

The Department of Welfare General Assistance expenditures for 2009 aligned themselves with 2008 figures due to some new resources being made available including the Making Home Affordable Program for homeowners, and the Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Program for renters and homeless persons. However, regardless of these programs, the largest expense remains rent and mortgage assistance. The department also expended almost \$24,000. to homeless shelters in the area to house Jaffrey residents. There is still an incredible lack of affordable housing throughout NH, forcing people to choose between food, medications, and rent. We need to listen to the issues of historically excluded residents to build workforce housing which will provide comprehensive support services, on-site childcare, laundry facilities, a yard for children to play, storage, privacy, and security. Tackling this one issue will combat several challenges by giving single parents a chance to get on their feet, get off state and local assistance, become contributing members of the community, and succeed.

The second and third largest expenses were due to the continuing rise in unemployment. As a result, many lost health insurance coverage and sought assistance with medications and medical bills. Still others used electricity to heat their homes, resulting in incredibly large electric bills. For people needing help with these expenses, please call Jaffrey's CAP agency at 352-7512 to make an appointment for fuel and electric assistance.

Lastly, in 2009, 26% of people who made appointments for assistance did not come to the appointments, but the assumption is help is still needed. I encourage people to come to the town office to pick up a free copy of the 2009 FACT book containing many valuable resources available in the Monadnock Region.

Public Welfare Director

To follow is a breakdown of 2009 Department of Welfare expenditures by category:

RENT / MORTGAGES	\$ 92,565.50
HOMELESS SHELTERS	\$ 23,932.90
MEDICATIONS	\$ 8,806.99
ELECTRICITY	\$ 7,751.92
FOOD	\$ 5,320.11
HEATING FUEL	\$ 5,145.50
EMERGENCY	\$ 828.00
GASOLINE	\$ 212.72
OTHER	\$ 297.42
TOTAL	\$144,861.06

Sincerely,
Mary Drew,
Director of Welfare