### JANUARY-MAY, 2018

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#### **OPPORTUNITY ZONES in MAINE**

On February 27, 2018, the State of Maine released a request for input for possible Opportunity Zones for low-income communities across the state. Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Opportunity Zones is a new economic development program designed to encourage long-term private investments in low-income communities. The incentive is to provide tax benefits that may help attract new investment into the community to create jobs, stimulate growth, and provide greater prosperity to the people living in low-income communities.

The State Department of Economic and Community Development requested input for consideration and recommendation to the Governor regarding the low income census tracts best positioned for success.

Only 25% of Maine's 123 low-income community census tracts may be designated as an Opportunity Zone. Also, 5% of the designated tracts may come from tracts contiguous to low-income tracts, but cannot exceed 31 tracts in total.

On May 21, 2018, Governor Paul LePage announced that 32 communities had been designated as Opportunity Zones in 13 of Maine's 16 counties.

Androscoggin: Auburn, Lewiston

Aroostook: Washburn, Limestone, Madawaska (Caswell, Connor, and

Stockholm as contiguous tract)

**Cumberland**: Portland, Westbrook, South Portland, Brunswick

Hancock: Ellsworth

**Kennebec**: Augusta, Waterville **Oxford**: Rumford (2), Paris

Penobscot: Millinocket, East Millinocket, Bangor, Brewer, Lincoln,

Enfield, Old Town,

Piscataquis: Greenville

Sagadahoc: Bath

Somerset: Hartland, Madison

Waldo: Belfast

**Washington**: Calais (Baileyville, Whiting, and Dennsyville as contiguous tract) and (Pembroke, Baring, and Meddybemps as contiguous tract)

York: Saco

### 2018 CDBG Program Funding

Deborah Johnson, Office of Community Development Director, announced that the following municipalities have been awarded CDBG funding.

#### **Downtown Revitalization Program:**

There were three applications submitted, with the Town of Lisbon receiving the \$300,000 budgeted amount.

#### Public Infrastructure Program:

Six municipalities were awarded \$3,205,000 for public infrastructure projects out of the 13 applications submitted. They were:

Corinna	\$300,000
Limerick	\$190,000
Mechanic Falls	\$400,000
Rumford	\$990,000
Van Buren	\$350,000
Vassalboro	\$975,000

#### Microenterprise Grant Program:

There were 19 applications submitted with 12 municipalities receiving the \$695,000 budget. They are:

They are;	
Allagash	\$80,000
Brewer	\$50,000
Grand Isle	\$80,000
Greenville	\$80,000
Guilford	\$45,000
Hallowell	\$50,000
Kingfield	\$50,000
Masardis	\$50,000
Skowhegan	\$100,000
Van Buren	\$30,000
Wayne	\$50,000
Winthrop	\$50,000

MCDA congratulates all municipalities in their successful awards for CDBG funding!

#### Ranked-Choice Voting

On June 12, voters will be heading out to the polls to vote on Question 1: Do you want to reject the parts of a new law that would delay the use of ranked-choice voting in the election of candidates for any state or federal office until 2022, and then retain the method only if the constitution is amended by December 1, 2021, to allow ranked-choice voting for candidates in state elections?

In November, 2016, 52% of voters approved the ranked-choice voting system, but the system has been challenged by a series of legal actions.

#### **How it Works:**

- 1. Voters select candidates in order of preference. The votes are tabulated in rounds with the lowest ranked candidate eliminated in each round until only two candidates are left.
- 2. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes in eliminated.
- 3. Voters who preferred the eliminated candidate would then have their ballots added to the totals of their second-ranked candidates and ballots would be retabulated.
- 4. The process continues until one candidate has a clear majority of votes.

Maine would be the first state in the U.S. to apply this method of elections for statewide or federal office. This system only comes into play if there are three or more candidates running for office.

### News From Around the State.

**Dan Brennan** was named the new MaineHousing Director. MaineHousing is a \$1.7 billion financial institution that serves more than 90,000 people statewide annually. Mr. Brennan served as Senior Director of Programs overseeing several departments, such as the single and multi-family housing, homelessness; managing the Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and administering HEAP and Weatherization Programs.

