

Health and Welfare

The following chart shows the assistance issued during the fiscal year:

Type of Assistance	Budget	Issued
Cremations/Incidentals	\$6,000	\$8,405.42
Electricity	\$3,000	\$2,250.64
Board & Care	\$1,000	\$1,100.00
Rent	\$29,500	\$13,268.97
Groceries	\$3,500	\$1,120.05
	\$43,000	\$26,145.08

Of those receiving assistance 33 were single females, 26 were single males, and 53 were families.

Whether or not someone is eligible for assistance is determined by subtracting their basic needs from their income and assets. If income and assets are more than basic needs, they do not qualify. If they are less, they qualify for the difference issued in the form of a voucher which is then paid directly to the vendor. Many of the citizens' indigent population do not have the means to cremate their loved ones. The City may be able to assist with up to \$750 with just cremation if the family is eligible and has not made prearrangements.

As for electricity, all are directed to sign up for the electric discount program if they have not already done so and if they are in imminent threat of disconnect they may be eligible for help with their current monthly bill. Board & Care is used to pay for shelter fees if a citizen does not have income of their own. Someone may also be eligible for help with rent and/or groceries. The office does not assist with security deposit but would prefer to cover other expenses such as food, rent or personal/household needs so the individual(s) can pay it themselves and have it returned to them when they move.

General assistance is not a 24-hour a day program nor is it an emergency assistance program. If there is an after-hours need or a

need anytime and someone does not know where to turn, they should call 2-1-1. If you know someone who is struggling encourage them to be proactive and make appointments before they are in dire straits. People can start their application for things like Food Stamps, Medicaid, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled at the NH Department of Health and Human Services online through the NH Easy website.

WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, health screening, and nutritious foods to pregnant women, new moms, infants and children 5 and under. Foods offered include whole grains, fruit, vegetables, and other healthy options (our local Berlin Marketplace offers double your food stamps on fruit and vegetables so for example if you spend \$10 in S.N.A.P. benefits on fruits and veggies they will match with \$10 in fruits and veggies.) WIC is available to income eligible pregnant and postpartum women for up to six months after birth, breastfeeding mothers up to twelve months after the baby as well. Income guidelines are at 185% of the Federal poverty level and if a person can provide proof of Medicaid, Food Stamps or TANF, they are automatically considered eligible. For an appointment in Berlin contact Belknap County Community Action at 1-800-856-5525. There is also the New Hampshire Commodity Supplement Food Program which is administered by Belknap County Community Action for seniors 60 and older at the 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. Contact 1-800-578-2050 to make an appointment.

Food Pantries are located at three different locations in the city. The Harvest Christian Church hosts the Feeding Hope Food Pantry Monday-Thurs 8-12, 1-2 and can be used once a month; Salvation Army hosts a food pantry Tues and Thurs 9-12 that can be used once every 90 days; Marie Rivier (located at the St. Vincent De Paul Center) hosts a food pantry Tuesday and Friday from 2-3:30 that can be used once a month. All three will want to see

that you have applied for food stamps. Harvest Christian and the Community Bible Church also host community dinners (H.C. Wed night 4-6, C.B. Thurs night 4-6) and both allow people to bring containers so if there are leftovers you may bring some home. Southwestern Community Services (1-800-529-0005) and Harbor Homes (SSVF program 882-3616) offers help to those who served in the military.

For assistance with Fuel Assistance contact Tri-County C.A.P. at 752-3248. For housing vouchers contact the Berlin Housing Authority at 752-4240. For assistance with homelessness contact Homeless Outreach at 723-6131. There is also a shelter list on the outside door at City hall and in the lobby in the basement at the service window that shows a map of the state, where the shelters are located, their addresses, phone numbers, and whether they are for singles, males, females, families or whether they are a dry shelter.

The Department conducted 95 licensing inspections on food vendors and numerous unannounced check-up inspections throughout the year as required by ordinance and FDA food code. Along with the Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Department, the Heath Officer completes inspections for complaints on housing issues. Throughout the year there were multiple complaints that were handled through team work and diligence. There are many ordinances, state and federal laws and industry standards that are used for these inspections and the inspectors work hard and cohesively to ensure the safety standards are adhered to. Multiple tax deeded houses were shown for auction and several were sold enabling the City to put them back on the tax rolls and with the process of the bid including bringing properties to code it provides a way for neighborhoods to have one more property looking attractive and being safe instead of

being a potential hazard. A win-win for the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Martin Giroux
Health & Welfare Director

Volunteer Tree Awards



The city recognized this year's recipients of the annual Volunteer Award at Monday's council meeting. From left George McDonough, Mayor Paul Grenier, Owen McDonough, Sally Tourangeau, and Duane Johnson. Melvin Owen (not pictured) also received an award. (BARBARA TETREAULT Photographer)