

BASIS STATEMENT

HOPE PROGRAM

10-144 C.M.R. CHAPTER 330; HIGHER OPPORTUNITY FOR PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT (HOPE) – SECTION 3

Rule #102A – Eligibility Criteria

The adopted rule change to Part 3 aligns with Public Law 2023 Chapter 2 and is consistent with 22 M.R.S. § 3790-A(2)(E) (2017), amended by P.L. 2023, ch. 21 to increase the income limit from 185% of the Federal Poverty Limit to 225% of the FPL. The adopted rule change expanded income eligibility. In addition, the increase to gross income test for HOPE allows some HOPE applicants and participants to remain income eligible when their wages increase, some due to changes to Maine’s minimum wage and allows a wider group of parents to be deemed income eligible. This year’s FPLs were published at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>. See also, Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines, Federal Register 88:12 (January 19, 2023), pages 3424-3425, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-01-19/pdf/2023-00885.pdf>.

The Department incorporates these figures effective October 25, 2023.

This rule will not have an impact on municipalities or small businesses.

Statutory Authority

22 M.R.S. § 42(1); § 3790-A(2)(E); P.L. 2023 ch. 21

Effective Date

October 25, 2023