



(563) 326-8723 Fax (563) 326-8730

May 25, 2015

TO: Dee F. Bruemmer

FROM: Lori A. Elam

RE: General Assistance Policy Change for FY16

As you are aware, the Board of Supervisors approved an increase in the amount of rental assistance in the General Assistance (GA) Program during the FY16 budget process. The current amount of \$450 has been in place since 2009 and we have had numerous calls from landlords expressing concerns about the rent amount and increased expenses.

In doing some research regarding rental amounts for a one bedroom apartment in the county, I found the rent amount varied depending on where a person lives; rent amounts varied from \$490 to \$690. In the GA policies, we require the rent amount to include utilities. Rental assistance will continue to be provided for only one month in a twelve month period. This was a revision in the GA polices made in 2012.

Also during the 2015 Legislative Session, Legislators passed SF223 changing who can be held financially responsible for a "poor" person. The bill changes/repeals portions of the Iowa Code eliminating "the liability of any relatives (father, mother, children, grandparent and grandchildren) of the poor person for support or recovery of from such relatives the money expended by the county". We can no longer consider relatives income and resources when applying for a burial of a family member.

I have attached the pages of the revised General Assistance Guidelines. I will be available at the Committee of the Whole for questions.

General Assistance Policy Changes- effective 7/1/15

Shelter Assistance

Rental Assistance/Mortgage Assistance

- A. If the applicant is residing in a homeless shelter, they must provide a letter indicating the time period they have been there.
- B. Assistance may be available to provide shelter in a residential rental arrangement.
- C. Assistance may be available to provide shelter in a residential mortgage arrangement.
- D. All rental arrangements must be agreed to by the landlord. Applicants will be required to bring in a copy of the rental lease. All mortgage assistance arrangements must be agreed to by the mortgage holder.
- E. Assistance shall be granted for the amount of interest of the monthly mortgage payment, not to exceed the levels of assistance.
- F. Clients applying for mortgage assistance will be required to sign a Deed of Trust granting Scott County a lien on the property for any assistance so received.

Level of Assistance:

Assistance may be provided up to **\$500**, but at no time shall exceed the actual rental or mortgage cost.

Program Requirements: All program requirements must be met.

Financial Eligibility: Income and resources of the applicant's household shall be considered.

Burials

- A. All of the deceased assets must be applied toward burial expenses, including cash on hand and funds in checking and savings accounts, or savings certificates.
- B. Death benefits may be available from employment, railroad retirement, pension plans, VA benefits, life insurance policies, prepaid burial agreements or social security. The family of the deceased must apply for these benefits and apply them to costs of the burial. Any and all funds generated from memorials must be applied to the burial costs. If the family of the deceased discovers a death benefit, savings account or other resources after the funeral, they are expected to notify this office and the funeral home.
- C. Application.
 - 1. If a county burial is indicated, a General Assistance application must be completed and signed by the surviving spouse or next of kin, if no spouse, within 72 hours of the person's death.
 - 2. **Income of the available spouse must be within General Assistance income standards unless an exception is granted. In applications for county burial, the financial ability of the surviving spouse, if applicable, must be considered.**
 - 3. **Ineligibility for county burial will result if there is the surviving spouse has income at or in excess of 300% of the federal poverty level. Ineligibility will also occur if the surviving spouse fails to contact the Case Aide or fails to disclose the financial information requested.**

THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE CERTIFIES
THAT THIS RESOLUTION HAS BEEN FORMALLY
APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON

DATE

SCOTT COUNTY AUDITOR

R E S O L U T I O N
SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 4, 2015

APPROVING CHANGES TO THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES RELATING
TO THE AMOUNT OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND LEGISLATIVE CODE CHANGES

BE IT RESOLVED BY the Scott County Board of Supervisors as follows:

- Section 1. The General Assistance Program will provide rental assistance in the amount of \$500.
- Section 2. With the passage of SF223, the county will no longer hold liable immediate relatives such as father, mother, children, grandparent, and/or grandchildren for money expended by the county for burial/cremation expenses.
- Section 3. This resolution shall take effect July 1, 2015.