

TOWN OF LINCOLN WELFARE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Welfare Department assists Lincoln residents unable to provide for their own documented shelter, food, medication, utility, or other emergency needs. It provides assistance to qualified individuals, and promotes independence through guidance and referrals. In addition, the Department actively participates in local social service networks.

The Town provides emergency general assistance to individuals and families who “are poor and unable to support themselves” (NH RSA:165). By law, any Lincoln resident expressing a need for help may file an application for assistance.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the Welfare Department took applications on one or more occasions from 67 individuals and families, 11 of whom were filing for assistance for the first time. This year presented many challenges to Grafton County’s municipal welfare departments in light of Tri-County Community Action Program closing its doors to five of its eight walk-in offices, in an effort to save administrative costs. Tri-County CAP is a social service agency that provides heating fuel assistance and other funding for North Country residents. This closing inadvertently affected our residents who rely on this very vital service to assist with their heating expenses over the course of our long winter months. As a result of these closures, I chose to take on the task of reaching out to our elderly, disabled, and lower income households in an effort to assist with stream lining the application process for fuel assistance so that no one fell through the cracks. Many residents do not have the means to travel to the Plymouth office (the only office that is now serving the entire Grafton County population), nor understand, or have the capacity for the extensive amount of paperwork required. As a result of this effort, 35 Lincoln households received fuel assistance relief, as well as enrolled in NHEC Electrical Assistance Program.

The FY15 total General Assistance expenditure was \$1687.54, almost \$7,766. below FY2014. Welfare recipients may be required to apply for other programs, make specific payments with their income, work for the Town as reimbursement, and/or document an active job search. While most welfare recipients are unable to do so, the law requires them to make reimbursements for town assistance when they are financially able to do so.



Welfare Expenditures			
	FY14	FY15	* % Left
Food	\$338.10	\$114.30	92.38
Shelter	\$7173.35	\$1365.00	94.07
Utilities	\$1281.05	\$0.00	100
Fuel Assistance	<u>\$660.65</u>	<u>\$208.24</u>	<u>93.06</u>
Welfare Direct Assistance	\$9,454.00	\$1687.54	94.47
Balance Remaining	\$21046.85	\$2812.46	
Percentage Left	69.11%	94.47%	
*%Left of budgeted line item			

Respectfully submitted,

Jane A. Leslie

Welfare Director
Town of Lincoln