

South Portland City Council
Position Paper of the City Manager

Subject:

ORDER #37-14/15 – Adopting the MMA Model Ordinance GA Appendices B, C, D, E, F, G, and H, for the period of October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015. Passage requires majority vote.

Position:

The Municipal General Assistance Program is mandated by State law. This order is brought forward to adopt the General Assistance Overall Maximums Appendices B, C, D, E, F, G, and H.

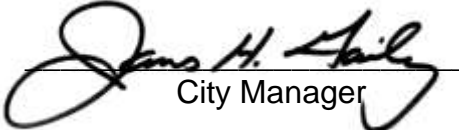
Appendices B and C stipulates general assistance food and housing maximums. The maximums of have been increased. Appendices D-H have been changed to reflect the current year.

Article III of Chapter 10 of the City's Code of Ordinances allows for these appendices to be adopted by City Council order rather than acting on an ordinance amendment. These changes will provide consistency and compliance with State law.

General Assistance Administrator Kathleen Babeu will be at Monday's meeting to answer any questions.

Requested Action:

Council passage of ORDER #37-14/15.


City Manager



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

GERARD A. JALBERT
Mayor

JAMES H. GAILEY
City Manager

SUSAN M. MOONEY
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

District One
MICHAEL R. POCK

District Two
PATRICIA A. SMITH

District Three
MELISSA E. LINSOTT

District Four
LINDA C. COHEN

District Five
GERARD A. JALBERT

At Large
MAXINE R. BEECHER

At Large
THOMAS E. BLAKE

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER #37-14/15

ORDERED, that the attached General Assistance Overall Maximums Appendices B, C, D, E, F, G, and H be and hereby are adopted effective October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1,000

Dated: October 20, 2014

Appendix B
Effective through September 30, 2015

Food Maximums

Please Note: The maximum amounts allowed for food are established in accordance with the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan. Through September 30th, 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.

Appendix C
Effective through September 30, 2015

GA Housing Maximums
(Heated & Unheated Rents)

Metropolitan FMR Areas

| Portland HMFA Bedrooms | Unheated - Wk | Unheated - Mo | Heated - Wk | Heated - Mo |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0 | 142.00 | 611.00 | 163.00 | 702.00 |
| 1 | 166.00 | 715.00 | 194.00 | 833.00 |
| 2 | 214.00 | 922.00 | 252.00 | 1,085.00 |
| 3 | 271.00 | 1165.00 | 319.00 | 1,371.00 |
| 4 | 274.00 | 1180.00 | 339.00 | 1,458.00 |

Appendix D

Effective through September 30, 2015

Electric Utility Maximums

Without electric hot water

The maximum amounts allowed for utilities for lights, cooking, and other electric uses, excluding electric hot water are:

| <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 | \$19.20 | \$86.00 |
| 5 | \$23.10 | \$99.00 |
| 6 | \$25.00 | \$107.00 |

*Add \$7.50 a month for each additional family member.

With electric hot water

The maximum amount allowed for electric utilities for dwelling units that have electrically heated hot water shall be \$70 per month for the first member of the household, with an additional \$10 per month for each additional household member.

| <u>Number in Household</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$19.10 | \$ 82.00 |
| 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 |

*Add \$10.00 a month for each additional family member.

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 amount for fuel as provided in **Appendix E**.

In accordance with the following conditions, the administrator may allow as a budgetable expense the amount of an applicant's summer-loaded special payment arrangement (SPA) or budget payment arrangement (BPA), as calculated by the electric utility and entered into by the applicant, even when the arranged payment amount exceeds the above maximums or actual usage.

- 1) The SPA or BPA, when annualized, does not exceed the above monthly maximums, when annualized, for non-electrically heated dwelling units.
- 2) The SPA or BPA, when annualized, does not exceed the above monthly maximums and the fuel assistance maximums, when annualized, for electrically heated dwelling units.

- 3) The administrator determines, in consultation with the utility, that the payment arrangement does not include in any part the installment payment of past debt unless the municipality guaranteed to the utility the allowance of such an arrangement as a condition of averting a disconnection.

Pursuant to the use-of-income requirements in Sec. 10-606 of this ordinance, whenever the administrator budgets for SPA's or BPA's under this section, the recipient will be required to pay the SPA or BPA him or herself to the extent of the income capacity of the household.

Appendix E
Effective through September 30, 2015

Heating Fuel

When considering requests for heating fuel, eligible applicants will be granted assistance with the actual amount necessary up to the following maximums:

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

When the dwelling unit is heated by electricity, 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 or coal and/or natural gas are used for heating purposes, they will be budgeted at actual rates, if they are reasonable. However, 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
Effective through September 30, 2015

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 |

Appendix G
Effective through September 30, 2015

2014-2015 Mileage Rate

The City adopts the State of Maine travel expense reimbursement rate as set by the Office of the State Controller. The current rate (until September 30, 2015 for approved employment and necessary medical travel, etc. is 44 cents (44¢) 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
Effective through September 30, 2015

Funeral Maximums

Burial Maximums

The maximum amount of general assistance granted for the purpose of burial is **\$1,500**. 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 bylaws 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 **\$1,000**. 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 \$50
- transportation costs borne by the funeral director at a reasonable rate per mile for transporting the remains to and from the cremation facility.