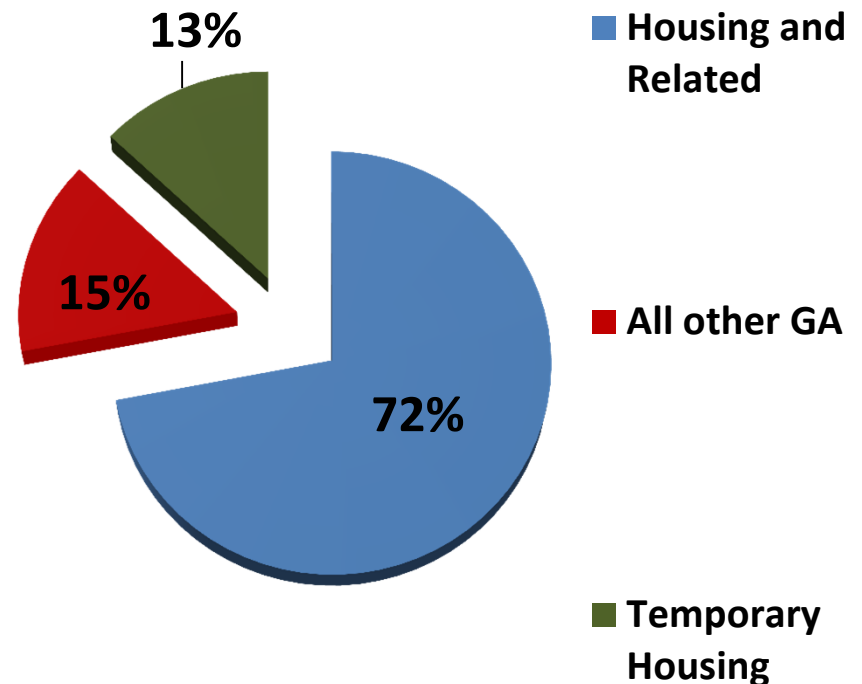


# General Assistance Program Overview

General Assistance (GA) is jointly funded by state and municipalities and is administered by municipalities.

## GA Facts:

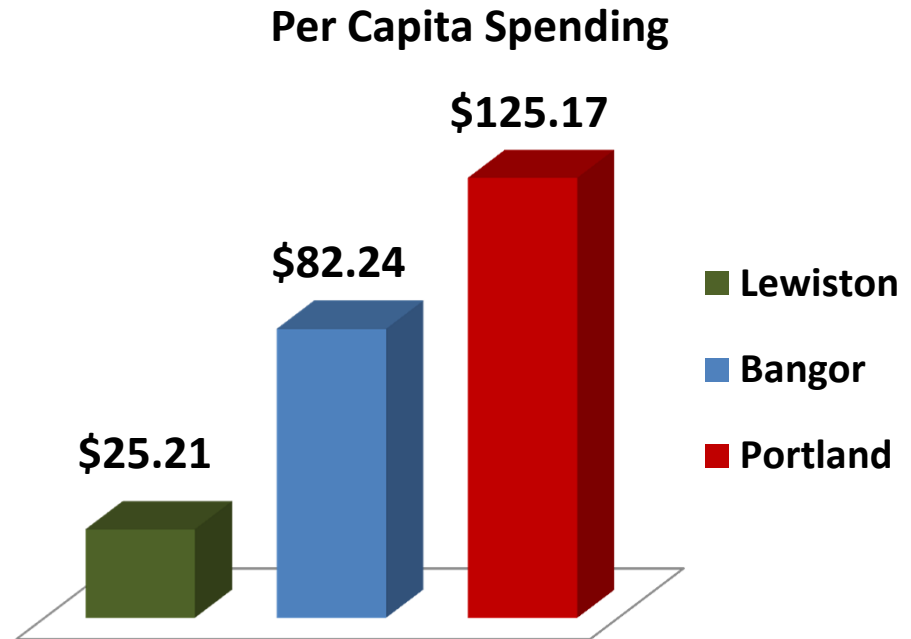
- Statutory definition explicitly states that it is not intended to be a continuing “grant-in-aid” or “categorical” welfare program.
- In 2012 – 85% of GA expenditures were for housing or housing related costs
- The Governor’s FY 12 & 13 budget increased the baseline allocation for the GA program from around \$6 million annually to \$10.17 million per year.



