



ORDINANCE

UPDATING THE FINANCIAL STANDARDS FOR THE CITY'S WELFARE GUIDELINES

CITY OF NASHUA

In the Year Two Thousand and Eighteen

WHEREAS the City of Nashua's General Assistance Guidelines, NRO § A400-9, E (11) states that "the 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; and maintenance allowances based on a cost of living increase over the July 1, 2016 maintenance allowances;

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Nashua ordains that Appendix A400 "General Assistance Guidelines", Attachment 1 "City of Nashua Welfare Department Financial Standards" of the Nashua Revised Ordinances, as amended, be hereby further amended by replacing the current Attachment 1 with the following updated Attachment 1 "City of Nashua Welfare Department General Assistance Financial Standards, Effective Date: July 1, 2018".

LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2018

ORDINANCE: O-18-011

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 2.5% increase in the standards approved for July 1, 2016. This increase has been considered in calculating the FY2019 General Assistance budget figures.

ANALYSIS

NRO § 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, 2018. The Welfare Officer determined the appropriate current financial standards for various categories of general assistance from the following sources: 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; and maintenance allowances based on a cost of living increase over the July 1, 2016 maintenance allowances.

Approved as to form: Office of Corporation Counsel

By: Donkey Clarke

Date: April 4, 2018

**City of Nashua Welfare Department
General Assistance Financial Standards
Effective Date: July 1, 2018**

RENTAL COST STANDARDS

**Based on 2017 NHHFA Residential Rental Cost Survey data*

| # of Bedrooms | All util. included | One util. included | No util. included | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 0 / Studio | <u>\$722.00</u> | <u>\$657.02</u> | <u>\$597.89</u> | Monthly |
| | \$166.74 | \$151.74 | \$138.08 | Weekly |
| 1 | <u>\$1,195.00</u> | <u>\$1,087.45</u> | <u>\$989.58</u> | Monthly |
| | \$275.98 | \$251.14 | \$228.54 | Weekly |
| 2 | <u>\$1,559.00</u> | <u>\$1,418.69</u> | <u>\$1,291.01</u> | Monthly |
| | \$360.05 | \$327.64 | \$298.15 | Weekly |
| 3 | <u>\$1,522.00</u> | <u>\$1,385.02</u> | <u>\$1,260.37</u> | Monthly |
| | \$351.50 | \$319.87 | \$291.08 | 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 \$70.00/week until alternative shelter can be acquired. | | | | |

FOOD ALLOTMENT STANDARDS

**Based on Oct 2017 USDA Food Stamps Allotment figures*

| Household size | Daily | Weekly | Monthly |
|--|---------|----------|---------|
| 1 | \$6.40 | \$44.80 | \$192 |
| 2 | \$11.73 | \$82.13 | \$352 |
| 3 | \$16.80 | \$117.60 | \$504 |
| 4 | \$21.33 | \$149.33 | \$640 |
| 5 | \$25.33 | \$177.33 | \$760 |
| 6 | \$30.43 | \$213.03 | \$913 |
| 7 | \$33.63 | \$235.43 | \$1,009 |
| 8 | \$38.43 | \$269.03 | \$1,153 |
| Add \$144 per month for each additional household member | | | |

MAINTENANCE ALLOTMENT STANDARDS

**Cost of living increase of 2.45% from previous standard based on CPI calculator*

| Household size | Weekly | Monthly |
|--|---------|----------|
| 1 | \$13.81 | \$59.80 |
| 2 | \$16.98 | \$73.51 |
| 3 | \$20.14 | \$87.21 |
| 4 | \$23.30 | \$100.88 |
| 5 | \$26.46 | \$114.58 |
| 6 | \$30.79 | \$133.30 |
| 7 | \$33.94 | \$146.97 |
| 8 | \$37.11 | \$160.67 |
| Add \$3.17 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 childcare expenses. Diaper allowance will be equal to maintenance allowance for the corresponding number of children. Travel allowance will be calculated at \$75.20/mo. or \$17.49/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.