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Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.  
Commissioner



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To: Welfare Officials and Contracted Agents  
From: Sara Russell, Program Manager, General Assistance  
Date: September 6, 2019  
Subject: New GA Maximums

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Enclosed please find the following items:

- MMA's new (October 1, 2019–September 30, 2020) “**General Assistance Ordinance Appendices**” (A – F and H).
- “**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 – F & Appendix H

The enclosed Appendices A – F, and Appendix H have been revised for your municipality’s General Assistance Ordinance. These new Appendices, **once adopted**, should replace the existing Appendices A – F and Appendix H. 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.

### **Municipalities May Establish Their Own Maximums**

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

A municipality's maximum assistance level for Food may not be below the Department provided figures which are issued by the USDA and published annually following a study of cost of food for various family sizes. A market basket survey may be used to establish food maximums if the maximums provided by the USDA are insufficient to maintain health in the municipality.

### **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](http://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.

# GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE APPENDICES A-D & APPENDIX H 2019-2020

The Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_ adopts the MMA Model Ordinance GA Appendices (A-D) for the period of Oct. 1, 2019—September 30, 2020. These appendices are filed with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in compliance with Title 22 M.R.S.A. §4305(4).

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

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(Signature)

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(Print Name)

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(Signature)

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(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

## 2019-2020 GA Overall Maximums

### Metropolitan Areas

COUNTY	Persons in Household				
	1	2	3	4	5*
<b>Bangor HMFA:</b> Bangor, Brewer, Eddington, Glenburn, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Kenduskeag, Milford, Old Town, Orono, Orrington, Penobscot Indian Island Reservation, Veazie	759	862	1,096	1,373	1,924
<b>Cumberland County HMFA:</b> Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	865	909	1,176	1,634	1,866
<b>Lewiston/Auburn MSA:</b> Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	725	783	1,007	1,265	1,606
<b>Penobscot County HMFA:</b> 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	725	728	964	1,208	1,330
<b>Portland HMFA:</b> 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	1,089	1,191	1,526	2,037	2,418
<b>Sagadahoc HMFA:</b> Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	809	915	1,076	1,425	1,677

## Appendix A

Effective: 10/01/19-09/30/20

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
<b>York County HMFA:</b> Acton, Alfred, Arundel, Biddeford, Cornish, Dayton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Lebanon, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, North Berwick, Ogunquit, Parsonsfield, Saco, Sanford, Shapleigh, Waterboro, Wells	899	961	1,190	1,525	1,692
<b>York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA:</b> Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	1,112	1,143	1,511	1,893	2,654

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

### Non-Metropolitan Areas

#### Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
<b>Aroostook County</b>	640	696	816	1,100	1,180
<b>Franklin County</b>	669	715	828	1,084	1,468
<b>Hancock County</b>	818	855	1,036	1,307	1,433
<b>Kennebec County</b>	752	777	969	1,273	1,360
<b>Knox County</b>	781	786	969	1,269	1,379
<b>Lincoln County</b>	849	869	1,038	1,326	1,541
<b>Oxford County</b>	748	752	920	1,299	1,511
<b>Piscataquis County</b>	645	700	865	1,144	1,373
<b>Somerset County</b>	699	733	942	1,228	1,316
<b>Waldo County</b>	801	855	979	1,316	1,676
<b>Washington County</b>	698	702	910	1,140	1,243

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

## 2019-2020 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, 2019, those amounts are:

<b>Number in Household</b>	<b>Weekly Maximum</b>	<b>Monthly Maximum</b>
1	\$ 45.12	\$ 194
2	82.56	355
3	118.37	509
4	150.23	646
5	178.60	768
6	214.19	921
7	236.74	1,018
8	270.70	1,164

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

## **Funeral Maximums**

### **Burial Maximums**

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

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.

### **Cremation Maximums**

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

## 2019-2020 GA MAXIMUMS SUMMARY SHEET

Note: The overall maximums found in *Appendices A, B, C, D, E, and F* are effective from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

### 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><b>(The applicable figures from Appendix A, <i>once adopted</i>, should be inserted here.)</b></p>						

### APPENDIX B - FOOD MAXIMUMS

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Maximum</u>
1	\$ 45.12	\$ 194
2	82.56	355
3	118.37	509
4	150.23	646
5	178.60	768
6	214.19	921
7	236.74	1,018
8	270.70	1,164
<p><b>NOTE:</b> For each additional person add \$144 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><b>(The applicable figures from Appendix C, <i>once adopted</i>, should be inserted here.)</b></p>				

*FOR MUNICIPAL USE ONLY*



**APPENDIX D - UTILITIES**

**ELECTRIC**

**NOTE:** For an electrically heated dwelling also see “Heating Fuel” maximums below. But remember, an applicant is *not automatically* entitled to the “maximums” established—applicants must demonstrate need.