# General Assistance Program Overview

Portland, Bangor and Lewiston accounted for 68.5% of all GA spending in 2012. (state and municipal total).

Here is the per capita spending breakdown for those three municipalities:

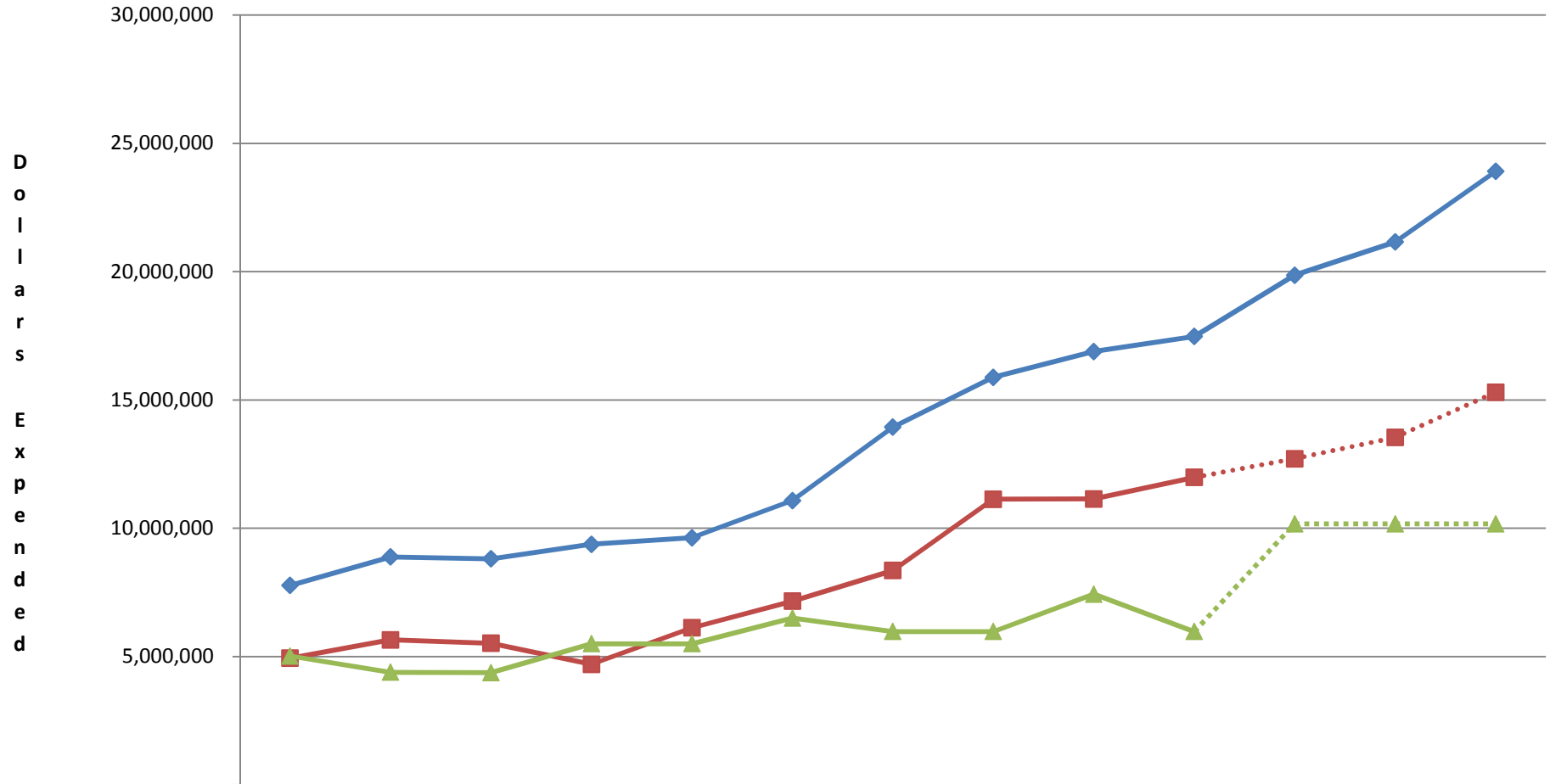


## Four Year Spending History

Municipality	2010 Population	SFY09 Costs	SFY10 Costs	SFY11 Costs	SFY12 Costs
Lewiston	36,592	\$625,998	\$920,566	\$932,784	\$922,481
Bangor	33,039	\$1,937,896	\$2,238,520	\$3,085,865	\$2,717,280
Portland	66,194	\$5,588,623	\$6,745,981	\$6,661,796	\$8,285,325

# GA Benefits Growth

## General Assistance Benefit Expenditures by State Fiscal Year



	SFY 2003	SFY 2004	SFY 2005	SFY 2006	SFY 2007	SFY 2008	SFY 2009	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	SFY 2013 Projection	SFY 2014 Projection	SFY 2015 Projection
◆ Total Expenses	7,772,500	8,883,600	8,811,000	9,378,300	9,631,539	11,078,87	13,942,00	15,885,40	16,889,73	17,476,28	19,860,36	21,157,27	23,907,71
■ State Share	4,939,600	5,654,500	5,520,900	4,701,200	6,124,300	7,159,612	8,357,308	11,133,01	11,144,25	11,982,88	12,710,63	13,540,65	15,300,93
▲ Budgeted Amount	5,017,400	4,388,000	4,372,200	5,500,000	5,500,000	6,500,000	5,974,622	5,974,622	7,429,310	5,974,600	10,171,24	10,171,24	10,171,24

# GA Projected General Fund Cost

State Fiscal Year	Projected Total Program	Projected GF Share*	Baseline	Other Special Revenue
