

## Welfare Department



Towns and Cities in the State of New Hampshire are charged with the responsibility "to assist those who are poor and unable to support themselves" under RSA 165. This requires the City to keep detailed Guidelines and to make determinations of eligibility based on these guidelines and the need to be responsible with tax payer funds. The humanitarian mission of helping those who need help with basic needs is always balanced with fiscal responsibility. In order to determine who is "poor and unable to support themselves" we use an eligibility worksheet to determine basic needs minus income and assets. Basic needs are defined as rent (or housing cost) based on local market factors and family size, groceries based on household size, personal/household needs based on household size, medication costs (or health costs in general), electric cost, \$25 per person a month for clothing, \$30 per month per child still in diapers, and then items such as heat if not included in rent, water if not included, child care if employed, gas for work based on where you travel to; etc. The office does not take into account things such as credit cards, fines, loans, cable, etc. The basic need is totaled, subtracted from the income and assets and a determination of assistance is made. If basic needs are more than income and assets, the applicant would qualify for assistance with only the difference. If basic

needs are less than income and assets, they do not qualify for assistance.

Assistance is issued in the form of a voucher given to the client but made out to the vendor. The City then pays the vendor directly. Assistance is generally issued on a weekly bases and the client, if physically able to work, is responsible for completing a work search and employment security form and working hours as scheduled on the work program. If they do not follow through with this or other requirements that we may issue such as applying for HUD, Food Stamps, etc. they would be sanctioned (prohibited from receiving further assistance) until such time as they come into compliance. There were 2,162.02 hours worked on the Work Program which translates into \$15,674.65 in reimbursement through the Work Program. Clients are scheduled to work at city offices, social service offices and other non-profit venues to "pay back" the tax payers for the assistance they were given for the basic needs for which they qualified. \$32.16 in cash reimbursements were received.

There were 2,114 office contacts during FY 2014 which were comprised of 92 families interviewed but not assisted and 91 assisted families and numerous phone calls and office visits inquiring about assistance offered.

The Welfare Office works closely with other agencies in the community to help meet the long term need of clients through referrals. People are referred for food stamps, WIC, Commodity Foods, Fuel Assistance, TANF, Social Security, HUD and any other program that could help them meet needs. 2-1-1 is a resource that anyone in the community can contact to ask about what services are available here or anywhere in the state.

Angela Martin-Giroux, M.S.  
Director of Health & Welfare

Assistance issued is as follows:

Assistance	# of Families Assisted (may have received assistance in more than one category)	# of People per family	Vouchers Issued	Total Issued
Back rent	1	1	1	\$ 267.00
Diapers	10	25	20	\$ 147.00
Electric Disconnect	8	24	9	\$ 768.05
Electricity	26	48	109	\$ 4,655.88
Electric Reconnect	2	3	3	\$ 884.93
Food	23	55	37	\$ 1,804.74
Fuel	7	16	7	\$ 2,174.56
Assistance	# of Families Assisted (unduplicated)	# of People per family	Vouchers Issued	Total Issued
Funeral/Cremation	5	13	5	\$ 3,750.00
Medical/Dental	4	4	7	\$ 810.51
Personal/Household	46	87	228	\$ 1,746.39
Prescriptions	12	12	15	\$ 717.63
Taxes to prevent tax deed	1	1	2	\$ 988.37
Room/Board	4	4	7	\$ 445.00
Rent	45	86	210	\$24,346.14
Rent with no Heat	7	16	12	\$ 1,674.82
Shelter	2	2	2	\$ 269.00
Totals		293	674	\$45,450.02

**FOOD RESOURCES:**

**People can go to the following places for help with food:**

**\*Community Bible Church - Sullivan St. - Dinner on Thursday evening**

**\*Salvation Army, 15 Cole St - Food Pantry can be used every 90 days -Tuesday and Thursday 9-12.  
Friendly Dinner last two Monday evenings of the month**

**\*Harvest Christian Fellowship Church, 219 Willow St. - Food Pantry can be used 1 time a month, Monday-Friday 9-3 - Dinner Wednesday evening**

**\*Marie Rivier Food Pantry, 153 Grafton St - Tuesday, Friday one time a month from 2:30-3:30**