainment feature where the public or a private group is admitted or permitted to view the display or discharge of fireworks or special effects.
- (3) *Noise cannon* means a device commonly referred to as a noise cannon or air cannon, designed and intended to create a loud noise through the sudden discharge of compressed air. Noise cannons used for public safety purposes are exempt from this Ordinance.

(b) *Permit required.*

- (1) No person shall use, display, fire, or cause to be exploded, consumer fireworks within the Town of Lisbon without a permit. Permits must be obtained from the office designated by the town manager on the day of use and shall not be issued in advance. This section shall not apply to a person in possession of a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine pursuant to Title 8, MRSA Section 227-A.
- (2) No permit shall be issued on any day with a fire danger class of 3, 4, or 5.
- (3) A person may use consumer fireworks only on that person's property or on the property of a person who has consented, in writing, to the use of consumer fireworks on that property.
- (4) The use, discharge, or ignition of fireworks shall not be permitted in close proximity to any building by maintaining a distance of no less than 100' from said building.

(c) *Fireworks restricted use.* A person shall not use, display, fire, or cause to be exploded consumer fireworks or a noise cannon within the Town of Lisbon except on the following days and during the following times:

- (1) July 4th, beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m.
- (2) Saturday of Moxie Weekend as set by council beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m.
- (3) December 31st, beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 12:30 a.m. the following day.

(d) *Exception.* This section does not apply to a person issued a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine; pursuant to 8 M.R.S.A. § 227-A.

(e) *Violations.*

- (1) Any person who uses or possesses consumer fireworks or a noise cannon with the intent to use in the Town of Lisbon in violation of this ordinance shall receive a citation.

- 
- (2) The following civil penalties shall be imposed for violations of this ordinance (plus legal fees and court costs for an offense for the following):

First Citation: \$110

Second Citation: \$215

Third Citation: \$425

Fourth Citation and Subsequent Citations: \$500

- (f) Sale of fireworks in the Town of Lisbon shall be permitted providing all State of Maine statutes regarding such sale are satisfied and a valid permit to conduct sales is issued by the state fire marshal's office and the Town of Lisbon.
- (g) *Seizure and disposal.* The town may seize consumer fireworks that the town has probable cause to believe are used, possessed, or sold in violation of this section. Seized consumer fireworks shall be forwarded to the state for disposal.

(C.M. of 10-16-2012, V. 2012-165; C.M. of 8-6-2013, V. 2013-119; C.M. of 10-16-2012, V. 2012-165; C.M. of 8-6-2013, V. 2013-119; C.M. of 8-18-2015, V. 2015-236 ; C.M. of 8-18-2015, V. 2015-237 ; C.M. of 9-15-2015, V. 2015-277 )

## Proposed Solar Ordinance Revision

Since the State of Maine has adopted decommissioning standards for Ground Mounted Solar Energy Systems, the following change to Sec 70-877 of our Town Solar Ordinance might make sense.

### Sec 70-877 – Performance Guarantee

After the plan is approved but before a permit is issued, the applicant for a Ground Mounted Solar Energy System shall submit to the Town of Lisbon **a copy of the decommissioning plan for the system submitted and approved in accordance with MRS Title 35-A SubSection 3495. Requirements of the subsection shall be met in all respects and copies of the required updates shall be submitted to the Town of Lisbon Codes Enforcement Officer in the same manner and timeframes as required by that Maine State statute. Having met the state requirements shall be sufficient to meet the Town of Lisbon requirements for this matter.** ~~a performance guarantee in the amount of 150% of the applicant's estimated decommissioning cost of the system subject to a review of such cost by the Codes Enforcement Officer for release of the guarantee at such time that it or its assignees remove the system and associated abandoned structures, and such completed removal is found to be satisfactory by the Codes Enforcement Officer.~~

# GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE



Prepared by Maine Municipal Association  
September 202~~2~~<sup>1</sup>





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## ARTICLE I – Statement of Policy

The Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_ administers a general assistance (“GA”) program available to all persons who are eligible pursuant to the standards provided in this ordinance, state law (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301-4326), and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations.

The program will make every effort to recognize the dignity of applicants while helping eligible persons achieve self-maintenance by promoting the work incentive. When possible, the program will connect recipients with rehabilitative, preventive, and protective services to alleviate non-financial needs. The GA program will not place unreasonable restrictions on the personal rights of applicants or recipients, nor will it discriminate based on sex, age, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. The municipality is committed to including qualified individuals with disabilities in municipal services, programs, and activities. As a result, the municipality will promote a GA program that when viewed in its entirety is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. GA applicants with physical or mental disabilities that require a reasonable accommodation in order to access and/or utilize the GA program are encouraged to contact the municipality to make an accommodation request.

The Administrator will act promptly on all applications for assistance and requests for fair hearings and will provide GA applicants with information regarding their rights and responsibilities under the program. Within 24 hours after receipt of an application, the Administrator will provide the applicant a written decision, whether or not assistance is granted, that will state the specific reasons for the decision. The Administrator will also provide the applicant written notice that the applicant may appeal to the municipal fair hearing authority if dissatisfied with the decision. When an applicant is determined to be eligible, assistance appropriate to the need will be furnished within 24 hours after the completed application is submitted except when the Administrator issues non-emergency assistance conditionally on the successful completion of a workfare assignment (*see Ordinance § 5.6*).

The Administrator will maintain complete and accurate records pertaining to each applicant and recipient. These records are confidential as a matter of law. 22 M.R.S. § 4306.

The Administrator will post notice stating the day(s) and hours the Administrator will be available. The Administrator, or other designated person/entity, will be available to take applications in the event of an emergency at all other times. A copy of this ordinance and Maine General Assistance law will be available to any member of the public upon request. Notice to this effect will be posted.

## ARTICLE II – Definitions

### Section 2.1—Common Meaning of Words

Unless otherwise apparent or defined, all words in this ordinance will have their common meaning.

### Section 2.2—Special Definitions

**Administrator.** See “General Assistance Administrator,” below.

**Applicant.** A person who has submitted an application for GA directly or through an authorized representative, or who has, in an emergency, requested assistance without first completing an application. All persons on whose behalf an authorized application has been submitted or on whose behalf benefits have been granted shall be considered applicants.

**Application Form.** A standardized form used by the Administrator to allow a person to apply for GA benefits. The application form also confirms that a person has made an application. The application form is not complete unless signed by the applicant.

**Basic Necessities.** Food, clothing, shelter, fuel, electricity, potable water, non-elective essential medical services as prescribed by a physician, nonprescription drugs, basic telephone service where it is necessary for medical or work-related reasons, property taxes when a tax lien placed on the property threatens the loss of the applicant’s place of residence, and any other commodity or service determined essential by the municipality.

“Basic necessities” do not include:

- Phone bills
- Cable or satellite dish television
- Mail orders
- Vehicle payments
- Credit card debt\*\*
- Furniture
- Loan re-payments\*\*
- Cigarettes
- Alcohol
- Pet care costs

- Vacation costs
- Legal fees
- Late fees
- Key deposits
- Security deposits for rental property (except when no other permanent lodging is available unless a security deposit is paid, and a waiver, deferral or installment arrangement cannot be made between landlord and tenant to avoid need for immediate payment of the security deposit in full). (22 M.R.S. § 4301(1)).

**\*\*** Repayments of loans or credit will be treated as having been spent on basic necessities when the applicant can provide verification of this fact.

**Case Record.** An official file containing application forms; correspondence; narrative records and all other communications pertaining to an applicant or recipient; written decisions regarding eligibility including reasons for those decisions and types and amounts of assistance provided; records concerning an applicant's request for fair hearing; and fair hearing decisions.

**Categorical Assistance.** All state and federal income maintenance programs.

**Claimant.** A person who has requested a fair hearing.

**Deficit.** An applicant's deficit is the appropriate overall maximum level of assistance for the household (see Ordinance § 6.8) less the household income (calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7), provided that this calculation yields a positive number. If the household income is greater than the appropriate overall maximum level of assistance, the household has no deficit.

**Disabled Person.** A person who is presently unable to work or maintain a home due to a physical or mental disability that is verified by a physician or qualified mental health provider.

**Dwelling Unit.** A building or part thereof used for separate living quarters for one or more persons living as a single housekeeping unit. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(2)).

**Earned Income.** Wages or Income-in-kind derived by providing goods or services to an individual, company, organization, or other entity.

**Eligible Person.** A person who is qualified to receive GA benefits from the municipality according to the eligibility standards in this Ordinance, Maine law (22 M.R.S. ch. 1161), and DHHS regulations (10-144 C.M.R. ch. 323). If otherwise qualified, “Eligible Person” includes U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens who are lawfully present in the United States as described in 8 U.S.C. § 1621(a)(1)-(3); and non-U.S. citizens who are pursuing a lawful process to apply for immigration relief. Assistance for non-citizens pursuing a lawful process for immigration relief shall not exceed 24 months beginning with assistance provided after July 1, 2015. “Eligible Person” does not include a fugitive from justice as defined in 15 M.R.S. § 201(4). (See “Pursuing a Lawful Process,” below)

**Emergency.** Any life-threatening situation, or a situation beyond the control of the individual which, if not alleviated immediately, could reasonably be expected to pose a threat to the health or safety of a person. At the municipality’s option, it includes a situation which is imminent and which may result in undue hardship or unnecessary cost to the individual or municipality if not resolved immediately. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(4), 4308(2), 4310).

**General Assistance (“GA”) Program.** A service administered by a municipality for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves or their families. A GA program provides a specific amount and type of aid for defined needs during a limited period of time and is not intended to be a continuing “grant-in-aid” or “categorical” welfare program. This definition shall not lessen the municipality’s responsibility to provide GA benefits to a person each time that the person is in need and is found to be eligible to receive GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(5)).

**General Assistance (“GA”) Benefits.** Benefits provided to a person through the GA program.

**General Assistance (“GA”) Administrator.** A municipal official designated to receive applications, make decisions concerning an applicant’s right to receive assistance, and

prepare records and communications concerning assistance. He or she may be an elected overseer or an authorized agent such as a town manager, welfare director, or caseworker. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(12)).

**Homelessness.** “Homelessness” means a situation in which a person or household is: (a) living in a place that is not fit for human habitation; (b) living in an emergency shelter; (c) living in temporary housing, including but not limited to a hotel, motel, campground, unlicensed campsite or rehabilitation facility; (d) exiting a hospital or institution licensed under 22 M.R.S. ch. 405 or a correctional facility where the person or household resided for up to 90 days if the person or household was in an emergency shelter or a place not fit for human habitation before entering the hospital, institution or correctional facility; (e) losing the person’s or household’s primary nighttime residence and lacking the resources or support networks to remain in that residence; or (f) fleeing or attempting to flee violence and has no other residence.

**Household.** “Household” means an individual or a group of individuals who share a dwelling unit. When an applicant shares a dwelling unit with one or more individuals, even when a landlord-tenant relationship may exist between individuals residing in the dwelling unit, eligible applicants may receive assistance for no more than their pro rata share of the actual costs of the shared basic needs of that household according to the maximum levels of assistance established in the municipal ordinance. The pro rata share is calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members. The income of household members not legally liable shall be considered as available to the applicant only when there is a pooling of income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(6)). Residents of a Recovery Residence are not considered a shared household.

**Income.** “Income” means any form of earned or unearned income in cash or in kind received by the household including:

- Net remuneration for services performed;
- Cash received on either secured or unsecured credit;

- Payments received as an annuity, retirement or disability benefits;
  - Veterans' pensions and/or benefits;
  - Retirement accounts or benefits;
  - Workers' compensation payments;
  - Unemployment benefits;
  - Federal and/or state tax returns;
  - Income from pension or trust funds;
  - Student loans;
  - Benefits under any state or federal categorical assistance program such
- as TANF, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security and any other payments from governmental sources (unless specifically prohibited by any law or regulation);
- Court ordered support payments (e.g., child support);
  - Household income from any other source, including relatives or unrelated household members; and
  - Rental income.

The following items will not be considered as income or assets that must be liquidated for the purposes of deriving income:

- Real or personal income-producing property, tools of trade, governmental entitlement specifically treated as exempt assets by state or federal law;
- Actual work-related expenses, whether itemized or by standard deduction, such as taxes, retirement fund contributions, union dues, transportation costs to and from work, special equipment costs and childcare expenses; or
- Earned income of children below the age of 18 years who are full-time students and who are not working full-time.

In determining need, the period of time used as a basis for the calculation shall be a 30-day period commencing on the date of the application. This prospective calculation shall not disqualify an applicant who has exhausted income to purchase basic necessities, provided that the income does not exceed the income standards established by the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).

- Benefits received pursuant to public benefit programs that are specifically exempt from being counted as income for purposes of GA. These programs include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)~~Food Stamps~~ (7 U.S.C. § 2017(b))
- Li-Heap (42 U.S.C. § 8624)
- Family Development Accounts (22 M.R.S. § 3762)
- AmeriCorp VISTA program benefits (42 U.S.C. § 5044 (f))
- Property tax rebates issued under the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, but only if the money is spent on basic necessities (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7))
- Aspire Support Service Payments (10-144 CMR Chapter 323)

**Initial Applicant.** A person who has not previously applied for GA assistance in this or any other municipality.

**Just Cause.** A valid, verifiable reason that hinders an individual from complying with one or more conditions of eligibility or from attending a scheduled fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(8), 4316-A(5)).

**Lump Sum Payment.** A one-time or typically nonrecurring sum of money issued to an applicant or recipient. Lump sum payment includes, but is not limited to, retroactive or settlement portions of social security benefits, workers' compensation payments, unemployment benefits, disability income, veterans' benefits, severance pay benefits, or money received from inheritances, lottery winnings, personal injury awards, property damage claims or divorce settlements. A lump sum payment includes only the amount of money available to the applicant after required deductions have been taken from the gross lump sum payment. A lump sum payment does not include conversion of a non-liquid resource to a liquid resource if the liquid resource has been used or is intended to be used to replace the converted resource or for other necessary expenses. (22 M.R.S. § 4301 (8-A)).

**Material Fact.** A material fact is a fact that necessarily has some bearing on the determination of an applicant's GA eligibility, and which would, if disclosed to the Administrator, have some determinable effect on the calculation of eligibility or the issuance of a grant of assistance.



**Maximum Levels of Assistance.** The amount of financial assistance for a commodity or service as established in Ordinance § 6.8 or the actual cost of any such basic necessity, whichever is less.

**Misconduct.** For purposes of the GA work requirement (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A), misconduct shall have the same meaning as “misconduct” in 26 M.R.S. § 1043(23). (*See Ordinance Appendix I*). Generally, misconduct occurs when an employee violates his or her obligations to the employer. Employees who engage in a pattern of irresponsible behavior to the detriment of the employer’s interest may also be found guilty of misconduct.

**Misspent Income.** Misspent income includes income-in-kind received, or paid for, by a GA repeat applicant from sources, including friends or relatives, for the payment of bills that are considered unnecessary costs, such as cable bills, credit card debt, court fines and related court costs, payments to reimburse a municipality for false representation, tobacco and alcohol products, and similar items. Misspent income will be considered as available to the applicant when determining use of income for the previous 30-day period.

**Municipality.** Any city, town or plantation administering a GA program.

**Municipality of Responsibility.** The municipality which is financially liable for the support of an eligible person at the time of application. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(9), 4307).

**Need.** The condition whereby a person’s income, money, property, credit, assets, or other resources available to provide basic necessities for the individual and the individual’s family are less than the maximum levels of assistance. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(10), 4308).

**Net General Assistance Costs.** Those direct costs incurred by a municipality in providing assistance to eligible persons according to standards established by the municipal officers. These do not include the administrative expenses of the GA program. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(11), 4311).

**Period of Eligibility.** The time for which a person has been granted assistance. The period of eligibility may vary depending on the type of assistance provided; however, in no event shall this period extend beyond one month. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(1)).

**Pooling of Income.** “Pooling of income” means the financial relationship among household members who are not legally liable for mutual support in which there occurs any commingling of funds or sharing of income or expenses. This ordinance establishes a rebuttable presumption that persons sharing the same dwelling unit are pooling their income, except that applicants that who request assistance while residing in a Recovery Residence are not considered to be commingling funds. Applicants who request that the determination of eligibility be calculated as though one or more household members are not pooling their income have the burden of rebutting the presumed pooling of income.

**Potential Resources.** Sources of financial assistance, including programs, services, non-liquid assets or trusts which typically require people to apply in writing and/or wait a period of time before eligibility is determined or the potential income is released.

**Pursuing a Lawful Process to Apply for Immigration Relief.** Taking reasonable, good faith steps to apply for immigration relief within twelve months of arrival to the United States, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or before an immigration judge or federal court. (See DHHS regulation, 10-144 C.M.R. ch. 323, for additional guidance).

**Real Estate.** Any land, buildings, homes, mobile homes, and any other things affixed to the land. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(13)).

**Recipient.** A person who has applied for and is currently receiving GA.

**Recovery Residence.** “Recovery residence” means 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. 5 M.R.S. § 20003(19-D).

**Registered Domestic Partner.** An individual registered as the domestic partner of the applicant pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 2710.

**Rehabilitation Facility.** An inpatient facility that is operated for the primary purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of disabled persons through an integrated program of medical services and other services that are provided under competent professional supervision.

**Repeat Applicants.** All applicants for GA benefits that are not initial applicants are repeat applicants. For purposes of this ordinance “repeat” and “subsequent” shall have the same meaning.

**Resident.** A person who is physically present in a municipality with the intention of remaining in that municipality in order to maintain or establish a home, and who has no other residence. A person who applies for assistance in a municipality who is not a resident of that municipality, or any other municipality is the responsibility of the municipality where the person first applies. That municipality must take an application and grant assistance to the applicant if he/she is eligible, until he/she establishes a new residence in another municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4307).

**Resources.** Resources include any program, service, or other sources of support which are an alternative to or supplement for GA. There are two kinds of resources: “available” and “potential”. Potential resources are programs, services, non-liquid assets, or trusts that typically require people to apply in writing and/or wait a period of time before eligibility is determined or the potential income is released.

Potential resources include, but are not limited to, state or federal assistance programs, employment benefits, governmental or private pension programs, available trust funds, support from legally liable relatives, child support payments, and jointly held resources where the applicant or recipient share may be available to the individual. (22 M.R.S. § 4317). Potential resources include the TANF (previously known as AFDC) program, Food Stamps, fuel assistance (HEAP), subsidized housing, and similar programs.

Available resources include resources which are immediately available to the applicant or which can be conveniently secured by the applicant without delay, such as cash on hand or in bank accounts, assets for which there is an immediate and available market,

or support from relatives which is being made available at the time of application and for which the applicant does not have to take any unreasonable steps to secure (e.g., relocation beyond the immediate region). At the discretion of the Administrator, a minimum balance required by a financial institution in order to obtain free checking or in order to maintain the account shall not be considered an available resource.

The Administrator reserves the right to inform GA clients of services, commodities or facilities made available by private organizations or charities; however, eligibility for GA benefits shall not be based or conditioned on the use of a private charitable resource(s).

**30-Day Need.** An applicant's 30-day need is the sum of the household's prospective 30-day costs, from the date of application, for the various basic necessities. For the purpose of this calculation, the 30-day cost for any basic need shall be the household's actual 30-day cost for the basic necessity or the maximum 30-day cost for the basic necessity as established by this ordinance, whichever is less.

**Unearned Income.** Unearned income is income acquired from investments and other sources unrelated to employment. Unearned income also includes unemployment compensation, taxable social security benefits, pensions, annuities, and distributions of unearned income from a trust or any other income not meeting the definition of earned income.

**Unforeseen Repeat Applicants.** A repeat applicant who has not applied for assistance within the last twelve months and who has been regularly employed or receiving support from a public benefit program or private source and who has unexpectedly become unemployed through no fault of their own or whose benefits (e.g., through an available resource) have ceased through no fault of their own.

**Unmet Need.** An applicant's unmet need is the household's 30-day need (established by Ordinance § 6.6) less the household income (calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7), provided such a calculation yields a positive number. If the household income is greater than the household's 30-day need, the household does not have an unmet need.

**Work Requirements.** Work requirements are obligations the Administrator places on applicants as directed and/or authorized by 22 M.R.S. § 4316-A to the extent such obligations (1) ensure a continuing potential eligibility for GA when complied with, (2) result in ineligibility when violated, and (3) are not merely optional, discretionary, or advisory. Work requirements include registering for work, looking for work in good faith, accepting all suitable job offers, maintaining employment, performing workfare, and participating in training, educational, or rehabilitation programs that will assist the participant in securing employment.

## ARTICLE III – Administrative Rules and Regulations

### Section 3.1—Confidentiality of Information

Case records and all other information relating to a GA applicant or recipient are confidential and will not be disclosed to the general public. (22 M.R.S. § 4306).

**Release of Information.** Applicants, recipients, and their legal representatives have the right to review their case records. No record will be released to a third party unless the Administrator receives a signed consent form in which the applicant expressly authorizes the release of his or her records to the specified parties. Whenever the Administrator releases any information, he/she will make a notation in the applicant's file stating to whom the record was released and the date. The Administrator may charge a reasonable fee for reproduction of records.

**Information from Other Sources; Penalty.** Information concerning an applicant or recipient furnished to the municipality by DHHS or any other agency or institution pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4314, is confidential. The Administrator will also comply with laws requiring confidentiality of vital statistic records such as birth, marriage, and death records. (22 M.R.S. § 2706).

Any representative of a financial institution or any employer of a GA applicant who, upon receipt of a written release signed by the depositor/employee and a written request from the Administrator, refuses to provide necessary information to the Administrator in order to verify an applicant's eligibility must state in writing the reason for the refusal. National banks are also obligated to disclose deposit information to the Administrator upon receipt of a written request and release signed by the depositor. Additionally, when a municipality or its agents are acting in accordance with section 4313(2) to verify eligibility for funeral or cremation benefits, an officer of a financial institution must disclose the amount deposited upon receipt of a written request from the municipality or its agents and a notarized affidavit signed by the overseer of the municipality or its agents stating that the named depositor is deceased. Any such person who refuses to provide information, without just cause, may be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100. Any person, including the applicant, who knowingly and willfully makes a false

representation of a material fact to the Administrator commits a Class E crime. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4314, 4315).

**Misuse of Information.** Misuse of any information relating to an applicant or recipient is a punishable offense. (22 M.R.S. § 42(2)).

### Section 3.2—Maintenance of Records

The Administrator will maintain complete and accurate program records. (22 M.R.S. § 4306). These records are necessary to: (a) document and account for municipal program expenditures; (b) document and support decisions concerning applicants and recipients; and (c) ensure relevant information is available for any fair hearing or judicial review of the Administrator's decisions.

**Case Records.** The Administrator will maintain a separate case record, in paper or digital format, for each applicant or recipient. Each case record will include at least:

- household applications;
- household budget sheets;
- the types and amounts of assistance provided;
- narrative statements describing the nature of the emergency situation whenever GA is granted in amounts greater than the applicant's mathematical eligibility (i.e., deficit or unmet need, whichever is less);
- written decisions;
- requests for fair hearings and the fair hearing authority decisions;
- workfare participation records;
- repayments to the municipality;
- narrative writings documenting the need for general assistance, the results of home visits, collateral information, referrals, changes in status;
- client authorization(s) for the release of GA information and/or reason(s) for the release of confidential information;
- adjustments in aid, and suspension or termination of eligibility;
- physician's documentation;

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) interim assistance reimbursement authorization forms; and
- vendor forms

Case records will not include information that is irrelevant to the applicant's or recipient's application or the Administrator's decisions.

**Retention of Records.** GA records shall be retained for at least three full years. The three-year period shall coincide with the state government's fiscal year which begins July 1 and ends on the following June 30. Records may be destroyed after three years by supervised shredding, burning or an appropriate digital deletion/destruction process. If a recipient's records contain SSI reimbursement forms, the recipient's records should be retained so that the municipality may seek reimbursement.





## ARTICLE IV – Application Procedure

### Section 4.1—Right to Apply

**Who May Apply.** Any person may apply for GA. The head of the family, any other responsible household member, or an authorized representative must apply in person, except in special emergency situations (see Ordinance § 4.9) or when the applicant resides at an emergency shelter and the municipality has made an agreement with that emergency shelter to presume shelter residents eligible for GA benefits. (22 M.R.S. § 4304(3)). In such cases, the Administrator may require a representative to present a signed statement documenting that he/she is authorized to apply on behalf of the named applicant. The applicant or representative must complete a written application and any other forms necessary for the Administrator to determine eligibility. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4305, 4308). With notice, all members of the household receiving GA may be required to physically present themselves to the Administrator. Note that fugitives from justice are ineligible for GA benefits.

**Telephone Applications.** When a person has an emergency but is unable to apply in person due to illness, disability, lack of childcare, lack of transportation or other good cause, and he/she cannot send an authorized representative, the Administrator will accept an application by telephone. The telephone application is subject to written verification by mail and a visit to the applicant's home with his or her permission. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

**Written Application Upon Each Request.** Each request for assistance will be administered in accordance with these guidelines, and the Administrator will make an independent determination of eligibility for GA each time a person applies. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4308, 4309).

**Applications Accepted; Posted Notice.** Application forms will be available during regular business hours at the municipal office and when the Administrator is conducting interviews with applicants. Completed applications will be accepted and interviews given only during the regular hours established and posted by the Administrator. In an emergency, however, the Administrator or his or her designee will be available to accept applications for assistance whenever necessary.

The municipality will post notice stating the times and location where people may apply for assistance and contact information for the Administrator available to take emergency applications at all other times. In addition, the posted notice shall state that the municipality must issue a written decision on all applications within 24-hours and will include the DHHS toll-free telephone number for reporting alleged violations or complaints. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

#### Section 4.2—Application Interview

Except when it is impractical, the Administrator will interview each applicant in person before making a decision. Interviews will be conducted in private, although the applicant may be accompanied by a legal representative, friend, or family member.

#### Section 4.3—Contents of the Application

An application must contain the following information:

- a) the applicant's name, address, date of birth, SSN or appropriate United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation, and phone number;
- b) the names, date(s) of birth, and SSN(s) or appropriate USCIS documentation of other household members for whom the applicant seeks assistance;
- c) the total number of individuals living with the applicant;
- d) employment and employability information;
- e) a listing of all household income, resources, assets, and property;
- f) the applicant's household expenses;
- g) the types of assistance requested;
- h) a statement of the penalty for false representation;
- i) the applicant's permission for the Administrator to verify information;
- j) the signature of applicant and date.

If an initial applicant is unable to provide identification records (e.g., SSN card/number) because the record may have been lost, stolen or misplaced, the Administrator may allow the initial applicant a reasonable amount of time (e.g., five working days), to obtain copies of identification records. Provided the initial applicant makes a good faith effort to obtain the item/record sought, GA benefits necessary to cure an immediate and/or emergency

need shall not be withheld. In such cases the Administrator may elect to provide a prorated amount of GA (e.g., five days' worth), while the applicant attempts to obtain the required information.

#### Section 4.4— GA Administrator's Responsibilities at the Time of Application

The Administrator will inform all applicants of: (1) their rights and responsibilities; (2) general program requirements for applying for and receiving GA, and (3) application requirements, eligibility guidelines, applicant rights, and applicant reimbursement obligations.

**Application Requirements.** The Administrator will help applicants complete application forms and inform applicants of any other information or documents necessary to evaluate the applicant's eligibility. The Administrator will fully explain the purpose of any forms consenting to release of the applicant's information and any benefit reimbursement agreements before the Administrator requests the applicant's signature or written authorization.

**Eligibility Requirements.** The Administrator will inform the applicant, either orally or in writing, of the eligibility requirements of the program, including:

- the income standard of need;
- the applicant's ongoing use-of-income, work-related, and resource-related responsibilities, as described in the section immediately below;
- the reduction in assistance that results from spending household income on non-basic necessities;
- immigration status (see definition of "Eligible Person"); and
- the disqualification penalties associated with committing fraud, failing to perform work-related assignments without just cause, or failing to make a good faith effort to secure potential resources when the requirement to attempt to obtain those resources has been explained to the applicant in writing.

**Applicant Rights.** The Administrator will inform all applicants of their right to:

- review the municipal GA ordinance and Maine GA statute and regulations;

- apply for assistance;
- receive a written decision concerning eligibility within 24-hours after application;
- confidentiality of the application and other records;
- contact the DHHS with complaints;
- challenge the Administrator's decision by requesting a fair hearing.

**Reimbursement/Recovery.** The Administrator will inform the applicant/recipient that he/she must reimburse the municipality the amount of GA benefits he/she has been granted if he/she subsequently has the ability to pay. The municipality may also, as appropriate, contact and inform the applicant/recipient's legal representative of the recipient's obligation to repay the municipality.

The municipality may also recover the amount of assistance granted to a recipient during the previous 12 months from any relative legally liable for the applicant's support, such as a spouse, or the parents of persons under the age of 25. (*See Article VIII, "Recovery of Expenses"*). (22 M.R.S. §§ 4318, 4319). Whenever applicable, the Administrator will explain the liens a municipality may place against a recipient's real or personal property, such as the mortgage or capital improvement lien, the Workers' Compensation lump sum payment lien, or the SSI "Interim Assistance Agreement" lien, described in Article VIII, "Recovery of Expenses."

#### Section 4.5—Responsibilities of the Applicant at Time of Application

The applicant is responsible to provide accurate, complete, and current household information and verifiable documentation at the time of each application concerning:

- Income
- Resources
- Assets
- Employment
- Use of income
- Names and addresses of any relatives legally liable for the applicant's support
- Any change in this information from a previous application that would affect household eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

In addition, the applicant must accurately report and provide verifiable documentation that shows the applicant:

- a) has remained employed, if previously employed, and has not quit work without just cause or been discharged from employment for misconduct;
- b) has been seeking employment, if previously unemployed or employed on a part-time basis, has accepted any suitable offer of employment, and has satisfactorily performed all workfare assignments or had just cause not to perform those assignments;
- c) has made use of all available and potential resources when directed in writing to such a program by the Administrator, including, but not limited to, other government benefit programs or the assistance of liable relatives of sufficient means; and
- d) has participated in any training, retraining, educational or rehabilitative program when appropriate and when directed in writing to such a program by the Administrator, in order to diminish the applicant's need for general assistance. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4316-A, 4317).

#### Section 4.6—Action on Applications

**Written Decision.** The Administrator will issue a written decision concerning the applicant's eligibility within 24 hours after the applicant submits a written application. Assistance will be furnished to eligible applicants within that period except when the municipality is permitted by law (and pursuant to Ordinance § 5.6) to issue assistance conditionally on the successful completion of a workfare assignment. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4305, 4316-A, 4321). A written decision will be given each time a person applies, whether assistance is granted, denied, reduced, or terminated.

**Content of Decision.** The Administrator's written decision will contain:

- a) the type and amount of benefits granted, or the applicant's ineligibility for benefits;
- b) the period of eligibility if the applicant is eligible for assistance;
- c) the specific reasons for the Administrator's decision;

- d) the applicant's right to a fair hearing; and
- e) the applicant's right to notify the DHHS if he/she believes the municipality has acted illegally. (22 M.R.S. § 4321).

#### Section 4.7—Withdrawal of an Application

An application will be considered withdrawn if the applicant requests in writing that the application be withdrawn; or if the applicant refuses to complete or sign the application or any other document needed by the Administrator.

#### Section 4.8—Temporary Refusal to Accept Application

Under special circumstances, the Administrator may temporarily refuse to accept applications. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) When the applicant's conduct is abusive, disruptive, or harassing, or when the applicant is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In these situations, the applicant will be asked to leave; if the applicant refuses to leave, the police may be summoned. The applicant will be informed that an application will only be accepted when his or her conduct is under control.
- b) If the Administrator believes that an applicant's behavior presents a threat to the health or safety of the public or to a municipal employee, if the applicant's behavior is violent, or if an applicant has engaged in abusive, disruptive or harassing behavior and has been required to leave on more than one occasion, the applicant may be required to designate a third party to apply for assistance on his or her behalf and the applicant may be prohibited from entering the municipal building;
- c) When a third person applies for assistance on behalf of the applicant that person may be required to provide written verification that he/she has been duly authorized to act as a representative for the applicant. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

#### Section 4.9—Emergencies

An "emergency" means any life-threatening situation, or a situation beyond the control of the applicant which if not alleviated immediately could reasonably be expected to pose a threat to the health or safety of the applicant or a member of the household. (22 M.R.S.

§ 4301(4)). An emergency includes homelessness or imminent homelessness. Even if an applicant is otherwise ineligible to receive GA benefits, unless he/she is disqualified as provided below, emergency assistance may be granted to applicants who lack sufficient income and resources to meet the emergency need and also have not had sufficient income and resources to avert the emergency. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

A municipality may provide emergency assistance when the municipality determines that an emergency is imminent and that failure to provide assistance may result in undue hardship and unnecessary costs to either the applicant or the municipality.

**Disqualification for Emergency Assistance.** A person who is currently disqualified from receiving GA due to a violation of Ordinance §§ 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9 or 6.4 is ineligible to receive emergency assistance. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)(A)). However, dependents of a disqualified person may be eligible for assistance. For the purposes of this section, “dependents” are defined as: (1) a dependent minor child; (2) an elderly, ill or disabled person; or (3) a person whose presence is required to provide care for any child under the age of 6 years or any ill or disabled member of the household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

If one or more members of a household are disqualified and assistance is requested for the remaining dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

**Assistance Prior to Verification.** Whenever an applicant informs the Administrator that he/she needs assistance immediately, the Administrator will grant, pending verification, the assistance within 24 hours, provided that:

- a) after interviewing the applicant the Administrator has determined that the applicant will probably be eligible for assistance after a verification of information is completed; and
- b) the applicant submits documentation when possible, to verify his or her need. The Administrator may contact at least one other person to confirm the applicant’s statements about his/her need for emergency assistance. No further



assistance will be authorized until the applicant's eligibility is confirmed. (22 M.R.S. § 4310).

**Telephone Applications.** If a person has an emergency need and cannot apply in person due to illness, disability, lack of transportation, or other good cause, and if there is no authorized representative who can apply on behalf of the applicant, the Administrator shall accept an application over the telephone. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

Assistance will not be granted after a telephone application if the applicant refuses to allow the Administrator to verify information provided by the applicant either by visiting his or her home or by mail, and the Administrator cannot determine eligibility through any other means.

**Limitation on Emergency Assistance.** Applicants are not automatically eligible for emergency assistance. If an applicant had income which could have been used to prevent all or part of an emergency, but he or she spent that income on items which are not basic necessities, the applicant will not be eligible to receive GA to replace the misspent money. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4308(2) & 4315-A).

All applicants must provide the Administrator with verifiable documentation demonstrating that the applicant lacked sufficient income to avert the emergency situation. According to the following criteria, the Administrator may limit emergency assistance to cover only the difference between the amount of money necessary for the household to avoid the emergency and the amount of income available to the household during the applicable time period.

- a) The applicable time period shall be the 30 days preceding the application for emergency assistance, except in those cases where the emergency was created by a negative account balance for a commodity or service (such as rent, mortgage, or utility payments), and the negative account balance was created over a longer period of time. In such cases, the applicable time period shall be the consecutive length of time the account balance has been in the negative.
- b) The Administrator shall seek from the applicant all information pertinent to the applicant's ability to provide for his or her basic necessities for the applicable

time period, including evidence of all income and resources received over that period of time.

- c) The Administrator shall calculate all costs per month for the household's basic necessities during the applicable time period, consistent with the maximum levels established by this ordinance for the specific basic necessity or the actual monthly cost, whichever is less, including all costs associated with averting the particular emergency situation for which the applicant is seeking assistance.
- d) From the total household costs for basic necessities during the applicable time period, the Administrator shall subtract the total income and lump sum payments available to the household for the applicable time period, as well as the total general assistance actually received during the applicable time period.
- e) The Administrator may restrict the issuance of emergency assistance to the difference yielded by the computation in subsection (d), even when such a grant will not totally alleviate the emergency situation.
- f) The Administrator may waive this limitation on emergency assistance in life threatening situations or for initial applicants; that is, persons who have never before applied for general assistance.
- g) Nothing in these criteria may be construed as prohibiting a municipality from electing to alleviate an emergency situation in the most cost-effective manner available, provided such a determination of eligibility for emergency assistance is in conformance with general assistance law.

#### Section 4.10—Residence

The Administrator shall provide GA to all eligible applicants who are residents of this municipality. A resident is a person who has no other residence, is physically present in this municipality and who intends to remain here and establish a household.

The municipality also recognizes its responsibility to provide assistance to eligible persons who apply here and who are not residents of this municipality or any other municipality. If a person who is not a resident of any municipality applies in this municipality first, the Administrator will determine his or her eligibility and, if eligible, will grant assistance until he/she establishes a residence in another municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4307).

**Moving/Relocating.** The municipality will not consider moving or transporting an applicant or recipient into another municipality unless the person requests assistance to relocate to another municipality. If the Administrator determines the applicant is eligible and grants financial assistance to help with the requested relocation, this municipality will be responsible for providing assistance to the applicant for 30 days after he/she moves provided the recipient remains eligible.

**Institutions.** If a resident of this municipality enters an institution located in another municipality (such as a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home, or hospital) and requests assistance while at the institution, he/she will be the responsibility of this municipality for up to 6 months after he/she enters the institution if the conditions of 22 M.R.S. § 4307 and § 4313 are met. The municipality thereafter retains responsibility for an applicant in an institution only if the applicant has maintained a home in this municipality to which he/she intends to return. The municipality also recognizes its responsibility for applicants residing in an institution in this municipality if such an applicant had no residence prior to entering the institution. (22 M.R.S. § 4307(4)).

**Temporary Housing.** Hotels/motels and similar places of temporary lodging are considered institutions if the municipality grants financial assistance for, makes arrangements for, or advises or encourages an applicant to stay in temporary lodging.