The Midcoast Regional Planning Commission hired **Jamie Francomano** is Executive Director of the nonprofit organization in February, 2018. Midcoast Regional Planning Commission provides land use, transportation, and economic planning services to its member communities in Waldo and Knox Counties. In March, 2018, the Town of Bremen hired Francomano on a contractual basis to assist the Planning Board and respond to citizen inquiries about the permitting process and zoning regulations. He will also provide assistance in revising a 14 year-old comprehensive plan.

The engineering firm of **Wright-Pierce** was selected to complete the Rangeley Downtown Revitalization plan. Plan components included base mapping, citizen/business survey, public workshop, and a concept plan. The planning process is expected to last 6 to 9 months.

Darryl Sterling, former past president of MCDA is an economic and community development consultant assisting several communities with community and economic development projects. Among those communities, is the Town of Wilton's Downtown Revitalization project. The revitalization created an appealing downtown that has attracted a variety of businesses, such as specialty shops, artisans, and eateries. Also an upsurge of people living in apartments downtown.

"IF A DOWNTOWN IS HEALTHY, THEN THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY IS HEALTHY" Rhonda Irish, Wilton Town Manager



A \$10,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided the resources needed for planning. Darryl Sterling worked with the town to secure a \$400,000 Downtown Revitalization Grant in 2015. The grant funds provided improvements in the downtown, such as parking lot improvements, sidewalks, street lighting and other minor improvements. In 2017, the Town secured a \$150,000 grant for façade improvements to downtown businesses.

The Town of Camden hired **Jeremy Martin** as the Planning and Development Director on March 19, 2018. Mr. Martin has 17 years of municipal experience in land use planning and code enforcement. He formerly held the position of Development Coordinator for the City of Bangor. Karen Brace was the Town's Community Development Director. The Town redeveloped the new Planning and Development position to include planning, code enforcement as well as community and economic development.

**Adam Causey** is the Town of Kittery's first Planning and Development Director. He began his new post of April 17, 2018. He has a background in city and urban planning and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia where he received a master's degree from Georgia State University.

On February 20, 2018, **Emily Cole-Prescott** filled the position of Town Planner for the Town of Eliot. Emily relocated to Maine from Brookfield, Connecticut where she served as the recording secretary for several town boards and commissions, a research assistant for a professor of political science at Western Connecticut State, executive assistant to the Brookfield Police Department, and research assistant at John Jay College in New York City. She is currently working on a master of public policy and administration at John Jay College.

### **Jobs & Classifieds**

# **Code Enforcement Officer Town of Old Orchard Beach**

Submit application and resume to: Town of Old Orchard Beach, Attn: Human Resource Office, 1 Portland Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064. Contact <a href="mailto:fbeaulieu@oobmaine.com">fbeaulieu@oobmaine.com</a> for more information. The Town is accepting applications until the position is filled.

# **Staff Accountant Kennebec Valley Council of Governments**

Submit a Letter of Interest, resume and 3 professional references to Rosie Vanadestine, Executive Director, Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, 17 Main Street, Fairfield, ME 04937. E-mail <a href="mailto:rvanadestine@kvcog.org">rvanadestine@kvcog.org</a> for additional information.

The Washington County Government is accepting proposals to provide oversight and management of the County's Tax Increment Financing Loan and Grant Program for the Washington County Unorganized Territories. For more information, call Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager, at 207-255-3127. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on June 22, 2018.

#### Senior Engineer City of Portland

Download applications on the City's website at <a href="www.portlandmaine.gov">www.portlandmaine.gov</a>. Send application, cover letter, and resume to City of Portland, Human Resource Office, 389 Congress Street, Room 115, Portland, Maine 04101 by June 25, 2018. For more information call 207-874-8624 or <a href="jobs@portlandmaine.gov">jobs@portlandmaine.gov</a>.

