



**ADDITIONS HIGHLIGHTED**

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**REGION 3 MEMBERS & PRIORITY PROJECTS**

Get to know your fellow enrolled communities and their [priority projects](#). If there is a town or project, you would like more information about let me help make the connection!

***Bethel, Carrabasset Valley, Carthage, Chesterville, Farmington, Greenwood, Hallowell, Jay, Norway, Lisbon, Otisfield, Paris, Poland, Waterford, and Woodstock.***

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

***Energy***

**Renew America’s Schools (CLOSES Jan. 26, 2023)**

A new funding opportunity from the The U.S. Department of Energy to provide energy improvements at public K-12 school facilities. This funding, made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), will support projects that enable replicable and scalable impacts, create innovative, sustaining partnerships, leverage funding and economies of scale, focus on disadvantaged communities, improve student, teacher, and occupant health, enrich Credits to the [Community Resilience Partnership](#) Region 1 Coordinator Collaborative for compiling this information and allowing its distribution. Additional region-specific contributions by AVCOG.

learning and growth, assist schools that serve as community assets (e.g., neighborhood cooling centers or disaster recovery shelters), and are crafted thoughtfully within the context of public school facilities (e.g., procurement restraints, construction windows, etc.). Prospective applicants must submit a concept paper by 5:00 PM EST, Thursday, January 26. Funding opportunity number: DE-FOA-0002756.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**Efficiency Maine HVAC, Lighting, and Refrigeration Project Incentives for Schools (UNTIL FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED OR MAY 31, 2023)**

Efficiency Maine is seeking applications for projects that will help schools accelerate the conversion to high-efficiency equipment. Schools can apply to receive purchasing incentives for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), lighting and refrigeration projects. The program is specifically focused on Maine's public schools in smaller towns and districts.

Efficiency Maine will accept applications for the school retrofits through May 31, 2023, or until funding has been exhausted.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**Efficiency Maine Incentives for Small Municipality Retrofits HVAC, Lighting, and Refrigeration (CLOSES AUG. 31, 2023)**

Efficiency Maine is seeking applications for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), lighting, and refrigeration projects in government facilities of small Maine municipalities and Tribes under 4,000 in population. Eligible applicants with qualifying projects receive enhanced purchasing incentives intended to accelerate the conversion to high-efficiency equipment in municipal and tribal government buildings across the state.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**Belvedere Historic Preservation Energy Audit Grants (NO DEADLINE)**

The Belvedere Historic Preservation and Energy Efficiency Grant Program invests in the preservation, restoration, and retrofitting of historic buildings in Maine. Energy audit grants are specifically for the cost of an energy audit of a historic building. Criteria: All applicants must meet the Maine Community Foundation's grant eligibility requirements. To receive a grant for an energy audit, the building must, be owned by a nonprofit organization or municipality or quasi-municipal entity, and be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, be determined eligible for listing on the Register, or be a contributing building in a nationally designated historic district. The maximum amount awarded for an energy audit is \$5,000. Energy Audit Grant applications may be submitted at any time. Requests will be considered as they are received and decisions will be made within 4 weeks of submission.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**COMING SOON: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program**

Maine's 10 most populous counties and cities are eligible for formula grant funding for energy-related projects through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). Details about the EECBG program, including eligible communities and projects, and the application process are in the link below. Funding will be available starting January 2023.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## **Infrastructure**

### **Flood Mitigation Assistance (CLOSES JAN. 27, 2023)**

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It does so with a recognition of the growing flood hazards associated with climate change, and of the need for flood hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation, equity, and resilience with respect to flooding. These include both acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors which have been observed and are expected to increase in intensity and frequency in the future.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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### **Federal Highway Administration Culvert Grants (CLOSES FEB. 6, 2023)**

The Federal Highway Administration is accepting applications from states, tribes and local governments for grants of \$10,000 to \$200,000 to improve or restore anadromous fish passage through the replacement, removal, repair, or improvement of culverts or weirs. Anadromous fish species are born in freshwater such as streams and rivers, spend most of their lives in the marine environment, and migrate back to freshwater to spawn.

Click below to learn more or contact your Regional Planning Organization.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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### **USDA RD Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant (OPEN)**

This program provides affordable funding through low interest direct loans, grants and a combination to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

What can the funds be used for?

- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements
- Community support services such as childcare centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses.

What are the funding priorities?

- Priority point system based on population, median household income
  - Small communities with a population of 5,500 or less
  - Low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## ***Land Conservation***

### **Land For Maine's Future 2023 Request for Conservation and Recreation Projects**

Applicants should use the Project Readiness criteria to evaluate whether their project is ready for submission on page 16 of this [LMF Proposal Workbook](#). Eligible applicants include non-profit land conservation organizations, cities, towns, and state agencies.

