

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

All cities and towns in the State of New Hampshire are required under RSA 165:1-b to assist those who are poor and unable to support themselves. The Welfare Department balances this requirement with its responsibility to the tax payers. The City has guidelines that help meet its fiscal responsibility and stay within the guiding State laws. Our guidelines explain in detail the laws surrounding welfare, what assistance is offered, what assistance is not offered, what factors are used to determine eligibility, what the client must be responsible for, and the formula used to determine the amount of eligibility. If basic needs are more than income/assets, then assistance is issued for the difference. If the recipient owns property, a lien is placed on said property. After one year, interest is accrued at a rate of 6%. If the individual is physically/psychologically able to work, they must complete a job search as well as work on the work program as a means to pay off the assistance issued. Assistance is in voucher form. No monies are paid out to clients, just to the vendor. If the vendor is a landlord who owes back taxes, water or sewer bills to the city, the money is paid to these bills. In FY 2008-2009 87 unduplicated cases were assisted. Another 104 individuals were interviewed but not assisted for various reasons. A total of \$44,126 was paid out in direct assistance to needy families. A total of 1,367 office contacts were made by people in the community in FY 2008-2009.

As mentioned above, if the recipient is physically and psychologically able to work they are required to work on the work program in return for the assistance. In FY 2008-2009 1,250.78 hours were worked on the work program. Individuals are

scheduled to work at various city offices and at social service agencies in the community.

The breakdown of City assistance was:

Type of Assistance	# of Families	# of Vouchers issued	Total Value Of Direct Assistance
Rent/Mortgage	45	201	\$21,038.94
Electricity	37	206	\$3,372.68
Personal/house hold need, Diapers, Food	66	424	\$6,176.33
Bus Ticket	1	1	\$26.50
Cremation or Burial	2	2	\$1,500.00
Oil	5	6	\$1,993.13
Phone for Medical Reasons	0	0	\$0.00
Medical	20	25	\$5,310.02
Shelter due to homelessness	5	8	\$843.57
Property Tax	1	1	\$2,879.75
Water	2	2	\$985.11
Totals		876	\$44,126.03

This is an opportunity for many people to have something new to put on a resume as a skill and often times will give them someone to list as a reference. Forty-four individuals worked on the work program. The hours worked on the work program translate into \$9,068.16 in reimbursement through working. Another \$19,432.02 was collected in reimbursement through sources such as client pay, collection of the liens, Medicaid reimbursement, and Social Security reimbursement).

Those who receive assistance are required to apply to any other agency or program that could help alleviate the need either this once or for the long term. If someone fails to follow through with applying for those services they are informed to apply for, fail to work the work program hours or fail to complete a job search or fail to provide

material on their finances as requested, they can be sanctioned. The first sanction is for seven days and until they comply and if there is a second sanction within six months they are sanctioned for 14 days and until they come into compliance.

The Welfare Department works closely with Federal, State, and non-profit agencies to help serve those in need and we thank all of the individuals and organizations whose skills and efforts combine with ours to meet the needs in our community.

The following are resources that may be useful:

Assistance Resources

Agency	Address	Telephone	Hours	Services
CAP Fuel Assistance	55 Maynesboro Street	752-3248	8-12; 1-4	Assistance with fuel, weatherization and electric discount program. Food pantry is also available
NH Division of Adult & Elderly Services	231 Main Street	752-7800	8-3:00	For HHS clientele; possible source of one time oil assistance
NH Division of Family Assistance	231 Main Street	752-7800	8-3:00	For FAP or TANF clientele; possible source of emergency assistance with oil, electric, back rent to prevent eviction. Source for food stamp application and Medicaid application.
www.citizensenergy.com	Internet Access is available at the Berlin Public Library			Possible source for 100 gallons of oil if eligibility is met.
City Welfare – Berlin	168 Main Street	752-2120	8-12; 1-4	Assistance with basic needs such as heat, electricity.
WIC	54 Willow Street	752-4678		Help with formula or other nutritious food while pregnant, post partum and until age 5
Coos County Family Health	133 Pleasant Street	752-2040		Medication bridges available for help with free or reduced cost medications for those with no insurance or low income. By appt.
Salvation Army	15 Cole Street	752-1644		Food pantry and Friendly Kitchen; winter coat program; Christmas Program for children, thrift store
Ecumenical Food Pantry	612 Hillsboro Street	752-4844	W&F 2:30-4	
Service Link		1-866-634-9412		Referrals for elderly & disabled clientele to other agencies for possible assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Martin-Giroux
Administrator of Welfare