#### **Planning Director Town of Windham**

Send application, resume, and salary history/requirement by 4:00 p.m. on June 22, 2018. Submit via email to: <a href="mailto:apply@windhammaine.us">apply@windhammaine.us</a> or fax to 207-892-1910 or mail to Town of Windham, 8 School Road, Windham, ME 04062 or apply online at <a href="https://www.windhammaine.us">www.windhammaine.us</a>.

# **Community Development Director Town of Bridgton**

Job description and application are available at <a href="https://www.bridgtonmaine.org">www.bridgtonmaine.org</a>. Send Letter of Interest, Resume, and application to Town Manager "Director Position", Town of Bridgton, 3 Chase Street, Suite #1, Bridgeton, ME 04009 or by fax at 207-647-8789 or e-mail to <a href="mailto-townmgr@bridgtonmaine.org">townmgr@bridgtonmaine.org</a> by 4:00 p.m. on June 22, 2018

# **Town Planner Town of Kittery**

Applications are available at <a href="www.kitteryme.gov">www.kitteryme.gov</a>. Send cover letter, application, resume, and 3 professional references to Town of Kittery, Attn: Maureen Paro, 200 Rogers Road, Kittery, ME 03904. The Town will accept applications until the position is filled.

# **Town Manager Town of Clinton**

If interested, send cover letter, resume, and three professional references by 3:45 p.m. on June 15, 2018 to Clinton Town Manager Search, 27 Baker Street, Clinton, ME 04927

#### **Oxford County Administrator**

For a detailed job description, contact Abby Shanor at <a href="mailto:ashanor@oxfordcounty.org">ashanor@oxfordcounty.org</a> or call 207-743-6359, ext. 1.

# **Engineering/Surveying Services Town of Farmingdale**

The Town of Farmingdale is seeking engineering and surveying services. Bid instructions are available at <a href="www.farmingdalemaine.org">www.farmingdalemaine.org</a>. If interested, submit a completed bid proposal to Farmingdale Town Office, 289 Maine Avenue, Farmingdale, ME 04344 by 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2018. Call 207-582-2225 or e-mail <a href="maingdaleclerk@roadrunner.com">farmingdaleclerk@roadrunner.com</a> for more information.

For more job opportunities, visit the Maine Municipal Association website at www.memun.org.

## Upcoming Events...

#### Coming Soon – New MCDA Website Upgrade

Event	Date	Location
Build Maine 2018	June 14 and 15, 2018	36 Chestnut Street, Lewiston
MCDA Meeting	June 7, 2018 August 9, 2018	Conference Call
COSCDA Annual Training Conference	September 16-19, 2018	Holiday By The Bay, Portland

### **Funding Opportunities –**

#### **Bank of America Charitable Foundation**

The Foundation provides philanthropic support to address specific needs vital to the health of local communities by focusing on preserving neighborhoods, educating the workforce for 21st century jobs, and addressing critical human needs such as hunger. Deadline: June 1, 2018. <u>Guidelines and application process</u>

#### **MainStreet Foundation**

The MainStreet Foundation helps keep kids safe, healthy, active, happy, educated, and nourished. Deadline: June 20, 2018. <u>Guidelines and application process</u>

#### **Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation**

Giving primarily for the arts, education (including libraries), and human services in Maine. Deadline: June 30, 2018. <u>Guidelines and application process</u>

#### Sam L. Cohen Foundation

The Foundation funds in five programs areas: arts and culture, civic and community, education, health and human services, and Jewish culture and traditions. Deadline: July 15, 2018. Guidelines and application process

#### **The Betterment Fund**

Giving is limited to Maine and the issues of creative economy, economic development, rural communities, arts education, environmental tourism, and oral health. Deadline: July 15, 2018. <u>Guidelines and application process</u>

#### **USDA** Rural Development – Rural Community Development Initiative Grants

This program provides funding to help non-profit housing and community development organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Deadline: June 25, 2018

### COSCDA - Council of State Community Development Agencies

COSCDA is a nonprofit organization created in 1974 to establish a forum for discussion of and action on national issues of common interests. COSCDA's mission is to –

- advocate for the common community development goals of the states;
- develop policies and recommendations on community development issues;
- keep members informed about federal and state administrative and legislative developments that affect members;
- enhance the capacity of states to deal effectively and comprehensively with community development issues;
- ensure the availability of community development expertise to members;
- encourage and assist states in the development and implementation of effective community development programs; and
- facilitate the exchange of information about programs and achievements among states and act as a clearinghouse for community development organizations.