### **Working Forest Projects**

Community Conservation Projects are projects of local or regional significance that promote one or more of the following: public outdoor recreational access to land and waters, including for underserved populations; public health; connection between conserved lands and population centers; local or regional agriculture; conservation of cultural and historical resources on undeveloped lands; protection of lakes, rivers or streams; conservation of fish or wildlife habitat; protection of public drinking water supplies; conservation of community forests; local economic development; opportunities for environmental learning; nonmotorized transportation options; or other priorities as determined by the board.

### **DEADLINES:**

May 19, 2023 - Inquiry Forms due no later than 5:00 p.m.

August 4, 2023 - Final Proposals due no later than 5:00 p.m.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## ***Protect Natural Resources and Jobs***

### **2023 Forest Economy Program (CLOSES MAR. 10 & SEP. 15, 2023)**

With this program, the Northern Border Region Commission intends to support the forest-based economy and to assist in the forest industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models across the four-state NBRC region. Eligible organizations, which include nonprofit and governmental entities (state, local & Indian tribes). The Commission will make up to \$7 million in grants available, with a maximum award of \$1 Million. Whether funded directly or through partnerships, funds will be awarded to support projects in the forest economy, which may include one (or multiple) of the following:

- **Community development projects** that support the diversified use of forests within the Northern Border Regional Commission's service area for economic activity to include wood products and advanced materials manufacturing, as well as for other economic activity that utilizes northern border forests sustainably and demonstrates planning for climate resiliency.
- **Workforce [re] training and development projects** for the purpose of building the skills and recruiting and retaining the workforce needed for forest businesses.
- **Marketing/communication and education projects** that promote the environmental and climate benefits of forest management and forest products in ways that strengthen markets for wood products.
- **Business planning and technical assistance projects** that enhance the viability and sustainability of new and existing forest businesses.
- **Public infrastructure projects** that directly support the forest industry and/or demonstrate wood-based products' use in public infrastructure.

**DEADLINES:**

March 10 & September 15, 2023 – Letters of Interests due by 5:00 p.m for the summer and winter award, respectively.

April 28 & October 27, 2023 – Full Applications due by 5:00 p.m for the summer and winter award, respectively.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**Resilience****2023 Casco Bay Community Grants Program (CLOSES 9:00 AM Jan. 30, 2023)**

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership encourages new partnerships and innovative projects that engage communities with Casco Bay and its watershed. Successful proposals will incorporate at least one of the elements from the 2016-2021 Casco Bay Plan. Proposals are welcome from educators, land trusts and other nonprofit organizations, and municipalities, especially in partnership with civic groups, municipal committees, churches, clubs, school groups and neighborhood associations. Region 3 towns include: Albany Twp, Auburn, Bethel, Durham, Greenwood, Norway, Poland, Otisfield, and Waterford.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**Maine Community Foundation Community Building Grants (CLOSES FEB. 15, 2023)**

This grant program supports projects and organizations focused on making communities stronger. Examples include land trusts, community action programs, food councils, community gardens, and more.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant (NO DEADLINE, APPS REVIEWED MONTHLY)**

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to start the Community Heart & Soul planning model. Community Heart & Soul is a resident-driven process that engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it. Grant funding requires a \$10,000 cash match from the participating municipality or a partnering organization. Requires 1:1 cash match.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**2023 AARP Community Challenge (CLOSES MAR. 15, 2023)**

Grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement, diversity and inclusion, and more. Now in its seventh year, the program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older. The Community Challenge is open to eligible nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects. All projects must be completed by November 30, 2023.

[VIEW PAST GRANTEES AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION HERE](#)

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### **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding (Details Forthcoming)**

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has 18 different funding programs, 11 of which are directed to local governments. These programs will fund implementation of energy efficiency efforts, GHG reduction strategies, and more. Most of the programs have special provisions for low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Programs for Local Governments:

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (the Green Bank) grants to reduce community and private sector GHGs
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to implement GHG reductions
- Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption
- Improve Efficiency, Water, Resilience of Affordable Housing for projects that improve sustainability, efficiency & resilience
- Low Emissions Electricity Program funding for education, technical assistance, and outreach related to reducing GHGs from electricity production
- Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles to cover up to 100% of costs for replacing gasoline powered heavy duty vehicles with zero-emissions ones
- Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program supports building or improving complete streets, multi-use trails, regional greenways, and transportation networks
- Investing in Coastal Communities and Climate Resilience
- Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants

Go to the State's new website for **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunities** to learn more. [VIEW THE SITE](#)

The Maine Municipal Association is launching a series of workshops to help municipal officials, community leaders, and service providers learn more about BIL and IRA funding. Learn more, watch past recording workshops, and [RSVP to upcoming webinars here](#).