**Note:** A municipality which illegally denies housing assistance will be responsible for the applicant for up to 6 months if, as a result of the denial, the applicant stays in temporary lodging. The municipality may also be subject to other penalties. (22 M.R.S. § 4307(4)).

**Disputes.** When the Administrator believes that an applicant is a resident of another municipality, but that municipality disputes its responsibility, the Administrator will notify DHHS' Augusta office (287-3654 or 1-800-442-6003). If the applicant applies in this municipality first, the Administrator will determine his or her eligibility and, if eligible, will grant assistance until the DHHS has concluded which municipality is responsible for providing assistance. If another municipality was responsible, the DHHS will recover the amount due from the other municipality. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4307(5), 4307(6)).

## ARTICLE V – Eligibility Factors

A person will be eligible for GA if he/she is an “Eligible Person” as defined in section 2.2, is in need, and has complied with the eligibility requirements set forth below. (*For guidance in determining whether an applicant is an Eligible Person, contact DHHS at (800) 442-6003 (TTY: 287-6948).*)

### Section 5.1—Initial Application

**Initial Application.** For initial applicants, need will be the sole condition of eligibility, except that all applicants, including initial applicants, are disqualified for a defined period (1) for quitting employment without just cause or for being discharged from employment for misconduct (*see Ordinance § 5.5*) or (2) who are fugitives from justice as defined in 15 M.R.S. § 201(4), (22 M.R.S. § 4301(3)). An initial applicant is a person who has never before applied for GA in any municipality in Maine. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(1)).

“Need” means that the applicant’s income (including prorated income, where applicable), property, credit, assets or other resources are less than the overall maximum level of assistance contained in Ordinance § 6.8 or the applicant’s 30-day need, whichever is less, and he/she does not have adequate income or other resources available to provide basic necessities.

**Repeat Applicants.** Persons who are not initial applicants are repeat applicants; these are persons who have previously applied for GA at some time, including persons on whose behalf a GA application was previously made at any time, provided that the applicant was not a dependent minor in the household at the time of the previous application. To be eligible for GA, repeat applicants must be in need and meet all other eligibility requirements. The eligibility of repeat applicants may also be adversely affected to the extent they have not used their income and resources to secure basic necessities.

### Section 5.1A – Presumptive Eligibility

A person who is provided shelter in an emergency shelter for the homeless located in the municipality shall be presumed to be an eligible person. Presumed eligibility may not exceed 30 days within a 12-month period. After the period of presumed eligibility, full

eligibility must be verified before assistance will be issued. When presumptive eligibility is determined under this section, no other municipality may be determined to be the municipality of responsibility during that 30-day period.

#### Section 5.1B – Recovery Residences

The Administrator will not deny GA benefits to a person for the sole reason that the person is residing in a recovery residence. Beginning July 1, 2022, housing assistance will not be provided to a person residing in a recovery residence that has not been certified in accordance with 5 M.R.S. § 20005(22), except that the person may receive housing assistance while residing in an uncertified recovery residence for one 30-day period only. The Administrator will inform the person of the requirements and time limits regarding recovery residences. A person who is ineligible for housing assistance under this subsection may remain eligible to receive GA for other basic necessities.

#### Section 5.2—Eligibility for Categorical Assistance

Receipt of categorical assistance will not disqualify an otherwise eligible person. Benefits received from other assistance programs will be considered as income when determining need, with the exception of Food Stamps, which will not be counted as income or resources or otherwise taken into consideration when determining need. (7 U.S.C. § 2017 (b)).

In addition, fuel assistance (HEAP/ECIP) received by an applicant will not be considered as income; that is, the Administrator will always compute the heating needs of an applicant who has received HEAP or ECIP as if that applicant paid all costs associated with his or her fuel needs. (42 U.S.C. § 8624(f)). When an applicant has received HEAP or ECIP, GA heating energy needs will be calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7, subsection (c) under “Types of Income”. For several additional exceptions please refer to the definition of “Income” in this Ordinance (see Ordinance § 2.2, page 7, subsection 4).

Applicants or recipients must apply for other program benefits within 7 days after being advised in writing to do so by the Administrator. Persons who, without just cause, make

no good faith effort to obtain a potential resource will be disqualified from receiving assistance until they make a good faith effort to obtain the benefit. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

### Section 5.3—Personal Property

#### **a) Liquid Assets.**

No person owning assets easily convertible into cash, including but not limited to, bank deposits, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, retirement accounts, life insurance policies and other marketable security will be eligible for GA unless and until he or she uses these assets to meet his or her basic needs, and thereby exhausts them. At the discretion of the Administrator, liquid assets need not include a reasonable minimum balance necessary to obtain free checking. Although one checking account per household may be allowed, any monies over the minimum required to obtain free checking are to be considered available liquid assets.

#### **b) Tangible Assets.**

No person owning or possessing personal property, including but not limited to: a motor vehicle (except as provided immediately below in subsection c), or a boat, trailer, recreation vehicle or other assets that are convertible into cash and are non-essential to the maintenance of the applicant's household will be eligible for GA. Exceptions may be made when a person is making an initial application or is an unforeseeable repeat applicant as defined in Ordinance § 2.2 or when reasonable efforts to convert assets to cash at fair market value are unsuccessful. Tools of a trade, livestock, farm equipment and other equipment used for the production of income are exempt from the above category and are not considered available assets.

#### **c) Automobile Ownership.**

Ownership of one automobile per household will not make a person ineligible for assistance if such vehicle is essential for transportation to employment or for seeking employment, obtaining medical care, rehabilitation, or training facilities, or for any other reason the GA Administrator determines reasonable for the maintenance of the applicant's household. GA recipients who own an automobile

with a market value greater than \$8,000 may be required, with 7-day's written notice, to make a good faith effort to trade that automobile for an automobile with a market value of less than \$8,000. Any income received by the applicant by virtue of such a trade down must be used for his or her basic necessities. Failure to liquidate or trade down the excess value of any automobile asset can result in disqualification. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

The Administrator will neither pay nor consider as necessary any car payment or vehicle maintenance cost, including insurance, for which the applicant is responsible. However, if the vehicle's value is \$8,000 or less and the applicant is utilizing the vehicle for an "essential" reason (see above), the Administrator may choose to not consider reasonable car payments, reasonable car insurance or reasonable associated costs of maintenance as "misspent" income. GA for travel-related needs shall be computed in accordance with Ordinance § 6.8(F)(7), (8) "Work Related/Travel Expenses."

**d) Insurance.**

Insurance available to an applicant on a non-contributory basis or required as a condition of employment will not be a factor in determining eligibility for GA. Life insurance with a cash surrender value may, at the discretion of the Administrator, be considered as a tangible asset.

**e) Transfer of Property.**

Applicants who transfer assets for less than fair market value to someone else solely for the purpose of establishing eligibility for GA will not be granted GA benefits to replace the uncompensated value of the transferred asset. Assistance will be denied within a 120-day limit up to the uncompensated value of the asset which was transferred unless the transfer of asset is fraudulently misrepresented, in which case a 120-day disqualification will be issued. There will be a presumption that the applicant transferred his or her assets in order to be eligible for GA whenever property is sold for less than the fair market value or when the transfer occurred within 30 days prior to applying for GA unless the applicant can demonstrate the existence of a good faith transaction.

## Section 5.4—Ownership of Real Estate

### **a) Principal Residence.**

Solely for purposes of GA, the applicant's principal residence, including any adjoining land, is considered an exempt resource, even if temporarily unoccupied because of employment, job training, education, illness, or disaster, provided the applicant demonstrates an intent to return. If the applicant owns land in excess of the minimum lot size for the zone or district in which the home is located, that land may be considered a potential resource if:

1. The applicant has received GA for the last 120 consecutive days; and
2. The applicant has the legal right to sell the land (e.g., any mortgagee will release any mortgage, any co-owners agree to the sale, zoning or other land use laws do not render the sale illegal or impracticable); and
3. The applicant has the financial capability to put the land into a marketable condition (e.g., the applicant can pay for any necessary surveys); and
4. The land is not utilized for the maintenance and/or support of the household; and
5. A knowledgeable source (e.g., a realtor) indicates that the land in question can be sold at fair market value, for an amount which will aid the applicant's financial rehabilitation; and
6. No other circumstances exist which cause any sale to be unduly burdensome or inequitable.

If conditions above are met, the Administrator may condition the receipt of future assistance on the applicant's good faith efforts to sell, or render saleable, land which could be used to provide necessary support for the applicant (e.g., the applicant owns 100 "excess" acres. Sale of 10 of the acres would provide for the necessary support; therefore, the entire 100 acres need not be sold at the present time.) Assistance shall not be denied during the time that the applicant is making a good faith effort to sell or render saleable the land in question.



Once the applicant ceases to receive assistance the obligations under this section shall also cease.

**b) Other Property.**

If the applicant or dependents own real property other than that occupied as the principal residence, continued GA eligibility will depend on the applicant making a reasonable effort to:

1. Dispose of the property at fair market value in order to convert the property into cash which can be applied toward meeting present need; or
2. Obtain a loan against such property which may be used to meet present need. Applicants who transfer their excess property to a third party in order to become eligible for GA will be ineligible.

If an applicant is granted assistance in the form of a mortgage payment or capital improvement payment, the municipality may claim a lien against the property. The lien shall not be enforceable until the sale of the property or upon the death of the recipient (*see also Ordinance § 6.8*). 22 M.R.S. § 4320.

**Section 5.5—Work Requirement**

All GA recipients are required to register for work, look for work, work to the extent of available employment, and otherwise fulfill the work requirements, unless the applicant is exempt from such requirements as provided below.

**Employment; Rehabilitation.** All unemployed applicants and household members who are 16 years of age or older and who are not attending a full-time primary or secondary school intended to lead to a high school diploma will be required to accept any suitable job offer and/or meet with job counselors, attend employment workshops and rehabilitative services, except as provided below (*see “Exemptions”*). Applicants must demonstrate to the Administrator that they are available for work and are actively seeking employment.

A “suitable job” means any job, which the applicant is mentally and physically able to perform. “Available for work” means that applicants must make themselves available for work during normal business hours prevailing in the area and show that no circumstance exists which would prevent them from complying with the work requirement.

**Verification.** Unemployed applicants or applicants employed on a part-time basis must provide verifiable documentation of their pursuit of employment at the time of each application. At a minimum, such documentation will consist of a list of the employers contacted, the date and time of the application contact, and the name of the employer representative contacted. "Pursuit of Employment" means actually submitting a written application or applying for a job in person when reasonable or submitting a written application or letter of inquiry to employers.

For the duration of any repeat applicant's period of unemployment or partial employment, the Administrator will establish the number of employers per week to whom each non-exempt applicant shall be required to apply in order to fulfill his or her work search requirements. The number of weekly employer contacts required by the Administrator shall be reasonably related to the number of potential employers in the region and the number of hours per week the applicant has available for work search activities after considering all time the applicant must devote to existing employment obligations, workfare obligations, and required classroom or on-site participation in job training, educational, or rehabilitation programs. Fulfillment of these requirements will not be expected at the time of the initial application but will be a condition of eligibility for subsequent assistance.

**Ineligibility.** After being granted assistance at the time of initial application, applicants will be considered ineligible for further assistance for 120 days if they, without just cause:

- a) refuse to register for employment with the Maine Job Service;
- b) refuse to search diligently for employment when the search is reasonable and appropriate; recipients who unreasonably seek work at the same places repeatedly will not be considered to be performing a diligent work search and will be disqualified;
- c) refuse to accept a suitable job offer;
- d) refuse to participate in an assigned training, education or rehabilitation program that would assist the applicant in securing employment;
- e) fail to be available for work; or

- f) refuse to participate or participate in a substandard manner in the municipal work program (*see Ordinance § 5.6*).

**Ineligibility Due to Job Quit or Discharge for Misconduct.** No initial or repeat applicant who has quit his or her full-time or part-time job without just cause or who has been discharged from employment for misconduct (*see definition in Appendix I*) will be eligible to receive GA of any kind for 120-days from the date the applicant is separated from employment. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(8), 4316-A (1-A)).

**Just Cause.** Applicants will be ineligible for assistance for 120 days if they refuse to comply with the work requirements of this section without just cause. With respect to any work requirement, just cause will be considered to exist when there is reasonable and verifiable evidence that:

- a) the applicant has a physical or mental illness or disability which prevents him/her from working;
- b) the work assignment pays below minimum wages;
- c) the applicant was subject to sexual harassment;
- d) the applicant is physically or mentally unable to perform required job tasks, or to meet piece work standards;
- e) the applicant has no means of transportation to or from work or a training or rehabilitation program;
- f) the applicant is unable to arrange for necessary childcare or care of ill or disabled family members; or
- g) any reason found to be good cause by the Maine Department of Labor, or any other verifiable reason the Administrator considers reasonable and appropriate will be accepted as just cause. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(5)).

**Applicant's Burden of Establishing Just Cause.** If the Administrator finds that the applicant has violated a work-related rule without just cause, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to establish the presence of just cause. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A).

**Eligibility Regained.** Persons who are disqualified for 120 days because they violated a work requirement may regain their eligibility if and only when they become employed or

otherwise satisfy the Administrator that they are complying with the work requirement by fulfilling the work requirement(s) the person violated.

For the purpose of regaining eligibility by becoming employed, “employment” shall mean employment by an employer as defined in 26 M.R.S. § 1043 or the performance of a service for an employer who withholds from the employee a social security tax pursuant to federal law.

The special provisions regarding the opportunity to regain eligibility after a disqualification for workfare violations are detailed in Ordinance § 5.6, under “Eligibility Regained.”

**Dependents.** Failure of an otherwise eligible person to comply with the work requirements shall not affect the eligibility of any member of the person’s household who is not capable of working, including:

- a) a dependent minor child;
- b) an elderly, ill, or disabled person; and
- c) a person whose presence is required in order to provide care for any child under 6 years of age or for any ill or disabled member of the household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

If one or more member(s) of a household is disqualified and assistance is requested for those remaining members of the household who are dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

**Exemptions.** The above work requirements do not apply to any person who is elderly, physically or mentally ill or disabled. Any person whose presence is required to care for any pre-school age child or for any ill or disabled member of the household is also exempt from these requirements.

The requirements of this section will not be imposed so as to interfere with an applicant’s existing employment, ability to pursue a bona fide job offer, ability to attend an interview for possible employment, classroom participation in a primary or secondary educational

program intended to lead to a high school diploma, classroom or on site participation in a training program which is either approved by the Department of Labor (DOL) or determined by the DOL to be expected to assist the applicant in securing employment, or classroom participation in a degree-granting program operated under the control of the DOL.

#### Section 5.6—Municipal Work Program

Each applicant and any member of the household who is capable of working may be required to perform work for the municipality, including work for a non-profit organization, as a condition of receiving assistance. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)).

As part of the municipal work program, the municipality can require recipients to participate in training, education, or rehabilitative programs that will assist the recipient in securing employment. The work requirement provisions found in Ordinance § 5.5 regarding just cause, dependents, and exemptions also apply to the municipal workfare program.

**Consent.** Persons assigned to the work program are required to sign a form stating that they understand the requirements of GA and the work program. Before signing the form, the Administrator will read it to the applicants or allow the applicants to read it themselves. The form will also state the number of hours the applicants must work and the hourly rate by means of which the duration of the work assignment is calculated. In addition, the consent form shall describe the consequences of failing to adequately perform part or all of the workfare or workfare-first assignment.

**Subtracting Value of Workfare Performed from Client's GA Debt.** Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4318, individuals who received GA benefits are obligated to repay the municipality when and if they become able (see Ordinance Article VIII). However, persons performing workfare shall have the value of the workfare performed deducted from any and all GA debt including GA liens (e.g., Workers' Compensation Settlement, SSI Retroactive Payment, Capital Improvement, Home Mortgage) that might exist against their settlements, payments or other such property.

**Limitations.** The work requirement is subject to the following limitations. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(3)).

- 1) No person shall, as a condition of eligibility, be required to perform any amount of work that exceeds the value of the net GA that the person receives under municipal GA standards. Any person performing work under this subsection shall be provided with net GA, the value of which is calculated at a rate of at least the prevailing minimum wage under state or federal law at the time the workfare was performed.
- 2) No workfare participant shall be required to work for a nonprofit organization if that work would violate the participant's basic religious beliefs.
- 3) In no case shall eligible persons performing work under this subsection replace regular municipal employees.
- 4) In no case will work performed under this subsection interfere with an eligible person's:
  - a) existing employment;
  - b) ability to follow up on a bona fide job offer;
  - c) attendance at an interview for possible employment;
  - d) classroom participation in a primary or secondary educational program intended to lead to a high school diploma; or
  - e) classroom or on-site participation in a training program which is approved by the Department of Labor (DOL) or determined by the DOL to be reasonably expected to assist the person in securing employment, or classroom participation in a degree-granting program administered by the DHHS or the DOL.
- 5) In no case may an eligible person be required to work more than 40 hours per week. An eligible person who has full or part-time employment shall be exempt from the work requirement to the extent that the work requirement in combination with his or her regular employment would result in the person working more than 40 hours per week.

- 6) In no case will an eligible person be required to perform work beyond his or her capabilities. However, when an illness or disability is claimed, an eligible person may be required as a condition of receiving assistance to present a doctor's statement detailing the extent of the disability or illness. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

If the Administrator requires a doctor's statement to verify an applicant's illness or disability and the applicant is not currently under the care of a provider, the municipality may pay for the doctor's evaluation if the applicant has no means to pay for the exam. However, in such a case the Administrator will choose the doctor. If there is a no-cost or low-cost health care option, the municipality may elect to refer the client to such a resource. The Administrator will not require verification of medical conditions which are apparent, or which are of such short duration that a reasonable person would not ordinarily seek medical attention. (22 M.R.S. § 4316(5)).

- 7) In no case may an eligible person with an immediate need (i.e., a person in an emergency situation who has not been disqualified from receiving assistance for committing a program violation) be required to perform work under this subsection prior to receiving GA. The Administrator shall meet immediate needs upon receiving written assurance from the eligible person that he/she is willing to work to maintain eligibility for GA. When the recipient has no immediate need, workfare participation may be required prior to receiving GA in accordance with the "workfare first" policy below.

**"Workfare First" Policy.** Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)(D), the Administrator may, in accordance with the following guidelines, require a GA recipient to perform a workfare assignment prior to the actual issuance of the GA benefit conditionally granted.

- 1) In no circumstance will emergency GA for which an applicant is eligible be withheld pending the satisfactory performance of workfare.
- 2) All workfare participants under this policy will be provided a written decision within 24 hours after submitting an application for GA and prior to performing any workfare for the municipality associated with that request for assistance.

That written decision must include:

- a) a specific description of the amount of GA being conditionally granted to the household, and for which basic needs;
  - b) the period of eligibility for which the GA grant is being issued (in days or weeks, but not to exceed 30 days);
  - c) the rate, at a dollar-per-hour basis (but not less than the prevailing minimum wage), upon which the duration of the workfare assignment is calculated;
  - d) the actual duration of the workfare assignment that must be performed, in hours, before the GA grant will be actually issued;
  - e) the specifics of the workfare assignment(s), including the general nature of the type of work being assigned, location(s) of worksite, date(s) and time(s) of assigned workfare, workfare supervisors' names and contact telephone numbers; and
  - f) any other pertinent information related to the workfare assignment(s) the recipient will be expected to perform.
- 3) As previously provided in this section, all workfare participants must sign a consent form that informs the participant of his or her workfare-related rights and responsibilities, including the consequences of failing to perform all or part of the workfare assigned without just cause.
- 4) If a portion of the workfare-first assignment is satisfactorily performed but there has been a failure to perform the remainder of the assignment, without just cause, the Administrator shall issue a grant of GA benefits corresponding to the number of workfare hours satisfactorily performed multiplied by the hourly rate used to calculate the workfare assignment. In addition to any disqualification penalty that may apply, the remaining value of the conditionally issued GA grant shall be terminated, and notice of the partial termination, together with the reasons; therefore, will be issued to the workfare participant in accordance with Ordinance § 6.10.
- 5) If any part of the workfare assignment is not performed because the workfare participant was temporarily unable to perform the assignment for just cause



reasons, it shall be reassigned or excused at the discretion of the Administrator.

**Work-Related Expenses.** A participant's expenses related to work performed under this section will be added to the amount of net GA to be provided to the person (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)(E)). The municipality will provide any special clothes or equipment the recipient needs to perform his or her work assignment.

**Disqualification.** Any person who either willfully fails to perform or willfully performs below average standards the work assigned by the municipality, will be ineligible for assistance for 120 days (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(1)). As soon as the Administrator knows that a recipient failed to fulfill the work assignment, the Administrator will notify the recipient in writing that he/she is disqualified for 120 days starting from the last date of authorized assistance unless the recipient can show just cause. The workfare participant has the burden of demonstrating there was just cause for any failure to perform a workfare assignment.

**Eligibility Regained.** Recipients who are disqualified from receiving assistance because they have violated the requirements of the municipal work program may regain their eligibility under the following conditions:

- Recipients who fail to complete the first municipal work assignment they have been given will be disqualified from receiving assistance during the next 120 days, although dependents in the household may be eligible (*see Ordinance § 5.5, "Dependents"*).
- If during the 120-day disqualification period the recipient requests an opportunity to perform the work assignment which he or she, without just cause failed to perform, the disqualified recipient will be given one opportunity to regain eligibility. The Administrator will give the recipient a work assignment as soon as possible.
- If a recipient under a 120-day disqualification has an emergency need and the Administrator is unable to schedule a work assignment in time to alleviate the emergency, the Administrator will provide sufficient assistance to the recipient to avert the emergency. However, the provision of emergency assistance will not

bar the Administrator from subsequently enforcing the previously issued 120-day disqualification if the recipient fails to regain eligibility by satisfactorily performing the work assignment. The amount of emergency assistance granted will be considered in the computation of the total number of hours the recipient must work.

- Recipients who have asked for the opportunity to regain their eligibility during a 120-day disqualification period and who agreed to fulfill the assignment which they previously failed to perform but who, without just cause, fail to fulfill their municipal work assignment will be considered to have acted in bad faith. In such a circumstance, the Administrator will enforce the 120-day disqualification for the term of its initial duration.
- If a workfare participant regains eligibility under this section but is subsequently disqualified within the initial 120-day period of ineligibility for failing to comply with the municipal work program, that participant will be ineligible for a new 120-day period beginning with the new disqualification date but will be provided no opportunity to requalify.
- Any recipient who intentionally causes damage to property, harasses or harms other employees or who otherwise conducts themselves in a disruptive manner and is discharged by the work supervisor will not be entitled to regain eligibility by returning to the work program. Eligibility may be regained by otherwise becoming employed and meeting the definition of need.

**Reports.** The Administrator will itemize the assistance that has been provided to persons who work for the municipality in reports to the DHHS. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)).

#### Section 5.7—Use of Resources

Each applicant is responsible to make a good faith effort to utilize every available or potential resource that may reduce his or her need for GA (*see Ordinance § 2.2, definition of “Resources”*). Persons who refuse or fail to make a good faith effort to secure a potential resource after receiving written notice to do so are disqualified from receiving assistance until they make an effort to secure the resource. Applicants are required to prove that they have made a good faith effort to secure the resource. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

**Minors.** A minor under the age of 18 who has never married and is applying independently for GA and who is pregnant or has a dependent child or children will be eligible to receive GA only if the minor is residing in the home of his or her parent, legal guardian or other adult relative, in which case the entire household will be evaluated for eligibility. Exceptions to this limitation on eligibility will be made when:

- 1) the minor is residing in a foster home, maternity home, or other adult-supervised supportive living arrangement; or
- 2) the minor has no living parent or the whereabouts of both parents are unknown; or
- 3) no parent will permit the minor to live in the parent's home; or
- 4) the minor has lived apart from both parents for at least one year before the birth of any dependent child; or
- 5) the DHHS determines that the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor or the minor's dependent child or children would be jeopardized if the minor and his or her child or children lived with a parent; or
- 6) the DHHS determines, in accordance with its regulation, that there is good cause to waive this limitation on eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(4)).

Any person under the age of 25 who is applying independently from his or her parents for GA will be informed that until he or she reaches the age of 25, the applicant's parents are still legally liable for his or her support and the municipality has the right to seek recovery from the parents of the cost of all assistance granted to such a recipient to the extent his or her parents are financially capable of repaying the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4319).

With regard to such application, the municipality may seek verification of the applicant's need for GA by contacting his or her parents. If the applicant's parents declare a willingness to provide the applicant with his or her basic needs directly, and there is no convincing evidence that the applicant would be jeopardized by relying on his or her parents for basic needs, the Administrator may find the applicant not to be in need of GA for the reason that his or her needs can be provided by a legally liable relative.

**Mental or Physical Disability.** Any applicant who has a mental or physical disability must make a good faith effort to utilize any medical or rehabilitative services which have been

recommended by a physician, psychologist or other professional retraining or rehabilitation specialist when the services are available to the applicant and would not constitute a financial burden or create a physical risk to the individual.

**Written Notice; Disqualification.** The Administrator will give each applicant written notice whenever the applicant is required to utilize any specific potential resource(s). Any applicant who refuses to utilize potential resources, without just cause, after receiving written 7-day notice will be ineligible for further assistance until he/she has made a good faith effort to utilize or obtain the resources. GA will not be withheld from the applicant pending receipt of a resource if the applicant has made, or is in the process of making, a good faith effort to obtain the resource.

**Forfeiture of Benefits.** Any applicant who forfeits receipt of, or causes a reduction in, benefits from another public assistance program due to fraud, misrepresentation, a knowing or intentional violation of program rules or a refusal to comply with that program's rules without just cause will be ineligible to receive GA to replace the forfeited benefits. To the extent the forfeited benefits can be considered income under GA law, the value of the forfeited benefits will be considered income that is available to the applicant for the duration of the forfeiture.

To the extent the forfeited benefits were provided in the form of a specific, regularly issued resource of a calculable value rather than in the form of income, that resource, up to its forfeited value, need not be replaced with GA for a period of 120 days from the date of the forfeiture—unless the municipality is prohibited by federal or state law from considering the forfeited resource as available with respect to local public assistance programs. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

#### Section 5.8—Period of Ineligibility

No one will have his or her GA terminated, reduced, or suspended prior to being given written notice and an opportunity for a fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4321-4322). Each person will be notified in writing of the reasons for his or her ineligibility, and any person disqualified for not complying with the ordinance will be informed in writing of the period of ineligibility.

**Work Requirement.** Applicants/recipients who do not comply with a work requirement are disqualified from receiving assistance for a period of 120 days (unless they regain their eligibility) (*see Ordinance §§ 5.5, 5.6*). If an applicant/recipient is provided assistance and does not comply with the work requirement, the applicant/recipient shall be disqualified for 120 days following the end of the period covered by the grant of assistance. The Administrator shall give recipients written notice that they are disqualified as soon as the Administrator has sufficient knowledge and information to render a decision of ineligibility.

**Fraud.** Persons who commit fraud are disqualified from receiving GA for a period of 120 days (*see Ordinance § 6.4, "Fraud"*). The Administrator shall give recipients written notice that they are ineligible as soon as the Administrator has sufficient knowledge and information to render a decision. If the disqualification for fraud is issued before the expiration of a grant of assistance, the period of ineligibility shall commence on the day following the end of the period covered by the grant of assistance. If fraud is discovered after the period covered by the grant of assistance has expired, the period of ineligibility will commence on the day of the written notice of ineligibility.

#### Section 5.9 – Unemployment Fraud

An applicant who is found ineligible for unemployment compensation benefits because of a finding of fraud by the Department of Labor pursuant to 26 M.R.S. § 1051(1) is ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the forfeited unemployment compensation benefits for the duration of the forfeiture established by the Department of Labor. 22 M.R.S. § 4317.

## **ARTICLE VI – Determination of Eligibility**

### **Section 6.1—Recognition of Dignity and Rights**

Any determination or investigation into an applicant's eligibility will be conducted in a manner that will not violate the applicant's privacy or personal dignity or violate his or her individual rights.

### **Section 6.2—Determination; Redetermination**

The Administrator will make an individual, factual determination of eligibility each time a person applies or reapplies for GA. The Administrator will make a redetermination of eligibility at least monthly but may do so as often as necessary to administer the program efficiently and meet the needs of the applicants. Upon any application, the Administrator will determine the applicant's eligibility on the basis of a 30-day prospective analysis, but may elect to disburse that applicant's assistance periodically, e.g., weekly, throughout a 30-day period of eligibility pursuant to that initial eligibility determination.

The Administrator may redetermine a person's eligibility at any time during the period he or she is receiving assistance if the Administrator is notified of any change in the recipient's circumstances that may alter the amount of assistance the recipient may receive. Once a recipient has been granted assistance, the Administrator may not reduce or rescind the grant without giving prior written notice to the recipient explaining the reasons for the decision and offering the recipient an opportunity to appeal the decision to the fair hearing authority. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

### **Section 6.3—Verification**

**Eligibility of Applicant; Duration of Eligibility.** The overseer shall determine eligibility each time a person applies or reapplies for GA. The period of eligibility will not exceed one month. At the expiration of this period applicants/recipients may reapply for assistance and the person's eligibility will be redetermined.

**Applicant's Responsibilities.** Applicants and recipients for GA are responsible for providing to the Administrator all information necessary to determine eligibility. If further information or documentation is necessary to demonstrate eligibility, the applicant must

have the first opportunity to provide the specific information or documentation required by the Administrator. When such information is unavailable, the Administrator must accept alternative available information, which is subject to verification.

Each applicant and recipient has the responsibility at the time of application and continuing thereafter, to provide complete, accurate, current information and documentation concerning his/her:

- Need
- Income
- Employment
- Use of income
- Expenses
- Assets & liabilities
- Use of available resources
- Household composition

**Initial Applicants.** Persons who have not applied for assistance in this or any other municipality are considered initial applicants and must have their eligibility determined solely on the basis of need. Initial applicants are not subject to eligibility conditions placed on repeat applicants (*see below*). However, such applicants must still provide the GA Administrator with reasonably obtainable documentation adequate to verify that there is a need for assistance. In addition, initial applicants must also comply with both lump sum and relevant work rules (i.e., quit job).

**Repeat Applicants.** All applicants for GA who are not initial applicants are repeat applicants. The eligibility of repeat applicants must be determined on the basis of need and all other conditions of eligibility established by law and this municipal ordinance.

The Administrator will require documentation of a repeat applicant's income, use of income, assets and resources plus actual bills and receipts for rent, utilities, fuel, telephone, medical services, and other basic necessities. In addition, repeat applicants instructed to seek employment shall verify their work search results, (e.g., provide a list

of the employers contacted, the date and time of the application contact, and the name of the employer representative contacted) as required by the Administrator.

Repeat applicants must provide updates to information reported on previous applications, including changes in his/her household or income that may affect his/her eligibility.

**Unforeseen Repeat Applicants.** Unforeseen repeat applicants are applicants who have not applied for assistance within the last twelve months and who have been regularly employed or receiving support from a public benefit or private source but who have unexpectedly become unemployed through no fault of their own or whose income and/or benefits (e.g., through an available resource) have ceased through no fault of their own. Such unforeseen repeat applicants may be considered initial applicants for purposes of verification requirements and misspent income if the Administrator finds that imposing the general verification requirements and misspent income rules imposed on repeat applicants would be unreasonable or inappropriate.

**Administrator's Responsibilities.** In order to determine an applicant's eligibility for GA, the Administrator first must seek information and documentation from the applicant. Once the applicant has presented the necessary information, the Administrator must determine eligibility. The Administrator will seek verification necessary to determine eligibility and may contact sources other than the applicant for verification only with the specific knowledge and consent of the applicant – except that the Administrator may examine public records without the applicant's knowledge and consent.

Appropriate sources, which an Administrator may contact, include, but are not limited to:

- DHHS, any other department or agency of the state, or non-profit organizations
- financial institutions
- creditors
- utility companies
- employers
- landlords
- physicians
- persons with whom the applicant/recipient is a cohabitant
- legally and non-legally liable relatives



Assistance will be denied or terminated if the applicant is unwilling to supply necessary information, documentation, or permission to make collateral contacts, or if the Administrator cannot determine that eligibility exists based on information supplied by the applicant or others.

**Redetermination of Eligibility.** The Administrator may redetermine a person's eligibility at any time during the period that person is receiving assistance if the Administrator is informed of any change in the recipient's circumstances that may affect the amount of assistance to which the recipient is entitled, or that may make the recipient ineligible, provided that once a determination of eligibility has been made for a specific time period, a reduction in assistance for that time period may not be made without prior written notice to the recipient stating the reasons for the action and an opportunity for the recipient to receive a fair hearing upon the proposed change.

**Penalty for Refusing to Release Information.** Any person governed by 22 M.R.S. § 4314 who refuses to provide necessary information to the Administrator after it has been requested must state in writing the reasons for the refusal within 3 days of receiving the request. Any such person who refuses to provide the information, without just cause, commits a civil violation and may be subject to a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 which may be adjudged in any court of competent jurisdiction. Any person who willfully renders false information to the Administrator is guilty of a Class E crime. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4314(5), 4314(6), 4315).

#### Section 6.4—Fraud

It is unlawful for a person to knowingly and willfully make a false representation of a material fact to the Administrator in order to receive GA or cause someone else to receive GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4315). A person who commits fraud in an effort to receive GA benefits may be prosecuted for this offense.

False representation means any individual who knowingly and willfully:

- a) makes a false statement to the Administrator, either orally or in writing, in order to obtain assistance to which the applicant or the applicant's household is not entitled;
- b) conceals information from the Administrator in order to obtain assistance to which the applicant or applicant's household is not entitled; or
- c) uses GA benefits for a purpose other than the purpose for which they were intended.

No person may be denied assistance solely for making a false representation prior to being given an opportunity for a fair hearing.

**Period of Ineligibility.** When the Administrator finds that a person has knowingly and willfully misrepresented material facts for the purpose of making himself or herself eligible for GA, the Administrator shall notify that applicant in writing that he or she must reimburse the municipality for the assistance he or she was not entitled to receive and that he/she is ineligible for assistance for the longer of: (a) a period of 120 days; (b) until he or she reimburses the municipality for the assistance; or (c) until he or she enters a reasonable written agreement to reimburse the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4315).

For the purpose of this section, a material misrepresentation is a false statement about eligibility factors in the absence of which some or all of the assistance would not be or would not have been granted.

The notification of ineligibility issued by the Administrator shall inform the applicant of his or her right to appeal the Administrator's decision to the fair hearing authority (FHA) within 5 working days of receipt. The period of ineligibility shall commence on the day following the end of the period covered by the grant of assistance fraudulently received or upon the date of notification of ineligibility, whichever is later.

**Right to a Fair Hearing.** Any applicant who is denied assistance for making a false representation will be afforded the opportunity to appeal the decision to the fair hearing authority (FHA) in accordance with Article VII of this Ordinance. No recipient shall have his or her assistance reduced or revoked during the period of eligibility before being notified and given the opportunity to appeal the decision. Any person who is dissatisfied

with the decision of the FHA may appeal that decision to the Superior Court pursuant to Rule 80-B of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

**Reimbursement.** If a recipient does not appeal the decision or if the FHA determines that a recipient made a false representation, the recipient will be required to reimburse the municipality for any assistance received to which he/she was not entitled. The recipient may enter a reasonable written agreement to reimburse the municipality over a period of time.

**Dependents.** In no event will the ineligibility of a person under this section serve to disqualify any eligible dependent in that household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)). In the event one or more members of a household are disqualified and assistance is requested for the remaining dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

#### Section 6.5—Period of Eligibility

The Administrator will grant assistance to all eligible persons for a period that is sufficient to meet their need but in no event may a grant of assistance cover a period in excess of one month. (22 M.R.S. § 4309). Upon receiving a completed and signed application the Administrator will determine the applicant's eligibility on the basis of a 30-day prospective analysis.

When an applicant submits an incomplete or unsigned application, due to the 24-hour decision requirement placed on the GA Administrator, the GA Administrator shall render a notice of "ineligibility" and advise the applicant that he or she has a right to reapply as soon as he or she has the necessary information and/or as soon as is practicable for the applicant.

Although eligibility is determined on a 30-day basis, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the Administrator may elect to disburse an applicant's assistance for shorter periods of time, such as weekly, throughout the 30-day period of eligibility. When the Administrator elects to disburse GA for a period of time less than 30 days, subsequent

grants of assistance during that 30-day period may be issued pursuant to the initial determination of need unless the applicant's financial situation changes substantially enough to warrant a redetermination of eligibility.

#### Section 6.6—Determination of Need

The period of time used to calculate need will be the next 30-day period from the date of application. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)). The Administrator will calculate applicants' expenses according to the actual expense of the basic necessity or the maximum levels for the specific necessities allowed in Ordinance § 6.8, whichever is less. The sum of these expenses, as calculated for a prospective 30-day period, is the applicant's 30-day need. Applicants will not be considered eligible if their income and other resources exceed this calculation except in an emergency. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)) (*see Ordinance § 4.9*).

Applicants will also not be considered in need of GA if their income, property, credit, assets or other resources available to provide basic necessities for their household are greater than the applicable overall maximum level of assistance set forth in the beginning of Ordinance § 6.8. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(10), 4305(3-B)). The difference between the applicant's income and the overall maximum levels of assistance established by this Ordinance is the applicant's deficit.

Once an applicant's deficit has been determined, the specific maximum levels of assistance for each basic necessity shall guide Administrator's distribution of assistance for which the applicant is eligible. (*See Ordinance Appendices A-H*). The specific maximum levels of assistance for each basic necessity are intended to be reasonable and sufficient to help recipients maintain a standard of health and decency. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(3-A)).

**Income for Basic Necessities.** Applicants are required to use their income for basic necessities. Except for initial applicants, no *applicant* is eligible to receive assistance to replace income that was spent within the 30-day period prior to an application for assistance on goods and services that are not basic necessities. All income spent on goods and services that are not basic necessities will be considered available to the applicant and combined with the applicant's prospective 30-day income for the purposes

of computing eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4315-A). Applicants who have sufficient income to provide their basic necessities but who use that income to purchase goods or services which are not basic necessities will not be considered eligible for assistance. Persons who exhaust their income on basic necessities and who still need assistance with other basic necessities will be eligible, provided that their income does not exceed the overall maximum level of assistance.