On April 27, 2018, COSCDA submitted a letter to members of the THUD Subcommittee and Appropriations Committee regarding the FY2019 CDBG funding urging them to appropriate at least \$3.5 billion in formula funding for the FY2019 Program. The letter was signed by 2,283 national, state, and local organizations.

On September 16-19, 2018, COSCDA will hold its annual training conference in Portland, ME at the Inn By the Bay. Agenda items include –

- September 16 Hot Topic Programmatic Roundtables (discussion with peers about community development, housing, and homelessness topics.
- September 17 Regional discussions on organizational issues and initiatives; legislative and regulatory updates on federal budget, legislative developments and relevant U.S. HUD initiatives; and mobile workshops to showcase housing, infrastructure, community and economic development, and homelessness projects.
- September 18 Awards Presentations and discussions on how HUD funds can help alleviate some
  of the challenges facing our veterans.
- September 19 COSCDA Committee Meetings, Business Meeting, and Briefing with Senior HUD Officials.

MCDA voted on June 7<sup>th</sup> to appropriate \$1,000 in sponsorship for the Mobile Workshops!



### MAINE'S WORKFORCE CHALLENGE

Employers throughout Maine are confronted with the shortage of available and qualified workers. As of April, 2018, Maine had a 3.1% unemployment rate indicating that Maine is at 'full employment' making it difficult for employers to find and recruit qualified workers.

Maine has the oldest median age in the country. From 1980 to 2010, the share of Mainers over the age of 65 increased from over 12% to 16% and is expected to increase by 2022 where nearly 1 in 4 Mainers will be 65 years of age or older.

The Center for Workforce Research and Information surveyed private firms in 2016 to determine the hiring demand in Maine. A response rate of 58% provided that 30,860 job vacancies existing as of September, 2016. Of that total, 64% were full time positions, 12% were seasonal or temporary, and 24% other. The highest concentration of vacancies was located in the Coastal Counties.

#### Possible solutions include -

- Bringing in more immigrants,
- Attracting young workers from other states including those who grew up in Maine and moved away,
- Offering internships/apprenticeships to link young people with Maine employers.

A 2017 study by the American Immigration Council of immigrants in Maine found that 3% of Maine residents are immigrants. The top countries of origin for immigrants were Canada, the Phillipines, England, India, and Mexico. Most immigrants have pursued education at the college level or above. Educated immigrants are vital members of the labor force, particularly with healthcare and social science, education, retail trade, accommodation and food services, and manufacturing industries. Approximately 2,200 immigrant business owners accounted for 2.2% of all self-employed Mainers in 2015 and generated more than \$48 million in business income.

For additional facts on immigration and the workforce, visit their website at https://americanimmigrationcouncil.org.

### **ABOUT MCDA**

#### MCDA's Purpose

TO PROVIDE FORUMS TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND FOSTER COMMUNICATION RELATING TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS, AND TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING THROUGH WORKSHOPS.

#### MCDA Meetings

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION TAKES PLACE AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION. FOUR (4) REGULAR MEETINGS FOR THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE HELD ANNUALLY THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MAINE. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE CALLED BY THE PRESIDENT OR MAJORITY OF OFFICERS ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS.

#### MCDA Newsletters

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS HIGHLIGHTING COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLES OF SPECIAL INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MAINE ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.

Benefits to Becoming a Member. . . .

MCDA Funding Directory
Training and Workshops
Legislative Advocacy
Affiliation with Other Agencies and Organizations
Links to Funding and Business Agencies
MCDA's ability to network with multiple partners

#### Who's Invited to Join????

Any person, municipality, or firm employed by or interested in economic and/or community development.