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## ***Transportation***

### **Tactical Urbanism Lightning Grants (NO DEADLINE)**

Projects may be transportation-focused (road diets, bike lanes, traffic calming, signage) or community enhancement (park or plaza activation, art installations, pop-up parks, or other public engagement ideas). Formalize or enhance a neighborhood trail link or shortcut. Projects are for up to \$1,000 and are awarded on a rolling basis. Projects could include: Install a protected bike lane, Paint a new crosswalk, Activate an underutilized public space, Activate a vacant lot, Reallocate underutilized road space for public life, Arrow travel lanes to slow vehicular speed, and Add stop signs to improve intersection safety.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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### **Workforce Transportation Funding Opportunity (NO DEADLINE)**

The Workforce Transportation Pilot program, an initiative of Governor Mills' Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, to pursue and develop transportation solutions that connect workers with employers across Maine. The \$5M program will provide competitive grants of up to \$750,000 to local and regional partnerships to pilot ways to connect workers and employers through ridesharing, vanpools, and other subsidized transit options.

## [LEARN MORE](#)

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### **Maine DOT Village Partnership Initiative (NO DEADLINE)**

The Village Partnership Initiative is designed to be available to all willing communities that have or can agree upon a local vision. Village projects can vary from small, spot improvements to large, once-in-a-lifetime investments if we can successfully partner to access federal discretionary funds through earmarks or BIL grants. Depending upon the vision of each individual municipality, we can look to make investments in the lower-speed areas where people meet, shop, and do business. These village areas need to be built on a human scale: walkable, bicycle-friendly, and business-friendly.

These projects can range from gateway treatments, marking the beginning of a village area to help slow traffic, to improving pedestrian crossings and ADA compliance. They may also be used to enhance on-street parking, improve sidewalks, etc.

- Municipal Property Valuation less than \$150M, 70% State, 30% Municipal
- Municipal Property Valuation a\$150M to \$350M, 60% State, 40% Municipal
- Municipal Property Valuation >\$350M, 50% State, 50% Municipal

The maximum amount of the agreement will be dependent on the complexity of the project and the amount of design needed to be competitive on the federal level. These are complex projects and will take several years to develop.

## [LEARN MORE](#)

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## **Water**

### **Small Public Water Systems Emerging Contaminant Grants (NO DEADLINE)**

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Environmental and Community Health is offering grant funding for up to \$60,000 for small public water systems projects to mitigate PFAS contamination. Grants are up to \$50,000 with additional \$10,000 available for engineering fees. This grant is offered on a rolling basis.

## [LEARN MORE](#)

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### **Partners for Places Green Stormwater Infrastructure Grants (CLOSES FEB. 27, 2023)**

Partners for Places, a program of The Funders Network and the Urban Sustainability Network, aims to enhance local capacity to build equitable and sustainable communities in the United States and Canada. These one-to-one matching awards support the planning and implementing of urban sustainability and green stormwater infrastructure projects.

## [LEARN MORE](#)

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## **EVENTS**

### ***Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Webinar Series – Opportunities for Local Communities***

The Maine Municipal Association and the Governor's Infrastructure Implementation Committee invite you to join representatives from the State for a series of informational webinars on funding and program opportunities for Maine communities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The series will be of particular relevance to officials from municipal, county, and tribal governments in Maine, as well as staff from regional planning organizations and other local technical assistance groups. Each session will cover a category of BIL investment, review current projects, explain funding processes, highlight available and upcoming BIL programs, and offer opportunities for Q&A.

#### **BIL Webinar 2: Broadband & Technology**

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Hear about BIL opportunities to expand the interconnection and economic viability of Maine communities through improved, robust, affordable and universally available high speed internet (broadband) and secure information systems. [REGISTER HERE](#)

#### **BIL Webinar #3: Energy Programs & Building Efficiency**

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Hear about BIL opportunities to improve energy efficiency in buildings and enable the expansion of affordable, clean energy generation and transmission networks. [REGISTER HERE](#)

#### **BIL Webinar #4 Resilience & Environmental Protection**

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Hear about BIL programs to strengthen the state's preparedness for storm events, flooding, and wildfires; to build resilience of transportation networks, drinking water and wastewater systems; to mitigate contaminants and pollution; and to improve natural capacity of watersheds and ecosystems. [REGISTER HERE](#)

