

INITIAL AND REPEAT APPLICANTS

If you are receiving any sort of state aid you need to provide **proof of your level of benefits**. This can be accomplished by signing into and printing off the information from your My Maine Connection account on-line. If you cannot print the information at home, please bring in your login information and you may print it at the time of your GA application. If you do not have an account, you can create one by visiting:

**[https://www1.maine.gov/benefits/
account/account_information.html](https://www1.maine.gov/benefits/account/account_information.html)**

Please arrive for your appointment in a prepared and timely fashion. Failure to bring the requested documents could result in a denial of your application based on a lack of information. Please call the office prior to your visit if there are any questions.

Questions?

Please reach out to the GA Administrator:

Mary Dinsmore, PHR
HR & Communications Director

Phone: 207 866-2556
Fax: 207 866-5053
E-mail: marydinsmore@orono.org

**General
Assistance**



**Information and
Appointment Preparation**

The Town of Orono
www.orono.org

Tel: (207) 866-2556

What is General Assistance?

Each municipality in the State of Maine is required to administer a general assistance (GA) program to assist with the cost of basic necessities for its neediest residents. Every resident has the right to apply and be treated with respect during the application process.

GA is meant as emergency assistance. Typically, you will only be awarded monies if your total income falls below pre-determined ME Dept of Health and Human Services guidelines. Or, if you are facing an emergency situation, only if your income, when compared to the cost of your basic necessities (as defined by GA guidelines), is found to be inadequate.

If any portion of your income was spent on non-basic items, or if there are other resources available to you, your award amount could be reduced or denied.

General Assistance is a program of DHHS and findings are reported to them. Therefore, if you are disqualified from GA, it could jeopardize your eligibility for other DHHS programs.

PREPARING FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT

It is our mission to help you do two things as a result of your appointment: determine if you are eligible for aid through general assistance, and advise you on other services that may be able to help you on a more long-term basis. Therefore, it is very important you be honest during your meeting about all income and expenditures. If you falsify or withhold information it will make it harder for us to help direct you to the right services and may disqualify you from GA.

FIRST TIME APPLICANT

You are considered a first time applicant if you have never applied for GA in Orono, *or any other Maine municipality, at any time*. If you are a first time applicant, you must provide **proof of any and all income** of all adults living in your household, or if you are applying only for yourself, proof that income is not pooled. You must prepare to **answer**



questions about: current and/or previous employers, the amount of assistance you need and for what purpose, all assets, all expenses, and any outstanding debts.

REPEAT APPLICANT

You are considered a repeat applicant if you have ever applied for GA in Orono, *or any other Maine municipality, at any time*. If you are a repeat applicant, you must

provide **proof of any and all income** of all adults living in your household, or if you are applying only for yourself, proof that income is not pooled. You must also provide receipts, bank statements, and any other **documents detailing expenditures of your resources in the last 30 days**. If any eligibility conditions were placed on your prior GA application (i.e. job search, workfare, applying for other state and/or federal aid) you must bring documentation these conditions have been met.