**Use-of-Income Requirements.** The Administrator may require that anyone applying for GA provide documentation of his or her use of income. This documentation can take the form of cancelled checks and/or receipts which demonstrate that the applicant has exhausted all household income received over the last 30-day period. Except as is deemed appropriate by the Administrator for “unforeseen” repeat applicants (*See Ordinance § 6.3*); repeat applicants may be required to verify that expenditure of income was for basic necessities. Income expended that cannot be verified will generally be considered available and in such case will be added to the 30-day prospective income.

Allowable expenditures include reasonable shelter costs (rent/mortgage); the cost of heating fuel, electricity, and food up to the ordinance maximums; telephone costs at the base rate if the household needs a telephone for medical reasons, the cost of non-elective medical services as recommended by a physician which are not otherwise covered by medical entitlement, Hospital Free Care or insurance; the reasonable cost of essential clothing and non-prescription drugs, and the costs of any other commodity or service determined essential by the Administrator.

Items not considered to be basic necessities and thus will not be allowed in the budget computation include:

- Internet services
- Cable or satellite television
- Cellular phones, except when deemed essential by the overseer for medical or work related purposes
- Cigarettes/alcohol
- Gifts purchased
- Pet care costs
- Costs of trips or vacations
- Paid court fines
- Repayments of unsecured loans
- Legal fees

- Late fees
- Credit card debt

The municipality reserves the right to apply specific use-of-income requirements to any applicant, other than an initial applicant, who fails to use his or her income for basic necessities or fails to reasonably document his or her use of income. (22 M.R.S. § 4315-A). Those additional requirements will be applied in the following manner:

- 1) The Administrator may require the applicant to use some or all of his or her income, at the time it becomes available, toward specific basic necessities. The Administrator may prioritize such required expenditures so that most or all of the applicant's income is applied to housing (i.e., rent/mortgage), energy (i.e., heating fuel, electricity), or other specified basic necessities;
- 2) The Administrator will notify applicants in writing of the specific use-of-income requirements placed on them;
- 3) If upon subsequent application it cannot be determined how the applicant's income was spent, or it is determined that some or all of the applicant's income was not spent as directed and was also not spent on basic necessities, the applicant will not be eligible to receive either regular or emergency general assistance to replace that income; and
- 4) If the applicant does not spend his or her income as directed but can show with verifiable documentation that all income was spent on basic necessities up to allowed amounts, the applicant will remain eligible to the extent of the applicant's eligibility and need.

**Calculation of Income and Expenses.** When determining eligibility, the Administrator will subtract the applicant's net income from the overall maximum level of assistance found at the beginning of Ordinance § 6.8. If income is greater than the overall maximum level of assistance, the applicant will not be eligible except in an emergency (*see Ordinance § 4.9*). If income is less than the overall maximum level of assistance, the applicant has a deficit.

The municipality will provide assistance in an amount up to the deficit to the extent the applicant also has an unmet need and is in need of basic necessities. The municipality will not grant assistance in excess of the maximum amounts allowed in Ordinance § 6.8

for specific basic necessities except in an emergency or when the Administrator elects to consolidate the applicant's deficit, as provided immediately below.

**Consolidation of Deficit.** As a general rule, and to the extent of their deficit, applicants will be eligible for assistance for any basic necessity up to, but not exceeding, the maximum amount allowed for that necessity in this ordinance or the actual 30-day cost of the necessity, whichever is less. Under certain circumstances, however, and in accordance with the following conditions, the Administrator may consolidate the applicant's deficit and apply it toward a basic necessity in an amount greater than the ordinance maximum for that necessity.

- 1) The practice of consolidating the deficit and applying it toward a basic necessity in amounts greater than the ordinance maximum shall be the exception rather than the rule;
- 2) The total GA grant cannot exceed the total deficit unless the applicant is in an emergency situation; and
- 3) The need for the application of the recipient's consolidated deficit toward a basic necessity was not created by the recipient mispending his or her income or resources in violation of the use-of-income requirements of this ordinance.

#### Section 6.7—Income

**Income Standards.** Applicants whose income exceeds the overall maximum level of assistance provided in Ordinance § 6.8 shall not be eligible for GA except in an emergency. Each time an applicant applies, the Administrator will conduct an individual factual inquiry into the applicant's income and expenses.

**Calculation of Income.** To determine whether applicants are in need, the Administrator will calculate the income they will receive during the next 30-day period commencing on the date of application and identify any assets or resources that would alleviate their need. For all applicants other than initial applicants, the Administrator will also consider as available income any income that was not spent during the previous 30-day period on basic necessities as well as any income that was spent on basic necessities in unreasonable excess of the ordinance maximums for specific basic necessities. If a household's income exceeds the amount of the household's need for basic necessities,

up to the maximum levels contained in Ordinance § 6.8, applicants will not be considered in need.

Exceptions will be made in emergency situations, which may necessitate that the maximum levels be exceeded. (22 M.R.S. § 4308) (*see Ordinance § 4.9*). To calculate weekly income and expenses, the Administrator will use actual income received or actual anticipated income.

**Types of Income.** Income that will be considered in determining an applicant's need includes:

- a) **Earned Income.** Income in cash or in kind earned by the applicant through wages, salary, commissions, or profit, whether self-employed or as an employee, is considered earned income. If a person is self-employed, total income will be computed by subtracting reasonable and actual business expenses from gross income. When income consists of wages, the amount computed will be the income available after taxes, social security and other payroll deductions required by state, federal, and local law. Rental income and profit from produce that is sold is considered earned income. Income that is held in trust and unavailable to the applicant or the applicant's dependents will not be considered as earned income.

Note: Actual work-related expenses such as union dues, transportation to and from work, special equipment or work clothes, and childcare costs will be deducted from an applicant's income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).

- b) **Income from Other Assistance or Social Services Programs.** State/federal categorical assistance benefits, SSI payments, Social Security payments, VA benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, and payments from other government sources will be considered as income, unless expressly prohibited by federal law or regulation. Federal law prohibits Food Stamps and Fuel Assistance payments made by the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP and EPIC) from being considered income. The value of the food stamps or fuel assistance will not be used to reduce the amount of GA the applicant is eligible



to receive. Although applicants may have only a limited or reduced need for GA for heating fuel or electricity if a recently received HEAP/ECIP benefit has sufficiently credited their account or otherwise prevented the fuel-related costs for the prospective 30-day period.

The Administrator's obligation is to always compute the heating needs of an applicant who has received HEAP or ECIP as if that applicant paid for his or her total fuel costs. Accordingly, in such cases, the Administrator will budget for the household's heating energy needs according to actual usage, up to the ordinance maximums, but the Administrator may, with written notice to the applicant, hold in reserve the heating energy portion of the applicant's deficit until such a time during the period of eligibility that the applicant has a demonstrable need for the disbursement of heating energy assistance; that is, the applicant's fuel tank can accept a minimum fuel delivery or the applicant no longer has a positive credit balance with his or her utility company. The municipality is not obligated to divert any recipient's heating energy allowance toward non-heating purposes solely on the basis of the recipient's receipt of HEAP/ECIP.

Other programs whose income cannot be counted for purposes of GA eligibility include:

- Family Development Accounts (22 M.R.S. § 3762)
- Americorp VISTA program benefits (42 U.S.C. § 5044(f))
- Property tax rebates issued under the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, only so long as the money is spent on basic necessities. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7))

c) **Court-Ordered Support Payments.** Alimony and child support payments will be considered income only if actually received by the applicant. The Administrator will refer cases in which support payments were not actually received to the Maine DHHS Child Support Enforcement Unit. In order to be eligible for future GA benefits, applicants referred to DHHS for support enforcement assistance shall be required to follow-through with such services. Because child support payments

are considered a resource, applicants must make a good faith effort to secure such payments.

- d) **Income from Other Sources.** Payments from pensions and trust funds will be considered income. Payments from boarders or lodgers will be considered income as will cash or in-kind contributions provided to the household from any other source, including relatives. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).
- e) **Earnings of a Son or Daughter.** Earned income received by sons and daughters below the age of 18 who are full-time students and who are not working full-time will not be considered income. The unearned income of a minor in the household will be considered available to the household.
- f) **Income from Household Members.** Income from household members will be considered available to the applicant, whether or not the household member is legally obligated for the support of the applicant, if the household members pool or share their income and expenses as a family or intermingle their funds so as to provide support to one another.
- g) **The Pooling or Non-Pooling of Income.** When two or more individuals share the same dwelling unit but not all members of the household are applying for GA, the Administrator shall make a finding under a rebuttable presumption that the entire household is pooling income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(12-A)).

One or more applicants for assistance can successfully rebut the presumption that all household income is being pooled by providing the Administrator with verifiable documentation affirmatively demonstrating a pattern of non-pooling during the duration of the shared living arrangement. Such documentation would include evidence of the entire household's expenses, bank statements, cancelled checks, receipts, landlord statements or other vendor accounts clearly supporting a claim that the applicant has been and is presently solely and entirely responsible for his or her pro-rata share of household costs.

If the applicant is unable to successfully rebut the municipality's presumption that all household income is being pooled, eligibility of the entire household will be determined based on total household income. If the applicant successfully rebuts the municipality's presumption that all household income is being pooled, the

applicant's eligibility will be determined on the basis of his or her income and his or her pro-rata share of actual household expenses.

- h) **Lump Sum Income.** A lump sum payment received by any GA applicant or recipient prior or subsequent to the date of application for GA will be considered as income available to the household. However, verified required payments (i.e., any third-party payment which is required as a condition of receiving the lump sum payment, or any payments of bills earmarked for the purpose for which the lump sum payment was made) and any amount of the lump sum payment which the applicant can document was spent on basic necessities, as described below, will not be considered available income.

Where a household receives a lump sum payment at any time prior or subsequent to the date of application for GA, the Administrator will assess the need for prorating an applicant's eligibility for GA according to the following criteria. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7), (8-A)):

- 1) identify the date the lump sum payment was received;
- 2) subtract from the lump sum payment all required payments;
- 3) subtract from the lump sum any amount the applicant can demonstrate was spent on basic necessities, including all basic necessities as defined by the GA program such as: reasonable payment of funeral or burial expenses for a family member; any reasonable travel costs related to the illness or death of a family member; repair or replacement of essentials lost due to fire, flood or other natural disaster; repair or purchase of a motor vehicle essential for employment, education, training or other day-to-day living necessities. Repayments of loans or credit, the proceeds of which can be verified as having been spent on basic necessities; and payment of bills earmarked for the purpose for which the lump sum is paid must also be subtracted. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7), (8-A));
- 4) add to the remainder all income received by the household between the date of receipt of the lump sum payment and the date of application for GA; and

- 5) divide the sum created in subsection (4) by the verified actual monthly amounts for all of the household's basic necessities. 22 M.R.S. § 4305(3-B).

This dividend represents the period of proration determined by the Administrator to commence on the date of receipt of the lump sum payment. The prorated sum for each month must be considered available to the household for 12 months from the date of application or during the period of proration, whichever is less.

The household of an initial applicant that is otherwise eligible for emergency assistance may not be denied emergency assistance to meet an immediate need solely on the basis of the proration of a lump sum payment. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

#### Section 6.8—Basic Necessities; Maximum Levels of Assistance

**Overall Maximum Levels of Assistance.** Notwithstanding any of the maximum levels of assistance for specific basic necessities listed in Ordinance Appendices B-H, an applicant's eligibility for GA will be first determined by subtracting his or her income from the overall maximum level of assistance designated in Appendix A for the applicable household size. (22 M.R.S. § 4305 (3-B)). The difference yielded by this calculation shall be the applicant's deficit.

Applicants will be eligible for GA up to the calculated deficit to the extent the applicant is unable to otherwise provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves or their families. Applicants with no deficit shall be found ineligible for GA unless they are in an emergency, in which case eligibility for emergency GA will be determined according to Ordinance § 4.9.

**Maximum Levels of Assistance for Specific Basic Necessities.** The municipality will grant assistance to eligible applicants for basic necessities according to the maximum levels for specific types of assistance set forth below. The Administrator, in consultation with the applicant, may apply the amount of the applicant's deficit toward assistance with any one or combination of necessities not to exceed the total deficit. These maximum levels will be strictly adhered to unless the Administrator determines that there are exceptional circumstances and an emergency is shown to exist, in which case these absolute levels will be waived in order to meet immediate needs. In all cases either the actual expenses

the applicant incurs for basic necessities or the maximum amount allowed in each category, whichever is less, will be used in determining need.

In roommate situations, the applicant's need for common living expenses for rent, fuel, electricity, etc., will be presumed to be reduced by an amount equal to the other household members' proportionate fair share of the common living expenses. No applicant will be allowed to claim a need for any expense which has been or will be paid by another person. In addition, as a general rule the municipality will not provide a benefit toward a basic need by paying a bill that is issued to a person not living with the applicant's household or that has otherwise been incurred by a person who has not been found eligible to receive assistance.

Temporary exceptions to this general rule may be made by the Administrator in the following circumstances: (1) a recent, unplanned separation has occurred in the household resulting in the sustained or permanent absence of a former household member in whose name the bill was customarily issued; (2) the applicant and members of the applicant's household were or will be the sole recipients of the commodities or services covered by any bill to be paid or partially paid with GA; and (3) the applicant will make a good faith effort to direct the vendor to issue future bills in the name of the applicant or other responsible person residing in the household.

(A) **Food.** The Administrator will provide food assistance to eligible persons up to the allowed maximum amounts designated by the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan for the appropriate household size.

For this purpose, the municipality hereby incorporates by reference the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan, as distributed by the Maine DHHS on or about October of each year. See Ordinance Appendix B for the current year's food maximums.

In determining need for food, the Administrator will not consider the value of the food stamps an applicant receives as income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301.7(A); 7 U.S.C. § 2017(b)). The municipality will authorize vouchers to be used solely for approved food products.

The Administrator will exceed the maximums when necessary for households having members with special dietary needs. The Administrator may require a doctor's statement verifying there is a special dietary need requiring an expenditure for food that is greater than the ordinance maximums.

- (B) **Housing.** The Administrator will provide assistance with rent or mortgage payments that are reasonable and/or within the allowed maximum levels. See Ordinance Appendix C for the current year's housing maximums. It is the applicant's responsibility to find suitable housing, although the Administrator may help the applicant find housing when appropriate. The Administrator will inform the applicant of the allowed housing maximums to assist the applicant in his or her search for housing. The allowed maximum for any applicant will be the categorical housing maximum representing the minimum dwelling unit space necessary to adequately shelter the applicant household. Applicants requesting assistance for housing that contains more bedrooms than are necessary for the number of household members will be provided assistance according to the maximum level for the number of rooms actually needed.

**Rental Payments to Relatives.** The municipality may elect to not issue any rental payment to an applicant's relatives unless the rental relationship has existed for at least three months and the applicant's relative(s) rely on the rental payment for their basic needs. For the purpose of this section, a "relative" is defined as the applicant's parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, parent's siblings, or any of those relative's children. (22 M.R.S. § 4319(2)).

**Rental Payments to Non-Relatives.** When applicants are living in private homes with the owner or sharing dwelling units with people who are not pooling income or who are not legally liable relatives, the amount allowed as the applicant's shelter expense will be the applicant's pro rata share of the actual, total shelter cost, up to the ordinance maximum. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(6)).

Any housing assistance issued to a recipient in such a circumstance will be issued, whenever reasonably possible, to the landlord or property owner with the most superior

interest in the property; i.e., to a landlord before a tenant, or to a mortgagee before a mortgagor.

When the municipality issues in aggregate more than \$600 in rental payments to any landlord in any calendar year, a 1099 form declaring the total amount of rental payments issued during the calendar year will be forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) pursuant to IRS regulation (see § 6041(a) of Internal Revenue Code).

Any landlord wishing to regularly receive rental payments from the municipality on behalf of applicants renting rooms from the landlord's own residence must, at a minimum, make a good faith effort to obtain a lodging license from the DHHS Division of Health Engineering, pursuant to 10-144A CMR, Chapter 201, as a condition of that landlord receiving future GA payments on behalf of his or her tenants.

**Mortgage Payments.** In the case of a request for assistance with a mortgage payment, the Administrator will make an individual factual determination of whether the applicant has an immediate need for such aid. In making this determination, the Administrator will consider the extent and liquidity of the applicant's proprietary interest in the housing. Factors to consider in making this determination include:

- (1) the marketability of the shelter's equity;
- (2) the amount of equity;
- (3) the availability of the equity interest in the shelter to provide the applicant an opportunity to secure a short-term loan in order to meet immediate needs;
- (4) the extent to which liquidation may aid the applicant's financial rehabilitation;
- (5) a comparison between the amount of mortgage obligations and the anticipated rental charges the applicant would be responsible for if he/she were to be dislocated to rental housing;
- (6) the imminence of the applicant's dislocation from owned housing because of his or her inability to meet the mortgage payments;
- (7) the likelihood that the provision of housing assistance will prevent such dislocation; and
- (8) the applicant's age, health, and social situation.

These factors shall be considered when determining whether the equity in the shelter is an available asset which may be substituted for the assistance the municipality would otherwise be required to provide.

The Administrator shall consider issuing a benefit in response to the applicant's request for mortgage assistance to the extent the applicant is otherwise eligible for GA if after review of the criteria above, the Administrator determines that:

- (1) the monthly mortgage obligation is in accordance with the maximum levels of assistance available for housing appropriate to the applicant's household size;
- (2) there is no capacity in the accumulated equity in the property, when considered in the context of the applicant's borrowing capacity with the mortgagee or the general lending community, to suspend the mortgage obligation temporarily or re-amortize the mortgage in such a way as to suspend or reduce the mortgage obligation; and
- (3) the failure to provide a mortgage payment in a timely manner could jeopardize the applicant's continued right of possession of the property.

If a mortgage payment is necessary, the Administrator will pay the actual amount due, up to the amount allowed according to the maximum levels listed below. After an initial application, assistance with such payments will be given only after the applicant has made all reasonable efforts to borrow against the equity of his or her home. If there is not sufficient equity in the home with which to secure a loan, and if the monthly mortgage payments are not realistically in line with the rental rates for similar housing in the area that could meet the applicant's needs, the Administrator will inform the applicant that he/she is responsible for finding alternative housing within his or her ability to pay and will be obligated to make all reasonable efforts to secure such housing.

**Liens.** The municipality may place a lien on the property in order to recover its costs of granting assistance with mortgage payments. In addition, a municipality may claim a lien against the owner of real estate for the amount of money spent by it to make capital improvements to the real estate. (22 M.R.S. § 4320). No lien may be enforced against a recipient except upon his or her death or the transfer of the property. Further, no lien may



be enforced against a person who is currently receiving any form of public assistance, or who would again become eligible for GA if the lien were enforced.

If the municipality determines that it is appropriate to place a lien on a person's property to recover its costs of providing GA for a mortgage payment or capital improvement it must file a notice of the lien with the county registry of deeds where the property is located within 30 days of making the mortgage payment. That filing shall secure the municipality's or the state's interest in an amount equal to the sum of that mortgage or capital improvement payment and all subsequent mortgage or capital improvement payments made on behalf of the same eligible person, plus interest and costs.

Not less than 10 days prior to filing the lien in the registry, the municipal officers must send notice to the owner of the real estate, the GA recipient, and any record holder of the mortgage by certified mail, return receipt requested, that a lien on the property is going to be filed with the registry. This notice must clearly inform the recipient of the limitations upon enforcement plus the name, title, address and telephone number of the person who granted the assistance. The municipal officers must also give written notice to the recipient each time the amount secured by the lien is increased because of an additional mortgage payment. This notice must include the same information that appeared on the original intent-to-file notice sent to the recipient.

The municipality may charge interest on the amount of money secured by the lien. The municipal officers will establish the interest rate not to exceed the maximum rate of interest allowed by the State Treasurer to be charged against delinquent taxes. The interest will accrue from the date the lien is filed.

**Property Taxes.** In the event an applicant requests assistance with his or her property taxes, the Administrator will inform the applicant that there are two procedures on the local level to request that relief: the poverty abatement process (36 M.R.S. § 841(2)) and GA. If the applicant chooses to seek property tax assistance through GA, or if the applicant is denied a poverty tax abatement, the Administrator may consider using GA to meet this need only if:

- a) the property tax in question is for the applicant's place of residence;

- b) there is a tax lien on the property which is due to mature within 60 days of the date of application;
- c) as a matter of municipal policy or practice, or on the basis of information obtained from the applicant's mortgagee, if any, it is reasonably certain that a tax lien foreclosure will result in subsequent eviction from the residential property; and
- d) the applicant, with sufficient notice, applies for property tax relief through the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, when available.

**Housing Maximums.** The maximum levels of housing assistance contained in this ordinance have been derived either from a locally accomplished fair market rental survey or the fair market rental values developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). If the maximum levels of housing are derived from the HUD values made effective as of every October 1, and adjusted to disregard the current and averaged utility allowances as developed by the Maine State Housing Authority, those levels are hereby incorporated by reference. See Ordinance Appendix C for the current year's housing maximums.

If and when the maximum levels of housing assistance in this Ordinance are derived from a locally developed fair market rental survey, a record of that survey will be submitted to the DHHS, General Assistance Unit, and the maximum levels of housing assistance will be incorporated into this Ordinance pursuant to the ordinance adoption and amendment procedures found at 22 M.R.S. § 4305.

- (C) **Utilities.** Expenses for lights, cooking, and hot water will be budgeted separately if they are not included in the rent. Applicants are responsible for making arrangements with the utility company regarding service, including entering into a special payment arrangement if necessary.

Assistance will be granted to eligible applicants on the basis of their most recent bill. The municipality is not obligated to pay back bills or utility security deposits. Exceptions may be made in emergency situations pursuant to section 4.9.

Disconnection of utility service will not be considered an emergency in all cases. The Administrator will make an individual, factual analysis to determine if the termination

of utility service constitutes an emergency. The Administrator will consider the household composition, the time of year, the age and health of the household members, and other appropriate factors in reaching a decision. Applicants who had sufficient income, money, assets or other resources to pay their utility bill when it was received, but who spent all or part of their income on items which were not basic necessities, will not be eligible to receive GA to replace those funds.

Applicants have the burden of providing evidence of their income and use of income for the applicable time period (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)) (*see Ordinance §§ 4.9; 6.3*). The Administrator will notify applicants in writing that they must give the Administrator prompt notice if their utility service is to be terminated or if their fuel supply is low. It is the applicant's responsibility to attempt to make arrangements with the utility company to maintain their service and to notify the Administrator if assistance is needed with a utility bill prior to service being terminated.

**Electricity Maximums for Households Without Electric Hot Water.** See Ordinance Appendix D for the current year's electricity maximums.

**Electricity Maximums for Households that Use Electrically Heated Hot Water.** See Ordinance Appendix D for the current year's electricity maximums.

**Non-Electric Utilities.** The allowed amount for water and sewer utility service will be budgeted at a 30-day reasonable usage rate.

- (D) **Fuel.** Expenses for home heating will be budgeted according to the actual need for fuel during the heating season (September through May) provided such expenses are reasonable, and at other times during the year when the Administrator determines the request for fuel assistance is reasonable and appropriate.

Assistance will be granted to eligible applicants on the basis of their most recent bill. The municipality is not responsible for back bills except in an emergency as provided in Ordinance § 4.9. Applicants are responsible for monitoring their fuel supply and requesting assistance prior to depleting their fuel supply. When applicants who have been informed of this responsibility run out of fuel nonetheless, and can show no just cause for failing to give the Administrator timely notice of their need for fuel, the

Administrator shall find that the emergency was not beyond the applicants' control, and process the emergency request accordingly, pursuant to Ordinance § 4.9. See Ordinance Appendix E for the current year's fuel maximums.

- (E) **Personal Care and Household Supplies.** Expenses for ordinary personal and household supplies will be budgeted and allowed according to the applicant's actual need for these items. Personal and household supplies include: hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, dish detergent, laundry supplies and costs, household cleaning supplies, razors, paper products such as toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, garbage/trash bags light bulbs and supplies for children under 5 years of age. See Ordinance Appendix F for the current year's personal care and household supplies maximums.
- (F) **Other Basic Necessities.** Expenses falling under this section will be granted when they are deemed essential to an applicant's or recipient's health and safety by the Administrator and, in some cases, upon verification by a physician. Assistance will be granted only when these necessities cannot be obtained through the utilization of available resources.
  - 1) **Clothing.** The municipality may assist a household with the purchase of adequate clothing. Before assistance will be granted for clothing, the general assistance Administrator must be satisfied that the applicant has utilized all available resources to secure the necessary clothing. In some circumstances, clothing will be a postponable item. Exceptions to this would be, for example, if fire, flood or unusually cold weather makes extra clothing an immediate necessity, special clothing is necessary for the applicant's employment, or a household member is without adequate clothing.
  - 2) **Medical.** The municipality will pay for essential medical expenses, other than hospital bills (*see below*), provided that the municipality is notified and approves the expenses and services prior to their being made or delivered. Medical expenses include prescriptions, devices, treatments, or services that are determined to be 'medically necessary' by a licensed physician. The municipality will grant assistance for medical services only when assistance cannot be

obtained from any other source and the applicant would not be able to receive necessary medical care without the municipality's assistance. The applicant is required to utilize any resource, including any federal or state program, that will diminish his or her need to seek general assistance for medical expenses. The municipality will grant assistance for non-emergency medical services only if a physician verifies that the services are essential. Provided there is no cost to the applicant, the Administrator may require a second medical opinion from a physician designated by the municipality to verify the necessity of the services.

Generally, the municipality will issue GA at the established Medicaid rates for all medical services, prescriptions, or other medical commodities. Before authorizing GA for any medical expenses, the Administrator will inform the pharmacy or medical service provider of the municipality's intention to pay for the medical service at the Medicaid rate and ask to be billed accordingly.

Ordinary medical supplies/non-prescription drugs will be budgeted at the actual amount when the applicant can demonstrate a need for such items. Allowable supplies include bandages, aspirin, cough syrup, and other generic brand, non-prescription medicines. In addition, the basic monthly rate for telephone service will be budgeted when a telephone is essential to the health and safety of the household. In order for telephone service to be considered an allowable expense the applicant must provide a written statement from a physician certifying that the telephone is essential.

- 3) **Hospital Bills.** In the event of an emergency admission to the hospital, the hospital must notify the Administrator within 5 business days of the admission. Notification must be by telephone, confirmed by certified mail, or by certified mail only. If a hospital fails to give timely notice to the Administrator, the municipality will have no obligation to pay the bill.

Any person who cannot pay his or her hospital bill must apply to the hospital for consideration under the Hospital's Free Care Program as provided in Title 22 M.R.S. § 1716. Anyone who is not eligible for the hospital's free care program may apply for GA. Applicants must apply for assistance within 30 days of being

discharged from the hospital and provide a notice from the hospital certifying that he or she is not eligible for the hospital's free care program.

Before the Administrator will consider whether to allow a hospital bill as a necessary expense, the applicant must enter into a reasonable payment arrangement with the hospital. The payment arrangement will be based upon the Medicaid rate. In determining an applicant's eligibility, the municipality will budget the monthly payment to the hospital the applicant has agreed to pay. The applicant's need for assistance with a hospital bill will be considered each time he/she applies by including the amount of the bill in the applicant's monthly budget, but the recipient will be responsible for making any necessary payments to the hospital pursuant to the use-of-income requirements found at Ordinance § 6.6.

- 4) **Dental.** The municipality will pay for medically necessary dental services only. As is the case with medical services generally, the municipality will issue GA for dental services at the established Medicaid rates for those services, and before authorizing the GA benefit for dental services, the Administrator will inform the dentist or dental surgeon of the municipality's intention to pay at the Medicaid rate. If full mouth extractions are necessary, the municipality will pay for dentures provided the applicant has no other resources to pay for the dentures. The applicant will be referred to a dental clinic in the area whenever possible. The Administrator will expect the applicant to bear a reasonable part of the cost for dental services, including extractions and dentures, taking into account the applicant's ability to pay.
- 5) **Eye Care.** In order to be eligible to receive GA for eyeglasses, an applicant must have his or her medical need certified by a person licensed to practice optometry. The Administrator will provide assistance for eyeglasses to eligible persons only after the applicant has exhausted all other available resources and generally only at the Medicaid rate.
- 6) **Telephone Charge.** A payment for basic telephone will only be allowed if a telephone is necessary for medical reasons as verified by a physician. At the discretion of the GA Administrator, minimum/basic telephone services may be

allowed for households with children, for households where job search or work-related reasons exist and/or for any other reasons the Administrator deems necessary.

- 7) **Work-Related Expenses.** In determining need, reasonable and actual work-related expenses will be deducted from earned income. These expenses include childcare costs, work clothes, supplies and transportation at the actual costs not to exceed the ordinance maximum. See Ordinance Appendix G for the current maximum mileage allotment. The applicant is required to provide documentation substantiating the costs and that the expenses were necessary.
- 8) **Travel Expenses.** In determining need, necessary travel which is not work-related will be budgeted if the applicant can satisfy the Administrator that the prospective need for travel is necessary. For applicants in rural areas, weekly transportation to a supermarket will be considered, as will any medically necessary travel. See Ordinance Appendix G for the current rate at which such necessary travel will be budgeted. This rate shall be construed to subsidize all costs associated with automobile ownership and operation, including gas/oil, tires, maintenance, insurance, financing, licensing/registration, excise tax, etc.
- 9) **Burials, Cremations.** Under the circumstances and in accordance with the procedures and limitations described below (*see Ordinance § 6.9*), the municipality recognizes its responsibility to pay for the burial or cremation of eligible persons. See Ordinance Appendix H for the current maximums.
- 10) **Capital Improvements.** The costs associated with capital improvements/repairs (e.g., heating/water/septic system repair) will generally not be budgeted as a basic necessity. Exceptions can be made only when the capital improvement/repair has been pre-approved by the Administrator as a necessary expense and the monthly cost of the capital improvement/repair has been reduced as far as reasonably possible; for example, by means of the applicant entering into an installment payment arrangement with the contractor. The Administrator may grant GA for capital improvements when:
  - 1) the failure to do so would place the applicant(s) in emergency circumstances;
  - 2) there are no other resources available to effect the capital repair; and

- 3) there is no more cost-effective alternative available to the applicant or municipality to alleviate an emergency situation.

In some cases, the entire immediate cost of the capital improvement can be mitigated by the applicant entering into an installment payment arrangement with a contractor. The municipality reserves the right to place a lien on any property pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4320 when GA has been used to effect a capital improvement. The lien process shall be accomplished in the same manner as for mortgage payments, as described in subsection (B) “Liens”, above.

#### Section 6.9—Burials; Cremations

**Funeral Director Must Give Timely Notice.** In order for the municipality to be liable for a burial or cremation expense, the funeral director must notify the Administrator prior to the burial or cremation or by the end of three business days following the funeral director’s receipt of the body, whichever is earlier. (22 M.R.S. § 4313(2)). This contact by the funeral director shall begin the process of developing an application for burial/cremation assistance on behalf of the deceased. It is the funeral director’s responsibility to make a good-faith effort to determine if the family or any other persons are going to pay all or part of the burial expenses. If family members or others are unable to pay the expenses, and the funeral director wants the municipality to pay all or part of the expenses, the funeral director must make timely contact to the Administrator. In addition, the funeral director may refer legally liable relatives to the Administrator so that a timely determination of financial capacity may be accomplished.

**Application for Assistance Shall be Calculated on Behalf of the Deceased.** For the purposes of determining residency, calculating eligibility and issuing GA for burial or cremation purposes, an application for assistance shall be completed by the Administrator on behalf of the deceased.

With regard to residency, the municipality of responsibility for burial expenses shall be the municipality in which the eligible deceased person was a resident at the time of death as residency is determined under Ordinance § 4.10.



Although legally liable relatives may be asked to provide information regarding their income, assets, and basic living expenses, that information will not be construed as an application for GA in as much as living persons are not eligible for burial assistance. To clarify this point of law, although legally liable relatives have a financial responsibility to pay for the burial or cremation of their relatives, that financial responsibility only exists to the extent the legally liable relatives have a financial capacity to do so. Therefore, legally liable relatives who are themselves eligible for GA, have no legal obligation to pay for the burial or cremation of their relatives. For these reasons, all GA issued for burial or cremation purposes shall be issued on behalf of, and in the name of, the deceased.

**The Financial Responsibility of Certain Family Members.** Grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren of the deceased whether or not living in or owning property in Maine, and the spouse or registered domestic partner of the deceased, are financially responsible for the burial or cremation of the deceased to the extent those relatives, individually or as a group, have a financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation either in lump sum or by means of a budgeted payment arrangement with the funeral home. Accordingly, at the request of the Administrator, all legally liable relatives must provide the Administrator with any reasonably requested information regarding their income, assets, and basic living expenses. The Administrator may also seek information from financial institutions holding assets of the deceased. Maine law requires a financial institution to disclose the amount deposited in the corporation or association when the municipality or its agents are acting in accordance with section 4313(2) and provide a written request and a notarized affidavit signed by the Administrator of the municipality or its agents stating that the named depositor is deceased.

**Consideration of the Financial Responsibility of Family Members.** Generally, when the Administrator can make a finding that one or more of the deceased's legally liable relatives have an obvious and demonstrable financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, by lump sum payment or by means of a reasonable payment arrangement, the municipality will not grant the requested burial or cremation assistance. When the Administrator is unable to make such a finding, the following proration of familial responsibility will be implemented.

**Proration of Familial Responsibility.** A proration of familial financial responsibility will be used when no legally liable relative possesses an obvious and demonstrable capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, but one or more of the financially liable relatives is found to have a financial capacity to make a partial financial contribution, or the Administrator is unable to determine the financial capacity of one or more of said relatives.

Under these circumstances, each legally liable relative is considered to be responsible for his or her pro rata share of the total municipal contribution that would exist if no legally liable relatives had a financial capacity to contribute. Furthermore, and as long as all other eligibility factors have been satisfied, the municipality will provide as a burial or cremation benefit the aggregate of all pro rata shares less the share of any legally liable relative who refuses to cooperate with the Administrator by providing information or documentation reasonably necessary to determine that relative's financial capacity, and less any share or part of a share attributable to a legally liable relative who can financially contribute or partially contribute toward the burial or cremation to the extent of that relative's share.

**Eight Days to Determine Eligibility.** The Administrator may take up to 8 days from the date of an application for burial/cremation assistance to issue a written decision regarding the amount of the municipal contribution toward the burial or cremation. The 8-day eligibility determination period from the date of application shall be used as necessary to make third-party collateral contacts, verify the listing of legally liable family members and determine their respective financial capacities to contribute to the burial or cremation, contact the personal representative of the deceased's estate, if any, and other related administrative tasks. The Administrator shall not use this 8-day period allowed by law to unreasonably delay the municipality's decision.

**The Municipal Obligation to Pay When Legally Liable Relatives or Others Can Contribute.** The figures provided in this section are the maximum benefits provided by the municipality when no contributions toward the burial or cremation are available from any other source. To the extent any legally liable relatives of the deceased have a financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, that financial capacity shall be deducted from the maximum burial costs allowed by this section. In addition, any other benefits or resources that are available, such as Social Security burial benefits, veterans' burial benefits, or

contributions from other persons, will be deducted from the maximum amount the municipality will pay, except there will be no deduction from the municipal benefit level with respect to any contribution provided for the purpose of publishing an obituary notice up to an aggregate contribution limit for this purpose of \$75 when a paid receipt demonstrating the purchase of an obituary notice is provided to the Administrator.

**Burial Expenses.** The Administrator will respect the wishes of family members concerning whether the deceased is interred by means of burial or cremated. See Ordinance Appendix H for the maximum levels of burial assistance.

**Cremation Expenses.** In the absence of any objection by any family members of the deceased, or when neither the Administrator nor the funeral director can locate any family members, the Administrator may issue GA for cremation services. See Ordinance Appendix H for the maximum assistance levels for cremations.

#### Section 6.10—Notice of Decision

**Written Decision.** Each time a person applies, the Administrator will provide a written decision to the applicant after making a determination of eligibility. The decision will be given to the applicant within 24 hours after a completed and signed application is received (22 M.R.S. § 4305(3)) (*see Ordinance § 4.6*).

In order to comply with the statutory requirement to issue a decision within 24 hours, if an applicant submits an incomplete or unsigned application, the Administrator may decide to issue a notice of “ineligibility” and provide the applicant with another application to submit as soon as is practicable for the applicant.

The Administrator must explain the applicant’s right to a fair hearing in the Administrator’s written notice of decision.

**Contents of Decision.** After an application has been completed, applicants will be given written notice of any decision concerning their eligibility for assistance. In addition to the items listed in Ordinance § 4.6, the notice of decision will include a statement that:

- a) the applicant has the right to a fair hearing and how to request a fair hearing, and;
- b) the applicant has the right to contact the DHHS if he or she believes the municipality has violated the law. The decision will include contact information for the appropriate DHHS office.

**Disbursement of General Assistance.** Except when the Administrator determines it is impractical, all GA will be provided as a voucher or purchase order payable to a vendor or through direct municipal payment to a provider of goods or services. GA will not be issued in the form of a cash payment to an applicant unless there is no alternative to the cash payment, in which case the Administrator shall document the circumstances requiring GA to be issued in the form of cash. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(6)).



## ARTICLE VII – The Fair Hearing

### Section 7.1—Right to a Fair Hearing

Within 5 working days of receipt of a written notice of denial, reduction or termination of assistance, or within 10 working days after any other act or failure to act, the applicant or his or her authorized representative has the right to request a fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). The right to review a decision of the Administrator is a basic right of the applicant to a full evidentiary hearing and is not limited solely to a review of the decision.

