

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The enclosed General Assistance Ordinance is submitted as prepared by a State or Federal agency rather than as normally prepared by the established form and format guidelines intended for Farmingdale ordinances. This exception is necessary to facilitate future communication with others.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 7-101 Statement of Policy

1. The Town of Farmingdale administers a program of general assistance available to all persons who are eligible to receive assistance in accordance with the standards of eligibility as provided in the "General Assistance Manual" and in 22 M.R.S.A. § 4301 et seq. This Chapter 7 shall be known as the Farmingdale General Assistance Document but is enclosed as a guide for general information and shall be referred to in this Chapter 7 as "this Chapter." The specific criteria actually utilized for General Assistance is expressed in the "General Assistance Manual" provided by the Maine Municipal Association which is available at the Farmingdale Town Office. This Chapter provides a general introduction of available assistance.
2. Every effort will be made to recognize the dignity of the applicant and to encourage self-reliance. The program will help each person achieve self-maintenance and will encourage the work incentive. When possible, it will seek to alleviate needs other than financial through rehabilitative, preventive and protective services. General assistance will promote strengthening the family, especially with regard to the care and protection of children.
3. The general assistance program will place no restrictions on the personal rights of the applicant or recipient, nor will there be any unlawful discrimination based on sex, age, race, religion, disability or political affiliation. The applicant or recipient will be informed of his/her rights and responsibilities under the general assistance program.
4. The general assistance administrator will act promptly on all applications for assistance and requests for fair hearings. Within 24 hours of receiving an application, the administrator will give the applicant a written decision, whether or not assistance is granted, that will state the specific reasons for the decision. The administrator will also give the applicant written notice that the applicant may appeal to the municipal fair hearing authority if dissatisfied with the decision. When an applicant is determined to be eligible, assistance appropriate to the need will be furnished within 24 hours after the completed application is submitted except when the administrator issues non-emergency assistance conditionally on the successful completion of a workfare assignment (see Section 7-506 of this Chapter).
5. The administrator will maintain complete and accurate records pertaining to each applicant and recipient. These records are confidential.
6. The administrator will post notice stating the day(s) and hours the administrator will be available. The administrator, or other designated person, will be available to take applications in the event of an emergency at all other times. A copy of this Chapter and Maine General Assistance law will be readily available to any member of the public upon request. Notice to this effect will be posted.