

RESOLUTION 1248-2021
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROVISIONS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL ASSISTANCE
ORDINANCE NO. 46-2021, IN HOWARD COUNTY, IOWA

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 252, Code of Iowa, the Howard County Board of Supervisors is empowered to provide for the poor and needy of Iowa County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 252.25 requires the Board of Supervisors to establish general rules as the Board deems necessary to properly discharge its responsibility under Chapter 252; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the General Assistance Ordinance (46-2021), The Howard County Board of Supervisors is to establish, by resolution, financial limitations on personal income, personal resources, property ownership and the amount and duration of assistance to those of Howard County who are poor and in need, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the residents of Howard County, Iowa, to assist those persons of limited means to provide for themselves and their households; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by Howard County Board of Supervisors the following limits be established for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Howard County General Assistance Ordinance 46-2021

1. Eligibility

- a. **General Eligibility** – To be eligible for assistance, any applicant must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Submit a completed General Assistance Application
 - ii. Be a US citizen or have documented legal status
 - iii. Resident of Howard County
 - iv. Be at least 18 years of age, married or emancipated minor
 - v. Household income at or below 100% of the current Federal Poverty Guideline. The income used for consideration is the previous 30 days gross income from the date of General Assistance application for all household members age 19 or older. An applicant's most recent filed federal tax return will also be accepted.
- b. **Eligibility of Poor Persons** – to be eligible as a poor person, an applicant must meet the General Eligibility requirements in addition to the following:
 - i. Meet the definition of a "poor person" as defined in Iowa Code § 252.1.
 - ii. Unable to work due to a mental or physical disability (may be required to provide written verification from a professional health care provider)
 - iii. Has no property, exempt or otherwise; and,
 - iv. Be ineligible for, or be in immediate need and awaiting approval and receipt of, assistance under programs provided by state and federal law, or have actual needs that cannot be fully met by the assistance furnished under those programs

- c. **Eligibility of Needy Persons** – to be eligible for assistance as a needy person, an applicant must meet the General Eligibility requirements in addition to the following:
 - i. Resident of Howard County or transient in the County for less than three days who because of circumstances which are not attributable to that person needs immediate temporary assistance.
 - ii. No liquid assets of the household from which to pay the needed Assistance
 - iii. Household vehicle(s) value at or below \$5,000
 - iv. Primary homestead county assessed value at or below \$50,000. All other owned property must be included in the net worth calculation.
 - v. Household net worth is at or below \$2,000 for household of one and \$4,000 for households of two or more.
 - vi. Applicants cannot obtain relief from any other source – they must apply for and follow through with all other assistance programs prior to application to Howard County General Assistance

- d. **Students.** Full time students are not eligible for general assistance benefits unless they are under age 19 and in a program leading to a high school diploma.

2. Level of Benefits. The maximum level of benefits to be provided for each item of assistance for each person or that person's household shall be:

- a. Food – Provide several days of food or provide Food Pantry referrals.
- b. Rent – the reasonable rental value not to exceed \$300 per month. An eviction notice is required and rent will only be paid to the landlord who may not be a relative. Rent deposits do not qualify for general assistance.
- c. Mortgage Payments – assistance for this will be made to only stop foreclosure – usually current month's interest due and not to exceed \$300 per month
- d. Clothing – referrals with vouchers will be made to thrift stores. The value will be reasonable based upon the need.
- e. Utilities (Heat, Electric and Water) – utility payments may also include fuel for the purpose of heating. Assistance will not exceed \$300 or the amount of the past due bill, whichever is less. A disconnect or shut-off notice is required. Assistance will also be allowed for re-connect charges.
- f. Medical, Dental & Prescriptions – no co-pays will be allowed.
 - i. Medical - a referral will be provided to nearest urgent or emergency care.
 - ii. Eyeglass repair or replacement – the assistance will not exceed \$200.
 - iii. Dental emergency filling or extraction - the assistance will not exceed \$200
 - iv. Prescription for 1-3 month supply – the assistance will not exceed \$200. Prescription must be documented by professional health care provider as necessary
- g. Transportation – Public Transit ride rate assistance for medical or emergency or \$50 gas card also for medical or emergency situation.
- h. Burials – Applications for assistance should be made prior to formalizing any arrangements with the funeral home. Death benefits, life insurance policies, prepaid burial agreements or other monies from private sources such as savings,

sale of property, bonds and general income must be applied to the burial costs prior to general Assistance. Applicants will be determined eligible for assistance if their representative affirms that they meet the conditions outlined in the County Burial Affidavit.

- v. Funeral services expenses will be assisted up to \$2,000.
- vi. Cremation services expenses will be assisted up to \$1,000.
- vii. Cemetery expenses (including burial plot purchase and grave open/close) will be assisted up to \$500.

3. **Maximum Benefits.** With the exception of burial expenses, the maximum payment for General Assistance shall not exceed \$500 within a 12-month period.
4. In the event of a projected budget shortfall or budget overage, the Director may, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, temporarily reduce or increase the amount of assistance provided for under this resolution, including adjusting the percentage of the Federal Poverty Guidelines that eligible applying household's income must meet as is necessary to keep the General Assistance program in compliance with its budget for the current fiscal year.
5. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with this Resolution or inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this Resolution full force and effect.
6. This Resolution shall be effective upon the effective date of Ordinance 46-2021

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE 25 DAY OF October 2021

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**



Chairman

Attest:



Julie Chapman
Howard County Auditor