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### ***Community Resilience Partnership: Building Stronger Communities Online Learning Series***

Virtual and Limited Hybrid Options

[FULL PROGRAM DETAILS INCLUDING PAST RECORDINGS FOUND HERE](#)

#### **Building Stronger Communities #4 - \$125,000 Community Action Grants for Regional Projects**

Virtual and In-person at KVCOG, AVCOG, CEBE & ACTT

Tuesday, January 31, 10:00 -11:00 am

Join service providers A Climate To Thrive (ACTT) and Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) for a discussion on how they each brought together neighboring communities to write climate action plans. While the benefits of multi-town collaboration can be stymied by any number of barriers, successful groups share how they



overcame those obstacles when they focused on the “dollars and sense” of working with the Community Resilience Partnership. Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG), working with two groups converging around land conservation, community solar projects, and public works cooperatives share some lessons and challenges to working alongside communities with a variety of priorities and perspectives.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

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### **Building Stronger Communities #5 - Efficiency Maine Incentives and Services for Municipal Energy Upgrades**

Virtual or Hybrid at KVCOG, AVCOG & CEBE  
Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Efficiency Maine currently has generous rebate programs on lighting, HVAC, refrigeration upgrades, and electric vehicles for municipalities and tribal governments. This coupled with a free virtual project consult can be a winning combination to help towns achieve significantly reduce capital investment costs and energy savings. Learn more from Efficiency Maine staff as well as tour some recent municipal projects that took advantage of these programs.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

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### **Building Stronger Communities #6 - Landfill Solar**

Virtual or Hybrid at KVCOG, AVCOG & CEBE  
Tuesday, March 9, 10:00 -11:30 am

This session is aimed at informing decision-makers, department heads, and facility operators on opportunities to lower municipal operating costs through the beneficial reuse of landfills for solar installations. We will examine aspects of developing solar energy on landfills through case studies in central and western Maine. Solar developers and regulatory officials will also be joining to address the environmental, engineering, and related regulatory concerns of these projects.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

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### **Building Stronger Communities #7 - Launching and Funding Transportation Projects with the Maine Department of Transportation**

Virtual  
Tuesday, March 21, 10:00 -11:00 am

Learn about the grant opportunities with the Maine Dept. of Transportation and how to further those funds with federal grant opportunities. DOT will walk us through a project from start to finish and answer your questions about launching a project with DOT. Grants that will be covered include the Village Partnership, Workforce Grant, Planning and Municipal Partnership programs, culvert replacement grants, and EV charging.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

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### **Building Stronger Communities #8 - Building Stronger Communities - Municipal EV Development**

Virtual an In-person at KVCOG & AVCOG, CEBE, GPCOG  
Tuesday, April 11, 10:00 – 11:30 am

With over \$19 million in EV charging infrastructure investment over the next 5 years, what should municipalities be paying attention to? From installing municipal charging stations to electrifying fleets, charging station ordinances, and EV funding opportunities we'll cover the bases.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

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## **Energy**

### **Pathways to Solar**

A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)

Friday, February 10, 2023, 12:00PM

Discover the best pathways to transition your home, business, or organization to solar energy. We will explore the difference between solar on your roof, community solar you own, and subscription models. Learn more about financing, net energy billing, and more.

[REGISTER](#)

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## **Resilience**

### **Housing Solutions in Rural Recreation Communities**

Online

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 2:00PM – 3:30PM

Environmental Protection Agency Office of Community Revitalization, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) invite communities to join a webinar that will address housing in gateway communities.

Gateway communities lie just outside or adjacent to major tourist attractions such as national parks, wilderness areas, or nature resorts. Many of these communities experience multiple housing challenges including – lack of affordable housing, available financing, and rapid population growth. The webinar will highlight federal resources and private sector strategies that help communities leverage their outdoor recreation and tourism venues to address housing solutions and improve economic resilience.

[REGISTER](#)

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## **OTHER GRANT RESOURCE PAGES**

### **General**

[Resilience Grants Guide](#)

*State and federal funding opportunities from the Maine Climate Change Adaptation Providers Network*

[Federal Funding Guide](#)

New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC)

[State and Federal Funding Inventory](#)

New England Environmental Finance Center Southern New England Program (SNEP)  
*Clearinghouse of federal, state, and philanthropic grant opportunities relative to  
stormwater/watershed management, ecological restoration and climate resilience.*

[Federal Transportation Funding Matrix](#)

US Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
*List of competitive grant programs used to fund various types of transportation projects and  
activities. Includes many funding opportunities for local and tribal governments.*

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