

[For use when adopting **updated appendices only** without amending the body of an existing GA ordinance]

MUNICIPALITY OF Crystal
GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(1), the municipal officers of the Municipality of Crystal, 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, 2025 through September 30, 2026. 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 _____ day of _____, 20____, by the municipal officers:

Phyllis Chambers
(Print Name)

Phyllis Chambers
(Signature)

CALVIN R. WHITE
(Print Name)

Calvin R. White
(Signature)

Jason MacArthur
(Print Name)

Jason MacArthur
(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

[Please send a copy of the enactment page only to DHHS, 109 Capitol Street, SHS 11, Augusta, ME 04330-0011]

General Assistance Maximums Reference Sheet-Aroostook County

SFY 2026: Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026

OVERALL MAXIMUMS (A)				
Persons in Household				
1	2	3	4	5
\$803	\$871	\$1,085	\$1,486	\$1,569
Household of 6 =				\$1,644
*Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.				

HOUSING MAXIMUMS (C)					
		Unheated		Heated	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	
0	\$149	\$640	\$181	\$779	
1	\$155	\$667	\$196	\$844	
2	\$192	\$826	\$245	\$1,054	
3	\$273	\$1,174	\$338	\$1,451	
4	\$278	\$1,196	\$356	\$1,529	
Recovery Residence			\$147.00	\$633.00	
26+ rooms			\$102.90	\$443.10	

FOOD MAXIMUMS (B)			
Persons	Weekly	Monthly	
1	\$69.30	\$298.00	
2	\$126.98	\$546.00	
3	\$182.56	\$785.00	
4	\$231.16	\$994.00	
5	\$275.12	\$1,183.00	
6	\$330.47	\$1,421.00	
7	\$365.35	\$1,571.00	
8	\$416.05	\$1,789.00	

Note: For each additional person add \$218 per month.

FUNERAL MAXIMUMS (H)	
Burial	\$1,620
Additional costs that may be allowed:	
* A cremation lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery.	
* Urn, not to exceed \$55.	
* Transportation costs at a reasonable rate per mile.	
Cremation	\$1,125
Additional costs that may be allowed:	
* Wholesale cost of cement liner, if required.	
* Opening and closing of gravesite.	
* A lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery unless they can provide a lot in a municipally owned cemetery.	

ELECTRIC (D)					
Without electric heat/hot water			WITH electric heat/hot water		
# in HH	Weekly	Monthly	# in HH	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$19.95	\$85.50	1	\$29.63	\$127.00
2	\$22.52	\$96.50	2	\$34.07	\$146.00
3	\$24.97	\$107.00	3	\$39.67	\$170.00
4	\$27.53	\$118.00	4	\$46.32	\$198.50
5	\$29.88	\$128.50	5	\$55.65	\$238.50
6	\$32.55	\$139.50	6	\$58.68	\$251.50

For each additional person, add \$10.50/mo

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:

For each additional person, add \$14.50/mo

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:

HEATING FUEL (E)	
Month	Gallons
January	225
February	225
March	125
April	125
May	50
June - August	0
September	50
October	100
November	200
December	200

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.

PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES (F)			
# in HH	Weekly	Monthly	
1-2	\$10.50	\$45.00	
3-4	\$11.60	\$50.00	
5-6	\$12.80	\$55.00	
7-8	\$14.00	\$60.00	
For each additional person add \$1.25/wk or \$5 per month			
Mileage Rate (G)		\$.54 per mile	

SUPPLEMENTS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5 (F)		
# of Children	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$12.80	\$55.00
2	\$17.40	\$75.00
3	\$23.30	\$100.00
4	\$27.90	\$120.00

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, up to the following amounts:

GA Hotline: 1-800-442-6003, option 2 then 1

Revised 09/04/2025

2025-2026 GA Housing Maximums

Recovery Residences

The following Recovery Residence maximums are in effect from 10/1/2025- 9/30/2026

Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas	25 Beds or less		26+ Beds	
Area	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
Aroostook County	\$147.00	\$633.00	\$102.90	\$443.10
Franklin County	\$158.25	\$681.75	\$110.78	\$477.23
Hancock County	\$195.00	\$838.50	\$136.50	\$586.95
Kennebec County	\$168.75	\$726.00	\$118.13	\$508.20
Knox County	\$168.00	\$723.00	\$117.60	\$506.10
Lincoln County	\$207.75	\$892.50	\$145.43	\$624.75
Oxford County	\$160.50	\$689.25	\$112.35	\$482.48
Piscataquis County	\$159.75	\$687.00	\$111.83	\$480.90
Somerset County	\$171.00	\$734.25	\$119.70	\$513.98
Waldo County	\$192.00	\$825.00	\$134.40	\$577.50
Washington County	\$148.50	\$639.00	\$103.95	\$447.30

Metropolitan FMR Areas	25 Beds or less		26+ Beds	
Area	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
Bangor HMFA	\$210.00	\$901.50	\$147.00	\$631.05
Cumberland Cty. HMFA	\$251.25	\$1,080.00	\$175.88	\$756.00
Lewiston/Auburn MSA	\$186.75	\$802.50	\$130.73	\$561.75
Penobscot Cty. HMFA	\$165.00	\$708.75	\$115.50	\$496.13
Portland HMFA	\$296.25	\$1,273.50	\$207.38	\$891.45
Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA	\$219.75	\$946.50	\$153.83	\$662.55
York Cty. HMFA	\$247.50	\$1,065.00	\$173.25	\$745.50
York/Kittery/S. Berwick HMFA	\$289.50	\$1,243.50	\$202.65	\$870.45

These rates were calculated according to CMR 10-144, Ch. 323, Section V which requires:

- A. The Recovery Residence is 75% of 1 bedroom heated rate.
- B. The Recovery Residence rate for a facility with 26 or more beds is 70% of the <26 bed rate (A).