SFY 2014	\$21,157,273	<b>\$14,404,084</b>	\$10,171,243	\$1,500,000
SFY 2015	\$23,907,718	<b>\$15,423,305</b>	\$10,171,243	\$1,500,000
Total Biennium	\$45,064,991	<b>\$29,827,389</b>	<b>\$20,342,486</b>	\$3,000,000

- Total Biennium General Fund Need - **\$29.8 million**
- Total Biennium Baseline - **\$20.3 million**
- Total Funding Gap - **\$9.48 million**
  - \*Projected expenditures assume a 13% annual growth in total program spending, less other special revenue in the amount of \$1.5M per year. OSR funding is projected to remain flat, which puts increased demand on the General Fund for the program.
  - The 13% growth is based on historical growth:
    - 2008 through 2012, averaged 17% growth
    - 2011 at 12% growth
    - 2012 at 14% growth

# GA Workgroup Admin Savings

- The General Assistance Work Group delivered recommended administrative savings that equal \$330,702 each year, reducing the baseline request by \$661,404 for the Biennium. The savings are:

<b>Workgroup Recommendation</b>	<b>Annual Savings</b>
Implement Community Support Pilot	\$108,600
Better Utilization of Alternative Aid	\$12,864
Access to State's Electronic Database	\$126,273
Uniformity in Administration of TANF Limit Extensions	\$36,000
VA Benefit Savings	\$46,965
<b>Total Annual</b>	<b>\$330,702</b>
<b>Total Biennium Budget</b>	<b>\$661,404</b>