### Section 7.2—Method of Obtaining a Fair Hearing

Upon receiving notification of the decision of the Administrator, all claimants will be informed of how to request a fair hearing. All complaints that are not clear requests for a fair hearing will be answered by a personal interview or in writing by the Administrator. If the client is satisfied with the adjustment or explanation, the Administrator will make an entry in the case record and file any correspondence involved.

**Written Request.** To obtain a fair hearing, the claimant, or his or her authorized representative, must make a written request within 5 working days of receipt of the Administrator's decision to grant, deny, reduce or terminate assistance, or within 10 working days after any other act or failure to act. The Administrator will make a form available to request a fair hearing and will assist the claimant in completing it if necessary. On the printed form, the claimant will give the following information:

- a) the decision on which review is sought;
- b) the reason(s) the claimant is dissatisfied and why the claimant believes he/she is eligible to receive assistance; and
- c) the relief sought by the claimant.

The Administrator may not deny or dismiss a request for a hearing unless it has been withdrawn (in writing) by the claimant.

**Scheduling the Fair Hearing.** Upon receipt of the completed written request, the FHA must meet and hold the hearing within 5 working days. The Administrator will notify the claimant in writing when and where the hearing will be held. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). In addition to the

date, time and place of the hearing, the notice of fair hearing shall include, at a minimum, the claimant's rights to:

- a) be his or her own spokesperson at the fair hearing, or at the claimant's own expense be represented by legal counsel or another;
- b) confront and cross-examine any witnesses presented at the hearing; and
- c) present witnesses on his or her own behalf.

Arrangements for the date, time, and place of the hearing will take into consideration the convenience of the claimant and hearing authority. The claimant will be given timely notice to allow for preparation and will also be given adequate preliminary information about the hearing procedure to allow for effective preparation of his or her case.

#### Section 7.3—The Fair Hearing Authority

The municipal officers will appoint a fair hearing authority (FHA) that will determine, based on all the evidence presented at the fair hearing, whether the claimant(s) were eligible to receive assistance at the time they applied for GA. The FHA is charged with ensuring that GA is administered in accordance with state law and this ordinance.

The FHA may consist of the municipal officers, one or more persons appointed by the municipal officers to act as the FHA, or, if designated by ordinance, a municipal board of appeals created under 30-A M.R.S. § 2691. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). In determining the FHA, the municipal officers will ensure that all person(s) serving as FHA must:

- a) have not participated in the decision which is the subject of the appeal;
- b) be impartial;
- c) be sufficiently skilled in interviewing techniques to be able to obtain evidence and the facts necessary to make a fair determination; and
- d) be capable of evaluating all evidence fairly and realistically, explaining to the claimant the laws and regulations under which the Administrator operated, and conveying to the Administrator any evidence of unsound, unclear, or inadequate policies, practices or actions.

#### Section 7.4—Fair Hearing Procedure

At the time that written notice of the date, time, and place of the fair hearing is provided to a claimant, he/she will also be given adequate information about the hearing procedure to allow him/her to effectively prepare his or her case. The claimant shall be permitted to review his or her file before the hearing. At a minimum, the claimant will be provided with the following information regarding fair hearing procedures. All fair hearings will:

- a) be conducted in private, with only to the claimant, witnesses, the claimant's legal counsel, others whom the claimant wants present, and Administrator, the Administrator's agents, counsel and witnesses present;
- b) be opened with a presentation of the issue by the FHA;
- c) be conducted informally, without technical rules of evidence, but subject to the requirements of due process;
- d) allow the claimant and the Administrator the option to present their positions for themselves or with the aid of others, including legal counsel;
- e) give all participants an opportunity to present oral or written testimony or documentary evidence, offer rebuttal; question witnesses presented at the hearing; and examine all evidence presented at the hearing;
- f) result in a decision, based exclusively on evidence or testimony presented at the hearing; and
- g) be tape recorded, and result in a written decision that is given to the claimant and filed with evidence introduced at the hearing. The FHA will allow the claimant to establish all pertinent facts and circumstances, and to advance any arguments without undue interference. Information that the claimant does not have an opportunity to hear or see will not be used in the fair hearing decision or made part of the hearing record. Any material reviewed by the FHA must be made available to the claimant or his or her representative. The claimant will be responsible for preparing a written transcript if he/she wishes to pursue court action.

The FHA shall admit all evidence if it is the kind of evidence upon which reasonable persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs. (22 M.R.S. § 4322).



**Claimant's Failure to Appear.** If the claimant fails to appear at the hearing, the FHA will send a written notice to the claimant indicating that the Administrator's decision remains unchanged because of the claimant failure to appear. The notice will state that the claimant has 5 working days from receipt of the notice to provide the Administrator with information demonstrating "just cause," for failure to appear.

"Just cause" for a claimant's failure to appear at a fair hearing, may include:

- a) a death or serious illness in the family;
- b) a personal illness which reasonably prevents the party from attending the hearing;
- c) an emergency or unforeseen event which reasonably prevents the party from attending the hearing;
- d) an obligation or responsibility which a reasonable person in the conduct of his or her affairs could reasonably conclude takes precedence over the attendance at the hearing; or
- e) lack of receipt of adequate or timely notice; excusable neglect, excusable inadvertence, or excusable mistake.

If the claimant (or his/her attorney) establishes that just cause existed, the request for the hearing will be reinstated and a hearing rescheduled.

If a claimant who is represented by legal counsel fails to appear at a fair hearing, legal counsel shall not testify in place of the claimant on matters of 'fact' but may cross examine witnesses and make 'legal' arguments on behalf of the claimant.

#### Section 7.5—The Fair Hearing Decision

The FHA's decision will be binding on the Administrator, and will be communicated in writing to the claimant within 5 working days after completion of the hearing. Written notice of the decision will contain:

- a) a statement of the issue;
- b) relevant facts brought out at the hearing;
- c) pertinent provisions in the law or GA ordinance related to the decision; and

d) the FHA's decision and the reasons for it.

A copy of the decision will be given to the claimant. The hearing record and the case record will be maintained by the Administrator.

The written decision will state that if the claimant is dissatisfied with the fair hearing decision, he/she may appeal pursuant to Maine Rule of Civil Procedure, Rule 80B. To take advantage of this right, the claimant must file a petition for review with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of the fair hearing decision.

When the decision by the FHA or court authorizes assistance to the claimant, the assistance will be provided within 24 hours.



## **ARTICLE VIII – Recovery of Expenses**

**Recipients.** The municipality may recover the full amount of assistance granted to a person from either the recipient or from any person liable for the recipient, or his or her executors or administrators in a civil action. However, prior to recovering assistance granted, the municipality shall “offset” the value of any workfare performed by a GA recipient against the repayment obligation, at a rate not less than minimum wage.

Before filing a court action to seek repayment of GA benefits previously provided to a recipient, the municipality will seek voluntary repayment after written notice and discussion with the recipient. However, the municipality will not attempt to recover such amounts if, as a result of the repayment, the recipient would again become eligible for GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4318).

**Recipients Anticipating Workers’ Compensation Benefits.** The municipality shall claim a lien on any lump sum payment under the Workers’ Compensation Act or similar law of any other state, which lien shall equal the value of all GA payments made to a recipient of any such lump sum payment. (22 M.R.S. § 4318, 39-A M.R.S. § 106). After issuing any GA on behalf of a recipient who has applied for or is receiving Workers’ Compensation, the municipality shall file a notice of the municipal lien with the GA recipient and the Maine Office of Secretary of State, Uniform Commercial Code division.

The notice of lien shall be filed on a UCC-1 form which must be signed by the GA recipient who has applied for or is receiving Workers’ Compensation. Any GA applicant who has applied for or who is receiving Workers’ Compensation benefits and who refuses to sign a properly prepared UCC-1 form will be found ineligible to receive GA until he or she provides the required signature. The municipality shall also send a photocopy of that filing to the recipient’s Worker’s Compensation attorney, if known, the applicant’s employer or the employer’s insurance company, and, at the Administrator’s discretion, to the Workers’ Compensation Board. The lien shall be enforced at the time any lump sum Workers’ Compensation benefit is issued.

**Recipients of SSI.** All applicants who receive GA while receipt of their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance is pending or suspended (and which therefore may be

retroactively issued to the applicant at a later date), will be required to sign a statement on an Interim Assistance Agreement form distributed by the DHHS that authorizes the Social Security Administration to direct a portion of any retroactive SSI payment to the municipality and/or the state in repayment for the GA granted. Any GA applicant who has applied for or who may be applying for SSI, or who may be required to apply for SSI pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4317, and who refuses to sign the Interim Agreement SSI authorization form will be found ineligible to receive GA until he or she provides the required signature. (22 M.R.S. § 4318).

**Relatives.** The spouse of an applicant, and the parents of any applicant under the age of 25, are liable for the support of the applicant (22 M.R.S. § 4319). In addition, the grandchildren, children, parents, grandparents, the spouse and a registered domestic partner, are liable for the burial costs of each other. The municipality considers these relatives to be available resources and liable for the support of their relatives in proportion to their respective ability. The municipality may complain to any court of competent jurisdiction to recover any expenses made on behalf of a recipient if the relatives fail to fulfill their responsibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4319).

#### **ARTICLE IX – Severability**

If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not invalidate any other provision of the ordinance.

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ GA Overall Maximums Error! Bookmark not defined.**85**

APPENDIX B – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Food Maximums ..... Error! Bookmark not defined.**87**

APPENDIX C – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ GA Housing Maximums Error! Bookmark not defined.**89**

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## APPENDIX A – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ GA Overall Maximums

Effective: 10/1/2~~1~~ – 9/30/2~~32~~

### Metropolitan Areas

| Persons in Household  |              |              |              |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>COUNTY</u>   | <u>1</u>     | <u>2</u>     | <u>3</u>     | <u>4</u>     | <u>5*</u>    |
| <b><u>Bangor HMFA:</u></b><br><u>Bangor, Brewer, Eddington, Glenburn,</u><br><u>Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Kenduskeag,</u><br><u>Milford, Old Town, Orono, Orrington,</u><br><u>Penobscot Indian Island Reservation,</u><br><u>Veazie</u>   | <u>826</u>   | <u>955</u>   | <u>1,219</u> | <u>1,515</u> | <u>2,071</u> |
|   |              |              |              |              |              |
| <b><u>Cumberland County HMFA:</u></b> <u>Baldwin,</u><br><u>Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison,</u><br><u>Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago</u>  | <u>1,016</u> | <u>1,075</u> | <u>1,409</u> | <u>1,865</u> | <u>1,991</u> |
|   |              |              |              |              |              |
| <b><u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA:</u></b><br><u>Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds,</u><br><u>Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore</u><br><u>Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland,</u><br><u>Sabattus, Turner, Wales</u>  | <u>795</u>   | <u>859</u>   | <u>1,099</u> | <u>1,427</u> | <u>1,728</u> |
|   |              |              |              |              |              |
| <b><u>Penobscot County HMFA:</u></b><br><u>Alton, Argyle UT, Bradford, Bradley,</u><br><u>Burlington, Carmel, Carroll plantation,</u><br><u>Charleston, Chester, Clifton, Corinna,</u><br><u>Corinth, Dexter, Dixmont, Drew</u><br><u>plantation, East Central Penobscot UT,</u><br><u>East Millinocket, Edinburg, Enfield, Etna,</u><br><u>Exeter, Garland, Greenbush, Howland,</u><br><u>Hudson, Kingman UT, Lagrange,</u><br><u>Lakeville, Lee, Levant, Lincoln, Lowell</u><br><u>town, Mattawamkeag, Maxfield, Medway,</u><br><u>Millinocket, Mount Chase, Newburgh</u><br><u>Newport, North Penobscot UT,</u><br><u>Passadumkeag, Patten, Plymouth, Prentiss</u><br><u>UT, Seboeis plantation, Springfield,</u><br><u>Stacyville, Stetson, Twombly UT, Webster</u><br><u>plantation, Whitney UT, Winn, Woodville</u> | <u>789</u>   | <u>792</u>   | <u>1,043</u> | <u>1,302</u> | <u>1,420</u> |
|   |              |              |              |              |              |
| <b><u>Portland HMFA:</u></b><br><u>Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Chebeague Island,</u><br><u>Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Frye</u><br><u>Island, Gorham, Gray, Long Island, North</u><br><u>Yarmouth, Portland, Raymond,</u><br><u>Scarborough, South Portland, Standish,</u>   | <u>1,263</u> | <u>1,463</u> | <u>1,893</u> | <u>2,415</u> | <u>2,958</u> |



|   |            |              |              |              |              |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>Westbrook, Windham, Yarmouth; Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Old Orchard Beach</u>   |            |              |              |              |              |
| <b><u>Sagadahoc HMFA:</u></b><br><u>Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich</u> | <u>874</u> | <u>1,031</u> | <u>1,253</u> | <u>1,650</u> | <u>1,880</u> |

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

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

### **Non-Metropolitan Areas**

#### **Persons in Household**

| <b><u>COUNTY</u></b>             | <b><u>1</u></b> | <b><u>2</u></b> | <b><u>3</u></b> | <b><u>4</u></b> | <b><u>5*</u></b> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b><u>Aroostook County</u></b>   | <u>692</u>      | <u>754</u>      | <u>881</u>      | <u>1,185</u>    | <u>1,353</u>     |
| <b><u>Franklin County</u></b>    | <u>728</u>      | <u>774</u>      | <u>909</u>      | <u>1,229</u>    | <u>1,566</u>     |
| <b><u>Hancock County</u></b>     | <u>890</u>      | <u>925</u>      | <u>1,110</u>    | <u>1,397</u>    | <u>1,529</u>     |
| <b><u>Kennebec County</u></b>    | <u>819</u>      | <u>835</u>      | <u>1,038</u>    | <u>1,360</u>    | <u>1,451</u>     |
| <b><u>Knox County</u></b>        | <u>844</u>      | <u>848</u>      | <u>1,038</u>    | <u>1,378</u>    | <u>1,471</u>     |
| <b><u>Lincoln County</u></b>     | <u>925</u>      | <u>941</u>      | <u>1,178</u>    | <u>1,463</u>    | <u>1,912</u>     |
| <b><u>Oxford County</u></b>      | <u>814</u>      | <u>815</u>      | <u>993</u>      | <u>1,400</u>    | <u>1,627</u>     |
| <b><u>Piscataquis County</u></b> | <u>701</u>      | <u>752</u>      | <u>926</u>      | <u>1,227</u>    | <u>1,477</u>     |
| <b><u>Somerset County</u></b>    | <u>755</u>      | <u>790</u>      | <u>1,017</u>    | <u>1,323</u>    | <u>1,416</u>     |
| <b><u>Waldo County</u></b>       | <u>970</u>      | <u>972</u>      | <u>1,155</u>    | <u>1,441</u>    | <u>1,970</u>     |

|                          |            |            |            |              |              |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>Washington County</u> | <u>756</u> | <u>758</u> | <u>982</u> | <u>1,228</u> | <u>1,343</u> |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|

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

## APPENDIX B – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Food Maximums

Effective: 10/01/2~~1~~ to 09/30/2~~32~~

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:

| <u>Number in Household</u> | <u>Weekly Maximum</u> | <u>Monthly Maximum</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <u>1</u>                   | <u>\$ 65.35</u>       | <u>\$ 281.00</u>       |
| <u>2</u>                   | <u>120.00</u>         | <u>516.00</u>          |
| <u>3</u>                   | <u>172.09</u>         | <u>740.00</u>          |
| <u>4</u>                   | <u>218.37</u>         | <u>939.00</u>          |
| <u>5</u>                   | <u>259.53</u>         | <u>1,116.00</u>        |
| <u>6</u>                   | <u>311.40</u>         | <u>1,339.00</u>        |
| <u>7</u>                   | <u>344.19</u>         | <u>1,480.00</u>        |
| <u>8</u>                   | <u>393.26</u>         | <u>1,691.00</u>        |

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

## APPENDIX C – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ GA Housing Maximums

Effective: 10/01/2~~21~~ to 09/30/2~~32~~

### (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> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Bedrooms</u>         | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                | <u>123</u>      | <u>528</u>     | <u>157</u>    | <u>676</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                | <u>126</u>      | <u>541</u>     | <u>171</u>    | <u>735</u>     |
| <u>2</u>                | <u>140</u>      | <u>604</u>     | <u>200</u>    | <u>859</u>     |
| <u>3</u>                | <u>197</u>      | <u>846</u>     | <u>270</u>    | <u>1,159</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                | <u>218</u>      | <u>935</u>     | <u>308</u>    | <u>1,323</u>   |
|                         |                 |                |               |                |
| <u>Franklin County</u>  | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>         | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                | <u>131</u>      | <u>564</u>     | <u>165</u>    | <u>712</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                | <u>131</u>      | <u>564</u>     | <u>176</u>    | <u>755</u>     |
| <u>2</u>                | <u>147</u>      | <u>632</u>     | <u>206</u>    | <u>887</u>     |
| <u>3</u>                | <u>207</u>      | <u>890</u>     | <u>280</u>    | <u>1,203</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                | <u>267</u>      | <u>1,148</u>   | <u>357</u>    | <u>1,536</u>   |
|                         |                 |                |               |                |
| <u>Hancock County</u>   | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>         | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                | <u>176</u>      | <u>755</u>     | <u>204</u>    | <u>875</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                | <u>176</u>      | <u>755</u>     | <u>211</u>    | <u>908</u>     |

|                        |                 |                |               |                |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>2</u>               | <u>205</u>      | <u>883</u>     | <u>253</u>    | <u>1,089</u>   |
| <u>3</u>               | <u>260</u>      | <u>1,120</u>   | <u>319</u>    | <u>1,373</u>   |
| <u>4</u>               | <u>276</u>      | <u>1,187</u>   | <u>349</u>    | <u>1,500</u>   |
|                        |                 |                |               |                |
| <u>Kennebec County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>        | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>               | <u>159</u>      | <u>684</u>     | <u>187</u>    | <u>804</u>     |
| <u>1</u>               | <u>159</u>      | <u>684</u>     | <u>190</u>    | <u>818</u>     |
| <u>2</u>               | <u>189</u>      | <u>811</u>     | <u>237</u>    | <u>1,017</u>   |
| <u>3</u>               | <u>252</u>      | <u>1,083</u>   | <u>311</u>    | <u>1,336</u>   |
| <u>4</u>               | <u>258</u>      | <u>1,109</u>   | <u>331</u>    | <u>1,422</u>   |

### Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

|                    |                 |                |               |                |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Knox County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>    | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>           | <u>157</u>      | <u>709</u>     | <u>193</u>    | <u>831</u>     |
| <u>1</u>           | <u>165</u>      | <u>673</u>     | <u>193</u>    | <u>831</u>     |
| <u>2</u>           | <u>189</u>      | <u>811</u>     | <u>237</u>    | <u>1,017</u>   |
| <u>3</u>           | <u>256</u>      | <u>1,101</u>   | <u>315</u>    | <u>1,354</u>   |
| <u>4</u>           | <u>263</u>      | <u>1,129</u>   | <u>335</u>    | <u>1,442</u>   |

|                       |                 |                |               |                |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Lincoln County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>       | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>              | <u>184</u>      | <u>790</u>     | <u>212</u>    | <u>910</u>     |
| <u>1</u>              | <u>184</u>      | <u>790</u>     | <u>215</u>    | <u>924</u>     |
| <u>2</u>              | <u>221</u>      | <u>951</u>     | <u>269</u>    | <u>1,157</u>   |
| <u>3</u>              | <u>276</u>      | <u>1,186</u>   | <u>335</u>    | <u>1,439</u>   |
| <u>4</u>              | <u>365</u>      | <u>1,570</u>   | <u>438</u>    | <u>1,883</u>   |

|                      |                 |                |               |                |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Oxford County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>      | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>             | <u>158</u>      | <u>679</u>     | <u>186</u>    | <u>799</u>     |

|                           |                 |                |               |                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>1</u>                  | <u>158</u>      | <u>679</u>     | <u>186</u>    | <u>799</u>     |
| <u>2</u>                  | <u>178</u>      | <u>766</u>     | <u>226</u>    | <u>972</u>     |
| <u>3</u>                  | <u>261</u>      | <u>1,123</u>   | <u>320</u>    | <u>1,376</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                  | <u>299</u>      | <u>1,285</u>   | <u>372</u>    | <u>1,598</u>   |
|                           |                 |                |               |                |
| <u>Piscataquis County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>           | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                  | <u>125</u>      | <u>537</u>     | <u>159</u>    | <u>685</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                  | <u>125</u>      | <u>539</u>     | <u>171</u>    | <u>733</u>     |
| <u>2</u>                  | <u>151</u>      | <u>649</u>     | <u>210</u>    | <u>904</u>     |
| <u>3</u>                  | <u>206</u>      | <u>888</u>     | <u>279</u>    | <u>1,201</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                  | <u>246</u>      | <u>1,059</u>   | <u>336</u>    | <u>1,447</u>   |
|                           |                 |                |               |                |
| <u>Somerset County</u>    | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>           | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                  | <u>144</u>      | <u>620</u>     | <u>172</u>    | <u>740</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                  | <u>144</u>      | <u>620</u>     | <u>180</u>    | <u>773</u>     |
| <u>2</u>                  | <u>184</u>      | <u>790</u>     | <u>232</u>    | <u>996</u>     |
| <u>3</u>                  | <u>243</u>      | <u>1,046</u>   | <u>302</u>    | <u>1,299</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                  | <u>250</u>      | <u>1,074</u>   | <u>322</u>    | <u>1,387</u>   |

### Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

|                     |                 |                |               |                |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Waldo County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>     | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>            | <u>194</u>      | <u>835</u>     | <u>222</u>    | <u>955</u>     |
| <u>1</u>            | <u>194</u>      | <u>835</u>     | <u>222</u>    | <u>955</u>     |
| <u>2</u>            | <u>216</u>      | <u>928</u>     | <u>264</u>    | <u>1,134</u>   |
| <u>3</u>            | <u>271</u>      | <u>1,164</u>   | <u>329</u>    | <u>1,417</u>   |
| <u>4</u>            | <u>379</u>      | <u>1,628</u>   | <u>451</u>    | <u>1,941</u>   |

| <u>Washington County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Bedrooms</u>          | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                 | <u>144</u>      | <u>621</u>     | <u>172</u>    | <u>741</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                 | <u>144</u>      | <u>621</u>     | <u>172</u>    | <u>741</u>     |
| <u>2</u>                 | <u>176</u>      | <u>755</u>     | <u>224</u>    | <u>961</u>     |
| <u>3</u>                 | <u>221</u>      | <u>951</u>     | <u>280</u>    | <u>1,204</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                 | <u>233</u>      | <u>1,001</u>   | <u>306</u>    | <u>1,314</u>   |

### Metropolitan FMR Areas

| <u>Bangor HMFA</u>          | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Bedrooms</u>             | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                    | <u>161</u>      | <u>691</u>     | <u>189</u>    | <u>811</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                    | <u>181</u>      | <u>780</u>     | <u>218</u>    | <u>938</u>     |
| <u>2</u>                    | <u>231</u>      | <u>992</u>     | <u>279</u>    | <u>1,198</u>   |
| <u>3</u>                    | <u>288</u>      | <u>1,238</u>   | <u>347</u>    | <u>1,491</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                    | <u>402</u>      | <u>1,729</u>   | <u>475</u>    | <u>2,042</u>   |
|                             |                 |                |               |                |
| <u>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>             | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                    | <u>205</u>      | <u>881</u>     | <u>233</u>    | <u>1,001</u>   |
| <u>1</u>                    | <u>209</u>      | <u>900</u>     | <u>246</u>    | <u>1,058</u>   |
| <u>2</u>                    | <u>275</u>      | <u>1,182</u>   | <u>323</u>    | <u>1,388</u>   |
| <u>3</u>                    | <u>369</u>      | <u>1,588</u>   | <u>428</u>    | <u>1,841</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                    | <u>383</u>      | <u>1,649</u>   | <u>456</u>    | <u>1,962</u>   |
|                             |                 |                |               |                |
| <u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u>  | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>             | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                    | <u>153</u>      | <u>660</u>     | <u>181</u>    | <u>780</u>     |

|          |            |              |            |              |
|----------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u>159</u> | <u>684</u>   | <u>196</u> | <u>842</u>   |
| <u>2</u> | <u>203</u> | <u>872</u>   | <u>251</u> | <u>1,078</u> |
| <u>3</u> | <u>267</u> | <u>1,150</u> | <u>326</u> | <u>1,403</u> |
| <u>4</u> | <u>322</u> | <u>1,386</u> | <u>395</u> | <u>1,699</u> |

### Metropolitan FMR Areas

| <u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Bedrooms</u>            | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                   | <u>152</u>      | <u>654</u>     | <u>180</u>    | <u>775</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                   | <u>152</u>      | <u>654</u>     | <u>180</u>    | <u>775</u>     |
| <u>2</u>                   | <u>190</u>      | <u>816</u>     | <u>238</u>    | <u>1,022</u>   |
| <u>3</u>                   | <u>238</u>      | <u>1,025</u>   | <u>297</u>    | <u>1,278</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                   | <u>251</u>      | <u>1,078</u>   | <u>323</u>    | <u>1,391</u>   |

| <u>Portland HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Bedrooms</u>      | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>             | <u>262</u>      | <u>1,128</u>   | <u>290</u>    | <u>1,248</u>   |
| <u>1</u>             | <u>300</u>      | <u>1,288</u>   | <u>336</u>    | <u>1,446</u>   |
| <u>2</u>             | <u>387</u>      | <u>1,666</u>   | <u>435</u>    | <u>1,872</u>   |
| <u>3</u>             | <u>497</u>      | <u>2,138</u>   | <u>556</u>    | <u>2,391</u>   |
| <u>4</u>             | <u>608</u>      | <u>2,616</u>   | <u>681</u>    | <u>2,929</u>   |

| <u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Bedrooms</u>            | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                   | <u>172</u>      | <u>739</u>     | <u>200</u>    | <u>859</u>     |
| <u>1</u>                   | <u>199</u>      | <u>856</u>     | <u>236</u>    | <u>1,014</u>   |
| <u>2</u>                   | <u>239</u>      | <u>1,026</u>   | <u>287</u>    | <u>1,232</u>   |
| <u>3</u>                   | <u>319</u>      | <u>1,373</u>   | <u>378</u>    | <u>1,626</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                   | <u>358</u>      | <u>1,538</u>   | <u>430</u>    | <u>1,851</u>   |

| <u>York Cty. HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |  | <u>Heated</u> |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|--|
|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|--|



| <u>Bedrooms</u>                               | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>0</u>                                      | <u>218</u>      | <u>937</u>     | <u>246</u>    | <u>1,057</u>   |
| <u>1</u>                                      | <u>218</u>      | <u>937</u>     | <u>248</u>    | <u>1,065</u>   |
| <u>2</u>                                      | <u>262</u>      | <u>1,128</u>   | <u>310</u>    | <u>1,334</u>   |
| <u>3</u>                                      | <u>335</u>      | <u>1,440</u>   | <u>394</u>    | <u>1,693</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                                      | <u>382</u>      | <u>1,642</u>   | <u>455</u>    | <u>1,955</u>   |
|   |                 |                |               |                |
| <u>York/Kittery/S. Berwick</u><br><u>HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |                | <u>Heated</u> |                |
| <u>Bedrooms</u>                               | <u>Weekly</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
| <u>0</u>                                      | <u>256</u>      | <u>1,102</u>   | <u>284</u>    | <u>1,222</u>   |
| <u>1</u>                                      | <u>260</u>      | <u>1,118</u>   | <u>297</u>    | <u>1,276</u>   |
| <u>2</u>                                      | <u>342</u>      | <u>1,472</u>   | <u>390</u>    | <u>1,678</u>   |
| <u>3</u>                                      | <u>446</u>      | <u>1,917</u>   | <u>505</u>    | <u>2,170</u>   |
| <u>4</u>                                      | <u>603</u>      | <u>2,592</u>   | <u>676</u>    | <u>2,905</u>   |

## APPENDIX D – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Electric Utility Maximums

Effective: 10/01/2~~21~~ to 09/30/2~~32~~

### 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>a) Number in Household</u> | <u>b) Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u>  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <u>1</u>                      | <u>\$19.95</u>   | <u>\$ 85.50</u> |
| <u>2</u>                      | <u>\$22.52</u>   | <u>\$ 96.50</u> |
| <u>3</u>                      | <u>\$24.97</u>   | <u>\$107.00</u> |
| <u>4</u>                      | <u>\$27.53</u>   | <u>\$118.00</u> |
| <u>5</u>                      | <u>\$29.88</u>   | <u>\$128.50</u> |
| <u>6</u>                      | <u>\$32.55</u>   | <u>\$139.50</u> |

**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>Weekly</u>  | <u>Monthly</u>  |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <u>1</u>                   | <u>\$29.63</u> | <u>\$127.00</u> |
| <u>2</u>                   | <u>\$34.07</u> | <u>\$146.00</u> |
| <u>3</u>                   | <u>\$39.67</u> | <u>\$170.00</u> |
| <u>4</u>                   | <u>\$46.32</u> | <u>\$198.50</u> |
| <u>5</u>                   | <u>\$55.65</u> | <u>\$238.50</u> |
| <u>6</u>                   | <u>\$58.68</u> | <u>\$251.50</u> |

**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 – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Heating Fuel Maximums

Effective: 10/01/2~~21~~ to 09/30/2~~32~~

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

**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 – 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Personal Care & Household Supplies Maximums

Effective: 10/01/2~~21~~ to 09/30/2~~32~~

| <u>Number in Household</u>   | <u>Weekly Amount</u> | <u>Monthly Amount</u> |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>1-2</u>   | <u>\$10.50</u>       | <u>\$45.00</u>        |
| <u>3-4</u>   | <u>\$11.60</u>       | <u>\$50.00</u>        |
| <u>5-6</u>   | <u>\$12.80</u>       | <u>\$55.00</u>        |
| <u>7-8</u>   | <u>\$14.00</u>       | <u>\$60.00</u>        |
| <b>NOTE:</b> 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>Weekly Amount</u> | <u>Monthly Amount</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>1</u>                  | <u>\$12.80</u>       | <u>\$55.00</u>        |
| <u>2</u>                  | <u>\$17.40</u>       | <u>\$75.00</u>        |
| <u>3</u>                  | <u>\$23.30</u>       | <u>\$100.00</u>       |
| <u>4</u>                  | <u>\$27.90</u>       | <u>\$120.00</u>       |



## **APPENDIX G – Mileage Rate**

This municipality adopts the State of Maine travel expense reimbursement rate as set by the Office of the State Controller. The current rate for approved employment and necessary medical travel, etc. is 4~~6~~5 cents (4~~6~~5¢) per mile.

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





## **APPENDIX H – Funeral Maximums / Burial Maximums and Cremation Maximums**

Effective: 10/01/2~~1~~ to 09/30/2~~3~~

The maximum amount of general assistance granted for the purpose of burial is **\$1,475**.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for burial purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable burial expenses are limited to:

- removal of the body from a local residence or institution
- a secured death certificate or obituary
- embalming
- a minimum casket
- a reasonable cost for necessary transportation
- other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal Administrator.

Additional costs may be allowed by the GA Administrator, where there is an actual cost, for:

- the wholesale cost of a cement liner if the cemetery by-laws require one;
- the opening and closing of the grave site; and
- a lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery. If the municipality is able to provide a cemetery lot in a municipally owned cemetery or in a cemetery under municipal control, the cost of the cemetery lot in any other cemetery will not be paid by the municipality.

### **Cremation Maximums**

The maximum amount of assistance granted for a cremation shall be \$1,025.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for cremation purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable cremation expenses are limited to:

- removal and transportation of the body from a local residence or institution
- professional fees
- crematorium fees
- a secured death certificate or obituary
- other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal administrator.

Additional costs may be allowed by the GA Administrator where there is an actual cost, for:

- a cremation lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery
- a reasonable cost for a burial urn not to exceed \$55
- transportation costs borne by the funeral director at a reasonable rate per mile for transporting the remains to and from the cremation facility.

## **APPENDIX I – Definition of Misconduct (26 M.R.S. § 1043 (23))**

23. Misconduct. “Misconduct” means a culpable breach of the employee's duties or obligations to the employer or a pattern of irresponsible behavior, which in either case manifests a disregard for a material interest of the employer. This definition relates only to an employee's entitlement to benefits and does not preclude an employer from discharging an employee for actions that are not included in this definition of misconduct. A finding that an employee has not engaged in misconduct for purposes of this chapter may not be used as evidence that the employer lacked justification for discharge.

A. The following acts or omissions are presumed to manifest a disregard for a material interest of the employer. If a culpable breach or a pattern of irresponsible behavior is shown, these actions or omissions constitute "misconduct" as defined in this subsection. This does not preclude other acts or omissions from being considered to manifest a disregard for a material interest of the employer. The acts or omissions included in the presumption are the following:

- (1) Refusal, knowing failure or recurring neglect to perform reasonable and proper duties assigned by the employer;
- (2) Unreasonable violation of rules that are reasonably imposed and communicated and equitably enforced;
- (3) Unreasonable violation of rules that should be inferred to exist from common knowledge or from the nature of the employment;
- (4) Failure to exercise due care for punctuality or attendance after warnings;
- (5) Providing false information on material issues relating to the employee's eligibility to do the work or false information or dishonesty that may substantially jeopardize a material interest of the employer;
- (6) Intoxication while on duty or when reporting to work, or unauthorized use of alcohol or marijuana while on duty except for the use of marijuana permitted under Title 22, chapter 558-C;
- (7) Using illegal drugs or being under the influence of such drugs while on duty or when reporting to work;
- (8) Unauthorized sleeping while on duty;
- (9) Insubordination or refusal without good cause to follow reasonable and proper instructions from the employer;
- (10) Abusive or assaultive behavior while on duty, except as necessary for self-defense;
- (11) Destruction or theft of things valuable to the employer or another employee;

- (12) Substantially endangering the safety of the employee, coworkers, customers or members of the public while on duty;
- (13) Conviction of a crime in connection with the employment or a crime that reflects adversely on the employee's qualifications to perform the work; or
- (14) Absence for more than 2 work days due to incarceration for conviction of a crime.

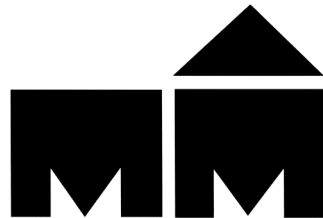
[PL2019, c. 125, §1 (AMD).]

B. “Misconduct” may not be found solely on:

- (1) An isolated error in judgment or a failure to perform satisfactorily when the employee has made a good faith effort to perform the duties assigned;
- (2) Absenteeism caused by illness of the employee or an immediate family member if the employee made reasonable efforts to give notice of the absence and to comply with the employer's notification rules and policies; or
- (3) Actions taken by the employee that were necessary to protect the employee or an immediate family member from domestic violence if the employee made all reasonable efforts to preserve the employment.

[PL 2019, c. 125, §1 (AMD).]

# **GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE**



Prepared by Maine Municipal Association  
September 2022



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## ARTICLE I – Statement of Policy

The Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_ administers a general assistance (“GA”) program available to all persons who are eligible pursuant to the standards provided in this ordinance, state law (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301-4326), and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations.

The program will make every effort to recognize the dignity of applicants while helping eligible persons achieve self-maintenance by promoting the work incentive. When possible, the program will connect recipients with rehabilitative, preventive, and protective services to alleviate non-financial needs. The GA program will not place unreasonable restrictions on the personal rights of applicants or recipients, nor will it discriminate based on sex, age, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. The municipality is committed to including qualified individuals with disabilities in municipal services, programs, and activities. As a result, the municipality will promote a GA program that when viewed in its entirety is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. GA applicants with physical or mental disabilities that require a reasonable accommodation in order to access and/or utilize the GA program are encouraged to contact the municipality to make an accommodation request.

The Administrator will act promptly on all applications for assistance and requests for fair hearings and will provide GA applicants with information regarding their rights and responsibilities under the program. Within 24 hours after receipt of an application, the Administrator will provide the applicant a written decision, whether or not assistance is granted, that will state the specific reasons for the decision. The Administrator will also provide the applicant written notice that the applicant may appeal to the municipal fair hearing authority if dissatisfied with the decision. When an applicant is determined to be eligible, assistance appropriate to the need will be furnished within 24 hours after the completed application is submitted except when the Administrator issues non-emergency assistance conditionally on the successful completion of a workfare assignment (*see Ordinance § 5.6*).

The Administrator will maintain complete and accurate records pertaining to each applicant and recipient. These records are confidential as a matter of law. 22 M.R.S. § 4306.

The Administrator will post notice stating the day(s) and hours the Administrator will be available. The Administrator, or other designated person/entity, will be available to take applications in the event of an emergency at all other times. A copy of this ordinance and Maine General Assistance law will be available to any member of the public upon request. Notice to this effect will be posted.



## ARTICLE II – Definitions

### Section 2.1—Common Meaning of Words

Unless otherwise apparent or defined, all words in this ordinance will have their common meaning.

### Section 2.2—Special Definitions

**Administrator.** See “General Assistance Administrator,” below.

**Applicant.** A person who has submitted an application for GA directly or through an authorized representative, or who has, in an emergency, requested assistance without first completing an application. All persons on whose behalf an authorized application has been submitted or on whose behalf benefits have been granted shall be considered applicants.

**Application Form.** A standardized form used by the Administrator to allow a person to apply for GA benefits. The application form also confirms that a person has made an application. The application form is not complete unless signed by the applicant.

**Basic Necessities.** Food, clothing, shelter, fuel, electricity, potable water, non-elective essential medical services as prescribed by a physician, nonprescription drugs, basic telephone service where it is necessary for medical or work-related reasons, property taxes when a tax lien placed on the property threatens the loss of the applicant’s place of residence, and any other commodity or service determined essential by the municipality.

