

**Finance Committee Meeting  
Thursday, November 13, 2014  
City Hall, Council Chambers  
6:00 pm**

1. Approve Minutes Of October 23, 2014 Meeting

Documents: [FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 10-23-14 \(DRAFT\).PDF](#)

2. Stormwater Service Charge Public Hearing

3. General Assistance Update

- 3.I. Backup Material For General Assistance Discussion

Documents: [GA BACKUP MATERIAL FOR NOVEMBER 13 FC MEETING.PDF](#)

**Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 23, 2014**

Attendees: Chair Mavodones, Committee members Marshall and Suslovic, members of the public and staff

**Chair Mavodones opened the meeting – called to order**

**1. Approval of minutes of October 9 meeting**

**Motion** by Councilor Suslovic to approve the minutes, second by Councilor Marshall - all in favor  
3-0

**2. Stormwater service charge public hearing**

The public hearing on stormwater service charge was held at Casco Bay High School. Michael Bobinsky, Director of Public Services, and Ian Houseal, Assistant to City Manager/Sustainability Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint presentation on stormwater. A question and answer period was opened to members of the public.

**Motion to adjourn**

CITY OF PORTLAND  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

**IMPACT OF UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS ON  
GENERAL ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT  
BY THE STATE OF MAINE  
FY2015**

|                                                              |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                              | July, 2014 to<br>September, 2014 |
| General Assistance Expenditures                              | <u>\$2,555,446</u>               |
| LESS: Undocumented Cases<br>(not eligible for reimbursement) | <u>(\$842,966)</u>               |
| General Assistance Expenditures Billed to State              | \$1,712,480                      |
| LESS: Anticipated Reimbursement By State                     | \$856,239                        |
| <b>Cost to City</b>                                          | <u><b>\$1,699,207</b></u>        |
| <b>Monthly Impact:</b>                                       |                                  |
| Monthly Average \$ Granted Assistance to Undocumented Cases  | \$281,000                        |
| Average # Cases                                              | 438                              |
| Average # Individuals                                        | 735                              |
| Average # Families                                           | 110                              |
| Average # Singles                                            | 328                              |

**Change in Status:**

The monthly cost for undocumented cases could also increase if iadditional visa holders apply for asylum, thus changing their status to undocumented.

**Reimbursement Impact:**

Once the threshold of \$2,265,485 of eligible expenditures has been reached, the reimbursement rate by the State changes from 50% to 90%. If all expenditures were eligible, the 90% rate would have been reached by mid-September; due to the expenditures related to Undocumented Cases, this will not occur until the end of October, or early November.

CITY OF PORTLAND  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

**IMPACT OF UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS ON  
GENERAL ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT  
BY THE STATE OF MAINE  
FY2015**

|                                                                         | <u>FY15<br/>BUDGET</u> | <u>NEW<br/>REGULATION</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| General Assistance Expenditures<br>Including Shelter GA Operating Costs | \$10,667,600           | \$10,667,600              |
| LESS: Undocumented Cases<br>(not eligible for reimbursement)            | N/A                    | (\$3,598,000)             |
| General Assistance Expenditures Billed to the State                     | \$10,667,600           | \$7,069,600               |
| LESS: Anticipated Reimbursement By State                                | \$8,694,621            | \$5,456,421               |
| Cost to City                                                            | <u>\$1,972,979</u>     | <u>\$5,211,179</u>        |

**Anticipated Increase to the City:** **\$3.24 Million**

**Monthly impact:**

|                                                                  |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Monthly Average # Undocumented Cases Granted Assistance          | \$291,500               |
| (Additional Expenditures added to July—unpaid June Expenditures) | + \$100,000 (July Only) |

**Impact from other areas:**

The monthly cost of undocumented cases could increase based on policy decisions by other municipalities, such as Lewiston, etc. Clients may move to Portland where they would be considered eligible for GA.

**Change in status:**

The monthly costs for undocumented cases could also increase if additional visa holders apply for asylum, thus changing their status to undocumented.

City of Portland  
General Assistance  
Summary Lawful/Unlawful

FY15 GA Threshold: \$2,265,485

| Month        | Gross<br>Lawful | Gross<br>Unlawful | Gross<br>Total | Actual<br>Reimbursement | Reimbursement<br>Including Unlawful | Not<br>Reimbursed |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| July, 2014   | 559,221.81      | 296,756.82        | 855,978.63     | 279,610.90              | 427,989.31                          | 148,378.41        |
| August, 2014 | 583,090.95      | 284,379.03        | 867,469.98     | 291,545.47              | 433,734.99                          | 142,189.52        |
| Sept, 2014*  | 570,167.00      | 261,830.00        | 831,997.00     | 285,083.00              | 531,983.00                          | 246,900.00        |
| Total        | 1,712,479.76    | 842,965.85        | 2,555,445.61   | 856,239.37              | 1,393,707.30                        | 537,467.93        |

NOTE: Based on total General Assistance granted, we normally would reach the threshold in mid-September, 2014 if everything was billable. Now, the billable amount of General Assistance will delay reaching the 90% threshold until October or November, 2014. The Threshold for FY15 is \$2,265,485.