1) **Electricity Maximums for Households *Without Electric Hot Water*:** The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, for lights, cooking and other electric uses *excluding* electric hot water and heat:

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

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

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

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1	\$20.65	\$89.00
2	\$23.75	\$102.00
3	\$27.70	\$119.00
4	\$32.25	\$139.00
5	\$38.75	\$167.00
6	\$41.00	\$176.00

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

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

**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

**FOR MUNICIPAL USE ONLY**

**NOTE:** When the dwelling unit is heated electrically, the maximum amount allowed for heating purposes will be calculated by multiplying the number of gallons of fuel allowed for that month by the current price per gallon. When fuels such as wood, coal and/or natural gas are used for heating purposes, they will be budgeted at actual rates, if they are reasonable. No eligible applicant shall be considered to need more than 7 tons of coal per year, 8 cords of wood per year, 126,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year, or 1000 gallons of propane.

**APPENDIX F - PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES**

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>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

**FOR MUNICIPAL USE ONLY**

## 2019-2020 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	113	487	137	587
1	117	502	147	634
2	133	572	173	743
3	186	799	236	1,015
4	192	826	251	1,079
<b><u>Franklin County</u></b>				
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	120	516	143	616
1	121	521	152	653
2	141	606	176	755
3	182	783	232	999
4	266	1,145	318	1,367
<b><u>Hancock County</u></b>				
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	155	667	178	764
1	155	667	184	791
2	184	792	223	958
3	234	1,007	283	1,216
4	248	1,067	308	1,324
<b><u>Kennebec County</u></b>				
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	140	601	162	698
1	140	601	166	713
2	169	725	207	891
3	226	973	275	1,182
4	231	994	291	1,251

**Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Knox County</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	147	630	169	727
1	147	630	169	727
2	169	725	207	891
3	225	969	274	1,178
4	235	1,013	295	1,270
<b><u>Lincoln County</u></b>				
	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	162	698	185	795
1	162	698	187	805
2	185	794	223	960
3	238	1,026	287	1,235
4	273	1,175	333	1,432
<b><u>Oxford County</u></b>				
	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	139	597	161	694
1	139	597	161	694
2	157	676	196	842
3	232	999	281	1,208
4	266	1,145	326	1,402
<b><u>Piscataquis County</u></b>				
	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	113	487	135	580
1	119	512	146	627
2	149	640	181	780
3	203	871	244	1,048
4	237	1,019	293	1,262
<b><u>Somerset County</u></b>				
	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	127	548	150	645
1	127	548	156	669
2	162	698	201	864
3	216	928	264	1,137
4	221	950	281	1,207



**Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Waldo County</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	151	650	174	747
1	154	663	184	791
2	171	735	210	901
3	236	1,016	285	1,225
4	305	1,310	364	1,567

  

<b><u>Washington County</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	127	547	150	644
1	127	547	150	644
2	155	666	193	832
3	195	840	244	1,049
4	204	877	264	1,134

**Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Bangor HMFA</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	141	608	164	705
1	156	670	186	798
2	198	852	237	1,018
3	249	1,073	298	1,282
4	362	1,558	422	1,815

  

<b><u>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	166	714	189	811
1	167	717	197	845
2	217	932	255	1,098
3	310	1,334	359	1,543
4	349	1,500	409	1,757

  

<b><u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	133	574	156	671
1	137	591	167	719
2	177	763	216	929
3	224	965	273	1,174
4	288	1,240	348	1,497

**Appendix C**  
Effective: 10/01/19-09/30/20

**Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	133	574	156	671
1	133	574	156	671
2	167	720	206	886
3	211	908	260	1,117
4	224	964	284	1,221
<b><u>Portland HMFA</u></b>				
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	218	938	241	1,035
1	232	999	262	1,127
2	298	1,282	337	1,448
3	404	1,737	453	1,946
4	477	2,052	537	2,309
<b><u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u></b>				
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	153	658	176	755
1	168	723	198	851
2	193	832	232	998
3	262	1,125	310	1,334
4	305	1,311	365	1,568
<b><u>York Cty. HMFA</u></b>				
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	174	748	197	845
1	179	769	209	897
2	220	946	259	1,112
3	285	1,225	333	1,434
4	308	1,326	368	1,583
<b><u>York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA</u></b>				
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	223	961	246	1,058
1	223	961	251	1,079
2	295	1,267	333	1,433
3	370	1,593	419	1,802
4	532	2,288	592	2,545