



CITY OF CONCORD

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Concord Human Services

Karen Emis-Williams
Director of Concord Human Services

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Karen Emis-Williams, Human Services Director

Date: October 24, 2023

Subject: Human Services expenditures in the first quarter

Summary:

The Human Services department has seen an increase in requests, especially in rent and motel assistance. In the first quarter, the department has expended \$92,847, which is 40% of the total general assistance budget. The increase in expenditures are attributed to several factors such as significant increase in rental cost, lack of shelter space, and affordable housing. As a comparison, last year same time period, the Department had expended \$25,450.

Background:

In 2021, the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) funded the statewide Emergency Rental Assistance Program. This program assisted with current and back rent, hotels, and utilities. These funds have been exhausted leaving many households without a safety net and needing to seek assistance from their municipal welfare office.

The obligation of the Concord Human Services under NH RSA 165 is to provide interim, emergency assistance to households who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs such as rent, shelter, personal hygiene, medications, food, burial, and utilities.

Discussion:

Rental and shelter cost: the department has issued \$84,767 in assistance. In comparison to last fiscal year, the department issued \$21,178.

The increase in expenditures may require additional funding to be allocated by the beginning of the calendar year. The total general assistance budget of \$228,700 will not be sufficient to sustain the program until June 2024.

The generous donation of the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New Hampshire in the amount of \$12,500 for fuel assistance has decreased the utility expenditures since October 2022. These funds will be exhausted within the next few months.

First Quarter expense summary FY 23 as compared to FY 24:

Type of Assistance	FY 23	FY 24
Burial	\$2,179	\$5,400
General Relief	\$2,068.63	\$588.31
Medical	\$0.00	\$166.80
Rent/Motel	\$21,178	\$85,767.12
Transportation	\$25.00	\$924.97
Total	\$25,450.63	\$92,847.20