Revised 08/22/2025

2025-2026 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	1,137	1,225	1,566	2,008	2,401
Cumberland County HMFA: Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	1,317	1,463	1,920	2,410	2,934
Lewiston/Auburn MSA: Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	988	1,093	1,395	1,829	2,030
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	923	968	1,271	1,601	1,895
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	1,517	1,721	2,212	2,798	3,429
Sagadahoc HMFA: Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	1,141	1,285	1,579	2,212	2,651

Appendix A

Effective: 10/01/25-09/30/26

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	1,278	1,443	1,778	2,347	2,586
York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA: Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	1,487	1,681	2,168	2,807	3,641

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

Non-Metropolitan Areas

Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
Aroostook County	803	871	1,085	1,486	1,569
Franklin County	842	936	1,228	1,621	1,816
Hancock County	1,139	1,140	1,349	1,787	1,791
Kennebec County	985	991	1,276	1,599	1,913
Knox County	972	987	1,200	1,597	1,780
Lincoln County	1,190	1,213	1,375	1,807	2,217
Oxford County	937	942	1,223	1,623	2,024
Piscataquis County	848	943	1,236	1,489	1,738
Somerset County	932	1,002	1,177	1,532	1,661
Waldo County	1,117	1,123	1,347	1,734	2,284
Washington County	871	875	1,136	1,582	1,695

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

Appendix B

Effective: 10/01/25 to 09/30/26

2025-2026 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, 2025, those amounts are:

Number in Household	Weekly Maximum	Monthly Maximum
1	69.30	298.00
2	126.98	546.00
3	182.56	785.00
4	231.16	994.00
5	275.12	1,183.00
6	330.47	1,421.00
7	365.35	1,571.00
8	416.05	1,789.00

Note: For each additional person add \$218 per month.

2025-2026 GA MAXIMUMS SUMMARY SHEET

Note: The overall maximums found in *Appendices A, B, C, D, E, and F* are effective from **October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.**

APPENDIX A - OVERALL MAXIMUMS

<u>County</u>	<u>Persons in Household</u>					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Aroostook	\$ 803	\$ 871	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,486	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,644
NOTE: For each additional person add \$75 per month.						
(The applicable figures from Appendix A, <i>once adopted</i> , should be inserted here.)						

APPENDIX B - FOOD MAXIMUMS

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Maximum</u>
1	\$ 69.30	\$ 298.00
2	126.98	546.00
3	182.56	785.00
4	231.16	994.00
5	275.12	1,183.00
6	330.47	1,421.00
7	365.35	1,517.00
8	416.05	1,789.00
NOTE: For each additional person add \$218 per month.		

APPENDIX C - HOUSING MAXIMUMS

<u>Number of Bedrooms</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	149	640	181	779
1	155	667	196	844
2	192	826	245	1,054
3	273	1,174	338	1,451
4	278	1,196	356	1,529
(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	\$19.95	\$ 85.50
2	\$22.52	\$ 96.50
3	\$24.97	\$107.00
4	\$27.53	\$118.00
5	\$29.88	\$128.50
6	\$32.55	\$139.50

NOTE: For each additional person add \$10.50 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	\$29.63	\$127.00
2	\$34.07	\$146.00
3	\$39.67	\$170.00
4	\$46.32	\$198.50
5	\$55.65	\$238.50
6	\$58.68	\$251.50

NOTE: For each additional person add \$14.50 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

2025-2026 GA Housing Maximums (Heated & Unheated Rents)

NOTE: NOT ALL MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD ADOPT THESE SUGGESTED HOUSING MAXIMUMS! 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 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	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
0	149	640	181	779
1	155	667	196	844
2	192	826	245	1,054
3	273	1,174	338	1,451
4	278	1,196	356	1,529
Franklin County				
Bedrooms	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
0	158	679	190	818
1	170	732	211	909
2	225	969	278	1,197
3	304	1,309	369	1,586
4	336	1,443	413	1,776
Hancock County				
Bedrooms	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
0	231	995	260	1,118
1	231	995	260	1,118
2	260	1,118	307	1,322
3	351	1,509	408	1,756
4	351	1,509	408	1,756
Kennebec County				
Bedrooms	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
0	196	841	224	964
1	196	841	225	968
2	243	1,045	291	1,249
3	307	1,321	365	1,568
4	367	1,578	437	1,877

Appendix G

Effective: 10/01/25-09/30/26

2025-2026 Mileage Rate

This municipality adopts the State of Maine travel expense reimbursement rate as set by the Office of the State Comptroller. The current rate for approved employment and necessary medical travel etc. is 54 cents (54¢) per mile.

Please refer to the Office of the State Controller for changes to this rate at 626-8420 or visit <https://www.maine.gov/osc/travel/mileage-other-info>.

Funeral Maximums

Burial Maximums

The maximum amount of general assistance granted for the purpose of burial is **\$1,620**. 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 **\$1,125**.

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
- a secured death certificate or obituary

Appendix H

Effective: 10/01/25-9/30/26

- 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.

TOWN of CRYSTAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Municipal Officers of the Town of Crystal will meet at the Municipal Building on the 25th day of September 2025 at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing on enacting the following ordinance:

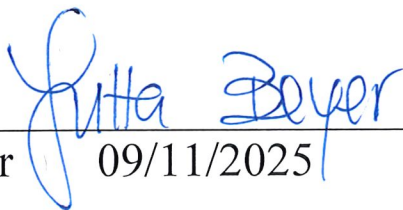
GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

The public will be given an opportunity to be heard prior to the consideration of the above ordinance by the municipal officers.

A copy of the ordinance is available at the Island Falls Town Office.

Attest: _____

Jutta Beyer


09/11/2025