

CITY WELFARE

The state of New Hampshire RSA 165:1-b requires all cities and towns to assist those who are poor and unable to support themselves. Each individual town and city determines what that means by having written guidelines that define what basic needs are considered and what the need is when income and assets are deducted from those basic needs. These guidelines explain what are basic needs, what things are not considered basic needs, what the city needs in order to make a determination, what is expected of a recipient in return for receiving said assistance and what can happen if those expectations are not met. All assistance is issued in the form of a voucher with payments going directly 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 instead of to the landlord. In this fiscal year of the \$20,326.64 paid to rent \$2,780 was paid to the city because a landlord owed back taxes. If the recipient owns property anywhere in the state a lien is placed on the property until such time the amount the city assisted the person with has been repaid. After one year the lien starts to accrue interest at a rate of six percent per year. In this fiscal year a total of \$6,804.81 was reimbursed to the city from various sources including \$2,642.86 paid by recipients who returned to a position where they could support themselves, \$2,358.48 from reimbursement from the state of New Hampshire, \$1,413.23 from a release of a lien and \$390.00 from other sources.

In fiscal year 2009-2010 a total of 67 unduplicated cases were assisted. Many of these cases were assisted multiple times throughout the fiscal year. Assistance can be broken down to 29 single males, 15 single females and 23 families with more than one

individual in the household. Another 130 individuals were interviewed but were not assisted for various reasons. A total of \$33,993 was paid out in direct assistance for the support of these families. If a recipient does not own property in the state and is physically/psychologically able to work they are required to work on the work program in return for the assistance. They are scheduled to work at various city offices and non-profits. In this fiscal year thirty-seven individuals were scheduled to work a total of 2,326.75 hours on the work program which would translate into \$16,868.94 in reimbursement through the work program. A total of 1,135 office contacts were made by people in the community in FY 2009-2010.

The breakdown of assistance was as follows:

Type of Assistance	# of Families	Total of Direct Assistance
Rent./Mortgage	34	\$20,326.25
Electricity	27	\$ 3,206.64
Personal/household need, diapers, food	33	\$ 1,001.01
Shelter/Motel	2	\$ 113.95
Bus Ticket	1	\$ 81.00
Cremation or Burial	4	\$ 3,000.00
Medical	12	\$ 6,059.07
Oil	1	\$ 204.90
	Total	\$33,992.82

All those who receive assistance are required to apply to any other agency or program that could help alleviate the need either this one time or in the long term. If someone fails to follow through with applying for assistance through other programs; fails to work on the work program when scheduled; fails to complete a job search or to provide material financial data as requested they will be sanctioned from receiving further assistance until such time as they come into compliance. The first sanction is for seven days and until they

come into compliance and if sanctioned again within six months they are sanctioned for fourteen days and until they come into compliance. The City of Berlin Welfare Department works hard to meet the humanitarian aspects of RSA 165 while balancing the responsibility it has to the tax payers to handle all funds in a responsible manner. The Welfare Department works closely with Federal, State and non-profit

organizations to help serve those in need and we heartily thank all those individuals and organizations whose dedication and skills combine with ours to meet the needs of those in our community who cannot for whatever reason meet those needs themselves

Assistance Resources

Agency	Address	Tel.	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	Food
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