“Basic necessities” do not include:

- Phone bills
- Cable or satellite dish television
- Mail orders
- Vehicle payments
- Credit card debt\*\*
- Furniture
- Loan re-payments\*\*
- Cigarettes
- Alcohol
- Pet care costs

- Vacation costs
- Legal fees
- Late fees
- Key deposits
- Security deposits for rental property (except when no other permanent lodging is available unless a security deposit is paid, and a waiver, deferral or installment arrangement cannot be made between landlord and tenant to avoid need for immediate payment of the security deposit in full). (22 M.R.S. § 4301(1)).

**\*\*** Repayments of loans or credit will be treated as having been spent on basic necessities when the applicant can provide verification of this fact.

**Case Record.** An official file containing application forms; correspondence; narrative records and all other communications pertaining to an applicant or recipient; written decisions regarding eligibility including reasons for those decisions and types and amounts of assistance provided; records concerning an applicant's request for fair hearing; and fair hearing decisions.

**Categorical Assistance.** All state and federal income maintenance programs.

**Claimant.** A person who has requested a fair hearing.

**Deficit.** An applicant's deficit is the appropriate overall maximum level of assistance for the household (see Ordinance § 6.8) less the household income (calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7), provided that this calculation yields a positive number. If the household income is greater than the appropriate overall maximum level of assistance, the household has no deficit.

**Disabled Person.** A person who is presently unable to work or maintain a home due to a physical or mental disability that is verified by a physician or qualified mental health provider.

**Dwelling Unit.** A building or part thereof used for separate living quarters for one or more persons living as a single housekeeping unit. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(2)).

**Earned Income.** Wages or Income-in-kind derived by providing goods or services to an individual, company, organization, or other entity.

**Eligible Person.** A person who is qualified to receive GA benefits from the municipality according to the eligibility standards in this Ordinance, Maine law (22 M.R.S. ch. 1161), and DHHS regulations (10-144 C.M.R. ch. 323). If otherwise qualified, “Eligible Person” includes U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens who are lawfully present in the United States as described in 8 U.S.C. § 1621(a)(1)-(3); and non-U.S. citizens who are pursuing a lawful process to apply for immigration relief. Assistance for non-citizens pursuing a lawful process for immigration relief shall not exceed 24 months beginning with assistance provided after July 1, 2015. “Eligible Person” does not include a fugitive from justice as defined in 15 M.R.S. § 201(4). (See “Pursuing a Lawful Process,” below)

**Emergency.** Any life-threatening situation, or a situation beyond the control of the individual which, if not alleviated immediately, could reasonably be expected to pose a threat to the health or safety of a person. At the municipality’s option, it includes a situation which is imminent and which may result in undue hardship or unnecessary cost to the individual or municipality if not resolved immediately. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(4), 4308(2), 4310).

**General Assistance (“GA”) Program.** A service administered by a municipality for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves or their families. A GA program provides a specific amount and type of aid for defined needs during a limited period of time and is not intended to be a continuing “grant-in-aid” or “categorical” welfare program. This definition shall not lessen the municipality’s responsibility to provide GA benefits to a person each time that the person is in need and is found to be eligible to receive GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(5)).

**General Assistance (“GA”) Benefits.** Benefits provided to a person through the GA program.

**General Assistance (“GA”) Administrator.** A municipal official designated to receive applications, make decisions concerning an applicant’s right to receive assistance, and

prepare records and communications concerning assistance. He or she may be an elected overseer or an authorized agent such as a town manager, welfare director, or caseworker. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(12)).

**Homelessness.** “Homelessness” means a situation in which a person or household is: (a) living in a place that is not fit for human habitation; (b) living in an emergency shelter; (c) living in temporary housing, including but not limited to a hotel, motel, campground, unlicensed campsite or rehabilitation facility; (d) exiting a hospital or institution licensed under 22 M.R.S. ch. 405 or a correctional facility where the person or household resided for up to 90 days if the person or household was in an emergency shelter or a place not fit for human habitation before entering the hospital, institution or correctional facility; (e) losing the person’s or household’s primary nighttime residence and lacking the resources or support networks to remain in that residence; or (f) fleeing or attempting to flee violence and has no other residence.

**Household.** “Household” means an individual or a group of individuals who share a dwelling unit. When an applicant shares a dwelling unit with one or more individuals, even when a landlord-tenant relationship may exist between individuals residing in the dwelling unit, eligible applicants may receive assistance for no more than their pro rata share of the actual costs of the shared basic needs of that household according to the maximum levels of assistance established in the municipal ordinance. The pro rata share is calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members. The income of household members not legally liable shall be considered as available to the applicant only when there is a pooling of income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(6)). Residents of a Recovery Residence are not considered a shared household.

**Income.** “Income” means any form of earned or unearned income in cash or in kind received by the household including:

- Net remuneration for services performed;
- Cash received on either secured or unsecured credit;

- Payments received as an annuity, retirement or disability benefits;
  - Veterans' pensions and/or benefits;
  - Retirement accounts or benefits;
  - Workers' compensation payments;
  - Unemployment benefits;
  - Federal and/or state tax returns;
  - Income from pension or trust funds;
  - Student loans;
  - Benefits under any state or federal categorical assistance program such
- as TANF, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security and any other payments from governmental sources (unless specifically prohibited by any law or regulation);
- Court ordered support payments (e.g., child support);
  - Household income from any other source, including relatives or unrelated household members; and
  - Rental income.

The following items will not be considered as income or assets that must be liquidated for the purposes of deriving income:

- Real or personal income-producing property, tools of trade, governmental entitlement specifically treated as exempt assets by state or federal law;
- Actual work-related expenses, whether itemized or by standard deduction, such as taxes, retirement fund contributions, union dues, transportation costs to and from work, special equipment costs and childcare expenses; or
- Earned income of children below the age of 18 years who are full-time students and who are not working full-time.

In determining need, the period of time used as a basis for the calculation shall be a 30-day period commencing on the date of the application. This prospective calculation shall not disqualify an applicant who has exhausted income to purchase basic necessities, provided that the income does not exceed the income standards established by the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).

- Benefits received pursuant to public benefit programs that are specifically exempt from being counted as income for purposes of GA. These programs include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (7 U.S.C. § 2017(b))
- Li-Heap (42 U.S.C. § 8624)
- Family Development Accounts (22 M.R.S. § 3762)
- AmeriCorp VISTA program benefits (42 U.S.C. § 5044 (f))
- Property tax rebates issued under the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, but only if the money is spent on basic necessities (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7))
- Aspire Support Service Payments (10-144 CMR Chapter 323)

**Initial Applicant.** A person who has not previously applied for GA assistance in this or any other municipality.

**Just Cause.** A valid, verifiable reason that hinders an individual from complying with one or more conditions of eligibility or from attending a scheduled fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(8), 4316-A(5)).

**Lump Sum Payment.** A one-time or typically nonrecurring sum of money issued to an applicant or recipient. Lump sum payment includes, but is not limited to, retroactive or settlement portions of social security benefits, workers' compensation payments, unemployment benefits, disability income, veterans' benefits, severance pay benefits, or money received from inheritances, lottery winnings, personal injury awards, property damage claims or divorce settlements. A lump sum payment includes only the amount of money available to the applicant after required deductions have been taken from the gross lump sum payment. A lump sum payment does not include conversion of a non-liquid resource to a liquid resource if the liquid resource has been used or is intended to be used to replace the converted resource or for other necessary expenses. (22 M.R.S. § 4301 (8-A)).

**Material Fact.** A material fact is a fact that necessarily has some bearing on the determination of an applicant's GA eligibility, and which would, if disclosed to the Administrator, have some determinable effect on the calculation of eligibility or the issuance of a grant of assistance.

**Maximum Levels of Assistance.** The amount of financial assistance for a commodity or service as established in Ordinance § 6.8 or the actual cost of any such basic necessity, whichever is less.

**Misconduct.** For purposes of the GA work requirement (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A), misconduct shall have the same meaning as “misconduct” in 26 M.R.S. § 1043(23). (*See Ordinance Appendix I*). Generally, misconduct occurs when an employee violates his or her obligations to the employer. Employees who engage in a pattern of irresponsible behavior to the detriment of the employer’s interest may also be found guilty of misconduct.

**Misspent Income.** Misspent income includes income-in-kind received, or paid for, by a GA repeat applicant from sources, including friends or relatives, for the payment of bills that are considered unnecessary costs, such as cable bills, credit card debt, court fines and related court costs, payments to reimburse a municipality for false representation, tobacco and alcohol products, and similar items. Misspent income will be considered as available to the applicant when determining use of income for the previous 30-day period.

**Municipality.** Any city, town or plantation administering a GA program.

**Municipality of Responsibility.** The municipality which is financially liable for the support of an eligible person at the time of application. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(9), 4307).

**Need.** The condition whereby a person’s income, money, property, credit, assets, or other resources available to provide basic necessities for the individual and the individual’s family are less than the maximum levels of assistance. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(10), 4308).

**Net General Assistance Costs.** Those direct costs incurred by a municipality in providing assistance to eligible persons according to standards established by the municipal officers. These do not include the administrative expenses of the GA program. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(11), 4311).

**Period of Eligibility.** The time for which a person has been granted assistance. The period of eligibility may vary depending on the type of assistance provided; however, in no event shall this period extend beyond one month. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(1)).

**Pooling of Income.** “Pooling of income” means the financial relationship among household members who are not legally liable for mutual support in which there occurs any commingling of funds or sharing of income or expenses. This ordinance establishes a rebuttable presumption that persons sharing the same dwelling unit are pooling their income, except that applicants that who request assistance while residing in a Recovery Residence are not considered to be commingling funds. Applicants who request that the determination of eligibility be calculated as though one or more household members are not pooling their income have the burden of rebutting the presumed pooling of income.

**Potential Resources.** Sources of financial assistance, including programs, services, non-liquid assets or trusts which typically require people to apply in writing and/or wait a period of time before eligibility is determined or the potential income is released.

**Pursuing a Lawful Process to Apply for Immigration Relief.** Taking reasonable, good faith steps to apply for immigration relief within twelve months of arrival to the United States, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or before an immigration judge or federal court. (See DHHS regulation, 10-144 C.M.R. ch. 323, for additional guidance).

**Real Estate.** Any land, buildings, homes, mobile homes, and any other things affixed to the land. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(13)).

**Recipient.** A person who has applied for and is currently receiving GA.

**Recovery Residence.** “Recovery residence” means 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. 5 M.R.S. § 20003(19-D).

**Registered Domestic Partner.** An individual registered as the domestic partner of the applicant pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 2710.



**Rehabilitation Facility.** An inpatient facility that is operated for the primary purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of disabled persons through an integrated program of medical services and other services that are provided under competent professional supervision.

**Repeat Applicants.** All applicants for GA benefits that are not initial applicants are repeat applicants. For purposes of this ordinance “repeat” and “subsequent” shall have the same meaning.

**Resident.** A person who is physically present in a municipality with the intention of remaining in that municipality in order to maintain or establish a home, and who has no other residence. A person who applies for assistance in a municipality who is not a resident of that municipality, or any other municipality is the responsibility of the municipality where the person first applies. That municipality must take an application and grant assistance to the applicant if he/she is eligible, until he/she establishes a new residence in another municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4307).

**Resources.** Resources include any program, service, or other sources of support which are an alternative to or supplement for GA. There are two kinds of resources: “available” and “potential”. Potential resources are programs, services, non-liquid assets, or trusts that typically require people to apply in writing and/or wait a period of time before eligibility is determined or the potential income is released.

Potential resources include, but are not limited to, state or federal assistance programs, employment benefits, governmental or private pension programs, available trust funds, support from legally liable relatives, child support payments, and jointly held resources where the applicant or recipient share may be available to the individual. (22 M.R.S. § 4317). Potential resources include the TANF (previously known as AFDC) program, Food Stamps, fuel assistance (HEAP), subsidized housing, and similar programs.

Available resources include resources which are immediately available to the applicant or which can be conveniently secured by the applicant without delay, such as cash on hand or in bank accounts, assets for which there is an immediate and available market,

or support from relatives which is being made available at the time of application and for which the applicant does not have to take any unreasonable steps to secure (e.g., relocation beyond the immediate region). At the discretion of the Administrator, a minimum balance required by a financial institution in order to obtain free checking or in order to maintain the account shall not be considered an available resource.

The Administrator reserves the right to inform GA clients of services, commodities or facilities made available by private organizations or charities; however, eligibility for GA benefits shall not be based or conditioned on the use of a private charitable resource(s).

**30-Day Need.** An applicant's 30-day need is the sum of the household's prospective 30-day costs, from the date of application, for the various basic necessities. For the purpose of this calculation, the 30-day cost for any basic need shall be the household's actual 30-day cost for the basic necessity or the maximum 30-day cost for the basic necessity as established by this ordinance, whichever is less.

**Unearned Income.** Unearned income is income acquired from investments and other sources unrelated to employment. Unearned income also includes unemployment compensation, taxable social security benefits, pensions, annuities, and distributions of unearned income from a trust or any other income not meeting the definition of earned income.

**Unforeseen Repeat Applicants.** A repeat applicant who has not applied for assistance within the last twelve months and who has been regularly employed or receiving support from a public benefit program or private source and who has unexpectedly become unemployed through no fault of their own or whose benefits (e.g., through an available resource) have ceased through no fault of their own.

**Unmet Need.** An applicant's unmet need is the household's 30-day need (established by Ordinance § 6.6) less the household income (calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7), provided such a calculation yields a positive number. If the household income is greater than the household's 30-day need, the household does not have an unmet need.

**Work Requirements.** Work requirements are obligations the Administrator places on applicants as directed and/or authorized by 22 M.R.S. § 4316-A to the extent such obligations (1) ensure a continuing potential eligibility for GA when complied with, (2) result in ineligibility when violated, and (3) are not merely optional, discretionary, or advisory. Work requirements include registering for work, looking for work in good faith, accepting all suitable job offers, maintaining employment, performing workfare, and participating in training, educational, or rehabilitation programs that will assist the participant in securing employment.

## **ARTICLE III – Administrative Rules and Regulations**

### **Section 3.1—Confidentiality of Information**

Case records and all other information relating to a GA applicant or recipient are confidential and will not be disclosed to the general public. (22 M.R.S. § 4306).

**Release of Information.** Applicants, recipients, and their legal representatives have the right to review their case records. No record will be released to a third party unless the Administrator receives a signed consent form in which the applicant expressly authorizes the release of his or her records to the specified parties. Whenever the Administrator releases any information, he/she will make a notation in the applicant's file stating to whom the record was released and the date. The Administrator may charge a reasonable fee for reproduction of records.

**Information from Other Sources; Penalty.** Information concerning an applicant or recipient furnished to the municipality by DHHS or any other agency or institution pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4314, is confidential. The Administrator will also comply with laws requiring confidentiality of vital statistic records such as birth, marriage, and death records. (22 M.R.S. § 2706).

Any representative of a financial institution or any employer of a GA applicant who, upon receipt of a written release signed by the depositor/employee and a written request from the Administrator, refuses to provide necessary information to the Administrator in order to verify an applicant's eligibility must state in writing the reason for the refusal. National banks are also obligated to disclose deposit information to the Administrator upon receipt of a written request and release signed by the depositor. Additionally, when a municipality or its agents are acting in accordance with section 4313(2) to verify eligibility for funeral or cremation benefits, an officer of a financial institution must disclose the amount deposited upon receipt of a written request from the municipality or its agents and a notarized affidavit signed by the overseer of the municipality or its agents stating that the named depositor is deceased. Any such person who refuses to provide information, without just cause, may be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100. Any person, including the applicant, who knowingly and willfully makes a false

representation of a material fact to the Administrator commits a Class E crime. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4314, 4315).

**Misuse of Information.** Misuse of any information relating to an applicant or recipient is a punishable offense. (22 M.R.S. § 42(2)).

### **Section 3.2—Maintenance of Records**

The Administrator will maintain complete and accurate program records. (22 M.R.S. § 4306). These records are necessary to: (a) document and account for municipal program expenditures; (b) document and support decisions concerning applicants and recipients; and (c) ensure relevant information is available for any fair hearing or judicial review of the Administrator's decisions.

**Case Records.** The Administrator will maintain a separate case record, in paper or digital format, for each applicant or recipient. Each case record will include at least:

- household applications;
- household budget sheets;
- the types and amounts of assistance provided;
- narrative statements describing the nature of the emergency situation whenever GA is granted in amounts greater than the applicant's mathematical eligibility (i.e., deficit or unmet need, whichever is less);
- written decisions;
- requests for fair hearings and the fair hearing authority decisions;
- workfare participation records;
- repayments to the municipality;
- narrative writings documenting the need for general assistance, the results of home visits, collateral information, referrals, changes in status;
- client authorization(s) for the release of GA information and/or reason(s) for the release of confidential information;
- adjustments in aid, and suspension or termination of eligibility;
- physician's documentation;

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) interim assistance reimbursement authorization forms; and
- vendor forms

Case records will not include information that is irrelevant to the applicant's or recipient's application or the Administrator's decisions.

**Retention of Records.** GA records shall be retained for at least three full years. The three-year period shall coincide with the state government's fiscal year which begins July 1 and ends on the following June 30. Records may be destroyed after three years by supervised shredding, burning or an appropriate digital deletion/destruction process. If a recipient's records contain SSI reimbursement forms, the recipient's records should be retained so that the municipality may seek reimbursement.



## **ARTICLE IV – Application Procedure**

### **Section 4.1—Right to Apply**

**Who May Apply.** Any person may apply for GA. The head of the family, any other responsible household member, or an authorized representative must apply in person, except in special emergency situations (see Ordinance § 4.9) or when the applicant resides at an emergency shelter and the municipality has made an agreement with that emergency shelter to presume shelter residents eligible for GA benefits. (22 M.R.S. § 4304(3)). In such cases, the Administrator may require a representative to present a signed statement documenting that he/she is authorized to apply on behalf of the named applicant. The applicant or representative must complete a written application and any other forms necessary for the Administrator to determine eligibility. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4305, 4308). With notice, all members of the household receiving GA may be required to physically present themselves to the Administrator. Note that fugitives from justice are ineligible for GA benefits.

**Telephone Applications.** When a person has an emergency but is unable to apply in person due to illness, disability, lack of childcare, lack of transportation or other good cause, and he/she cannot send an authorized representative, the Administrator will accept an application by telephone. The telephone application is subject to written verification by mail and a visit to the applicant's home with his or her permission. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

**Written Application Upon Each Request.** Each request for assistance will be administered in accordance with these guidelines, and the Administrator will make an independent determination of eligibility for GA each time a person applies. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4308, 4309).

**Applications Accepted; Posted Notice.** Application forms will be available during regular business hours at the municipal office and when the Administrator is conducting interviews with applicants. Completed applications will be accepted and interviews given only during the regular hours established and posted by the Administrator. In an emergency, however, the Administrator or his or her designee will be available to accept applications for assistance whenever necessary.



The municipality will post notice stating the times and location where people may apply for assistance and contact information for the Administrator available to take emergency applications at all other times. In addition, the posted notice shall state that the municipality must issue a written decision on all applications within 24-hours and will include the DHHS toll-free telephone number for reporting alleged violations or complaints. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

#### **Section 4.2—Application Interview**

Except when it is impractical, the Administrator will interview each applicant in person before making a decision. Interviews will be conducted in private, although the applicant may be accompanied by a legal representative, friend, or family member.

#### **Section 4.3—Contents of the Application**

An application must contain the following information:

- a) the applicant's name, address, date of birth, SSN or appropriate United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation, and phone number;
- b) the names, date(s) of birth, and SSN(s) or appropriate USCIS documentation of other household members for whom the applicant seeks assistance;
- c) the total number of individuals living with the applicant;
- d) employment and employability information;
- e) a listing of all household income, resources, assets, and property;
- f) the applicant's household expenses;
- g) the types of assistance requested;
- h) a statement of the penalty for false representation;
- i) the applicant's permission for the Administrator to verify information;
- j) the signature of applicant and date.

If an initial applicant is unable to provide identification records (e.g., SSN card/number) because the record may have been lost, stolen or misplaced, the Administrator may allow the initial applicant a reasonable amount of time (e.g., five working days), to obtain copies of identification records. Provided the initial applicant makes a good faith effort to obtain the item/record sought, GA benefits necessary to cure an immediate and/or emergency need shall not be withheld. In such cases the Administrator may elect to provide

a prorated amount of GA (e.g., five days' worth), while the applicant attempts to obtain the required information.

#### **Section 4.4— GA Administrator's Responsibilities at the Time of Application**

The Administrator will inform all applicants of: (1) their rights and responsibilities; (2) general program requirements for applying for and receiving GA, and (3) application requirements, eligibility guidelines, applicant rights, and applicant reimbursement obligations.

**Application Requirements.** The Administrator will help applicants complete application forms and inform applicants of any other information or documents necessary to evaluate the applicant's eligibility. The Administrator will fully explain the purpose of any forms consenting to release of the applicant's information and any benefit reimbursement agreements before the Administrator requests the applicant's signature or written authorization.

**Eligibility Requirements.** The Administrator will inform the applicant, either orally or in writing, of the eligibility requirements of the program, including:

- the income standard of need;
- the applicant's ongoing use-of-income, work-related, and resource-related responsibilities, as described in the section immediately below;
- the reduction in assistance that results from spending household income on non-basic necessities;
- immigration status (see definition of "Eligible Person"); and
- the disqualification penalties associated with committing fraud, failing to perform work-related assignments without just cause, or failing to make a good faith effort to secure potential resources when the requirement to attempt to obtain those resources has been explained to the applicant in writing.

**Applicant Rights.** The Administrator will inform all applicants of their right to:

- review the municipal GA ordinance and Maine GA statute and regulations;
- apply for assistance;
- receive a written decision concerning eligibility within 24-hours after application;

- confidentiality of the application and other records;
- contact the DHHS with complaints;
- challenge the Administrator's decision by requesting a fair hearing.

**Reimbursement/Recovery.** The Administrator will inform the applicant/recipient that he/she must reimburse the municipality the amount of GA benefits he/she has been granted if he/she subsequently has the ability to pay. The municipality may also, as appropriate, contact and inform the applicant/recipient's legal representative of the recipient's obligation to repay the municipality.

The municipality may also recover the amount of assistance granted to a recipient during the previous 12 months from any relative legally liable for the applicant's support, such as a spouse, or the parents of persons under the age of 25. (*See Article VIII, "Recovery of Expenses"*). (22 M.R.S. §§ 4318, 4319). Whenever applicable, the Administrator will explain the liens a municipality may place against a recipient's real or personal property, such as the mortgage or capital improvement lien, the Workers' Compensation lump sum payment lien, or the SSI "Interim Assistance Agreement" lien, described in Article VIII, "Recovery of Expenses."

#### **Section 4.5—Responsibilities of the Applicant at Time of Application**

The applicant is responsible to provide accurate, complete, and current household information and verifiable documentation at the time of each application concerning:

- Income
- Resources
- Assets
- Employment
- Use of income
- Names and addresses of any relatives legally liable for the applicant's support
- Any change in this information from a previous application that would affect household eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

In addition, the applicant must accurately report and provide verifiable documentation that shows the applicant:

- a) has remained employed, if previously employed, and has not quit work without just cause or been discharged from employment for misconduct;
- b) has been seeking employment, if previously unemployed or employed on a part-time basis, has accepted any suitable offer of employment, and has satisfactorily performed all workfare assignments or had just cause not to perform those assignments;
- c) has made use of all available and potential resources when directed in writing to such a program by the Administrator, including, but not limited to, other government benefit programs or the assistance of liable relatives of sufficient means; and
- d) has participated in any training, retraining, educational or rehabilitative program when appropriate and when directed in writing to such a program by the Administrator, in order to diminish the applicant's need for general assistance. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4316-A, 4317).

#### **Section 4.6—Action on Applications**

**Written Decision.** The Administrator will issue a written decision concerning the applicant's eligibility within 24 hours after the applicant submits a written application. Assistance will be furnished to eligible applicants within that period except when the municipality is permitted by law (and pursuant to Ordinance § 5.6) to issue assistance conditionally on the successful completion of a workfare assignment. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4305, 4316-A, 4321). A written decision will be given each time a person applies, whether assistance is granted, denied, reduced, or terminated.

**Content of Decision.** The Administrator's written decision will contain:

- a) the type and amount of benefits granted, or the applicant's ineligibility for benefits;
- b) the period of eligibility if the applicant is eligible for assistance;
- c) the specific reasons for the Administrator's decision;
- d) the applicant's right to a fair hearing; and
- e) the applicant's right to notify the DHHS if he/she believes the municipality has acted illegally. (22 M.R.S. § 4321).

#### **Section 4.7—Withdrawal of an Application**

An application will be considered withdrawn if the applicant requests in writing that the application be withdrawn; or if the applicant refuses to complete or sign the application or any other document needed by the Administrator.

#### **Section 4.8—Temporary Refusal to Accept Application**

Under special circumstances, the Administrator may temporarily refuse to accept applications. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) When the applicant's conduct is abusive, disruptive, or harassing, or when the applicant is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In these situations, the applicant will be asked to leave; if the applicant refuses to leave, the police may be summoned. The applicant will be informed that an application will only be accepted when his or her conduct is under control.
- b) If the Administrator believes that an applicant's behavior presents a threat to the health or safety of the public or to a municipal employee, if the applicant's behavior is violent, or if an applicant has engaged in abusive, disruptive or harassing behavior and has been required to leave on more than one occasion, the applicant may be required to designate a third party to apply for assistance on his or her behalf and the applicant may be prohibited from entering the municipal building;
- c) When a third person applies for assistance on behalf of the applicant that person may be required to provide written verification that he/she has been duly authorized to act as a representative for the applicant. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

#### **Section 4.9—Emergencies**

An "emergency" means any life-threatening situation, or a situation beyond the control of the applicant which if not alleviated immediately could reasonably be expected to pose a threat to the health or safety of the applicant or a member of the household. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(4)). An emergency includes homelessness or imminent homelessness. Even if an applicant is otherwise ineligible to receive GA benefits, unless he/she is disqualified as provided below, emergency assistance may be granted to applicants who lack sufficient

income and resources to meet the emergency need and also have not had sufficient income and resources to avert the emergency. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

A municipality may provide emergency assistance when the municipality determines that an emergency is imminent and that failure to provide assistance may result in undue hardship and unnecessary costs to either the applicant or the municipality.

**Disqualification for Emergency Assistance.** A person who is currently disqualified from receiving GA due to a violation of Ordinance §§ 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9 or 6.4 is ineligible to receive emergency assistance. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)(A)). However, dependents of a disqualified person may be eligible for assistance. For the purposes of this section, “dependents” are defined as: (1) a dependent minor child; (2) an elderly, ill or disabled person; or (3) a person whose presence is required to provide care for any child under the age of 6 years or any ill or disabled member of the household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

If one or more members of a household are disqualified and assistance is requested for the remaining dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

**Assistance Prior to Verification.** Whenever an applicant informs the Administrator that he/she needs assistance immediately, the Administrator will grant, pending verification, the assistance within 24 hours, provided that:

- a) after interviewing the applicant the Administrator has determined that the applicant will probably be eligible for assistance after a verification of information is completed; and
- b) the applicant submits documentation when possible, to verify his or her need. The Administrator may contact at least one other person to confirm the applicant’s statements about his/her need for emergency assistance. No further assistance will be authorized until the applicant’s eligibility is confirmed. (22 M.R.S. § 4310).

**Telephone Applications.** If a person has an emergency need and cannot apply in person due to illness, disability, lack of transportation, or other good cause, and if there is no

authorized representative who can apply on behalf of the applicant, the Administrator shall accept an application over the telephone. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

Assistance will not be granted after a telephone application if the applicant refuses to allow the Administrator to verify information provided by the applicant either by visiting his or her home or by mail, and the Administrator cannot determine eligibility through any other means.

**Limitation on Emergency Assistance.** Applicants are not automatically eligible for emergency assistance. If an applicant had income which could have been used to prevent all or part of an emergency, but he or she spent that income on items which are not basic necessities, the applicant will not be eligible to receive GA to replace the misspent money. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4308(2) & 4315-A).

All applicants must provide the Administrator with verifiable documentation demonstrating that the applicant lacked sufficient income to avert the emergency situation. According to the following criteria, the Administrator may limit emergency assistance to cover only the difference between the amount of money necessary for the household to avoid the emergency and the amount of income available to the household during the applicable time period.

- a) The applicable time period shall be the 30 days preceding the application for emergency assistance, except in those cases where the emergency was created by a negative account balance for a commodity or service (such as rent, mortgage, or utility payments), and the negative account balance was created over a longer period of time. In such cases, the applicable time period shall be the consecutive length of time the account balance has been in the negative.
- b) The Administrator shall seek from the applicant all information pertinent to the applicant's ability to provide for his or her basic necessities for the applicable time period, including evidence of all income and resources received over that period of time.
- c) The Administrator shall calculate all costs per month for the household's basic necessities during the applicable time period, consistent with the maximum levels

established by this ordinance for the specific basic necessity or the actual monthly cost, whichever is less, including all costs associated with averting the particular emergency situation for which the applicant is seeking assistance.

- d) From the total household costs for basic necessities during the applicable time period, the Administrator shall subtract the total income and lump sum payments available to the household for the applicable time period, as well as the total general assistance actually received during the applicable time period.
- e) The Administrator may restrict the issuance of emergency assistance to the difference yielded by the computation in subsection (d), even when such a grant will not totally alleviate the emergency situation.
- f) The Administrator may waive this limitation on emergency assistance in life threatening situations or for initial applicants; that is, persons who have never before applied for general assistance.
- g) Nothing in these criteria may be construed as prohibiting a municipality from electing to alleviate an emergency situation in the most cost-effective manner available, provided such a determination of eligibility for emergency assistance is in conformance with general assistance law.

#### **Section 4.10—Residence**

The Administrator shall provide GA to all eligible applicants who are residents of this municipality. A resident is a person who has no other residence, is physically present in this municipality and who intends to remain here and establish a household.

The municipality also recognizes its responsibility to provide assistance to eligible persons who apply here and who are not residents of this municipality or any other municipality. If a person who is not a resident of any municipality applies in this municipality first, the Administrator will determine his or her eligibility and, if eligible, will grant assistance until he/she establishes a residence in another municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4307).

**Moving/Relocating.** The municipality will not consider moving or transporting an applicant or recipient into another municipality unless the person requests assistance to relocate to another municipality. If the Administrator determines the applicant is eligible and grants



financial assistance to help with the requested relocation, this municipality will be responsible for providing assistance to the applicant for 30 days after he/she moves provided the recipient remains eligible.

**Institutions.** If a resident of this municipality enters an institution located in another municipality (such as a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home, or hospital) and requests assistance while at the institution, he/she will be the responsibility of this municipality for up to 6 months after he/she enters the institution if the conditions of 22 M.R.S. § 4307 and § 4313 are met. The municipality thereafter retains responsibility for an applicant in an institution only if the applicant has maintained a home in this municipality to which he/she intends to return. The municipality also recognizes its responsibility for applicants residing in an institution in this municipality if such an applicant had no residence prior to entering the institution. (22 M.R.S. § 4307(4)).

**Temporary Housing.** Hotels/motels and similar places of temporary lodging are considered institutions if the municipality grants financial assistance for, makes arrangements for, or advises or encourages an applicant to stay in temporary lodging.

**Note:** A municipality which illegally denies housing assistance will be responsible for the applicant for up to 6 months if, as a result of the denial, the applicant stays in temporary lodging. The municipality may also be subject to other penalties. (22 M.R.S. § 4307(4)).

**Disputes.** When the Administrator believes that an applicant is a resident of another municipality, but that municipality disputes its responsibility, the Administrator will notify DHHS' Augusta office (287-3654 or 1-800-442-6003). If the applicant applies in this municipality first, the Administrator will determine his or her eligibility and, if eligible, will grant assistance until the DHHS has concluded which municipality is responsible for providing assistance. If another municipality was responsible, the DHHS will recover the amount due from the other municipality. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4307(5), 4307(6)).

## ARTICLE V – Eligibility Factors

A person will be eligible for GA if he/she is an “Eligible Person” as defined in section 2.2, is in need, and has complied with the eligibility requirements set forth below. (*For guidance in determining whether an applicant is an Eligible Person, contact DHHS at (800) 442-6003 (TTY: 287-6948).*)

### Section 5.1—Initial Application

**Initial Application.** For initial applicants, need will be the sole condition of eligibility, except that all applicants, including initial applicants, are disqualified for a defined period (1) for quitting employment without just cause or for being discharged from employment for misconduct (*see Ordinance § 5.5*) or (2) who are fugitives from justice as defined in 15 M.R.S. § 201(4), (22 M.R.S. § 4301(3)). An initial applicant is a person who has never before applied for GA in any municipality in Maine. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(1)).

“Need” means that the applicant’s income (including prorated income, where applicable), property, credit, assets or other resources are less than the overall maximum level of assistance contained in Ordinance § 6.8 or the applicant’s 30-day need, whichever is less, and he/she does not have adequate income or other resources available to provide basic necessities.

**Repeat Applicants.** Persons who are not initial applicants are repeat applicants; these are persons who have previously applied for GA at some time, including persons on whose behalf a GA application was previously made at any time, provided that the applicant was not a dependent minor in the household at the time of the previous application. To be eligible for GA, repeat applicants must be in need and meet all other eligibility requirements. The eligibility of repeat applicants may also be adversely affected to the extent they have not used their income and resources to secure basic necessities.

### Section 5.1A – Presumptive Eligibility

A person who is provided shelter in an emergency shelter for the homeless located in the municipality shall be presumed to be an eligible person. Presumed eligibility may not exceed 30 days within a 12-month period. After the period of presumed eligibility, full eligibility must be verified before assistance will be issued. When presumptive eligibility

is determined under this section, no other municipality may be determined to be the municipality of responsibility during that 30-day period.

#### **Section 5.1B – Recovery Residences**

The Administrator will not deny GA benefits to a person for the sole reason that the person is residing in a recovery residence. Beginning July 1, 2022, housing assistance will not be provided to a person residing in a recovery residence that has not been certified in accordance with 5 M.R.S. § 20005(22), except that the person may receive housing assistance while residing in an uncertified recovery residence for one 30-day period only. The Administrator will inform the person of the requirements and time limits regarding recovery residences. A person who is ineligible for housing assistance under this subsection may remain eligible to receive GA for other basic necessities.

#### **Section 5.2—Eligibility for Categorical Assistance**

Receipt of categorical assistance will not disqualify an otherwise eligible person. Benefits received from other assistance programs will be considered as income when determining need, with the exception of Food Stamps, which will not be counted as income or resources or otherwise taken into consideration when determining need. (7 U.S.C. § 2017 (b)).

In addition, fuel assistance (HEAP/ECIP) received by an applicant will not be considered as income; that is, the Administrator will always compute the heating needs of an applicant who has received HEAP or ECIP as if that applicant paid all costs associated with his or her fuel needs. (42 U.S.C. § 8624(f)). When an applicant has received HEAP or ECIP, GA heating energy needs will be calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7, subsection (c) under “Types of Income”. For several additional exceptions please refer to the definition of “Income” in this Ordinance (see Ordinance § 2.2, page 7, subsection 4).

Applicants or recipients must apply for other program benefits within 7 days after being advised in writing to do so by the Administrator. Persons who, without just cause, make no good faith effort to obtain a potential resource will be disqualified from receiving assistance until they make a good faith effort to obtain the benefit. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

### **Section 5.3—Personal Property**

#### **a) Liquid Assets.**

No person owning assets easily convertible into cash, including but not limited to, bank deposits, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, retirement accounts, life insurance policies and other marketable security will be eligible for GA unless and until he or she uses these assets to meet his or her basic needs, and thereby exhausts them. At the discretion of the Administrator, liquid assets need not include a reasonable minimum balance necessary to obtain free checking. Although one checking account per household may be allowed, any monies over the minimum required to obtain free checking are to be considered available liquid assets.

#### **b) Tangible Assets.**

No person owning or possessing personal property, including but not limited to: a motor vehicle (except as provided immediately below in subsection c), or a boat, trailer, recreation vehicle or other assets that are convertible into cash and are non-essential to the maintenance of the applicant's household will be eligible for GA. Exceptions may be made when a person is making an initial application or is an unforeseeable repeat applicant as defined in Ordinance § 2.2 or when reasonable efforts to convert assets to cash at fair market value are unsuccessful. Tools of a trade, livestock, farm equipment and other equipment used for the production of income are exempt from the above category and are not considered available assets.

#### **c) Automobile Ownership.**

Ownership of one automobile per household will not make a person ineligible for assistance if such vehicle is essential for transportation to employment or for seeking employment, obtaining medical care, rehabilitation, or training facilities, or for any other reason the GA Administrator determines reasonable for the maintenance of the applicant's household. GA recipients who own an automobile with a market value greater than \$8,000 may be required, with 7-day's written notice, to make a good faith effort to trade that automobile for an automobile with a market value of less than \$8,000. Any income received by the applicant by

virtue of such a trade down must be used for his or her basic necessities. Failure to liquidate or trade down the excess value of any automobile asset can result in disqualification. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

The Administrator will neither pay nor consider as necessary any car payment or vehicle maintenance cost, including insurance, for which the applicant is responsible. However, if the vehicle's value is \$8,000 or less and the applicant is utilizing the vehicle for an "essential" reason (see above), the Administrator may choose to not consider reasonable car payments, reasonable car insurance or reasonable associated costs of maintenance as "misspent" income. GA for travel-related needs shall be computed in accordance with Ordinance § 6.8(F)(7), (8) "Work Related/Travel Expenses."

**d) Insurance.**

Insurance available to an applicant on a non-contributory basis or required as a condition of employment will not be a factor in determining eligibility for GA. Life insurance with a cash surrender value may, at the discretion of the Administrator, be considered as a tangible asset.

