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TO: Municipal Officials/Welfare Directors/General Assistance Administrators

FROM: Ian Miller, General Assistance Program Manager

RE: 2016 – 2017 General Assistance Ordinance Maximums

DATE:

Enclosed please find the following items:

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

Appendix A - D

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

The Adoption Process

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

At the hearing, the municipal officers should:

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

Filing of GA Ordinance and/or Appendices

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

GA Overall Maximums

Metropolitan Areas

Persons in Household

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

Appendix A

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

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

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

Non-Metropolitan Areas

Persons in Household

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

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

Appendix B

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

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, 2015, those amounts are:

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

Note: For each additional person add \$146 per month.

GA Housing Maximums (Heated & Unheated Rents)

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

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

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

Appendix C

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

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

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

Appendix C

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

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Waldo County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	116	497	138	592
1	127	547	156	671
2	149	639	184	793
3	211	908	255	1,096
4	215	926	269	1,155

<u>Washington County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	98	420	121	521
1	102	439	131	563
2	120	515	156	669
3	157	674	200	862
4	191	819	244	1,048

Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Bangor HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	125	539	149	640
1	135	583	164	707
2	173	744	209	898
3	219	944	263	1,132
4	255	1,097	308	1,326

<u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	101	432	124	533
1	111	479	140	603
2	139	599	175	753
3	186	799	230	987
4	213	914	266	1,143

<u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	96	411	119	512
1	112	484	141	608
2	144	618	180	772
3	187	803	230	991
4	210	901	263	1,130

Appendix C

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

Metropolitan FMR Areas

Portland HMFA	Unheated		Heated	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	157	674	180	775
1	182	781	210	905
2	229	983	264	1,137
3	315	1,355	359	1,543
4	320	1,377	373	1,606

York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA	Unheated		Heated	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	187	803	210	904
1	190	817	219	941
2	251	1,079	287	1,233
3	328	1,410	372	1,598
4	402	1,730	456	1,959

Cumberland Cty. HMFA	Unheated		Heated	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	136	586	160	687
1	140	602	169	726
2	191	821	227	975
3	293	1,259	337	1,447
4	330	1,419	383	1,648

Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA	Unheated		Heated	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	141	605	164	706
1	153	657	182	781
2	174	749	210	903
3	237	1,019	281	1,207
4	289	1,241	342	1,470

York Cty. HMFA	Unheated		Heated	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	133	570	156	671
1	155	666	184	790
2	193	828	228	982
3	269	1,156	313	1,344
4	269	1,156	314	1,349

GA MAXIMUMS SUMMARY SHEET

Note: The overall maximums found in *Appendices A, B, C, D, E, and F* are effective from **October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.**

APPENDIX A - OVERALL MAXIMUMS

<u>County</u>	<u>Persons in Household</u>					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>NOTE: For each additional person add \$75 per month.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(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	45.12	194.00
2	83.02	357.00
3	118.84	511.00
4	150.93	649.00
5	179.30	771.00
6	215.12	925.00
7	237.67	1022.00
8	271.86	1169.00
<p>NOTE: For each additional person add \$146 per month.</p>		

APPENDIX C - HOUSING MAXIMUMS

<u>Number of Bedrooms</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0				
1				
2				
3				
4				
<p style="text-align: center;">(The applicable figures from Appendix C, <i>once adopted</i>, should be inserted here.)</p>				

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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>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1	\$14.00	\$60.00
2	\$15.70	\$67.50
3	\$17.45	\$75.00
4	\$19.70	\$86.00
5	\$23.10	\$99.00
6	\$25.00	\$107.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$7.50 per month.

2) **Electricity Maximums for Households *With Electrically Heated Hot Water*:** The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, hot water, for lights, cooking and other electric uses *excluding* heat:

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1	\$20.08	\$86.00
2	\$23.75	\$102.00
3	\$27.70	\$119.00
4	\$32.25	\$139.00
5	\$37.30	\$160.00
6	\$41.00	\$176.00

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

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

APPENDIX E - HEATING FUEL

<u>Month</u>	<u>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

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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

<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

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