

Amend Article VI, Section 6.8 (B) of the General Assistance Ordinance adopted by the municipal officers in the Town/City of South Berwick, to be effective on and after July 1, 2012, as follows:

B) Housing. The administrator will provide assistance with rent or mortgage payments that are reasonable and/or within the allowed maximum levels and in accordance with the housing assistance limits and exceptions provided in Title 22, section 4308, subsections 1-A and 1-B . See Appendix C of this ordinance for the current year's housing maximums. It is the applicant's responsibility to find suitable housing, although the administrator may help the applicant find housing when appropriate. The administrator will inform the applicant of the allowed housing maximums to assist the applicant in his or her search for housing. The allowed maximum for any applicant will be the categorical housing maximum representing the minimum dwelling unit space necessary to adequately shelter the applicant household. Applicants requesting assistance for housing that contains more bedrooms than are necessary for the number of household members will be provided assistance according to the maximum level of the number of rooms actually needed.

Amend the Town/City of South Berwick General Assistance Ordinance to incorporate the following maximum levels of assistance to be effective on and after July 1, 2012, as follows:

Appendix A GA Overall Maximums

Metropolitan Areas

COUNTY	Persons in Household				
	1	2	3	4	5*
York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA: Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	912	918	1100	1603	1746

*** Please Note: Add \$68 for each additional person.**

In accordance with legislative action, the following changes will take effect on July, 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013.

Sec. R-1. 22 MRSA §4305, sub-§3-C is enacted to read:

3-C. Maximum level of assistance from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Notwithstanding subsection 3-A or 3-B, for the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, the maximum level of assistance is 90% of the maximum level of assistance in effect on April 1, 2012.

This includes category maximums as well. The new maximums have been sent out by MMA and must be adopted in ordinance by the municipalities by the July 1, 2012 effective date.

Sec. R-2. 22 MRSA §4308, sub-§§1-A and 1-B are enacted to read:

1-A. Limit on housing assistance. Except as provided in subsections 1-B and 2, housing assistance provided pursuant to this chapter is limited to a maximum of 9 months during the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

We are currently working on determining the best way to track the 9 months of housing. This is going to be challenging as there is currently not a data base that tracks GA assistance provided to individuals.

1-B. Extension of housing assistance due to hardship. An applicant is eligible for housing assistance under this chapter beyond the limit established in subsection 1-A if the applicant has a severe and persistent mental or physical condition warranting such an extension or has an application for assistance pending with the federal Social Security Administration.

We are aware of the potential for abuse in this section and we are currently working on developing guidance so this is applied in a consistent manner State wide.