**e) Transfer of Property.**

Applicants who transfer assets for less than fair market value to someone else solely for the purpose of establishing eligibility for GA will not be granted GA benefits to replace the uncompensated value of the transferred asset. Assistance will be denied within a 120-day limit up to the uncompensated value of the asset which was transferred unless the transfer of asset is fraudulently misrepresented, in which case a 120-day disqualification will be issued. There will be a presumption that the applicant transferred his or her assets in order to be eligible for GA whenever property is sold for less than the fair market value or when the transfer occurred within 30 days prior to applying for GA unless the applicant can demonstrate the existence of a good faith transaction.

**Section 5.4—Ownership of Real Estate**

**a) Principal Residence.**

Solely for purposes of GA, the applicant's principal residence, including any adjoining land, is considered an exempt resource, even if temporarily unoccupied because of employment, job training, education, illness, or disaster, provided the applicant demonstrates an intent to return. If the applicant owns land in excess of the minimum lot size for the zone or district in which the home is located, that land may be considered a potential resource if:

1. The applicant has received GA for the last 120 consecutive days; and
2. The applicant has the legal right to sell the land (e.g., any mortgagee will release any mortgage, any co-owners agree to the sale, zoning or other land use laws do not render the sale illegal or impracticable); and
3. The applicant has the financial capability to put the land into a marketable condition (e.g., the applicant can pay for any necessary surveys); and
4. The land is not utilized for the maintenance and/or support of the household; and
5. A knowledgeable source (e.g., a realtor) indicates that the land in question can be sold at fair market value, for an amount which will aid the applicant's financial rehabilitation; and
6. No other circumstances exist which cause any sale to be unduly burdensome or inequitable.

If conditions above are met, the Administrator may condition the receipt of future assistance on the applicant's good faith efforts to sell, or render saleable, land which could be used to provide necessary support for the applicant (e.g., the applicant owns 100 "excess" acres. Sale of 10 of the acres would provide for the necessary support; therefore, the entire 100 acres need not be sold at the present time.) Assistance shall not be denied during the time that the applicant is making a good faith effort to sell or render saleable the land in question.

Once the applicant ceases to receive assistance the obligations under this section shall also cease.

**b) Other Property.**

If the applicant or dependents own real property other than that occupied as the principal residence, continued GA eligibility will depend on the applicant making a reasonable effort to:

1. Dispose of the property at fair market value in order to convert the property into cash which can be applied toward meeting present need; or
2. Obtain a loan against such property which may be used to meet present need. Applicants who transfer their excess property to a third party in order to become eligible for GA will be ineligible.

If an applicant is granted assistance in the form of a mortgage payment or capital improvement payment, the municipality may claim a lien against the property. The lien shall not be enforceable until the sale of the property or upon the death of the recipient (*see also Ordinance § 6.8*). 22 M.R.S. § 4320.

### **Section 5.5—Work Requirement**

All GA recipients are required to register for work, look for work, work to the extent of available employment, and otherwise fulfill the work requirements, unless the applicant is exempt from such requirements as provided below.

**Employment; Rehabilitation.** All unemployed applicants and household members who are 16 years of age or older and who are not attending a full-time primary or secondary school intended to lead to a high school diploma will be required to accept any suitable job offer and/or meet with job counselors, attend employment workshops and rehabilitative services, except as provided below (*see “Exemptions”*). Applicants must demonstrate to the Administrator that they are available for work and are actively seeking employment.

A “suitable job” means any job, which the applicant is mentally and physically able to perform. “Available for work” means that applicants must make themselves available for work during normal business hours prevailing in the area and show that no circumstance exists which would prevent them from complying with the work requirement.

**Verification.** Unemployed applicants or applicants employed on a part-time basis must provide verifiable documentation of their pursuit of employment at the time of each application. At a minimum, such documentation will consist of a list of the employers

contacted, the date and time of the application contact, and the name of the employer representative contacted. "Pursuit of Employment" means actually submitting a written application or applying for a job in person when reasonable or submitting a written application or letter of inquiry to employers.

For the duration of any repeat applicant's period of unemployment or partial employment, the Administrator will establish the number of employers per week to whom each non-exempt applicant shall be required to apply in order to fulfill his or her work search requirements. The number of weekly employer contacts required by the Administrator shall be reasonably related to the number of potential employers in the region and the number of hours per week the applicant has available for work search activities after considering all time the applicant must devote to existing employment obligations, workfare obligations, and required classroom or on-site participation in job training, educational, or rehabilitation programs. Fulfillment of these requirements will not be expected at the time of the initial application but will be a condition of eligibility for subsequent assistance.

**Ineligibility.** After being granted assistance at the time of initial application, applicants will be considered ineligible for further assistance for 120 days if they, without just cause:

- a) refuse to register for employment with the Maine Job Service;
- b) refuse to search diligently for employment when the search is reasonable and appropriate; recipients who unreasonably seek work at the same places repeatedly will not be considered to be performing a diligent work search and will be disqualified;
- c) refuse to accept a suitable job offer;
- d) refuse to participate in an assigned training, education or rehabilitation program that would assist the applicant in securing employment;
- e) fail to be available for work; or
- f) refuse to participate or participate in a substandard manner in the municipal work program (*see Ordinance § 5.6*).



**Ineligibility Due to Job Quit or Discharge for Misconduct.** No initial or repeat applicant who has quit his or her full-time or part-time job without just cause or who has been discharged from employment for misconduct (*see definition in Appendix I*) will be eligible to receive GA of any kind for 120-days from the date the applicant is separated from employment. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(8), 4316-A (1-A)).

**Just Cause.** Applicants will be ineligible for assistance for 120 days if they refuse to comply with the work requirements of this section without just cause. With respect to any work requirement, just cause will be considered to exist when there is reasonable and verifiable evidence that:

- a) the applicant has a physical or mental illness or disability which prevents him/her from working;
- b) the work assignment pays below minimum wages;
- c) the applicant was subject to sexual harassment;
- d) the applicant is physically or mentally unable to perform required job tasks, or to meet piece work standards;
- e) the applicant has no means of transportation to or from work or a training or rehabilitation program;
- f) the applicant is unable to arrange for necessary childcare or care of ill or disabled family members; or
- g) any reason found to be good cause by the Maine Department of Labor, or any other verifiable reason the Administrator considers reasonable and appropriate will be accepted as just cause. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(5)).

**Applicant's Burden of Establishing Just Cause.** If the Administrator finds that the applicant has violated a work-related rule without just cause, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to establish the presence of just cause. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A).

**Eligibility Regained.** Persons who are disqualified for 120 days because they violated a work requirement may regain their eligibility if and only when they become employed or otherwise satisfy the Administrator that they are complying with the work requirement by fulfilling the work requirement(s) the person violated.

For the purpose of regaining eligibility by becoming employed, “employment” shall mean employment by an employer as defined in 26 M.R.S. § 1043 or the performance of a service for an employer who withholds from the employee a social security tax pursuant to federal law.

The special provisions regarding the opportunity to regain eligibility after a disqualification for workfare violations are detailed in Ordinance § 5.6, under “Eligibility Regained.”

**Dependents.** Failure of an otherwise eligible person to comply with the work requirements shall not affect the eligibility of any member of the person’s household who is not capable of working, including:

- a) a dependent minor child;
- b) an elderly, ill, or disabled person; and
- c) a person whose presence is required in order to provide care for any child under 6 years of age or for any ill or disabled member of the household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

If one or more member(s) of a household is disqualified and assistance is requested for those remaining members of the household who are dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

**Exemptions.** The above work requirements do not apply to any person who is elderly, physically or mentally ill or disabled. Any person whose presence is required to care for any pre-school age child or for any ill or disabled member of the household is also exempt from these requirements.

The requirements of this section will not be imposed so as to interfere with an applicant’s existing employment, ability to pursue a bona fide job offer, ability to attend an interview for possible employment, classroom participation in a primary or secondary educational program intended to lead to a high school diploma, classroom or on site participation in a training program which is either approved by the Department of Labor (DOL) or determined by the DOL to be expected to assist the applicant in securing employment, or

classroom participation in a degree-granting program operated under the control of the DOL.

### **Section 5.6—Municipal Work Program**

Each applicant and any member of the household who is capable of working may be required to perform work for the municipality, including work for a non-profit organization, as a condition of receiving assistance. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)).

As part of the municipal work program, the municipality can require recipients to participate in training, education, or rehabilitative programs that will assist the recipient in securing employment. The work requirement provisions found in Ordinance § 5.5 regarding just cause, dependents, and exemptions also apply to the municipal workfare program.

**Consent.** Persons assigned to the work program are required to sign a form stating that they understand the requirements of GA and the work program. Before signing the form, the Administrator will read it to the applicants or allow the applicants to read it themselves. The form will also state the number of hours the applicants must work and the hourly rate by means of which the duration of the work assignment is calculated. In addition, the consent form shall describe the consequences of failing to adequately perform part or all of the workfare or workfare-first assignment.

**Subtracting Value of Workfare Performed from Client's GA Debt.** Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4318, individuals who received GA benefits are obligated to repay the municipality when and if they become able (see Ordinance Article VIII). However, persons performing workfare shall have the value of the workfare performed deducted from any and all GA debt including GA liens (e.g., Workers' Compensation Settlement, SSI Retroactive Payment, Capital Improvement, Home Mortgage) that might exist against their settlements, payments or other such property.

**Limitations.** The work requirement is subject to the following limitations. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(3)).

- 1) No person shall, as a condition of eligibility, be required to perform any amount of work that exceeds the value of the net GA that the person receives under municipal GA standards. Any person performing work under this subsection shall be provided with net GA, the value of which is calculated at a rate of at least the prevailing minimum wage under state or federal law at the time the workfare was performed.
- 2) No workfare participant shall be required to work for a nonprofit organization if that work would violate the participant's basic religious beliefs.
- 3) In no case shall eligible persons performing work under this subsection replace regular municipal employees.
- 4) In no case will work performed under this subsection interfere with an eligible person's:
  - a) existing employment;
  - b) ability to follow up on a bona fide job offer;
  - c) attendance at an interview for possible employment;
  - d) classroom participation in a primary or secondary educational program intended to lead to a high school diploma; or
  - e) classroom or on-site participation in a training program which is approved by the Department of Labor (DOL) or determined by the DOL to be reasonably expected to assist the person in securing employment, or classroom participation in a degree-granting program administered by the DHHS or the DOL.
- 5) In no case may an eligible person be required to work more than 40 hours per week. An eligible person who has full or part-time employment shall be exempt from the work requirement to the extent that the work requirement in combination with his or her regular employment would result in the person working more than 40 hours per week.
- 6) In no case will an eligible person be required to perform work beyond his or her capabilities. However, when an illness or disability is claimed, an eligible

person may be required as a condition of receiving assistance to present a doctor's statement detailing the extent of the disability or illness. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

If the Administrator requires a doctor's statement to verify an applicant's illness or disability and the applicant is not currently under the care of a provider, the municipality may pay for the doctor's evaluation if the applicant has no means to pay for the exam. However, in such a case the Administrator will choose the doctor. If there is a no-cost or low-cost health care option, the municipality may elect to refer the client to such a resource. The Administrator will not require verification of medical conditions which are apparent, or which are of such short duration that a reasonable person would not ordinarily seek medical attention. (22 M.R.S. § 4316(5)).

- 7) In no case may an eligible person with an immediate need (i.e., a person in an emergency situation who has not been disqualified from receiving assistance for committing a program violation) be required to perform work under this subsection prior to receiving GA. The Administrator shall meet immediate needs upon receiving written assurance from the eligible person that he/she is willing to work to maintain eligibility for GA. When the recipient has no immediate need, workfare participation may be required prior to receiving GA in accordance with the "workfare first" policy below.

**"Workfare First" Policy.** Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)(D), the Administrator may, in accordance with the following guidelines, require a GA recipient to perform a workfare assignment prior to the actual issuance of the GA benefit conditionally granted.

- 1) In no circumstance will emergency GA for which an applicant is eligible be withheld pending the satisfactory performance of workfare.
- 2) All workfare participants under this policy will be provided a written decision within 24 hours after submitting an application for GA and prior to performing any workfare for the municipality associated with that request for assistance.

That written decision must include:

- a) a specific description of the amount of GA being conditionally granted to the household, and for which basic needs;
  - b) the period of eligibility for which the GA grant is being issued (in days or weeks, but not to exceed 30 days);
  - c) the rate, at a dollar-per-hour basis (but not less than the prevailing minimum wage), upon which the duration of the workfare assignment is calculated;
  - d) the actual duration of the workfare assignment that must be performed, in hours, before the GA grant will be actually issued;
  - e) the specifics of the workfare assignment(s), including the general nature of the type of work being assigned, location(s) of worksite, date(s) and time(s) of assigned workfare, workfare supervisors' names and contact telephone numbers; and
  - f) any other pertinent information related to the workfare assignment(s) the recipient will be expected to perform.
- 3) As previously provided in this section, all workfare participants must sign a consent form that informs the participant of his or her workfare-related rights and responsibilities, including the consequences of failing to perform all or part of the workfare assigned without just cause.
- 4) If a portion of the workfare-first assignment is satisfactorily performed but there has been a failure to perform the remainder of the assignment, without just cause, the Administrator shall issue a grant of GA benefits corresponding to the number of workfare hours satisfactorily performed multiplied by the hourly rate used to calculate the workfare assignment. In addition to any disqualification penalty that may apply, the remaining value of the conditionally issued GA grant shall be terminated, and notice of the partial termination, together with the reasons; therefore, will be issued to the workfare participant in accordance with Ordinance § 6.10.
- 5) If any part of the workfare assignment is not performed because the workfare participant was temporarily unable to perform the assignment for just cause reasons, it shall be reassigned or excused at the discretion of the Administrator.

**Work-Related Expenses.** A participant's expenses related to work performed under this section will be added to the amount of net GA to be provided to the person (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)(E)). The municipality will provide any special clothes or equipment the recipient needs to perform his or her work assignment.

**Disqualification.** Any person who either willfully fails to perform or willfully performs below average standards the work assigned by the municipality, will be ineligible for assistance for 120 days (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(1)). As soon as the Administrator knows that a recipient failed to fulfill the work assignment, the Administrator will notify the recipient in writing that he/she is disqualified for 120 days starting from the last date of authorized assistance unless the recipient can show just cause. The workfare participant has the burden of demonstrating there was just cause for any failure to perform a workfare assignment.

**Eligibility Regained.** Recipients who are disqualified from receiving assistance because they have violated the requirements of the municipal work program may regain their eligibility under the following conditions:

- Recipients who fail to complete the first municipal work assignment they have been given will be disqualified from receiving assistance during the next 120 days, although dependents in the household may be eligible (*see Ordinance § 5.5, "Dependents"*).
- If during the 120-day disqualification period the recipient requests an opportunity to perform the work assignment which he or she, without just cause failed to perform, the disqualified recipient will be given one opportunity to regain eligibility. The Administrator will give the recipient a work assignment as soon as possible.
- If a recipient under a 120-day disqualification has an emergency need and the Administrator is unable to schedule a work assignment in time to alleviate the emergency, the Administrator will provide sufficient assistance to the recipient to avert the emergency. However, the provision of emergency assistance will not bar the Administrator from subsequently enforcing the previously issued 120-day disqualification if the recipient fails to regain eligibility by satisfactorily performing the work assignment. The amount of emergency assistance granted will be

considered in the computation of the total number of hours the recipient must work.

- Recipients who have asked for the opportunity to regain their eligibility during a 120-day disqualification period and who agreed to fulfill the assignment which they previously failed to perform but who, without just cause, fail to fulfill their municipal work assignment will be considered to have acted in bad faith. In such a circumstance, the Administrator will enforce the 120-day disqualification for the term of its initial duration.
- If a workfare participant regains eligibility under this section but is subsequently disqualified within the initial 120-day period of ineligibility for failing to comply with the municipal work program, that participant will be ineligible for a new 120-day period beginning with the new disqualification date but will be provided no opportunity to requalify.
- Any recipient who intentionally causes damage to property, harasses or harms other employees or who otherwise conducts themselves in a disruptive manner and is discharged by the work supervisor will not be entitled to regain eligibility by returning to the work program. Eligibility may be regained by otherwise becoming employed and meeting the definition of need.

**Reports.** The Administrator will itemize the assistance that has been provided to persons who work for the municipality in reports to the DHHS. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)).

#### **Section 5.7—Use of Resources**

Each applicant is responsible to make a good faith effort to utilize every available or potential resource that may reduce his or her need for GA (*see Ordinance § 2.2, definition of "Resources"*). Persons who refuse or fail to make a good faith effort to secure a potential resource after receiving written notice to do so are disqualified from receiving assistance until they make an effort to secure the resource. Applicants are required to prove that they have made a good faith effort to secure the resource. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

**Minors.** A minor under the age of 18 who has never married and is applying independently for GA and who is pregnant or has a dependent child or children will be eligible to receive GA only if the minor is residing in the home of his or her parent, legal guardian or other



adult relative, in which case the entire household will be evaluated for eligibility. Exceptions to this limitation on eligibility will be made when:

- 1) the minor is residing in a foster home, maternity home, or other adult-supervised supportive living arrangement; or
- 2) the minor has no living parent or the whereabouts of both parents are unknown; or
- 3) no parent will permit the minor to live in the parent's home; or
- 4) the minor has lived apart from both parents for at least one year before the birth of any dependent child; or
- 5) the DHHS determines that the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor or the minor's dependent child or children would be jeopardized if the minor and his or her child or children lived with a parent; or
- 6) the DHHS determines, in accordance with its regulation, that there is good cause to waive this limitation on eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(4)).

Any person under the age of 25 who is applying independently from his or her parents for GA will be informed that until he or she reaches the age of 25, the applicant's parents are still legally liable for his or her support and the municipality has the right to seek recovery from the parents of the cost of all assistance granted to such a recipient to the extent his or her parents are financially capable of repaying the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4319).

With regard to such application, the municipality may seek verification of the applicant's need for GA by contacting his or her parents. If the applicant's parents declare a willingness to provide the applicant with his or her basic needs directly, and there is no convincing evidence that the applicant would be jeopardized by relying on his or her parents for basic needs, the Administrator may find the applicant not to be in need of GA for the reason that his or her needs can be provided by a legally liable relative.

**Mental or Physical Disability.** Any applicant who has a mental or physical disability must make a good faith effort to utilize any medical or rehabilitative services which have been recommended by a physician, psychologist or other professional retraining or rehabilitation specialist when the services are available to the applicant and would not constitute a financial burden or create a physical risk to the individual.

**Written Notice; Disqualification.** The Administrator will give each applicant written notice whenever the applicant is required to utilize any specific potential resource(s). Any applicant who refuses to utilize potential resources, without just cause, after receiving written 7-day notice will be ineligible for further assistance until he/she has made a good faith effort to utilize or obtain the resources. GA will not be withheld from the applicant pending receipt of a resource if the applicant has made, or is in the process of making, a good faith effort to obtain the resource.

**Forfeiture of Benefits.** Any applicant who forfeits receipt of, or causes a reduction in, benefits from another public assistance program due to fraud, misrepresentation, a knowing or intentional violation of program rules or a refusal to comply with that program's rules without just cause will be ineligible to receive GA to replace the forfeited benefits. To the extent the forfeited benefits can be considered income under GA law, the value of the forfeited benefits will be considered income that is available to the applicant for the duration of the forfeiture.

To the extent the forfeited benefits were provided in the form of a specific, regularly issued resource of a calculable value rather than in the form of income, that resource, up to its forfeited value, need not be replaced with GA for a period of 120 days from the date of the forfeiture—unless the municipality is prohibited by federal or state law from considering the forfeited resource as available with respect to local public assistance programs. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

#### **Section 5.8—Period of Ineligibility**

No one will have his or her GA terminated, reduced, or suspended prior to being given written notice and an opportunity for a fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4321-4322). Each person will be notified in writing of the reasons for his or her ineligibility, and any person disqualified for not complying with the ordinance will be informed in writing of the period of ineligibility.

**Work Requirement.** Applicants/recipients who do not comply with a work requirement are disqualified from receiving assistance for a period of 120 days (unless they regain their eligibility) (*see Ordinance §§ 5.5, 5.6*). If an applicant/recipient is provided assistance and

does not comply with the work requirement, the applicant/recipient shall be disqualified for 120 days following the end of the period covered by the grant of assistance. The Administrator shall give recipients written notice that they are disqualified as soon as the Administrator has sufficient knowledge and information to render a decision of ineligibility.

**Fraud.** Persons who commit fraud are disqualified from receiving GA for a period of 120 days (*see Ordinance § 6.4, "Fraud"*). The Administrator shall give recipients written notice that they are ineligible as soon as the Administrator has sufficient knowledge and information to render a decision. If the disqualification for fraud is issued before the expiration of a grant of assistance, the period of ineligibility shall commence on the day following the end of the period covered by the grant of assistance. If fraud is discovered after the period covered by the grant of assistance has expired, the period of ineligibility will commence on the day of the written notice of ineligibility.

#### **Section 5.9 – Unemployment Fraud**

An applicant who is found ineligible for unemployment compensation benefits because of a finding of fraud by the Department of Labor pursuant to 26 M.R.S. § 1051(1) is ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the forfeited unemployment compensation benefits for the duration of the forfeiture established by the Department of Labor. 22 M.R.S. § 4317.

## **ARTICLE VI – Determination of Eligibility**

### **Section 6.1—Recognition of Dignity and Rights**

Any determination or investigation into an applicant's eligibility will be conducted in a manner that will not violate the applicant's privacy or personal dignity or violate his or her individual rights.

### **Section 6.2—Determination; Redetermination**

The Administrator will make an individual, factual determination of eligibility each time a person applies or reapplies for GA. The Administrator will make a redetermination of eligibility at least monthly but may do so as often as necessary to administer the program efficiently and meet the needs of the applicants. Upon any application, the Administrator will determine the applicant's eligibility on the basis of a 30-day prospective analysis, but may elect to disburse that applicant's assistance periodically, e.g., weekly, throughout a 30-day period of eligibility pursuant to that initial eligibility determination.

The Administrator may redetermine a person's eligibility at any time during the period he or she is receiving assistance if the Administrator is notified of any change in the recipient's circumstances that may alter the amount of assistance the recipient may receive. Once a recipient has been granted assistance, the Administrator may not reduce or rescind the grant without giving prior written notice to the recipient explaining the reasons for the decision and offering the recipient an opportunity to appeal the decision to the fair hearing authority. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

### **Section 6.3—Verification**

**Eligibility of Applicant; Duration of Eligibility.** The overseer shall determine eligibility each time a person applies or reapplies for GA. The period of eligibility will not exceed one month. At the expiration of this period applicants/recipients may reapply for assistance and the person's eligibility will be redetermined.

**Applicant's Responsibilities.** Applicants and recipients for GA are responsible for providing to the Administrator all information necessary to determine eligibility. If further information or documentation is necessary to demonstrate eligibility, the applicant must have the first opportunity to provide the specific information or documentation required by

the Administrator. When such information is unavailable, the Administrator must accept alternative available information, which is subject to verification.

Each applicant and recipient has the responsibility at the time of application and continuing thereafter, to provide complete, accurate, current information and documentation concerning his/her:

- Need
- Income
- Employment
- Use of income
- Expenses
- Assets & liabilities
- Use of available resources
- Household composition

**Initial Applicants.** Persons who have not applied for assistance in this or any other municipality are considered initial applicants and must have their eligibility determined solely on the basis of need. Initial applicants are not subject to eligibility conditions placed on repeat applicants (*see below*). However, such applicants must still provide the GA Administrator with reasonably obtainable documentation adequate to verify that there is a need for assistance. In addition, initial applicants must also comply with both lump sum and relevant work rules (i.e., quit job).

**Repeat Applicants.** All applicants for GA who are not initial applicants are repeat applicants. The eligibility of repeat applicants must be determined on the basis of need and all other conditions of eligibility established by law and this municipal ordinance.

The Administrator will require documentation of a repeat applicant's income, use of income, assets and resources plus actual bills and receipts for rent, utilities, fuel, telephone, medical services, and other basic necessities. In addition, repeat applicants instructed to seek employment shall verify their work search results, (e.g., provide a list of the employers contacted, the date and time of the application contact, and the name of the employer representative contacted) as required by the Administrator.

Repeat applicants must provide updates to information reported on previous applications, including changes in his/her household or income that may affect his/her eligibility.

**Unforeseen Repeat Applicants.** Unforeseen repeat applicants are applicants who have not applied for assistance within the last twelve months and who have been regularly employed or receiving support from a public benefit or private source but who have unexpectedly become unemployed through no fault of their own or whose income and/or benefits (e.g., through an available resource) have ceased through no fault of their own. Such unforeseen repeat applicants may be considered initial applicants for purposes of verification requirements and misspent income if the Administrator finds that imposing the general verification requirements and misspent income rules imposed on repeat applicants would be unreasonable or inappropriate.

**Administrator's Responsibilities.** In order to determine an applicant's eligibility for GA, the Administrator first must seek information and documentation from the applicant. Once the applicant has presented the necessary information, the Administrator must determine eligibility. The Administrator will seek verification necessary to determine eligibility and may contact sources other than the applicant for verification only with the specific knowledge and consent of the applicant – except that the Administrator may examine public records without the applicant's knowledge and consent.

Appropriate sources, which an Administrator may contact, include, but are not limited to:

- DHHS, any other department or agency of the state, or non-profit organizations
- financial institutions
- creditors
- utility companies
- employers
- landlords
- physicians
- persons with whom the applicant/recipient is a cohabitant
- legally and non-legally liable relatives

Assistance will be denied or terminated if the applicant is unwilling to supply necessary information, documentation, or permission to make collateral contacts, or if the Administrator cannot determine that eligibility exists based on information supplied by the applicant or others.

**Redetermination of Eligibility.** The Administrator may redetermine a person's eligibility at any time during the period that person is receiving assistance if the Administrator is informed of any change in the recipient's circumstances that may affect the amount of assistance to which the recipient is entitled, or that may make the recipient ineligible, provided that once a determination of eligibility has been made for a specific time period, a reduction in assistance for that time period may not be made without prior written notice to the recipient stating the reasons for the action and an opportunity for the recipient to receive a fair hearing upon the proposed change.

**Penalty for Refusing to Release Information.** Any person governed by 22 M.R.S. § 4314 who refuses to provide necessary information to the Administrator after it has been requested must state in writing the reasons for the refusal within 3 days of receiving the request. Any such person who refuses to provide the information, without just cause, commits a civil violation and may be subject to a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 which may be adjudged in any court of competent jurisdiction. Any person who willfully renders false information to the Administrator is guilty of a Class E crime. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4314(5), 4314(6), 4315).

#### **Section 6.4—Fraud**

It is unlawful for a person to knowingly and willfully make a false representation of a material fact to the Administrator in order to receive GA or cause someone else to receive GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4315). A person who commits fraud in an effort to receive GA benefits may be prosecuted for this offense.

False representation means any individual who knowingly and willfully:

- a) makes a false statement to the Administrator, either orally or in writing, in order to obtain assistance to which the applicant or the applicant's household is not entitled;
- b) conceals information from the Administrator in order to obtain assistance to which the applicant or applicant's household is not entitled; or
- c) uses GA benefits for a purpose other than the purpose for which they were intended.

No person may be denied assistance solely for making a false representation prior to being given an opportunity for a fair hearing.

**Period of Ineligibility.** When the Administrator finds that a person has knowingly and willfully misrepresented material facts for the purpose of making himself or herself eligible for GA, the Administrator shall notify that applicant in writing that he or she must reimburse the municipality for the assistance he or she was not entitled to receive and that he/she is ineligible for assistance for the longer of: (a) a period of 120 days; (b) until he or she reimburses the municipality for the assistance; or (c) until he or she enters a reasonable written agreement to reimburse the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4315).

For the purpose of this section, a material misrepresentation is a false statement about eligibility factors in the absence of which some or all of the assistance would not be or would not have been granted.

The notification of ineligibility issued by the Administrator shall inform the applicant of his or her right to appeal the Administrator's decision to the fair hearing authority (FHA) within 5 working days of receipt. The period of ineligibility shall commence on the day following the end of the period covered by the grant of assistance fraudulently received or upon the date of notification of ineligibility, whichever is later.

**Right to a Fair Hearing.** Any applicant who is denied assistance for making a false representation will be afforded the opportunity to appeal the decision to the fair hearing authority (FHA) in accordance with Article VII of this Ordinance. No recipient shall have his or her assistance reduced or revoked during the period of eligibility before being notified and given the opportunity to appeal the decision. Any person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the FHA may appeal that decision to the Superior Court pursuant to Rule 80-B of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

**Reimbursement.** If a recipient does not appeal the decision or if the FHA determines that a recipient made a false representation, the recipient will be required to reimburse the municipality for any assistance received to which he/she was not entitled. The recipient may enter a reasonable written agreement to reimburse the municipality over a period of time.



**Dependents.** In no event will the ineligibility of a person under this section serve to disqualify any eligible dependent in that household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)). In the event one or more members of a household are disqualified and assistance is requested for the remaining dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

### **Section 6.5—Period of Eligibility**

The Administrator will grant assistance to all eligible persons for a period that is sufficient to meet their need but in no event may a grant of assistance cover a period in excess of one month. (22 M.R.S. § 4309). Upon receiving a completed and signed application the Administrator will determine the applicant's eligibility on the basis of a 30-day prospective analysis.

When an applicant submits an incomplete or unsigned application, due to the 24-hour decision requirement placed on the GA Administrator, the GA Administrator shall render a notice of "ineligibility" and advise the applicant that he or she has a right to reapply as soon as he or she has the necessary information and/or as soon as is practicable for the applicant.

Although eligibility is determined on a 30-day basis, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the Administrator may elect to disburse an applicant's assistance for shorter periods of time, such as weekly, throughout the 30-day period of eligibility. When the Administrator elects to disburse GA for a period of time less than 30 days, subsequent grants of assistance during that 30-day period may be issued pursuant to the initial determination of need unless the applicant's financial situation changes substantially enough to warrant a redetermination of eligibility.

### **Section 6.6—Determination of Need**

The period of time used to calculate need will be the next 30-day period from the date of application. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)). The Administrator will calculate applicants' expenses according to the actual expense of the basic necessity or the maximum levels for the specific necessities allowed in Ordinance § 6.8, whichever is less. The sum of these

expenses, as calculated for a prospective 30-day period, is the applicant's 30-day need. Applicants will not be considered eligible if their income and other resources exceed this calculation except in an emergency. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)) (*see Ordinance § 4.9*).

Applicants will also not be considered in need of GA if their income, property, credit, assets or other resources available to provide basic necessities for their household are greater than the applicable overall maximum level of assistance set forth in the beginning of Ordinance § 6.8. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(10), 4305(3-B)). The difference between the applicant's income and the overall maximum levels of assistance established by this Ordinance is the applicant's deficit.

Once an applicant's deficit has been determined, the specific maximum levels of assistance for each basic necessity shall guide Administrator's distribution of assistance for which the applicant is eligible. (*See Ordinance Appendices A-H*). The specific maximum levels of assistance for each basic necessity are intended to be reasonable and sufficient to help recipients maintain a standard of health and decency. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(3-A)).

**Income for Basic Necessities.** Applicants are required to use their income for basic necessities. Except for initial applicants, no *applicant* is eligible to receive assistance to replace income that was spent within the 30-day period prior to an application for assistance on goods and services that are not basic necessities. All income spent on goods and services that are not basic necessities will be considered available to the applicant and combined with the applicant's prospective 30-day income for the purposes of computing eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4315-A). Applicants who have sufficient income to provide their basic necessities but who use that income to purchase goods or services which are not basic necessities will not be considered eligible for assistance. Persons who exhaust their income on basic necessities and who still need assistance with other basic necessities will be eligible, provided that their income does not exceed the overall maximum level of assistance.

**Use-of-Income Requirements.** The Administrator may require that anyone applying for GA provide documentation of his or her use of income. This documentation can take the

form of cancelled checks and/or receipts which demonstrate that the applicant has exhausted all household income received over the last 30-day period. Except as is deemed appropriate by the Administrator for “unforeseen” repeat applicants (*See Ordinance § 6.3*); repeat applicants may be required to verify that expenditure of income was for basic necessities. Income expended that cannot be verified will generally be considered available and in such case will be added to the 30-day prospective income.

Allowable expenditures include reasonable shelter costs (rent/mortgage); the cost of heating fuel, electricity, and food up to the ordinance maximums; telephone costs at the base rate if the household needs a telephone for medical reasons, the cost of non-elective medical services as recommended by a physician which are not otherwise covered by medical entitlement, Hospital Free Care or insurance; the reasonable cost of essential clothing and non-prescription drugs, and the costs of any other commodity or service determined essential by the Administrator.

Items not considered to be basic necessities and thus will not be allowed in the budget computation include:

- Internet services
- Cable or satellite television
- Cellular phones, except when deemed essential by the overseer for medical or work related purposes
- Cigarettes/alcohol
- Gifts purchased
- Pet care costs
- Costs of trips or vacations
- Paid court fines
- Repayments of unsecured loans
- Legal fees
- Late fees
- Credit card debt

The municipality reserves the right to apply specific use-of-income requirements to any applicant, other than an initial applicant, who fails to use his or her income for basic necessities or fails to reasonably document his or her use of income. (22 M.R.S. § 4315-A). Those additional requirements will be applied in the following manner:

- 1) The Administrator may require the applicant to use some or all of his or her income, at the time it becomes available, toward specific basic necessities. The

Administrator may prioritize such required expenditures so that most or all of the applicant's income is applied to housing (i.e., rent/mortgage), energy (i.e., heating fuel, electricity), or other specified basic necessities;

- 2) The Administrator will notify applicants in writing of the specific use-of-income requirements placed on them;
- 3) If upon subsequent application it cannot be determined how the applicant's income was spent, or it is determined that some or all of the applicant's income was not spent as directed and was also not spent on basic necessities, the applicant will not be eligible to receive either regular or emergency general assistance to replace that income; and
- 4) If the applicant does not spend his or her income as directed but can show with verifiable documentation that all income was spent on basic necessities up to allowed amounts, the applicant will remain eligible to the extent of the applicant's eligibility and need.

**Calculation of Income and Expenses.** When determining eligibility, the Administrator will subtract the applicant's net income from the overall maximum level of assistance found at the beginning of Ordinance § 6.8. If income is greater than the overall maximum level of assistance, the applicant will not be eligible except in an emergency (*see Ordinance § 4.9*). If income is less than the overall maximum level of assistance, the applicant has a deficit.

The municipality will provide assistance in an amount up to the deficit to the extent the applicant also has an unmet need and is in need of basic necessities. The municipality will not grant assistance in excess of the maximum amounts allowed in Ordinance § 6.8 for specific basic necessities except in an emergency or when the Administrator elects to consolidate the applicant's deficit, as provided immediately below.

**Consolidation of Deficit.** As a general rule, and to the extent of their deficit, applicants will be eligible for assistance for any basic necessity up to, but not exceeding, the maximum amount allowed for that necessity in this ordinance or the actual 30-day cost of the necessity, whichever is less. Under certain circumstances, however, and in accordance with the following conditions, the Administrator may consolidate the applicant's deficit and

apply it toward a basic necessity in an amount greater than the ordinance maximum for that necessity.

- 1) The practice of consolidating the deficit and applying it toward a basic necessity in amounts greater than the ordinance maximum shall be the exception rather than the rule;
- 2) The total GA grant cannot exceed the total deficit unless the applicant is in an emergency situation; and
- 3) The need for the application of the recipient's consolidated deficit toward a basic necessity was not created by the recipient mispending his or her income or resources in violation of the use-of-income requirements of this ordinance.

#### **Section 6.7—Income**

**Income Standards.** Applicants whose income exceeds the overall maximum level of assistance provided in Ordinance § 6.8 shall not be eligible for GA except in an emergency. Each time an applicant applies, the Administrator will conduct an individual factual inquiry into the applicant's income and expenses.

**Calculation of Income.** To determine whether applicants are in need, the Administrator will calculate the income they will receive during the next 30-day period commencing on the date of application and identify any assets or resources that would alleviate their need. For all applicants other than initial applicants, the Administrator will also consider as available income any income that was not spent during the previous 30-day period on basic necessities as well as any income that was spent on basic necessities in unreasonable excess of the ordinance maximums for specific basic necessities. If a household's income exceeds the amount of the household's need for basic necessities, up to the maximum levels contained in Ordinance § 6.8, applicants will not be considered in need.

Exceptions will be made in emergency situations, which may necessitate that the maximum levels be exceeded. (22 M.R.S. § 4308) (*see Ordinance § 4.9*). To calculate weekly income and expenses, the Administrator will use actual income received or actual anticipated income.

**Types of Income.** Income that will be considered in determining an applicant's need includes:

- a) **Earned Income.** Income in cash or in kind earned by the applicant through wages, salary, commissions, or profit, whether self-employed or as an employee, is considered earned income. If a person is self-employed, total income will be computed by subtracting reasonable and actual business expenses from gross income. When income consists of wages, the amount computed will be the income available after taxes, social security and other payroll deductions required by state, federal, and local law. Rental income and profit from produce that is sold is considered earned income. Income that is held in trust and unavailable to the applicant or the applicant's dependents will not be considered as earned income.

Note: Actual work-related expenses such as union dues, transportation to and from work, special equipment or work clothes, and childcare costs will be deducted from an applicant's income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).

- b) **Income from Other Assistance or Social Services Programs.** State/federal categorical assistance benefits, SSI payments, Social Security payments, VA benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, and payments from other government sources will be considered as income, unless expressly prohibited by federal law or regulation. Federal law prohibits Food Stamps and Fuel Assistance payments made by the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP and EPIC) from being considered income. The value of the food stamps or fuel assistance will not be used to reduce the amount of GA the applicant is eligible to receive. Although applicants may have only a limited or reduced need for GA for heating fuel or electricity if a recently received HEAP/ECIP benefit has sufficiently credited their account or otherwise prevented the fuel-related costs for the prospective 30-day period.

