

Town of Freeport

MEMO

MEMO TO: Peter Joseph, Freeport Town Manager
Chris Wolfe, Town Clerk
FROM: Johanna Hanselman, General Assistance Administrator
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item for September 7, 2020 – Setting a Public Hearing for September 21, 2021** regarding State Mandated General Assistance Ordinance and Appendix Updates
DATE: August 20, 2021

Each year, the Town Council is required to adopt revisions to the local General Assistance Ordinance and/or Appendices as made by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. The law requires that the municipal officers adopt the revised ordinance and/or appendices after public notice and hearing (language below). It should be noted that there have been significant increases to the GA Food maximum as a result of a re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan conducted by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). This fall revision also includes slight changes in Appendix A, Overall Maximums and Appendix C, Housing Maximums.

After the Town Council has adopted these amendments, General Assistance law requires that DHHS be sent a copy of the amended Ordinance and Appendices. DHHS will accept the Adoption Form attached as proof that the Town of Freeport has adopted the current General Assistance Ordinance and maximums. **Please have the Town Council sign the attached form upon adopting this amendment.**

“To consider action relative to approving proposed amendments to Chapter 46: General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices A- H for the period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

BE IT ORDERED: *That a Public Hearing be scheduled for September 21, 2021 at The Town Council Meeting starting at 6:30 pm to discuss amendments to Chapter 46: General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices A- H for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.”*

2021-2022 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	783	888	1,128	1,413	1,979
Cumberland County HMFA: Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	892	936	1,211	1,668	1,904
Lewiston/Auburn MSA: Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	748	807	1,036	1,302	1,652
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	748	750	992	1,243	1,357
Portland HMFA: Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Frye Island, Gorham, Gray, Long Island, North Yarmouth, Portland, Raymond, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, Yarmouth; Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Old Orchard Beach	1,190	1,297	1,686	2,205	2,685
Sagadahoc HMFA: Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	828	943	1,108	1,466	1,711

Appendix A
Effective: 10/01/21-09/30/22

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
York County HMFA: Acton, Alfred, Arundel, Biddeford, Cornish, Dayton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Lebanon, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, North Berwick, Ogunquit, Parsonsfield, Saco, Sanford, Shapleigh, Waterboro, Wells	927	990	1,225	1,557	1,741
York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA: Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	1,147	1,177	1,556	1,948	2,731

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

Non-Metropolitan Areas

Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Aroostook County	655	717	840	1,132	1,214
Franklin County	690	737	846	1,115	1,497
Hancock County	844	880	1,058	1,334	1,462
Kennebec County	776	794	990	1,299	1,387
Knox County	800	804	990	1,306	1,406
Lincoln County	876	895	1,069	1,364	1,572
Oxford County	771	775	947	1,337	1,555
Piscataquis County	665	715	883	1,172	1,412
Somerset County	716	751	969	1,263	1,354
Waldo County	826	880	1,008	1,354	1,725
Washington County	717	721	937	1,173	1,268

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

Appendix B

Effective: 10/01/21 to 09/30/22

2021-2022 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, 2021, those amounts are:

Number in Household	Weekly Maximum	Monthly Maximum
1	\$ 58.14	\$ 250.00
2	106.74	459.00
3	153.02	658.00
4	194.19	835.00
5	230.70	992.00
6	276.74	1,190.00
7	306.05	1,316.00
8	349.77	1,504.00

Note: For each additional person add \$188 per month.

2021-2022 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

<u>Aroostook County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	119	510	142	612
1	125	536	156	670
2	141	608	183	785
3	198	853	249	1,070
4	203	873	265	1,140
<u>Franklin County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	127	545	150	647
1	129	556	160	690
2	143	614	184	791
3	194	836	245	1,053
4	269	1,156	331	1,423
<u>Hancock County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	161	691	184	791
1	161	691	190	818
2	189	812	229	986
3	241	1,037	291	1,250
4	255	1,095	316	1,359
<u>Kennebec County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	145	623	168	723
1	145	623	170	732
2	173	744	213	918
3	233	1,002	283	1,215
4	237	1,020	299	1,284

