



RESOLUTION

UPDATING THE FINANCIAL STANDARDS FOR THE CITY'S WELFARE GUIDELINES

CITY OF NASHUA

In the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen

WHEREAS, the City of Nashua's General Assistance Guidelines, NRO Sec. A400-9, E (11) states that "[t]he Mayor and Board of Aldermen shall approve payment levels determined by the Welfare Officer for various allowable expenses per standard of need defined in § A400-9. The maximum payment level for any particular allowable expense shall be based on actual local market conditions and costs. The payment levels shall be reviewed by the Welfare Officer, and, if warranted, will be updated to current market conditions"; and

WHEREAS, the Welfare Officer has determined appropriate current financial standards for various categories of general assistance: shelter allowances based on current HUD and NH Housing Finance Authority fair market rents; food allowances based on US Department of Agriculture and Health & Human Services food allotment standards; maintenance allowances based on a cost of living increase over the July 2010 maintenance allowances; and utility and other allowances.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby approve the attached "City of Nashua Welfare Department Financial Standards" to take effect on July 1, 2016, and replace the prior financial standards found in NRO Chapter A400 "General Assistance Guidelines", at *A400 Attachment 1*.



City of Nashua

Division of Public Health and Community Services
18 Mulberry Street - Nashua, NH 03060

(603) 589-4555
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Welfare Department

City of Nashua Welfare Department Financial Standards

Effective Date: July 1, 2016

**Based on 2015 NHHFA Residential Rental Cost Survey data*

| # of Bedrooms | All util. included | One util. included | No util. included | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 0 / Studio | <u>\$689.00</u> | <u>\$626.99</u> | <u>\$570.56</u> | Monthly |
| | \$159.12 | \$144.80 | \$131.77 | Weekly |
| 1 | <u>\$1,053.00</u> | <u>\$958.23</u> | <u>\$871.99</u> | Monthly |
| | \$243.19 | \$221.30 | \$201.38 | Weekly |
| 2 | <u>\$1,310.00</u> | <u>\$1,192.10</u> | <u>\$1,084.81</u> | Monthly |
| | \$302.54 | \$275.31 | \$250.53 | Weekly |
| 3 | <u>\$1,500.00</u> | <u>\$1,365.00</u> | <u>\$1,242.15</u> | Monthly |
| | \$346.42 | \$315.24 | \$286.87 | Weekly |
| 4 + | <u>\$1,542.00</u> | <u>\$1,403.22</u> | <u>\$1,276.93</u> | Monthly |
| | \$356.12 | \$324.07 | \$294.90 | Weekly |
| *Shared household allowance with landlord consent \$67.60/week until alternative shelter can be acquired. | | | | |

FOOD ALLOTMENT STANDARD (based on Oct 2014 USDA Food Stamps Allotment figures)

| Household size | Daily | Weekly | Monthly |
|---|---------|----------|---------|
| 1 | \$6.47 | \$45.27 | \$194 |
| 2 | \$11.90 | \$83.30 | \$357 |
| 3 | \$17.03 | \$119.23 | \$511 |
| 4 | \$21.63 | \$151.43 | \$649 |
| 5 | \$25.70 | \$179.90 | \$771 |
| 6 | \$30.83 | \$215.83 | \$925 |
| 7 | \$34.07 | \$238.47 | \$1,022 |
| 8 | \$38.97 | \$272.77 | \$1,169 |
| Add \$146 per month for each additional household member. | | | |

MAINTENANCE ALLOTMENT STANDARD

**Cost of living increase of 8% from previous standard based on CPI calculator*

| Household size | Weekly | Monthly |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$13.48 | \$58.36 |
| 2 | \$16.57 | \$71.74 |
| 3 | \$19.66 | \$85.11 |
| 4 | \$22.74 | \$98.48 |
| 5 | \$25.83 | \$111.86 |
| 6 | \$30.05 | \$130.10 |
| 7 | \$33.13 | \$143.47 |
| 8 | \$36.22 | \$156.85 |
| Add \$3.09 per week for each additional household member. | | |

UTILITY and OTHER ALLOWANCES

Nashua City Welfare will consider the actual cost of current monthly utility expenses and payment arrangements with utility companies to the extent the applicant is making payments. Nashua City Welfare will consider out-of-pocket medical expenses and non-reimbursed child care expenses. Diaper allowance will be equal to maintenance allowance for the corresponding number of children. Travel allowance will be calculated at \$73.40/mo. or \$17.08/wk. and may be adjusted accordingly to individual case circumstances. All expenses considered when determining Standard of Need shall be done so in accordance with the current City of Nashua Welfare Guidelines.

LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2016

RESOLUTION:

R-16-036

PURPOSE:

Updating the financial standards for the city's welfare guidelines

SPONSOR(S):

Mayor Jim Donchess

**COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENT:**

FISCAL NOTE:

These changes in the financial standards for the city's welfare guidelines represent an average 8% increase over standards approved in May 2010. This increase has been considered in calculating the FY2017 General Assistance budget figures.

ANALYSIS

NRO Sec. A400-9, E (11) requires the mayor and board of aldermen to approve payment levels determined by the welfare officer for various allowable expenses. This resolution is to approve an updated financial standards schedule, effective on July 1, 2016, and replace the former financial standards Appendix A found in NRO Chapter A400 "General Assistance Guidelines".

Approved as to form:

Office of Corporation Counsel

By: *Dorothy Clarke*

Date: *May 18, 2016*