The Administrator's obligation is to always compute the heating needs of an applicant who has received HEAP or ECIP as if that applicant paid for his or her total fuel costs. Accordingly, in such cases, the Administrator will budget for the

household's heating energy needs according to actual usage, up to the ordinance maximums, but the Administrator may, with written notice to the applicant, hold in reserve the heating energy portion of the applicant's deficit until such a time during the period of eligibility that the applicant has a demonstrable need for the disbursement of heating energy assistance; that is, the applicant's fuel tank can accept a minimum fuel delivery or the applicant no longer has a positive credit balance with his or her utility company. The municipality is not obligated to divert any recipient's heating energy allowance toward non-heating purposes solely on the basis of the recipient's receipt of HEAP/ECIP.

Other programs whose income cannot be counted for purposes of GA eligibility include:

- Family Development Accounts (22 M.R.S. § 3762)
- Americorp VISTA program benefits (42 U.S.C. § 5044(f))
- Property tax rebates issued under the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, only so long as the money is spent on basic necessities. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7))

- c) **Court-Ordered Support Payments.** Alimony and child support payments will be considered income only if actually received by the applicant. The Administrator will refer cases in which support payments were not actually received to the Maine DHHS Child Support Enforcement Unit. In order to be eligible for future GA benefits, applicants referred to DHHS for support enforcement assistance shall be required to follow-through with such services. Because child support payments are considered a resource, applicants must make a good faith effort to secure such payments.
- d) **Income from Other Sources.** Payments from pensions and trust funds will be considered income. Payments from boarders or lodgers will be considered income as will cash or in-kind contributions provided to the household from any other source, including relatives. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).
- e) **Earnings of a Son or Daughter.** Earned income received by sons and daughters below the age of 18 who are full-time students and who are not working full-time

will not be considered income. The unearned income of a minor in the household will be considered available to the household.

- f) **Income from Household Members.** Income from household members will be considered available to the applicant, whether or not the household member is legally obligated for the support of the applicant, if the household members pool or share their income and expenses as a family or intermingle their funds so as to provide support to one another.
- g) **The Pooling or Non-Pooling of Income.** When two or more individuals share the same dwelling unit but not all members of the household are applying for GA, the Administrator shall make a finding under a rebuttable presumption that the entire household is pooling income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(12-A)).

One or more applicants for assistance can successfully rebut the presumption that all household income is being pooled by providing the Administrator with verifiable documentation affirmatively demonstrating a pattern of non-pooling during the duration of the shared living arrangement. Such documentation would include evidence of the entire household's expenses, bank statements, cancelled checks, receipts, landlord statements or other vendor accounts clearly supporting a claim that the applicant has been and is presently solely and entirely responsible for his or her pro-rata share of household costs.

If the applicant is unable to successfully rebut the municipality's presumption that all household income is being pooled, eligibility of the entire household will be determined based on total household income. If the applicant successfully rebuts the municipality's presumption that all household income is being pooled, the applicant's eligibility will be determined on the basis of his or her income and his or her pro-rata share of actual household expenses.

- h) **Lump Sum Income.** A lump sum payment received by any GA applicant or recipient prior or subsequent to the date of application for GA will be considered as income available to the household. However, verified required payments (i.e., any third-party payment which is required as a condition of receiving the lump sum payment, or any payments of bills earmarked for the purpose for which the lump sum payment was made) and any amount of the lump sum payment which the applicant



can document was spent on basic necessities, as described below, will not be considered available income.

Where a household receives a lump sum payment at any time prior or subsequent to the date of application for GA, the Administrator will assess the need for prorating an applicant's eligibility for GA according to the following criteria. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7), (8-A)):

- 1) identify the date the lump sum payment was received;
- 2) subtract from the lump sum payment all required payments;
- 3) subtract from the lump sum any amount the applicant can demonstrate was spent on basic necessities, including all basic necessities as defined by the GA program such as: reasonable payment of funeral or burial expenses for a family member; any reasonable travel costs related to the illness or death of a family member; repair or replacement of essentials lost due to fire, flood or other natural disaster; repair or purchase of a motor vehicle essential for employment, education, training or other day-to-day living necessities. Repayments of loans or credit, the proceeds of which can be verified as having been spent on basic necessities; and payment of bills earmarked for the purpose for which the lump sum is paid must also be subtracted. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7), (8-A));
- 4) add to the remainder all income received by the household between the date of receipt of the lump sum payment and the date of application for GA; and
- 5) divide the sum created in subsection (4) by the verified actual monthly amounts for all of the household's basic necessities. 22 M.R.S. § 4305(3-B).

This dividend represents the period of proration determined by the Administrator to commence on the date of receipt of the lump sum payment. The prorated sum for each month must be considered available to the household for 12 months from the date of application or during the period of proration, whichever is less.

The household of an initial applicant that is otherwise eligible for emergency assistance may not be denied emergency assistance to meet an immediate need solely on the basis of the proration of a lump sum payment. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

## **Section 6.8—Basic Necessities; Maximum Levels of Assistance**

**Overall Maximum Levels of Assistance.** Notwithstanding any of the maximum levels of assistance for specific basic necessities listed in Ordinance Appendices B-H, an applicant's eligibility for GA will be first determined by subtracting his or her income from the overall maximum level of assistance designated in Appendix A for the applicable household size. (22 M.R.S. § 4305 (3-B)). The difference yielded by this calculation shall be the applicant's deficit.

Applicants will be eligible for GA up to the calculated deficit to the extent the applicant is unable to otherwise provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves or their families. Applicants with no deficit shall be found ineligible for GA unless they are in an emergency, in which case eligibility for emergency GA will be determined according to Ordinance § 4.9.

**Maximum Levels of Assistance for Specific Basic Necessities.** The municipality will grant assistance to eligible applicants for basic necessities according to the maximum levels for specific types of assistance set forth below. The Administrator, in consultation with the applicant, may apply the amount of the applicant's deficit toward assistance with any one or combination of necessities not to exceed the total deficit. These maximum levels will be strictly adhered to unless the Administrator determines that there are exceptional circumstances and an emergency is shown to exist, in which case these absolute levels will be waived in order to meet immediate needs. In all cases either the actual expenses the applicant incurs for basic necessities or the maximum amount allowed in each category, whichever is less, will be used in determining need.

In roommate situations, the applicant's need for common living expenses for rent, fuel, electricity, etc., will be presumed to be reduced by an amount equal to the other household members' proportionate fair share of the common living expenses. No applicant will be allowed to claim a need for any expense which has been or will be paid by another person. In addition, as a general rule the municipality will not provide a benefit toward a basic need by paying a bill that is issued to a person not living with the applicant's household or that has otherwise been incurred by a person who has not been found eligible to receive assistance.

Temporary exceptions to this general rule may be made by the Administrator in the following circumstances: (1) a recent, unplanned separation has occurred in the household resulting in the sustained or permanent absence of a former household member in whose name the bill was customarily issued; (2) the applicant and members of the applicant's household were or will be the sole recipients of the commodities or services covered by any bill to be paid or partially paid with GA; and (3) the applicant will make a good faith effort to direct the vendor to issue future bills in the name of the applicant or other responsible person residing in the household.

- (A) **Food.** The Administrator will provide food assistance to eligible persons up to the allowed maximum amounts designated by the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan for the appropriate household size.

For this purpose, the municipality hereby incorporates by reference the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan, as distributed by the Maine DHHS on or about October of each year. See Ordinance Appendix B for the current year's food maximums.

In determining need for food, the Administrator will not consider the value of the food stamps an applicant receives as income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301.7(A); 7 U.S.C. § 2017(b)). The municipality will authorize vouchers to be used solely for approved food products.

The Administrator will exceed the maximums when necessary for households having members with special dietary needs. The Administrator may require a doctor's statement verifying there is a special dietary need requiring an expenditure for food that is greater than the ordinance maximums.

- (B) **Housing.** The Administrator will provide assistance with rent or mortgage payments that are reasonable and/or within the allowed maximum levels. See Ordinance Appendix C for the current year's housing maximums. It is the applicant's responsibility to find suitable housing, although the Administrator may help the applicant find housing when appropriate. The Administrator will inform the applicant of the allowed housing maximums to assist the applicant in his or her search for housing. The allowed maximum for any applicant will be the categorical housing

maximum representing the minimum dwelling unit space necessary to adequately shelter the applicant household. Applicants requesting assistance for housing that contains more bedrooms than are necessary for the number of household members will be provided assistance according to the maximum level for the number of rooms actually needed.

**Rental Payments to Relatives.** The municipality may elect to not issue any rental payment to an applicant's relatives unless the rental relationship has existed for at least three months and the applicant's relative(s) rely on the rental payment for their basic needs. For the purpose of this section, a "relative" is defined as the applicant's parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, parent's siblings, or any of those relative's children. (22 M.R.S. § 4319(2)).

**Rental Payments to Non-Relatives.** When applicants are living in private homes with the owner or sharing dwelling units with people who are not pooling income or who are not legally liable relatives, the amount allowed as the applicant's shelter expense will be the applicant's pro rata share of the actual, total shelter cost, up to the ordinance maximum. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(6)).

Any housing assistance issued to a recipient in such a circumstance will be issued, whenever reasonably possible, to the landlord or property owner with the most superior interest in the property; i.e., to a landlord before a tenant, or to a mortgagee before a mortgagor.

When the municipality issues in aggregate more than \$600 in rental payments to any landlord in any calendar year, a 1099 form declaring the total amount of rental payments issued during the calendar year will be forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) pursuant to IRS regulation (see § 6041(a) of Internal Revenue Code).

Any landlord wishing to regularly receive rental payments from the municipality on behalf of applicants renting rooms from the landlord's own residence must, at a minimum, make a good faith effort to obtain a lodging license from the DHHS Division of Health Engineering, pursuant to 10-144A CMR, Chapter 201, as a condition of that landlord receiving future GA payments on behalf of his or her tenants.

**Mortgage Payments.** In the case of a request for assistance with a mortgage payment, the Administrator will make an individual factual determination of whether the applicant has an immediate need for such aid. In making this determination, the Administrator will consider the extent and liquidity of the applicant's proprietary interest in the housing. Factors to consider in making this determination include:

- (1) the marketability of the shelter's equity;
- (2) the amount of equity;
- (3) the availability of the equity interest in the shelter to provide the applicant an opportunity to secure a short-term loan in order to meet immediate needs;
- (4) the extent to which liquidation may aid the applicant's financial rehabilitation;
- (5) a comparison between the amount of mortgage obligations and the anticipated rental charges the applicant would be responsible for if he/she were to be dislocated to rental housing;
- (6) the imminence of the applicant's dislocation from owned housing because of his or her inability to meet the mortgage payments;
- (7) the likelihood that the provision of housing assistance will prevent such dislocation; and
- (8) the applicant's age, health, and social situation.

These factors shall be considered when determining whether the equity in the shelter is an available asset which may be substituted for the assistance the municipality would otherwise be required to provide.

The Administrator shall consider issuing a benefit in response to the applicant's request for mortgage assistance to the extent the applicant is otherwise eligible for GA if after review of the criteria above, the Administrator determines that:

- (1) the monthly mortgage obligation is in accordance with the maximum levels of assistance available for housing appropriate to the applicant's household size;
- (2) there is no capacity in the accumulated equity in the property, when considered in the context of the applicant's borrowing capacity with the mortgagee or the general lending community, to suspend the mortgage obligation temporarily or

re-amortize the mortgage in such a way as to suspend or reduce the mortgage obligation; and

- (3) the failure to provide a mortgage payment in a timely manner could jeopardize the applicant's continued right of possession of the property.

If a mortgage payment is necessary, the Administrator will pay the actual amount due, up to the amount allowed according to the maximum levels listed below. After an initial application, assistance with such payments will be given only after the applicant has made all reasonable efforts to borrow against the equity of his or her home. If there is not sufficient equity in the home with which to secure a loan, and if the monthly mortgage payments are not realistically in line with the rental rates for similar housing in the area that could meet the applicant's needs, the Administrator will inform the applicant that he/she is responsible for finding alternative housing within his or her ability to pay and will be obligated to make all reasonable efforts to secure such housing.

**Liens.** The municipality may place a lien on the property in order to recover its costs of granting assistance with mortgage payments. In addition, a municipality may claim a lien against the owner of real estate for the amount of money spent by it to make capital improvements to the real estate. (22 M.R.S. § 4320). No lien may be enforced against a recipient except upon his or her death or the transfer of the property. Further, no lien may be enforced against a person who is currently receiving any form of public assistance, or who would again become eligible for GA if the lien were enforced.

If the municipality determines that it is appropriate to place a lien on a person's property to recover its costs of providing GA for a mortgage payment or capital improvement it must file a notice of the lien with the county registry of deeds where the property is located within 30 days of making the mortgage payment. That filing shall secure the municipality's or the state's interest in an amount equal to the sum of that mortgage or capital improvement payment and all subsequent mortgage or capital improvement payments made on behalf of the same eligible person, plus interest and costs.

Not less than 10 days prior to filing the lien in the registry, the municipal officers must send notice to the owner of the real estate, the GA recipient, and any record holder of the mortgage by certified mail, return receipt requested, that a lien on the property is going to

be filed with the registry. This notice must clearly inform the recipient of the limitations upon enforcement plus the name, title, address and telephone number of the person who granted the assistance. The municipal officers must also give written notice to the recipient each time the amount secured by the lien is increased because of an additional mortgage payment. This notice must include the same information that appeared on the original intent-to-file notice sent to the recipient.

The municipality may charge interest on the amount of money secured by the lien. The municipal officers will establish the interest rate not to exceed the maximum rate of interest allowed by the State Treasurer to be charged against delinquent taxes. The interest will accrue from the date the lien is filed.

**Property Taxes.** In the event an applicant requests assistance with his or her property taxes, the Administrator will inform the applicant that there are two procedures on the local level to request that relief: the poverty abatement process (36 M.R.S. § 841(2)) and GA. If the applicant chooses to seek property tax assistance through GA, or if the applicant is denied a poverty tax abatement, the Administrator may consider using GA to meet this need only if:

- a) the property tax in question is for the applicant's place of residence;
- b) there is a tax lien on the property which is due to mature within 60 days of the date of application;
- c) as a matter of municipal policy or practice, or on the basis of information obtained from the applicant's mortgagee, if any, it is reasonably certain that a tax lien foreclosure will result in subsequent eviction from the residential property; and
- d) the applicant, with sufficient notice, applies for property tax relief through the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, when available.

**Housing Maximums.** The maximum levels of housing assistance contained in this ordinance have been derived either from a locally accomplished fair market rental survey or the fair market rental values developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). If the maximum levels of housing are derived from the HUD values made effective as of every October 1, and adjusted to disregard the current and averaged utility allowances as developed by the Maine State Housing Authority, those levels are

hereby incorporated by reference. See Ordinance Appendix C for the current year's housing maximums.

If and when the maximum levels of housing assistance in this Ordinance are derived from a locally developed fair market rental survey, a record of that survey will be submitted to the DHHS, General Assistance Unit, and the maximum levels of housing assistance will be incorporated into this Ordinance pursuant to the ordinance adoption and amendment procedures found at 22 M.R.S. § 4305.

- (C) **Utilities.** Expenses for lights, cooking, and hot water will be budgeted separately if they are not included in the rent. Applicants are responsible for making arrangements with the utility company regarding service, including entering into a special payment arrangement if necessary.

Assistance will be granted to eligible applicants on the basis of their most recent bill. The municipality is not obligated to pay back bills or utility security deposits. Exceptions may be made in emergency situations pursuant to section 4.9.

Disconnection of utility service will not be considered an emergency in all cases. The Administrator will make an individual, factual analysis to determine if the termination of utility service constitutes an emergency. The Administrator will consider the household composition, the time of year, the age and health of the household members, and other appropriate factors in reaching a decision. Applicants who had sufficient income, money, assets or other resources to pay their utility bill when it was received, but who spent all or part of their income on items which were not basic necessities, will not be eligible to receive GA to replace those funds.

Applicants have the burden of providing evidence of their income and use of income for the applicable time period (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)) (*see Ordinance §§ 4.9; 6.3*). The Administrator will notify applicants in writing that they must give the Administrator prompt notice if their utility service is to be terminated or if their fuel supply is low. It is the applicant's responsibility to attempt to make arrangements with the utility company to maintain their service and to notify the Administrator if assistance is needed with a utility bill prior to service being terminated.



**Electricity Maximums for Households Without Electric Hot Water.** See Ordinance Appendix D for the current year's electricity maximums.

**Electricity Maximums for Households that Use Electrically Heated Hot Water.** See Ordinance Appendix D for the current year's electricity maximums.

**Non-Electric Utilities.** The allowed amount for water and sewer utility service will be budgeted at a 30-day reasonable usage rate.

- (D) **Fuel.** Expenses for home heating will be budgeted according to the actual need for fuel during the heating season (September through May) provided such expenses are reasonable, and at other times during the year when the Administrator determines the request for fuel assistance is reasonable and appropriate.

Assistance will be granted to eligible applicants on the basis of their most recent bill. The municipality is not responsible for back bills except in an emergency as provided in Ordinance § 4.9. Applicants are responsible for monitoring their fuel supply and requesting assistance prior to depleting their fuel supply. When applicants who have been informed of this responsibility run out of fuel nonetheless, and can show no just cause for failing to give the Administrator timely notice of their need for fuel, the Administrator shall find that the emergency was not beyond the applicants' control, and process the emergency request accordingly, pursuant to Ordinance § 4.9. See Ordinance Appendix E for the current year's fuel maximums.

- (E) **Personal Care and Household Supplies.** Expenses for ordinary personal and household supplies will be budgeted and allowed according to the applicant's actual need for these items. Personal and household supplies include: hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, dish detergent, laundry supplies and costs, household cleaning supplies, razors, paper products such as toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, garbage/trash bags light bulbs and supplies for children under 5 years of age. See Ordinance Appendix F for the current year's personal care and household supplies maximums.

- (F) **Other Basic Necessities.** Expenses falling under this section will be granted when they are deemed essential to an applicant's or recipient's health and safety by the

Administrator and, in some cases, upon verification by a physician. Assistance will be granted only when these necessities cannot be obtained through the utilization of available resources.

- 1) **Clothing.** The municipality may assist a household with the purchase of adequate clothing. Before assistance will be granted for clothing, the general assistance Administrator must be satisfied that the applicant has utilized all available resources to secure the necessary clothing. In some circumstances, clothing will be a postponable item. Exceptions to this would be, for example, if fire, flood or unusually cold weather makes extra clothing an immediate necessity, special clothing is necessary for the applicant's employment, or a household member is without adequate clothing.
- 2) **Medical.** The municipality will pay for essential medical expenses, other than hospital bills (*see below*), provided that the municipality is notified and approves the expenses and services prior to their being made or delivered. Medical expenses include prescriptions, devices, treatments, or services that are determined to be 'medically necessary' by a licensed physician. The municipality will grant assistance for medical services only when assistance cannot be obtained from any other source and the applicant would not be able to receive necessary medical care without the municipality's assistance. The applicant is required to utilize any resource, including any federal or state program, that will diminish his or her need to seek general assistance for medical expenses. The municipality will grant assistance for non-emergency medical services only if a physician verifies that the services are essential. Provided there is no cost to the applicant, the Administrator may require a second medical opinion from a physician designated by the municipality to verify the necessity of the services.

Generally, the municipality will issue GA at the established Medicaid rates for all medical services, prescriptions, or other medical commodities. Before authorizing GA for any medical expenses, the Administrator will inform the pharmacy or medical service provider of the municipality's intention to pay for the medical service at the Medicaid rate and ask to be billed accordingly.

Ordinary medical supplies/non-prescription drugs will be budgeted at the actual amount when the applicant can demonstrate a need for such items. Allowable supplies include bandages, aspirin, cough syrup, and other generic brand, non-prescription medicines. In addition, the basic monthly rate for telephone service will be budgeted when a telephone is essential to the health and safety of the household. In order for telephone service to be considered an allowable expense the applicant must provide a written statement from a physician certifying that the telephone is essential.

- 3) **Hospital Bills.** In the event of an emergency admission to the hospital, the hospital must notify the Administrator within 5 business days of the admission. Notification must be by telephone, confirmed by certified mail, or by certified mail only. If a hospital fails to give timely notice to the Administrator, the municipality will have no obligation to pay the bill.

Any person who cannot pay his or her hospital bill must apply to the hospital for consideration under the Hospital's Free Care Program as provided in Title 22 M.R.S. § 1716. Anyone who is not eligible for the hospital's free care program may apply for GA. Applicants must apply for assistance within 30 days of being discharged from the hospital and provide a notice from the hospital certifying that he or she is not eligible for the hospital's free care program.

Before the Administrator will consider whether to allow a hospital bill as a necessary expense, the applicant must enter into a reasonable payment arrangement with the hospital. The payment arrangement will be based upon the Medicaid rate. In determining an applicant's eligibility, the municipality will budget the monthly payment to the hospital the applicant has agreed to pay. The applicant's need for assistance with a hospital bill will be considered each time he/she applies by including the amount of the bill in the applicant's monthly budget, but the recipient will be responsible for making any necessary payments to the hospital pursuant to the use-of-income requirements found at Ordinance § 6.6.

- 4) **Dental.** The municipality will pay for medically necessary dental services only. As is the case with medical services generally, the municipality will issue GA for dental services at the established Medicaid rates for those services, and before authorizing the GA benefit for dental services, the Administrator will inform the dentist or dental surgeon of the municipality's intention to pay at the Medicaid rate. If full mouth extractions are necessary, the municipality will pay for dentures provided the applicant has no other resources to pay for the dentures. The applicant will be referred to a dental clinic in the area whenever possible. The Administrator will expect the applicant to bear a reasonable part of the cost for dental services, including extractions and dentures, taking into account the applicant's ability to pay.
- 5) **Eye Care.** In order to be eligible to receive GA for eyeglasses, an applicant must have his or her medical need certified by a person licensed to practice optometry. The Administrator will provide assistance for eyeglasses to eligible persons only after the applicant has exhausted all other available resources and generally only at the Medicaid rate.
- 6) **Telephone Charge.** A payment for basic telephone will only be allowed if a telephone is necessary for medical reasons as verified by a physician. At the discretion of the GA Administrator, minimum/basic telephone services may be allowed for households with children, for households where job search or work-related reasons exist and/or for any other reasons the Administrator deems necessary.
- 7) **Work-Related Expenses.** In determining need, reasonable and actual work-related expenses will be deducted from earned income. These expenses include childcare costs, work clothes, supplies and transportation at the actual costs not to exceed the ordinance maximum. See Ordinance Appendix G for the current maximum mileage allotment. The applicant is required to provide documentation substantiating the costs and that the expenses were necessary.
- 8) **Travel Expenses.** In determining need, necessary travel which is not work-related will be budgeted if the applicant can satisfy the Administrator that the prospective need for travel is necessary. For applicants in rural areas, weekly transportation to a supermarket will be considered, as will any medically

necessary travel. See Ordinance Appendix G for the current rate at which such necessary travel will be budgeted. This rate shall be construed to subsidize all costs associated with automobile ownership and operation, including gas/oil, tires, maintenance, insurance, financing, licensing/registration, excise tax, etc.

- 9) **Burials, Cremations.** Under the circumstances and in accordance with the procedures and limitations described below (*see Ordinance § 6.9*), the municipality recognizes its responsibility to pay for the burial or cremation of eligible persons. See Ordinance Appendix H for the current maximums.
- 10) **Capital Improvements.** The costs associated with capital improvements/repairs (e.g., heating/water/septic system repair) will generally not be budgeted as a basic necessity. Exceptions can be made only when the capital improvement/repair has been pre-approved by the Administrator as a necessary expense and the monthly cost of the capital improvement/repair has been reduced as far as reasonably possible; for example, by means of the applicant entering into an installment payment arrangement with the contractor. The Administrator may grant GA for capital improvements when:
- 1) the failure to do so would place the applicant(s) in emergency circumstances;
  - 2) there are no other resources available to effect the capital repair; and
  - 3) there is no more cost-effective alternative available to the applicant or municipality to alleviate an emergency situation.

In some cases, the entire immediate cost of the capital improvement can be mitigated by the applicant entering into an installment payment arrangement with a contractor. The municipality reserves the right to place a lien on any property pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4320 when GA has been used to effect a capital improvement. The lien process shall be accomplished in the same manner as for mortgage payments, as described in subsection (B) “Liens”, above.

## **Section 6.9—Burials; Cremations**

**Funeral Director Must Give Timely Notice.** In order for the municipality to be liable for a burial or cremation expense, the funeral director must notify the Administrator prior to the burial or cremation or by the end of three business days following the funeral director’

receipt of the body, whichever is earlier. (22 M.R.S. § 4313(2)). This contact by the funeral director shall begin the process of developing an application for burial/cremation assistance on behalf of the deceased. It is the funeral director's responsibility to make a good-faith effort to determine if the family or any other persons are going to pay all or part of the burial expenses. If family members or others are unable to pay the expenses, and the funeral director wants the municipality to pay all or part of the expenses, the funeral director must make timely contact to the Administrator. In addition, the funeral director may refer legally liable relatives to the Administrator so that a timely determination of financial capacity may be accomplished.

**Application for Assistance Shall be Calculated on Behalf of the Deceased.** For the purposes of determining residency, calculating eligibility and issuing GA for burial or cremation purposes, an application for assistance shall be completed by the Administrator on behalf of the deceased.

With regard to residency, the municipality of responsibility for burial expenses shall be the municipality in which the eligible deceased person was a resident at the time of death as residency is determined under Ordinance § 4.10.

Although legally liable relatives may be asked to provide information regarding their income, assets, and basic living expenses, that information will not be construed as an application for GA in as much as living persons are not eligible for burial assistance. To clarify this point of law, although legally liable relatives have a financial responsibility to pay for the burial or cremation of their relatives, that financial responsibility only exists to the extent the legally liable relatives have a financial capacity to do so. Therefore, legally liable relatives who are themselves eligible for GA, have no legal obligation to pay for the burial or cremation of their relatives. For these reasons, all GA issued for burial or cremation purposes shall be issued on behalf of, and in the name of, the deceased.

**The Financial Responsibility of Certain Family Members.** Grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren of the deceased whether or not living in or owning property in Maine, and the spouse or registered domestic partner of the deceased, are financially responsible for the burial or cremation of the deceased to the extent those relatives,

individually or as a group, have a financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation either in lump sum or by means of a budgeted payment arrangement with the funeral home. Accordingly, at the request of the Administrator, all legally liable relatives must provide the Administrator with any reasonably requested information regarding their income, assets, and basic living expenses. The Administrator may also seek information from financial institutions holding assets of the deceased. Maine law requires a financial institution to disclose the amount deposited in the corporation or association when the municipality or its agents are acting in accordance with section 4313(2) and provide a written request and a notarized affidavit signed by the Administrator of the municipality or its agents stating that the named depositor is deceased.

**Consideration of the Financial Responsibility of Family Members.** Generally, when the Administrator can make a finding that one or more of the deceased's legally liable relatives have an obvious and demonstrable financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, by lump sum payment or by means of a reasonable payment arrangement, the municipality will not grant the requested burial or cremation assistance. When the Administrator is unable to make such a finding, the following proration of familial responsibility will be implemented.

**Proration of Familial Responsibility.** A proration of familial financial responsibility will be used when no legally liable relative possesses an obvious and demonstrable capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, but one or more of the financially liable relatives is found to have a financial capacity to make a partial financial contribution, or the Administrator is unable to determine the financial capacity of one or more of said relatives.

Under these circumstances, each legally liable relative is considered to be responsible for his or her pro rata share of the total municipal contribution that would exist if no legally liable relatives had a financial capacity to contribute. Furthermore, and as long as all other eligibility factors have been satisfied, the municipality will provide as a burial or cremation benefit the aggregate of all pro rata shares less the share of any legally liable relative who refuses to cooperate with the Administrator by providing information or documentation reasonably necessary to determine that relative's financial capacity, and less any share

or part of a share attributable to a legally liable relative who can financially contribute or partially contribute toward the burial or cremation to the extent of that relative's share.

**Eight Days to Determine Eligibility.** The Administrator may take up to 8 days from the date of an application for burial/cremation assistance to issue a written decision regarding the amount of the municipal contribution toward the burial or cremation. The 8-day eligibility determination period from the date of application shall be used as necessary to make third-party collateral contacts, verify the listing of legally liable family members and determine their respective financial capacities to contribute to the burial or cremation, contact the personal representative of the deceased's estate, if any, and other related administrative tasks. The Administrator shall not use this 8-day period allowed by law to unreasonably delay the municipality's decision.

**The Municipal Obligation to Pay When Legally Liable Relatives or Others Can Contribute.**

The figures provided in this section are the maximum benefits provided by the municipality when no contributions toward the burial or cremation are available from any other source. To the extent any legally liable relatives of the deceased have a financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, that financial capacity shall be deducted from the maximum burial costs allowed by this section. In addition, any other benefits or resources that are available, such as Social Security burial benefits, veterans' burial benefits, or contributions from other persons, will be deducted from the maximum amount the municipality will pay, except there will be no deduction from the municipal benefit level with respect to any contribution provided for the purpose of publishing an obituary notice up to an aggregate contribution limit for this purpose of \$75 when a paid receipt demonstrating the purchase of an obituary notice is provided to the Administrator.

**Burial Expenses.** The Administrator will respect the wishes of family members concerning whether the deceased is interred by means of burial or cremated. See Ordinance Appendix H for the maximum levels of burial assistance.

**Cremation Expenses.** In the absence of any objection by any family members of the deceased, or when neither the Administrator nor the funeral director can locate any family



members, the Administrator may issue GA for cremation services. See Ordinance Appendix H for the maximum assistance levels for cremations.

#### **Section 6.10—Notice of Decision**

**Written Decision.** Each time a person applies, the Administrator will provide a written decision to the applicant after making a determination of eligibility. The decision will be given to the applicant within 24 hours after a completed and signed application is received (22 M.R.S. § 4305(3)) (*see Ordinance § 4.6*).

In order to comply with the statutory requirement to issue a decision within 24 hours, if an applicant submits an incomplete or unsigned application, the Administrator may decide to issue a notice of “ineligibility” and provide the applicant with another application to submit as soon as is practicable for the applicant.

The Administrator must explain the applicant’s right to a fair hearing in the Administrator’s written notice of decision.

**Contents of Decision.** After an application has been completed, applicants will be given written notice of any decision concerning their eligibility for assistance. In addition to the items listed in Ordinance § 4.6, the notice of decision will include a statement that:

- a) the applicant has the right to a fair hearing and how to request a fair hearing, and;
- b) the applicant has the right to contact the DHHS if he or she believes the municipality has violated the law. The decision will include contact information for the appropriate DHHS office.

**Disbursement of General Assistance.** Except when the Administrator determines it is impractical, all GA will be provided as a voucher or purchase order payable to a vendor or through direct municipal payment to a provider of goods or services. GA will not be issued in the form of a cash payment to an applicant unless there is no alternative to the cash payment, in which case the Administrator shall document the circumstances requiring GA to be issued in the form of cash. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(6)).



## **ARTICLE VII – The Fair Hearing**

### **Section 7.1—Right to a Fair Hearing**

Within 5 working days of receipt of a written notice of denial, reduction or termination of assistance, or within 10 working days after any other act or failure to act, the applicant or his or her authorized representative has the right to request a fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). The right to review a decision of the Administrator is a basic right of the applicant to a full evidentiary hearing and is not limited solely to a review of the decision.

### **Section 7.2—Method of Obtaining a Fair Hearing**

Upon receiving notification of the decision of the Administrator, all claimants will be informed of how to request a fair hearing. All complaints that are not clear requests for a fair hearing will be answered by a personal interview or in writing by the Administrator. If the client is satisfied with the adjustment or explanation, the Administrator will make an entry in the case record and file any correspondence involved.

**Written Request.** To obtain a fair hearing, the claimant, or his or her authorized representative, must make a written request within 5 working days of receipt of the Administrator's decision to grant, deny, reduce or terminate assistance, or within 10 working days after any other act or failure to act. The Administrator will make a form available to request a fair hearing and will assist the claimant in completing it if necessary. On the printed form, the claimant will give the following information:

- a) the decision on which review is sought;
- b) the reason(s) the claimant is dissatisfied and why the claimant believes he/she is eligible to receive assistance; and
- c) the relief sought by the claimant.

The Administrator may not deny or dismiss a request for a hearing unless it has been withdrawn (in writing) by the claimant.

**Scheduling the Fair Hearing.** Upon receipt of the completed written request, the FHA must meet and hold the hearing within 5 working days. The Administrator will notify the claimant in writing when and where the hearing will be held. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). In addition to the

date, time and place of the hearing, the notice of fair hearing shall include, at a minimum, the claimant's rights to:

- a) be his or her own spokesperson at the fair hearing, or at the claimant's own expense be represented by legal counsel or another;
- b) confront and cross-examine any witnesses presented at the hearing; and
- c) present witnesses on his or her own behalf.

Arrangements for the date, time, and place of the hearing will take into consideration the convenience of the claimant and hearing authority. The claimant will be given timely notice to allow for preparation and will also be given adequate preliminary information about the hearing procedure to allow for effective preparation of his or her case.

### **Section 7.3—The Fair Hearing Authority**

The municipal officers will appoint a fair hearing authority (FHA) that will determine, based on all the evidence presented at the fair hearing, whether the claimant(s) were eligible to receive assistance at the time they applied for GA. The FHA is charged with ensuring that GA is administered in accordance with state law and this ordinance.

The FHA may consist of the municipal officers, one or more persons appointed by the municipal officers to act as the FHA, or, if designated by ordinance, a municipal board of appeals created under 30-A M.R.S. § 2691. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). In determining the FHA, the municipal officers will ensure that all person(s) serving as FHA must:

- a) have not participated in the decision which is the subject of the appeal;
- b) be impartial;
- c) be sufficiently skilled in interviewing techniques to be able to obtain evidence and the facts necessary to make a fair determination; and
- d) be capable of evaluating all evidence fairly and realistically, explaining to the claimant the laws and regulations under which the Administrator operated, and conveying to the Administrator any evidence of unsound, unclear, or inadequate policies, practices or actions.

#### **Section 7.4—Fair Hearing Procedure**

At the time that written notice of the date, time, and place of the fair hearing is provided to a claimant, he/she will also be given adequate information about the hearing procedure to allow him/her to effectively prepare his or her case. The claimant shall be permitted to review his or her file before the hearing. At a minimum, the claimant will be provided with the following information regarding fair hearing procedures. All fair hearings will:

- a) be conducted in private, with only to the claimant, witnesses, the claimant's legal counsel, others whom the claimant wants present, and Administrator, the Administrator's agents, counsel and witnesses present;
- b) be opened with a presentation of the issue by the FHA;
- c) be conducted informally, without technical rules of evidence, but subject to the requirements of due process;
- d) allow the claimant and the Administrator the option to present their positions for themselves or with the aid of others, including legal counsel;
- e) give all participants an opportunity to present oral or written testimony or documentary evidence, offer rebuttal; question witnesses presented at the hearing; and examine all evidence presented at the hearing;
- f) result in a decision, based exclusively on evidence or testimony presented at the hearing; and
- g) be tape recorded, and result in a written decision that is given to the claimant and filed with evidence introduced at the hearing. The FHA will allow the claimant to establish all pertinent facts and circumstances, and to advance any arguments without undue interference. Information that the claimant does not have an opportunity to hear or see will not be used in the fair hearing decision or made part of the hearing record. Any material reviewed by the FHA must be made available to the claimant or his or her representative. The claimant will be responsible for preparing a written transcript if he/she wishes to pursue court action.

The FHA shall admit all evidence if it is the kind of evidence upon which reasonable persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs. (22 M.R.S. § 4322).

**Claimant's Failure to Appear.** If the claimant fails to appear at the hearing, the FHA will send a written notice to the claimant indicating that the Administrator's decision remains unchanged because of the claimant failure to appear. The notice will state that the claimant has 5 working days from receipt of the notice to provide the Administrator with information demonstrating "just cause," for failure to appear.

"Just cause" for a claimant's failure to appear at a fair hearing, may include:

- a) a death or serious illness in the family;
- b) a personal illness which reasonably prevents the party from attending the hearing;
- c) an emergency or unforeseen event which reasonably prevents the party from attending the hearing;
- d) an obligation or responsibility which a reasonable person in the conduct of his or her affairs could reasonably conclude takes precedence over the attendance at the hearing; or
- e) lack of receipt of adequate or timely notice; excusable neglect, excusable inadvertence, or excusable mistake.

If the claimant (or his/her attorney) establishes that just cause existed, the request for the hearing will be reinstated and a hearing rescheduled.

If a claimant who is represented by legal counsel fails to appear at a fair hearing, legal counsel shall not testify in place of the claimant on matters of 'fact' but may cross examine witnesses and make 'legal' arguments on behalf of the claimant.

### **Section 7.5—The Fair Hearing Decision**

The FHA's decision will be binding on the Administrator, and will be communicated in writing to the claimant within 5 working days after completion of the hearing. Written notice of the decision will contain:

- a) a statement of the issue;
- b) relevant facts brought out at the hearing;
- c) pertinent provisions in the law or GA ordinance related to the decision; and

d) the FHA's decision and the reasons for it.

A copy of the decision will be given to the claimant. The hearing record and the case record will be maintained by the Administrator.

The written decision will state that if the claimant is dissatisfied with the fair hearing decision, he/she may appeal pursuant to Maine Rule of Civil Procedure, Rule 80B. To take advantage of this right, the claimant must file a petition for review with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of the fair hearing decision.

When the decision by the FHA or court authorizes assistance to the claimant, the assistance will be provided within 24 hours.





## **ARTICLE VIII – Recovery of Expenses**

**Recipients.** The municipality may recover the full amount of assistance granted to a person from either the recipient or from any person liable for the recipient, or his or her executors or administrators in a civil action. However, prior to recovering assistance granted, the municipality shall “offset” the value of any workfare performed by a GA recipient against the repayment obligation, at a rate not less than minimum wage.