THE COMPOSITION OF MCDA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OFFERS NEW MEMBERS AN EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND AVAILABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES. THE TENURE AND EXPERIENCE OF THIS ASSOCIATION CAN PROVIDE NEW MEMBERS WITH A MULTIPLE RESOURCE BASE ON A VARIETY OF PROPOSED PROJECTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY. I AM/AM NOT INTERESTED IN SERVING ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- ✓ ADVOCACY
- ✓ COMMUNICATIONS
- ✓ FINANCE
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- ✓ MEMBERSHIP
- ✓ OFFICER/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **DID YOU KNOW!!!**

That the Office of the State Treasurer has over \$240,651, 214 of unclaimed property. You can access the Unclaimed Property Program at <a href="https://maineunclaimed">https://maineunclaimed</a> property.gov. This is a free service to use the website. Search by last name or business name to claim your unclaimed property. Most are under \$25 in refunds, credits, shares, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The number of prescriptions filled in Maine for opiod painkillers is falling. A 2016 prescribing law which set a number of regulations is responsible for the more than 13% drop in opiod prescriptions from 2016 to 2017. In 2017, 418 Maine people died from opiod overdose.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The 2018 moose permit drawing is scheduled for Saturday, June 9 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds. In conjunction with this event, the Main Street Skowhegan committee is planning a 3=day Moosefest event that involves a scavenger hunt through local businesses, a wild game/craft beer banquet, country music concert, and many more.

The moose lottery event can potentially bring in 5,000 or more people to the community that results in economic opportunities for the community.

This year 2,500 names will be drawn from a pool of over 54,000 applicants. For those who cannot attend the event, a listing of permittees will be available on the website at www.maine.gov/ifw.

# Maine Community Development Association

Local Government Center 60 Community Drive Augusta, ME 04330-9486

> (207) 623-8428 or 1-800-452-8786

www.mainecda.org

# MCDA Subcommittee Members:

<u>Advocacy</u> Vacant (Chair) Tony Levesque

<u>Communications</u> Joella Theriault (Chair) Tony Levesque

<u>Finance</u> Mathew Eddy (Chair) Executive Committee

Professional Development
Tracey Steuber (Chair)
Jennifer Peters
Tony Levesque
Linda Smith

Membership
Tony Levesque (Interim Chair)

<u>Nomination</u> Tony Levesque (Chair)

#### 2017-2019 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Stephen Dyer

Ransom Environmental Consulting 400 Commercial Street, Suite 404 Portland, ME 04102

(207) 772-2891

Term Expires: October, 2019

Vice President: Tracy Steuber

Town of Lisbon 300 Lisbon Street Lisbon, ME 04250 (207) 353-3000

Term Expires: October, 2019

Treasurer: Mathew Eddy

45 McKeen Street Brunswick, ME 04011 (207) 729-9694

Term Expires: October, 2018

Secretary: Joella R. Theriault

Northern Maine Development Commission 1519 St. John Road

St. John Plantation, ME 04743 (207) 543-1802

Term Expires: October, 2018

Past President: Gail Chase

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments 17 Main Street Fairfield, ME 04937-1119 (207) 453-4258

Term Expires: October, 2019

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Darryl Sterling

Economic & Community Empowerment Consultant

1 Tulip Street Richmond, ME 04357

(207) 807-9062

Term Expires: October, 2019

Scott LaFlamme

City of Bath 55 Front Street Bath, ME 04530 (207) 443-8332

Term Expires: October, 2019

Suzie Paradis

Town of Madawaska 328 St. Thomas Street Madawaska, ME 04756 (207) 728-3612

Term Expires: October, 2018

Tom Martin

Hancock County Planning Com 395 State Street Ellsworth, ME 04605 (207) 667-7131

Term Expires: October, 2018

### 2017 MCDA MEETING CALENDAR

October, 2017								November, 2017								December, 2017						
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Meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month. In the event that the											he											
October, 2018							second Thursday falls on a holiday, the meeting will be held on the next business day.															
Su	М	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa							Gen	eral Me	mbersh	ір Меє	etings					
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