

## WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The City of Berlin Welfare Department is charged with the task of assisting those who are poor and unable to support themselves under RSA 165 and with responsibly using the funds of the tax payers of the city. In order to accomplish this task, the office looks at only the basic needs of those individuals or families who apply and compares those basic needs with income and assets. Assistance is rendered if basic needs add up to more than income and assets. Basic needs are rent (based on market rates), electric, medication, food, clothing, and personal/household needs (all based on household size); heat if not included in rent, etc. Each town and city in the state should have its own set of written guidelines that explain what they assist with and how the determination of type and amount of assistance is needed. There are things that are not considered basic needs by the city such as car payments, credit card bills, and cable. Items such as these are not counted in the formula to determine how much assistance can be given.

The assistance is issued in the form of vouchers. No cash or checks are issued to the recipient. Instead monies are issued to the vendor. The city of Berlin assisted sixty-eight unduplicated cases and interviewed but did not assist another one hundred and sixteen unduplicated cases. If the recipient owns any property in the state of New Hampshire a lien is placed against the property until such time as the assistance is repaid, or until the property is sold or the death of the individual. After a year the lien begins to accrue interest at the rate of 6%.

The City has a work program where individuals who are physically and psychologically able to work are assigned to work off the assistance issued either for a city department or for a non-profit in our community. Currently the non-profits we work with are Salvation Army, Heritage Park, the Chamber of Commerce and the Brown House, the Holiday Center, and United Way. We express thanks to those departments and non-profits that help with our work program. Thirty-nine individuals worked on the work program for a total of 2,300.17 hours to reimburse the city \$16,676.24 in assistance.

Thirty-three single men, fifteen single females and twenty families were assisted. The total amount of general assistance issued for the fiscal year equaled \$31,812.61. There were over 1,150 office contacts during the fiscal year. Assistance was issued as follows:

Type of Assistance	Amount of Assistance
Burials, Furnishings and Incidentals	\$ 5,257.50
Electricity	\$ 1,947.27
Board & Care	\$ 274.95
Rent	\$19,920.99
Medical	\$ 2,225.91
Groceries	\$ 1,431.73
Fuel	\$ 745.26
Total	\$31,812.61

The City Welfare Office works closely with other agencies in the community to try to address the lack of basic needs that some families experience. If a recipient has income the city welfare office tells them which basic needs they will be responsible for providing for themselves and asks for receipts. If this is done, along with the work program hours and job

search, assistance can continue until either the basic needs go down or their income goes up. The City Welfare office has each person who comes in apply for long term programs to help meet the needs such as HUD, food stamps, Medicaid, electric discount program, etc. This is done in hopes that families will be able to return to an income status that will allow them not to need to continue to need assistance from City Welfare.

Some other community resources are:  
 CAP Outreach Programs 752-4238; providing Fuel Assistance, electric discount program, food pantry  
 Salvation Army 752-1644; providing Friendly Kitchen on Monday evening, food pantry, thrift store, Christmas program and outreach services  
 Ecumenical Food Pantry providing food pantry services on Wednesday and Friday from 2:30-4:30p.m.  
 Division of Family Assistance, DHHS 752-7800; providing Medicaid, Food Stamps, TANF, APTD, etc.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Angela Martin-Giroux*  
 Administrator of Welfare

## BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Below is a list of permit activity for the past four years.

Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	NRP/ TKB
Building	129	144	176	133	25
Electrical	52	77	71	89	8
Plumbing	6	4	20	13	8
Sign		10	9	6	12
Demolition	6	38	40	43	7
Mechanical	2	2	1	2	

The last column shows the permits issued in connection with the Neighborhood Revitalization Program/City of Berlin and The State of NH Department of Transportation.

43 Demolition permits were issued for demolition of various structures. A total of 24 complete demolitions of housing, single and multi, plus commercial buildings occurred in 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Ronald Devold*  
 Building Inspector