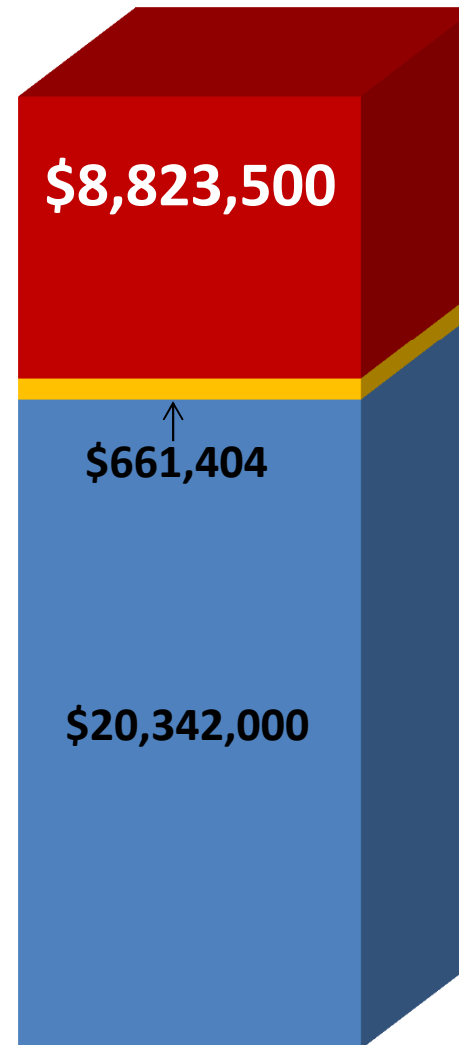
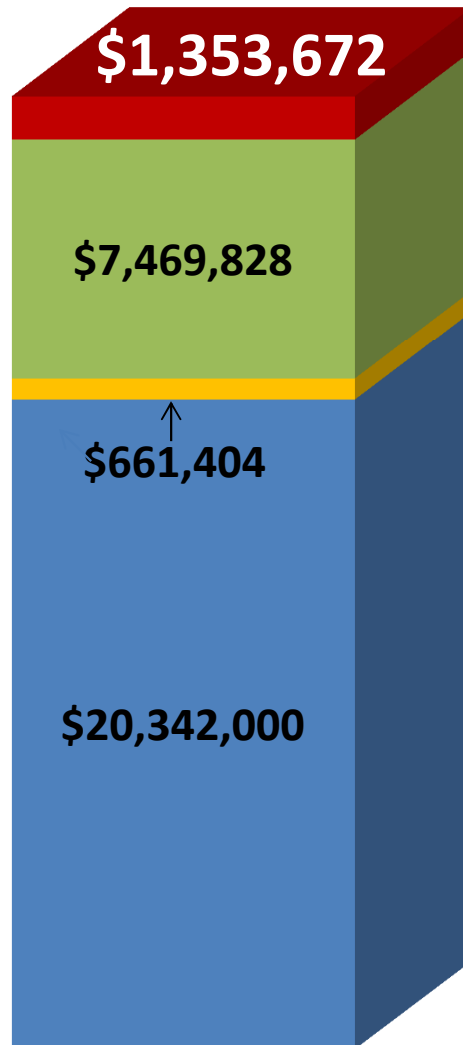
# GA Budget Savings Initiatives

Savings Initiative	FY 14	FY 15	Total Biennium
Reduce reimbursement rate from 90% to 50% for expenditures in excess of the threshold.	\$2,523,686	\$2,839,146	<b>\$5,362,832</b>
Reduce maximum benefit levels allowed to recipients by 10%.	\$576,221	\$576,221	<b>\$1,152,442</b>
Reduction in baseline request to account for administrative savings <i>resulting from the General Assistance Work Group efforts.</i>	\$330,702	\$330,702	<b>\$661,404*</b>
Limit housing assistance to a maximum of 270 days per calendar year, with exceptions allowed.	\$250,943	\$250,943	<b>\$501,886</b>
Exclude TANF 60 Month case closures from eligibility.	\$147,125	\$160,500	<b>\$307,625</b>
Exclude TANF sanctioned cases from eligibility.	\$50,238	\$54,805	<b>\$105,043</b>
Exclude fugitives from justice from eligibility.	\$20,000	\$20,000	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>*Total Workgroup Admin Savings</b>	\$330,702	\$330,702	<b>\$661,404</b>
<b>Total Budget Savings Initiatives</b>	<b>\$3,568,213</b>	<b>\$3,901,615</b>	<b>\$7,469,828</b>
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$3,898,915</b>	<b>\$4,232,317</b>	<b>\$8,131,232</b>

# GA General Fund Request - **\$29.8 million**

GA Request with All Savings Initiatives

GA Request with Workgroup Savings Only



- Funding Request
- Budget Savings Initiatives
- Workgroup Savings
- Baseline