

From: G-A-owner@imail.memun.org [mailto:G-A-owner@imail.memun.org] **On Behalf Of** Moderator
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:11 PM
To: 'g-a@imail.memun.org'
Subject:

To: Key Municipal Officials & General Assistance Administrators
From: Kate Dufour
Date: May 29, 2012
Re: **IMPORTANT** - General Assistance Program Ordinance Amendment **Retraction**

On Friday, May 18 you received information regarding necessary amendments to the locally adopted General Assistance (GA) program ordinances. The amendments outlined in that memo were deemed necessary to address two programmatic changes enacted by the Legislature on April 12, 2012.

The information and sample ordinance language provided regarding the 9-month limit on housing assistance remains necessary.

However, there has been a change of opinion with respect to the application of the 10% reduction in the maximum level of assistance provided.

Prior to last Friday, May 25, the Department of Health and Human Services, as advised by the Attorney General's (AG) office, agreed that both state mandated "overall maximum level of assistance" (which caps the total amount of non-emergency assistance provided) and the "category-specific" maximums (i.e., the maximums for housing, food, sundry items, authorized medical expenditures, utilities, etc.) must be reduced by 10%.

However, after being asked to review that language and the intent of the Legislature, the AG's office has reversed its decision and determined that **only the overall maximum level of assistance needs to be reduced by 10%.**

As a result, the Department has mailed out information regarding the change in the interpretation of the law. You will soon be receiving a package of materials outlining that change and the paperwork that needs to be submitted to the Department once the GA ordinance is amended.

Attached to this email is the amended version of Appendix A – Overall Maximums, which is now considered to be the only maximum level of assistance that was affected by the Legislature this session. Again, please remember that the change to your municipal ordinance regarding the 9-month limit on housing assistance still needs to be adopted.

We apologize for the confusion. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kate Dufour at kdufour@memun.org or 1-800-452-8786.