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Knox County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	150	647	174	747
1	150	647	174	747
2	173	744	213	918
3	235	1,009	284	1,222
4	242	1,039	303	1,303
<u>Lincoln County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	168	723	191	823
1	168	723	194	833
2	191	823	232	997
3	248	1,067	298	1,280
4	280	1,205	342	1,469
<u>Oxford County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	144	618	167	718
1	144	618	167	718
2	163	701	203	875
3	242	1,040	291	1,253
4	276	1,188	338	1,452
<u>Piscataquis County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	116	501	165	609
1	119	512	165	652
2	146	627	201	811
3	200	862	288	1,086
4	241	1,037	333	1,312
<u>Somerset County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	131	563	154	663
1	131	563	160	689
2	168	723	209	897
3	225	966	274	1,179
4	230	987	291	1,251

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Waldo County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	157	673	180	773
1	159	685	190	818
2	177	762	218	936
3	246	1,057	295	1,270
4	316	1,358	377	1,622
<u>Washington County</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	131	564	154	664
1	131	564	154	664
2	161	691	201	865
3	204	876	253	1,089
4	210	901	271	1,165

Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Bangor HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	147	630	170	730
1	161	693	192	826
2	205	882	246	1,056
3	260	1,116	309	1,329
4	375	1,612	436	1,876
<u>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	172	739	195	839
1	172	741	203	874
2	224	965	265	1,139
3	319	1,371	368	1,584
4	357	1,537	419	1,801
<u>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	138	595	162	695
1	142	612	173	745
2	184	790	224	964
3	234	1,005	283	1,218
4	299	1,285	360	1,549

Metropolitan FMR Areas

<u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	138	595	162	695
1	138	595	162	695
2	173	746	214	920
3	220	946	270	1,159
4	230	990	292	1,254
<u>Portland HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	241	1,037	264	1,137
1	256	1,102	287	1,235
2	335	1,440	375	1,614
3	444	1,908	493	2,121
4	539	2,318	600	2,582
<u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	157	675	180	775
1	174	748	205	881
2	200	862	241	1,036
3	272	1,169	321	1,382
4	313	1,344	374	1,608
<u>York Cty. HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	180	774	203	874
1	185	795	216	928
2	228	979	268	1,153
3	293	1,260	343	1,473
4	320	1,374	381	1,638
<u>York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	231	994	254	1,094
1	231	994	259	1,115
2	305	1,310	345	1,484
3	384	1,651	433	1,864
4	550	2,364	611	2,628

2021-2022 GA MAXIMUMS SUMMARY SHEET

Note: The overall maximums found in *Appendices A, B, C, D, E, and F* are effective from **October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.**

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>(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	\$ 58.14	\$ 250.00
2	106.74	459.00
3	153.02	658.00
4	194.19	835.00
5	230.70	992.00
6	276.74	1,190.00
7	306.05	1,316.00
8	349.77	1,504.00
<p>NOTE: For each additional person add \$188 per month.</p>		

APPENDIX C - HOUSING MAXIMUMS

Number of Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	172	739	195	839
1	172	741	203	874
2	224	965	265	1139
3	319	1371	368	1584
4	357	1537	419	1801
(The applicable figures from Appendix C, <i>once adopted</i> , should be inserted here.)				

FOR MUNICIPAL USE ONLY

APPENDIX D - UTILITIES

ELECTRIC

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

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

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

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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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Funeral Maximums

Burial Maximums

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

Appendix H

Effective: 10/01/21-9/30/22

- 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.

MUNICIPALITY OF FREEPORT

GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(1), the municipal officers of the Municipality of **FREEPORT**, after notice and hearing, hereby amend the municipal General Assistance Ordinance by repealing and replacing appendices A through H of the existing ordinance with the attached appendices A through H, which shall be in effect from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This amendment will be filed with the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(4), and a copy of the ordinance and amended appendices shall be available for public inspection at the municipal office along with a copy of the 22 M.R.S. chapter 1161.

Signed this 21st day of September, 2021, by the municipal officers:

(Print Name) (Signature)

(Print Name) (Signature)

(Print Name) (Signature)

(Print Name) (Signature)

(Print Name) (Signature)

(Print Name) (Signature)

(Print Name) (Signature)