GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE
APPENDICES A
2012-2013

The Municipality of Raymond adopts the MMA Model Ordinance GA Appendices A for the period of July 1, 2012 —June 30, 2013, as revised April 2012. 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)	(Signature)
(Print Name)	(Signature)
(Print Name)	(Signature)
(Print Name)	(Signature)

past legislative session establishing maximums at 90% of the maximum level of assistance in effect on April 1, 2012.

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 has made it easier by enclosing a self-addressed envelope for your use. DHHS will accept the enclosed "adoption sheet" as proof that a municipality has adopted the current GA maximums.

We will forward to you, copies of the revised Statute and Policy that cover the changes once they have been published.

CHANGES, CHANGES, CHANGES…….

On Friday, May 18th, DHHS administrative staff moved from 442 Civic Center Drive, Augusta to 19 Union Street, Augusta. The 11 State House Station will remain the same.

General Assistance
19 Union Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Some telephone numbers have changed and are as follows:

Dave MacLean	Program Manager	624-4138
Robin Reed	SSI Contact	624-4164
Maurice Doyon	Reimbursement Clerk	624-4148

Joanna Dall	A-E	Payment Accuracy Team	624-4146
Brenda Vigue	F-P	Payment Accuracy Team	624-4145
Paula Casoria	Q-Z	Payment Accuracy Team	624-4144

Hot line # **1-800-442-6003 or 624-4168**

The Augusta fax number will remain the same **287-3455**

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In accordance with legislative action, the following changes will take effect on July, 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013.

Sec. R-1. 22 MRSA §4305, sub-§3-C is enacted to read:
3-C. Maximum level of assistance from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Notwithstanding subsection 3-A or 3-B, for the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, the maximum level of assistance is 90% of the maximum level of assistance in effect on April 1, 2012.

This includes the overall maximum only. These are to be adopted by the municipality. They should be used starting July 1st whether they have been adopted yet or not.

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Sec. R-2. 22 MRSA §4308, sub-§§1-A and 1-B are enacted to read:

1-A. Limit on housing assistance. Except as provided in subsections 1-B and 2, housing assistance provided pursuant to this chapter is limited to a maximum of 9 months during the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

We are currently working on determining the best way to track the 9 months of housing. This is going to be challenging as there is currently not a data base that tracks GA assistance provided to individuals.

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1-B. Extension of housing assistance due to hardship. An applicant is eligible for housing assistance under this chapter beyond the limit established in subsection 1-A if the applicant has a severe and persistent mental or physical condition warranting such an extension or has an application for assistance pending with the federal Social Security Administration.

We are aware of the potential for abuse in this section and we are currently working on developing guidance so this is applied in a consistent manner State wide.

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Sec. R-3. Temporary reduction in 90% general assistance reimbursement. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4311, subsection 1, for the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, the state reimbursement rate pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4311, subsection 1 is reduced to 85% for a municipality that incurs net general assistance costs in a fiscal year in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most recent state valuation. Page 136 - **125LR2847(16)-1**

This section is self explanatory.

Also passed in this budget was the mandate of establishing a "Working Group" to review and make recommendations regarding the General Assistance Program. The first meeting will is scheduled for the first week of June.

Also passed in the budget was an initiative to provide assistance in the SSI disability determination process. Five individuals will be hired by the State of Maine DHHS to assist recipients of General Assistance in working their way through that disability determination process in an attempt to expedite those decisions and limit the time and amounts of General Assistance expended for those individuals. The expected start date on that project is expected to be July 1st.

GA Overall Maximums

Metropolitan Areas

COUNTY	Persons in Household 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	550	641	818	1040	1174
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	561	563	676	845	1036
Lewiston/Auburn MSA: Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	471	590	720	912	1010
Portland HMFA: Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Frye Island, Gorham, Gray, North Yarmouth, Portland, Raymond, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, Yarmouth; Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Old Orchard Beach	731	868	1124	1416	1517
York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA: Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	912	918	1100	1603	1746
Cumberland County HMFA: Baldwin, Bridgton, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	607	715	922	1101	1410
Brunswick	608	727	939	1190	1427

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COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Sagadahoc HMFA: Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	723	724	869	1095	1504
York County HMFA: Acton, Alfred, Arundel, Cornish, Dayton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Lebanon, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, North Berwick, Ogunquit, Parsonsfield, Shapleigh, Waterboro, Wells	661	688	873	1045	1141
Biddeford, Saco, Sanford	668	744	938	1190	1407

***Note: Add $68 for each additional person.**

Non-Metropolitan Areas

Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Aroostook County	428	527	631	824	912
Franklin County	530	572	696	832	1079
Hancock County	579	668	822	1094	1125
Kennebec County	459	550	684	933	996
Knox County	524	693	791	1071	1236
Lincoln County	633	680	821	991	1118
Oxford County	442	588	678	902	1130
Piscataquis County	550	627	775	984	1053
Somerset County	440	547	632	914	970
Waldo County	617	662	798	979	1041
Washington County	530	572	683	846	923

*** Please Note: Add $68 for each additional person.**

Attachment 1

Sample General Assistance Program Ordinance Amendment to Incorporate the FY 2013 "Temporary" Housing Assistance Limit

Amend Article VI, Section 6.8 (B) of the General Assistance Ordinance adopted by the municipal officers in the Town/City of _____, to be effective on and after July 1, 2012, as follows:

B) **Housing.** The administrator will provide assistance with rent or mortgage payments that are reasonable ~~and/or~~ within the allowed maximum levels <u>and in accordance with the housing assistance limits and exceptions provided in Title 22, section 4308, subsections 1-A and 1-B</u> . See Appendix C of this ordinance 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 of the number of rooms actually needed.