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More than 80 Municipal Welfare Officials and Staff Convene for Training at Local Government Center

Concord, NH: More than 80 local welfare administrators and other municipal officials gathered at the Local Government Center on June 16 for *The Art of Welfare Workshop*, a three-hour educational session co-presented by the New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC) and New Hampshire Local Welfare Administrators Association (NHLWAA) which provided a thorough review of laws governing local welfare and practical strategies for program administration.

“These are challenging times for local welfare officials who oversee programs that support their citizens in times of need,” said Judy Silva, Deputy Director for Legal Services and Government Affairs. “This session provided officials with a review of the relevant laws as well as an opportunity to share their challenges and learn from one another.”

The 84 attendees represented all regions of the state, from the small communities of Milan and Landaff in the North Country to the state’s largest cities and towns, and included many new and experienced welfare directors and administrators as well as selectmen, finance officers and other staff.

Following a review of laws governing welfare presented by LGC Legal Services staff, a panel of NHLWAA executive committee members with significant experience in the field responded to audience questions and provided practical advice. Participating panelists included Robert Mack, Welfare Officer, City of Nashua; Todd Marsh, Welfare Director, City of Rochester; Charleen Parsons, Welfare Specialist, City of Manchester; Elizabeth Sayre, Human Services Manager, City of Keene; and Jackie Whatmough, Human Services Director, City of Concord.

“It was good to see a large number of attendees with a high level of interest in expanding their knowledge of municipal welfare, particularly in this trying time in which we are facing budget pressures and significant cuts to programs that many people in the State of New Hampshire rely on,” said NHLWAA President Robert Mack.

Attendees received a copy of the 2010 edition of LGC’s publication, *The Art of Welfare Administration*, which is updated every two years to provide welfare administrators and other municipal officials with recent case law as well as changes to state and federal laws affecting local welfare administration.

About the Local Government Center

The New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC) is a nonprofit organization governed by an active board of directors comprising municipal, school and county representatives, including employees, management and elected officials. Its mission is to strengthen the quality of member governments and the ability of their officials and employees to serve the public. For more information, visit www.nhlgc.org.