Before filing a court action to seek repayment of GA benefits previously provided to a recipient, the municipality will seek voluntary repayment after written notice and discussion with the recipient. However, the municipality will not attempt to recover such amounts if, as a result of the repayment, the recipient would again become eligible for GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4318).

**Recipients Anticipating Workers’ Compensation Benefits.** The municipality shall claim a lien on any lump sum payment under the Workers’ Compensation Act or similar law of any other state, which lien shall equal the value of all GA payments made to a recipient of any such lump sum payment. (22 M.R.S. § 4318, 39-A M.R.S. § 106). After issuing any GA on behalf of a recipient who has applied for or is receiving Workers’ Compensation, the municipality shall file a notice of the municipal lien with the GA recipient and the Maine Office of Secretary of State, Uniform Commercial Code division.

The notice of lien shall be filed on a UCC-1 form which must be signed by the GA recipient who has applied for or is receiving Workers’ Compensation. Any GA applicant who has applied for or who is receiving Workers’ Compensation benefits and who refuses to sign a properly prepared UCC-1 form will be found ineligible to receive GA until he or she provides the required signature. The municipality shall also send a photocopy of that filing to the recipient’s Worker’s Compensation attorney, if known, the applicant’s employer or the employer’s insurance company, and, at the Administrator’s discretion, to the Workers’ Compensation Board. The lien shall be enforced at the time any lump sum Workers’ Compensation benefit is issued.

**Recipients of SSI.** All applicants who receive GA while receipt of their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance is pending or suspended (and which therefore may be

retroactively issued to the applicant at a later date), will be required to sign a statement on an Interim Assistance Agreement form distributed by the DHHS that authorizes the Social Security Administration to direct a portion of any retroactive SSI payment to the municipality and/or the state in repayment for the GA granted. Any GA applicant who has applied for or who may be applying for SSI, or who may be required to apply for SSI pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4317, and who refuses to sign the Interim Agreement SSI authorization form will be found ineligible to receive GA until he or she provides the required signature. (22 M.R.S. § 4318).

**Relatives.** The spouse of an applicant, and the parents of any applicant under the age of 25, are liable for the support of the applicant (22 M.R.S. § 4319). In addition, the grandchildren, children, parents, grandparents, the spouse and a registered domestic partner, are liable for the burial costs of each other. The municipality considers these relatives to be available resources and liable for the support of their relatives in proportion to their respective ability. The municipality may complain to any court of competent jurisdiction to recover any expenses made on behalf of a recipient if the relatives fail to fulfill their responsibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4319).

#### **ARTICLE IX – Severability**

If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not invalidate any other provision of the ordinance.

## **APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A – 2022-2023 GA Overall Maximums.....** Error! Bookmark not defined.

**APPENDIX B – 2022-2023 Food Maximums .....** Error! Bookmark not defined.

**APPENDIX C – 2022-2023 GA Housing Maximums ...** Error! Bookmark not defined.

**APPENDIX D – 2022-2023 Electric Utility Maximums** Error! Bookmark not defined.

**APPENDIX E – 2022-2023 Heating Fuel Maximums...** Error! Bookmark not defined.

**APPENDIX F – 2022-2023 Personal Care & Household Supplies Maximums** Error!  
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**APPENDIX G – Mileage Rate .....** Error! Bookmark not defined.

**APPENDIX H – Funeral Maximums / Burial Maximums and Cremation  
Maximums.....** Error! Bookmark not defined.

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## APPENDIX A – 2022-2023 GA Overall Maximums

Effective: 10/1/22 – 9/30/23

### Metropolitan Areas

| COUNTY  | Persons in Household |       |       |       |       |
|---|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|   | 1                    | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5*    |
| <b>Bangor HMFA:</b><br>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 |
|   |                      |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Cumberland County HMFA:</b> Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago  | 1,016                | 1,075 | 1,409 | 1,865 | 1,991 |
|   |                      |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Lewiston/Auburn MSA:</b><br>Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales  | 795                  | 859   | 1,099 | 1,427 | 1,728 |
|   |                      |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Penobscot County HMFA:</b><br>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 |
|   |                      |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Portland HMFA:</b><br>Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Frye Island, Gorham, Gray, Long Island, North Yarmouth, Portland, Raymond, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish,   | 1,263                | 1,463 | 1,893 | 2,415 | 2,958 |

|   |     |       |       |       |       |
|---|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Westbrook, Windham, Yarmouth; Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Old Orchard Beach  |     |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Sagadahoc HMFA:</b><br>Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich | 874 | 1,031 | 1,253 | 1,650 | 1,880 |

| COUNTY  | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5*    |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>York County HMFA:</b><br>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 |
| <b>York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA:</b><br>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*    |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Aroostook County</b>   | 692 | 754 | 881   | 1,185 | 1,353 |
| <b>Franklin County</b>    | 728 | 774 | 909   | 1,229 | 1,566 |
| <b>Hancock County</b>     | 890 | 925 | 1,110 | 1,397 | 1,529 |
| <b>Kennebec County</b>    | 819 | 835 | 1,038 | 1,360 | 1,451 |
| <b>Knox County</b>        | 844 | 848 | 1,038 | 1,378 | 1,471 |
| <b>Lincoln County</b>     | 925 | 941 | 1,178 | 1,463 | 1,912 |
| <b>Oxford County</b>      | 814 | 815 | 993   | 1,400 | 1,627 |
| <b>Piscataquis County</b> | 701 | 752 | 926   | 1,227 | 1,477 |
| <b>Somerset County</b>    | 755 | 790 | 1,017 | 1,323 | 1,416 |

|                          |     |     |       |       |       |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Waldo County</b>      | 970 | 972 | 1,155 | 1,441 | 1,970 |
| <b>Washington County</b> | 756 | 758 | 982   | 1,228 | 1,343 |

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

## **APPENDIX B – 2022-2023 Food Maximums**

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

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:

| <b>Number in Household</b> | <b>Weekly Maximum</b> | <b>Monthly Maximum</b> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1                          | \$ 65.35              | \$ 281.00              |
| 2                          | 120.00                | 516.00                 |
| 3                          | 172.09                | 740.00                 |
| 4                          | 218.37                | 939.00                 |
| 5                          | 259.53                | 1,116.00               |
| 6                          | 311.40                | 1,339.00               |
| 7                          | 344.19                | 1,480.00               |
| 8                          | 393.26                | 1,691.00               |

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

## APPENDIX C – 2022-2023 GA Housing Maximums

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

### (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> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 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   |
|                         |                 |         |               |         |
| <u>Franklin County</u>  | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| 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   |
|                         |                 |         |               |         |
| <u>Hancock County</u>   | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| 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          |
|                               |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Kennebec County</u></b> | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                      | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                             | 159                    | 684            | 187                  | 804            |
| 1                             | 159                    | 684            | 190                  | 818            |
| 2                             | 189                    | 811            | 237                  | 1,017          |
| 3                             | 252                    | 1,083          | 311                  | 1,336          |
| 4                             | 258                    | 1,109          | 331                  | 1,422          |

### **Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

|                              |                        |                |                      |                |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| <b><u>Knox County</u></b>    | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                     | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                            | 157                    | 709            | 193                  | 831            |
| 1                            | 165                    | 673            | 193                  | 831            |
| 2                            | 189                    | 811            | 237                  | 1,017          |
| 3                            | 256                    | 1,101          | 315                  | 1,354          |
| 4                            | 263                    | 1,129          | 335                  | 1,442          |
|                              |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Lincoln County</u></b> | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                     | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                            | 184                    | 790            | 212                  | 910            |
| 1                            | 184                    | 790            | 215                  | 924            |
| 2                            | 221                    | 951            | 269                  | 1,157          |
| 3                            | 276                    | 1,186          | 335                  | 1,439          |
| 4                            | 365                    | 1,570          | 438                  | 1,883          |
|                              |                        |                |                      |                |

| <u>Oxford County</u>      | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Bedrooms                  | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                         | 158             | 679     | 186           | 799     |
| 1                         | 158             | 679     | 186           | 799     |
| 2                         | 178             | 766     | 226           | 972     |
| 3                         | 261             | 1,123   | 320           | 1,376   |
| 4                         | 299             | 1,285   | 372           | 1,598   |
|                           |                 |         |               |         |
| <u>Piscataquis County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| Bedrooms                  | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                         | 125             | 537     | 159           | 685     |
| 1                         | 125             | 539     | 171           | 733     |
| 2                         | 151             | 649     | 210           | 904     |
| 3                         | 206             | 888     | 279           | 1,201   |
| 4                         | 246             | 1,059   | 336           | 1,447   |
|                           |                 |         |               |         |
| <u>Somerset County</u>    | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| Bedrooms                  | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                         | 144             | 620     | 172           | 740     |
| 1                         | 144             | 620     | 180           | 773     |
| 2                         | 184             | 790     | 232           | 996     |
| 3                         | 243             | 1,046   | 302           | 1,299   |
| 4                         | 250             | 1,074   | 322           | 1,387   |

### Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

| <u>Waldo County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Bedrooms            | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                   | 194             | 835     | 222           | 955     |
| 1                   | 194             | 835     | 222           | 955     |

|                          |                 |         |               |         |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 2                        | 216             | 928     | 264           | 1,134   |
| 3                        | 271             | 1,164   | 329           | 1,417   |
| 4                        | 379             | 1,628   | 451           | 1,941   |
|                          |                 |         |               |         |
| <u>Washington County</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| Bedrooms                 | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                        | 144             | 621     | 172           | 741     |
| 1                        | 144             | 621     | 172           | 741     |
| 2                        | 176             | 755     | 224           | 961     |
| 3                        | 221             | 951     | 280           | 1,204   |
| 4                        | 233             | 1,001   | 306           | 1,314   |

#### Metropolitan FMR Areas

|                             |                 |         |               |         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| <u>Bangor HMFA</u>          | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| Bedrooms                    | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                           | 161             | 691     | 189           | 811     |
| 1                           | 181             | 780     | 218           | 938     |
| 2                           | 231             | 992     | 279           | 1,198   |
| 3                           | 288             | 1,238   | 347           | 1,491   |
| 4                           | 402             | 1,729   | 475           | 2,042   |
|                             |                 |         |               |         |
| <u>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| Bedrooms                    | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                           | 205             | 881     | 233           | 1,001   |
| 1                           | 209             | 900     | 246           | 1,058   |
| 2                           | 275             | 1,182   | 323           | 1,388   |
| 3                           | 369             | 1,588   | 428           | 1,841   |
| 4                           | 383             | 1,649   | 456           | 1,962   |
|                             |                 |         |               |         |

| <u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Bedrooms                   | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                          | 153             | 660     | 181           | 780     |
| 1                          | 159             | 684     | 196           | 842     |
| 2                          | 203             | 872     | 251           | 1,078   |
| 3                          | 267             | 1,150   | 326           | 1,403   |
| 4                          | 322             | 1,386   | 395           | 1,699   |

### Metropolitan FMR Areas

| <u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Bedrooms                   | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                          | 152             | 654     | 180           | 775     |
| 1                          | 152             | 654     | 180           | 775     |
| 2                          | 190             | 816     | 238           | 1,022   |
| 3                          | 238             | 1,025   | 297           | 1,278   |
| 4                          | 251             | 1,078   | 323           | 1,391   |

| <u>Portland HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Bedrooms             | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                    | 262             | 1,128   | 290           | 1,248   |
| 1                    | 300             | 1,288   | 336           | 1,446   |
| 2                    | 387             | 1,666   | 435           | 1,872   |
| 3                    | 497             | 2,138   | 556           | 2,391   |
| 4                    | 608             | 2,616   | 681           | 2,929   |

| <u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Bedrooms                   | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                          | 172             | 739     | 200           | 859     |
| 1                          | 199             | 856     | 236           | 1,014   |
| 2                          | 239             | 1,026   | 287           | 1,232   |
| 3                          | 319             | 1,373   | 378           | 1,626   |

|   |                 |         |               |         |
|---|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 4                                       | 358             | 1,538   | 430           | 1,851   |
|   |                 |         |               |         |
| <u>York Cty. HMFA</u>                   | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| Bedrooms                                | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                                       | 218             | 937     | 246           | 1,057   |
| 1                                       | 218             | 937     | 248           | 1,065   |
| 2                                       | 262             | 1,128   | 310           | 1,334   |
| 3                                       | 335             | 1,440   | 394           | 1,693   |
| 4                                       | 382             | 1,642   | 455           | 1,955   |
|   |                 |         |               |         |
| <u>York/Kittery/S. Berwick<br/>HMFA</u> | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
| Bedrooms                                | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0                                       | 256             | 1,102   | 284           | 1,222   |
| 1                                       | 260             | 1,118   | 297           | 1,276   |
| 2                                       | 342             | 1,472   | 390           | 1,678   |
| 3                                       | 446             | 1,917   | 505           | 2,170   |
| 4                                       | 603             | 2,592   | 676           | 2,905   |

## APPENDIX D – 2022-2023 Electric Utility Maximums

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

### 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:

| a) Number in Household | b) Weekly | Monthly  |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1                      | \$19.95   | \$ 85.50 |
| 2                      | \$22.52   | \$ 96.50 |
| 3                      | \$24.97   | \$107.00 |
| 4                      | \$27.53   | \$118.00 |
| 5                      | \$29.88   | \$128.50 |
| 6                      | \$32.55   | \$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:

| Number in Household | Weekly  | Monthly  |
|---------------------|---------|----------|
| 1                   | \$29.63 | \$127.00 |
| 2                   | \$34.07 | \$146.00 |
| 3                   | \$39.67 | \$170.00 |
| 4                   | \$46.32 | \$198.50 |
| 5                   | \$55.65 | \$238.50 |
| 6                   | \$58.68 | \$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 – 2022-2023 Heating Fuel Maximums

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

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Gallons</u> | <u>Month</u> | <u>Gallons</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 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.

## APPENDIX F – 2022-2023 Personal Care & Household Supplies Maximums

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

| <u>Number in Household</u> | <u>Weekly Amount</u> | <u>Monthly Amount</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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:

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



## **APPENDIX G – Mileage Rate**

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

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

## **APPENDIX H – Funeral Maximums / Burial Maximums and Cremation Maximums**

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

The maximum amount of general assistance granted for the purpose of burial is **\$1,475**.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for burial purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable burial expenses are limited to:

- removal of the body from a local residence or institution
- a secured death certificate or obituary
- embalming
- a minimum casket
- a reasonable cost for necessary transportation
- other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal Administrator.

Additional costs may be allowed by the GA Administrator, where there is an actual cost, for:

- the wholesale cost of a cement liner if the cemetery by-laws require one;
- the opening and closing of the grave site; and
- a lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery. If the municipality is able to provide a cemetery lot in a municipally owned cemetery or in a cemetery under municipal control, the cost of the cemetery lot in any other cemetery will not be paid by the municipality.

### **Cremation Maximums**

The maximum amount of assistance granted for a cremation shall be \$1,025.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for cremation purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable cremation expenses are limited to:

- removal and transportation of the body from a local residence or institution
- professional fees
- crematorium fees
- a secured death certificate or obituary
- other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal administrator.

Additional costs may be allowed by the GA Administrator where there is an actual cost, for:

- a cremation lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery
- a reasonable cost for a burial urn not to exceed \$55
- transportation costs borne by the funeral director at a reasonable rate per mile for transporting the remains to and from the cremation facility.

## **APPENDIX I – Definition of Misconduct (26 M.R.S. § 1043 (23))**

23. Misconduct. “Misconduct” means a culpable breach of the employee's duties or obligations to the employer or a pattern of irresponsible behavior, which in either case manifests a disregard for a material interest of the employer. This definition relates only to an employee's entitlement to benefits and does not preclude an employer from discharging an employee for actions that are not included in this definition of misconduct. A finding that an employee has not engaged in misconduct for purposes of this chapter may not be used as evidence that the employer lacked justification for discharge.

A. The following acts or omissions are presumed to manifest a disregard for a material interest of the employer. If a culpable breach or a pattern of irresponsible behavior is shown, these actions or omissions constitute "misconduct" as defined in this subsection. This does not preclude other acts or omissions from being considered to manifest a disregard for a material interest of the employer. The acts or omissions included in the presumption are the following:

- (1) Refusal, knowing failure or recurring neglect to perform reasonable and proper duties assigned by the employer;
- (2) Unreasonable violation of rules that are reasonably imposed and communicated and equitably enforced;
- (3) Unreasonable violation of rules that should be inferred to exist from common knowledge or from the nature of the employment;
- (4) Failure to exercise due care for punctuality or attendance after warnings;
- (5) Providing false information on material issues relating to the employee's eligibility to do the work or false information or dishonesty that may substantially jeopardize a material interest of the employer;
- (6) Intoxication while on duty or when reporting to work, or unauthorized use of alcohol or marijuana while on duty except for the use of marijuana permitted under Title 22, chapter 558-C;
- (7) Using illegal drugs or being under the influence of such drugs while on duty or when reporting to work;
- (8) Unauthorized sleeping while on duty;
- (9) Insubordination or refusal without good cause to follow reasonable and proper instructions from the employer;
- (10) Abusive or assaultive behavior while on duty, except as necessary for self-defense;
- (11) Destruction or theft of things valuable to the employer or another employee;

- (12) Substantially endangering the safety of the employee, coworkers, customers or members of the public while on duty;
- (13) Conviction of a crime in connection with the employment or a crime that reflects adversely on the employee's qualifications to perform the work; or
- (14) Absence for more than 2 work days due to incarceration for conviction of a crime.

[PL2019, c. 125, §1 (AMD).]

B. “Misconduct” may not be found solely on:

- (1) An isolated error in judgment or a failure to perform satisfactorily when the employee has made a good faith effort to perform the duties assigned;
- (2) Absenteeism caused by illness of the employee or an immediate family member if the employee made reasonable efforts to give notice of the absence and to comply with the employer's notification rules and policies; or
- (3) Actions taken by the employee that were necessary to protect the employee or an immediate family member from domestic violence if the employee made all reasonable efforts to preserve the employment.

[PL 2019, c. 125, §1 (AMD).]

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE**  
**APPENDICES A-H**  
**2022-2023**

The Municipality of Lisbon adopts the MMA Model Ordinance GA Appendices (A-H) for the period of October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023. 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 20th of September, 2022 by the municipal officers:

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Fern Larochelle, Chair

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Don Fellows

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Harry Moore Jr, V. Chair

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Raymond Robishaw

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Jason Smith

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Mark Lunt

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Christine Cain

## 2022-2023 GA Overall Maximums

### Metropolitan Areas

| Persons in Household  |       |       |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| COUNTY  | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5*    |
| <b>Bangor HMFA:</b><br>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 |
|   |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Cumberland County HMFA:</b> Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago  | 1,016 | 1,075 | 1,409 | 1,865 | 1,991 |
|   |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Lewiston/Auburn MSA:</b><br>Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales  | 795   | 859   | 1,099 | 1,427 | 1,728 |
|   |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Penobscot County HMFA:</b><br>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 |
|   |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Portland HMFA:</b><br>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 |
|   |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Sagadahoc HMFA:</b><br>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*    |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>York County HMFA:</b><br>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 |
|   |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA:</b><br>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*    |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Aroostook County</b>   | 692 | 754 | 881   | 1,185 | 1,353 |
| <b>Franklin County</b>    | 728 | 774 | 909   | 1,229 | 1,566 |
| <b>Hancock County</b>     | 890 | 925 | 1,110 | 1,397 | 1,529 |
| <b>Kennebec County</b>    | 819 | 835 | 1,038 | 1,360 | 1,451 |
| <b>Knox County</b>        | 844 | 848 | 1,038 | 1,378 | 1,471 |
| <b>Lincoln County</b>     | 925 | 941 | 1,178 | 1,463 | 1,912 |
| <b>Oxford County</b>      | 814 | 815 | 993   | 1,400 | 1,627 |
| <b>Piscataquis County</b> | 701 | 752 | 926   | 1,227 | 1,477 |
| <b>Somerset County</b>    | 755 | 790 | 1,017 | 1,323 | 1,416 |
| <b>Waldo County</b>       | 970 | 972 | 1,155 | 1,441 | 1,970 |
| <b>Washington County</b>  | 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 | Weekly Maximum | Monthly Maximum |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1                   | \$ 65.35       | \$ 281.00       |
| 2                   | 120.00         | 516.00          |
| 3                   | 172.09         | 740.00          |
| 4                   | 218.37         | 939.00          |
| 5                   | 259.53         | 1,116.00        |
| 6                   | 311.40         | 1,339.00        |
| 7                   | 344.19         | 1,480.00        |
| 8                   | 393.26         | 1,691.00        |

**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**

| <b><u>Aroostook County</u></b> | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |         | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |         |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| 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   |
|                                |                        |         |                      |         |
| <b><u>Franklin County</u></b>  | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |         | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |         |
| 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   |
|                                |                        |         |                      |         |
| <b><u>Hancock County</u></b>   | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |         | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |         |
| 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   |
|                                |                        |         |                      |         |
| <b><u>Kennebec County</u></b>  | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |         | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |         |
| Bedrooms                       | Weekly                 | Monthly | Weekly               | Monthly |
| 0                              | 159                    | 684     | 187                  | 804     |
| 1                              | 159                    | 684     | 190                  | 818     |
| 2                              | 189                    | 811     | 237                  | 1,017   |
| 3                              | 252                    | 1,083   | 311                  | 1,336   |
| 4                              | 258                    | 1,109   | 331                  | 1,422   |

**Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

| <b><u>Knox County</u></b>        | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Bedrooms                         | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                                | 165                    | 709            | 193                  | 831            |
| 1                                | 157                    | 673            | 193                  | 831            |
| 2                                | 189                    | 811            | 237                  | 1,017          |
| 3                                | 256                    | 1,101          | 315                  | 1,354          |
| 4                                | 263                    | 1,129          | 335                  | 1,442          |
|                                  |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Lincoln County</u></b>     | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                         | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                                | 184                    | 790            | 212                  | 910            |
| 1                                | 184                    | 790            | 215                  | 924            |
| 2                                | 221                    | 951            | 269                  | 1,157          |
| 3                                | 276                    | 1,186          | 335                  | 1,439          |
| 4                                | 365                    | 1,570          | 438                  | 1,883          |
|                                  |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Oxford County</u></b>      | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                         | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                                | 158                    | 679            | 186                  | 799            |
| 1                                | 158                    | 679            | 186                  | 799            |
| 2                                | 178                    | 766            | 226                  | 972            |
| 3                                | 261                    | 1,123          | 320                  | 1,376          |
| 4                                | 299                    | 1,285          | 372                  | 1,598          |
|                                  |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Piscataquis County</u></b> | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                         | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                                | 125                    | 537            | 159                  | 685            |
| 1                                | 125                    | 539            | 171                  | 733            |
| 2                                | 151                    | 649            | 210                  | 904            |
| 3                                | 206                    | 888            | 279                  | 1,201          |
| 4                                | 246                    | 1,059          | 336                  | 1,447          |
|                                  |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Somerset County</u></b>    | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                         | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                                | 144                    | 620            | 172                  | 740            |
| 1                                | 144                    | 620            | 180                  | 773            |
| 2                                | 184                    | 790            | 232                  | 996            |
| 3                                | 243                    | 1,046          | 302                  | 1,299          |
| 4                                | 250                    | 1,074          | 322                  | 1,387          |

**Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

| <b><u>Waldo County</u></b>      | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Bedrooms                        | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                               | 194                    | 835            | 222                  | 955            |
| 1                               | 194                    | 835            | 222                  | 955            |
| 2                               | 216                    | 928            | 264                  | 1,134          |
| 3                               | 271                    | 1,164          | 329                  | 1,417          |
| 4                               | 379                    | 1,628          | 451                  | 1,941          |
|                                 |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Washington County</u></b> | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                        | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                               | 144                    | 621            | 172                  | 741            |
| 1                               | 144                    | 621            | 172                  | 741            |
| 2                               | 176                    | 755            | 224                  | 961            |
| 3                               | 221                    | 951            | 280                  | 1,204          |
| 4                               | 233                    | 1,001          | 306                  | 1,314          |

**Metropolitan FMR Areas**

| <b><u>Bangor HMFA</u></b>          | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Bedrooms                           | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                                  | 161                    | 691            | 189                  | 811            |
| 1                                  | 181                    | 780            | 218                  | 938            |
| 2                                  | 231                    | 992            | 279                  | 1,198          |
| 3                                  | 288                    | 1,238          | 347                  | 1,491          |
| 4                                  | 402                    | 1,729          | 475                  | 2,042          |
|                                    |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</u></b> | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                           | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                                  | 205                    | 881            | 233                  | 1,001          |
| 1                                  | 209                    | 900            | 246                  | 1,058          |
| 2                                  | 275                    | 1,182          | 323                  | 1,388          |
| 3                                  | 369                    | 1,588          | 428                  | 1,841          |
| 4                                  | 383                    | 1,649          | 456                  | 1,962          |
|                                    |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u></b>  | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                           | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0                                  | 153                    | 660            | 181                  | 780            |
| 1                                  | 159                    | 684            | 196                  | 842            |
| 2                                  | 203                    | 872            | 251                  | 1,078          |
| 3                                  | 267                    | 1,150          | 326                  | 1,403          |
| 4                                  | 322                    | 1,386          | 395                  | 1,699          |

**Metropolitan FMR Areas**

| <b><u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u></b>          | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
|--|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Bedrooms                                   | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0  | 152                    | 654            | 180                  | 775            |
| 1  | 152                    | 654            | 180                  | 775            |
| 2  | 190                    | 816            | 238                  | 1,022          |
| 3  | 238                    | 1,025          | 297                  | 1,278          |
| 4  | 251                    | 1,078          | 323                  | 1,391          |
|  |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Portland HMFA</u></b>                | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                                   | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0  | 262                    | 1,128          | 290                  | 1,248          |
| 1  | 300                    | 1,288          | 336                  | 1,446          |
| 2  | 387                    | 1,666          | 435                  | 1,872          |
| 3  | 497                    | 2,138          | 556                  | 2,391          |
| 4  | 608                    | 2,616          | 681                  | 2,929          |
|  |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u></b>          | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                                   | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0  | 172                    | 739            | 200                  | 859            |
| 1  | 199                    | 856            | 236                  | 1,014          |
| 2  | 239                    | 1,026          | 287                  | 1,232          |
| 3  | 319                    | 1,373          | 378                  | 1,626          |
| 4  | 358                    | 1,538          | 430                  | 1,851          |
|  |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>York Cty. HMFA</u></b>               | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                                   | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0  | 218                    | 937            | 246                  | 1,057          |
| 1  | 218                    | 937            | 248                  | 1,065          |
| 2  | 262                    | 1,128          | 310                  | 1,334          |
| 3  | 335                    | 1,440          | 394                  | 1,693          |
| 4  | 382                    | 1,642          | 455                  | 1,955          |
|  |                        |                |                      |                |
| <b><u>York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA</u></b> | <b><u>Unheated</u></b> |                | <b><u>Heated</u></b> |                |
| Bedrooms                                   | <b>Weekly</b>          | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b>        | <b>Monthly</b> |
| 0  | 256                    | 1,102          | 284                  | 1,222          |
| 1  | 260                    | 1,118          | 297                  | 1,276          |
| 2  | 342                    | 1,472          | 390                  | 1,678          |
| 3  | 446                    | 1,917          | 505                  | 2,170          |
| 4  | 603                    | 2,592          | 676                  | 2,905          |

## 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 |
| <p><b>NOTE:</b> For each additional person add \$75 per month.</p> <p>(The applicable figures from Appendix A, <i>once adopted</i>, should be inserted here.)</p> |                             |   |   |   |   |   |

### APPENDIX B - FOOD MAXIMUMS

| <u>Number in Household</u>  | <u>Weekly Maximum</u> | <u>Monthly Maximum</u> |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1   | \$ 65.35              | \$ 281.00              |
| 2   | 120.00                | 516.00                 |
| 3   | 172.09                | 740.00                 |
| 4   | 218.37                | 939.00                 |
| 5   | 259.53                | 1,116.00               |
| 6   | 311.40                | 1,339.00               |
| 7   | 344.19                | 1,480.00               |
| 8   | 393.26                | 1,691.00               |
| <p><b>NOTE:</b> For each additional person add \$211 per month.</p> |                       |                        |

### APPENDIX C - HOUSING MAXIMUMS

| Number of Bedrooms   | <u>Unheated</u> |         | <u>Heated</u> |         |
|--|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|  | Weekly          | Monthly | Weekly        | Monthly |
| 0  |                 |         |               |         |
| 1  |                 |         |               |         |
| 2  |                 |         |               |         |
| 3  |                 |         |               |         |
| 4  |                 |         |               |         |
| (The applicable figures from Appendix C, <i>once adopted</i> , should be inserted here.) |                 |         |               |         |

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## **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><b>Number in Household</b></u> | <u><b>Weekly</b></u> | <u><b>Monthly</b></u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1                                 | \$19.95              | \$ 85.50              |
| 2                                 | \$22.52              | \$ 96.50              |
| 3                                 | \$24.97              | \$107.00              |
| 4                                 | \$27.53              | \$118.00              |
| 5                                 | \$29.88              | \$128.50              |
| 6                                 | \$32.55              | \$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><b>Number in Household</b></u> | <u><b>Weekly</b></u> | <u><b>Monthly</b></u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1                                 | \$29.63              | \$127.00              |
| 2                                 | \$34.07              | \$146.00              |
| 3                                 | \$39.67              | \$170.00              |
| 4                                 | \$46.32              | \$198.50              |
| 5                                 | \$55.65              | \$238.50              |
| 6                                 | \$58.68              | \$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><b>Month</b></u> | <u><b>Gallons</b></u> | <u><b>Month</b></u> | <u><b>Gallons</b></u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| September           | 50                    | January             | 225                   |
| October             | 100                   | February            | 225                   |
| November            | 200                   | March               | 125                   |
| December            | 200                   | April               | 125                   |
|                     |                       | May                 | 50                    |

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**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**

| <b><u>Number in Household</u></b> | <b><u>Weekly Amount</u></b> | <b><u>Monthly Amount</u></b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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:

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

***FOR MUNICIPAL USE ONLY***





# Town of Lisbon

Ross H. Cunningham, Director  
Office of Economic and Community Development

## Town Council

Fern Larochelle, Chair  
Harry Moore Jr., Vice Chair  
Don Fellows  
Mark Lunt  
Christine Cain  
Raymond Robishaw  
Jason Smith

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To: Ryan McGee, Interim Town Manager

From: Ross Cunningham, Director, ECD

Date: 9/14/2022

Reference: Worumbo Waterfront Safety Lighting

In pursuing an estimate for getting some safety lighting at Worumbo Waterfront, Enterprise Electric informed me that they had just removed 5, 30' LED light poles from a facility in Brunswick and they would like to donate them to the Town of Lisbon in order to see this waterfront developed in a professional manner.

We have received the estimate for bringing power to the site from the nearest CMP pole, and installing these five poles along with a power panel to be used for events. The total for this bid is \$51,905.00 as attached. It is recommended that we replace the LED fixtures that are on the donated light poles as they are older and do not provide sufficient coverage. The cost of this replacement is \$5,237.00. This would remove a \$700.00 part from the current estimate making a revised total of \$56,442.

The value of the donated poles is approximately \$6,000.

My request is that the council approve the amount requested, to be funded by the Downtown Tiff (Current balance as of 9/6 is \$245,000.27 [\$97,561 added in 2022]). Additionally, I request that the council approve a sole source request as the donation of the light poles is not something we would be able to receive through the bid process.

Respectfully,

Ross H. Cunningham



# Bid Proposal

## Lisbon Site Lighting Project

### Enterprise Electric, Inc.

46 Capital Avenue  
Lisbon Falls, ME 04252  
Phone: 207-353-2697  
Website: <http://www.EnterpriseElectric.net>

Town of Lisbon  
300 Lisbon St.  
Lisbon, Maine 04250

Attention: Ross Cunningham

13 September 2022  
Job ID: JOB-2022-0075  
Lisbon Falls, ME  
Intersection of Route 196 and  
Canal Street  
Lisbon Falls, ME 04252

Re: Budget Estimate for Primary Power & Security Lighting

We are pleased to quote the Electrical Installation on the above referenced project with the following qualifications and exclusions:

#### Qualifications:

- \* Primary electric (single phase) from the existing CMP pole to a new riser pole.
- \* Supply and install a 45' class 2 wood pole for connection of the aerial primary and riser.
- \* Supply all hardware, pole top construction, and conduit for the pole.
- \* Loop feed primary (direct bury) from the new pole to a transformer foundation.
- \* Caution tape for the primary cable to be buried 12" below grade.
- \* Fiberglass transformer pad.
- \* (2) 6" steel bollards for new electric service.
- \* Unistrut mounted to bollards for mounting of gear.
- \* 400 amp single phase 120/240 volt electric service with meter and new panel.
- \* (2) 20 amp 2 pole breakers to feed site lighting
- \* (2) 50 amp 2 pole breakers to feed future vending trucks.
- \* (8) 20 amp 1 pole breakers to for vendor receptacle circuits.
- \* Supply & install (1) 3/4" PT Plywood backboard with (6) 20 amp GFI receptacles and (2) 50 amp RV receptacles.
- \* (5) 24" x 8' light pole foundations for light poles (exposed 1' above grade).
- \* 1" PVC conduit with wire required for site lighting feed.
- \* Run a 1" PVC spare conduit capped at the light pole base closest to Canal Street for a future sign.
- \* Provide new wiring integral to the light poles.
- \* Provide 5 steel light poles with existing LED lights mounted on them. These were removed from another site and are a donation to this project.
- \* Provide an electronic astronomical time clock for the control of the lighting. Note: This would not be required if you purchase replacement LED fixtures as they would come with photocells.
- \* Provide & install (2) 50 amp range plugs
- \* Provide & install (6) 20 amp GFCI receptacles with weatherproof covers.
- \* We will take out an electrical permit for the project, however the fee will be waived by the Town.
- \* All wiring to meet the requirements of the 2020 National Electrical Code.
- \* All material pricing is good for 10 days from the date of this proposal.
- \* As built drawings if required.
- \* Testing as required.
- \* Labeling
- \* Material, labor, and equipment required for our scope of work.
- \* Coordination with other trades and utilities to complete our scope of work.
  
- \* If you wish to replace the lights with a new LED, the added cost will be: \$5,237.00
- \* We would need to know prior to standing the light poles if you want these fixtures replaced or not.



# Bid Proposal

## Lisbon Site Lighting Project

### Enterprise Electric, Inc.

46 Capital Avenue  
Lisbon Falls, ME 04252  
Phone: 207-353-2697  
Website: <http://www.EnterpriseElectric.net>

NOTE: The pole line and primary underground work will be privately constructed and owned by the Town of Lisbon.

#### Exclusions:

- \* Permit for rail crossing with overhead primary.
- \* Excavation & backfill.
- \* 6" of sand padding for direct bury primary cable.
- \* 12" of sand backfill over the top of the primary cable.
- \* Removal or replacement of any unsuitable soils including ledge or large boulders.
- \* Restoration of damaged ground or vegetation as a result of construction.
- \* Cutting, patching, coring, or painting.
- \* Utility charges and fees for permanent service.
- \* Maine State Sales Tax.
- \* Winter conditions.
- \* Work done off hours, weekends, or holidays.
- \* Customer must have secured all rights necessary for land parcels where material will be installed and work performed prior to construction.
- \* Traffic control.
- \* Layout work.
- \* Tree trimming (if required).
- \* Price assumes that all locations are accessible by a digger or bucket truck along a road.
- \* De-watering if required.
- \* Testing for asbestos or lead paint, or abatement of.
- \* Testing for or abatement of PCB's.

#### Pricing:

| <u>Qty</u> | <u>Description</u>                            |
|------------|---|
| 1          | **SWITCHGEAR                                  |
| 1          | CMP 361-7.1B 1PH RISER LOOP FEED FROM DEADEND |
| 1          | DIRECT BURY PRIMARY CABLE                     |
| 1          | ADD PRIMARY OH CABLE PER WAYNE                |
| 1          | FIBERGLASS TRANSFORMER PAD                    |
| 1          | SECONDARY SERVICE WITH METER TRIM             |
| 1          | HARDWARE FOR MOUNTING THE METER AND PANEL     |
| 1          | BOLLARDS FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE                 |
| 1          | SECONDARY FEED TO NEW SERVICE                 |
| 1          | METER TO PANEL FEED                           |
| 1          | LIGHT POLE BASES                              |
| 1          | CONDUIT & WIRE                                |
| 1          | STUB UPS AT PANEL                             |
| 1          | CONDUIT RUN #1 FOR 2 LIGHT POLES              |
| 1          | CONDUIT RUN #2 FOR 3 LIGHT POLES              |
| 1          | TERMINATIONS IN LIGHT POLES                   |
| 1          | EQUIPMENT REQUIRED                            |
| 1          | TIMECLOCK INSTALLATION FOR LIGHTING           |



# Bid Proposal

## Lisbon Site Lighting Project

### Enterprise Electric, Inc.

46 Capital Avenue

Lisbon Falls, ME 04252

Phone: 207-353-2697

Website: <http://www.EnterpriseElectric.net>

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | (2) 50 AMP RV PLUG WITH WP COVER |
| 1 | (6) 20 AMP GFCI WP RECEPTACLES   |

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For the Sum of \$ 51,905.00

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any deviation or alteration from the above scope of work involving extra cost will be executed only upon written orders and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents, beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado, and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by Workers Compensation Insurance. Subject to approval of subcontract terms and conditions considered fair and reasonable.

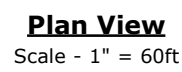
Total payment (with no retainage held) shall be made within 30 days of receiving an invoice for the work. We reserve the right to partial bill the project if a particular portion of the scope will happen at a later date.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to quote this project. If you have any questions, please call us.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY J. KELLY  
Enterprise Electric, Inc.





DSX2-LED  
Rev. 03/19/21  
Page 1 of 8