

2012 CDBG Program	1
MSHA 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan	2
2012 CDBG Program – Continued	3
Central Maine Growth Council	3
Efficiency Maine	4
Riverfront Community Development Block Grant Program	5
One The Move..... Retirements.....	6
About MCDA	7
MCDA Executive And Board Committee Members	8
MCDA Subcommittee Members	8

2012 CDBG Program

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), Office of Community Development (OCD) and the Maine Community Development Association (MCDA) held joint meetings each year in April to review the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program's effectiveness and success. Each year, OCD staff would offer proposed changes to the program and allow MCDA members to comment on these changes. The uncertainty of the CDBG program effectively eliminated the joint meeting this year. The inability of the federal government to adopt a budget resulted in a continuing resolution to fund the 2011 CDBG budget. The House of Representatives proposed a 62% budget decrease from the 2010 budget. This would mean that Maine's allotment would decrease from \$13.7 million to only \$5.2 million available statewide. Ultimately, the budget was decreased only 16.4%, from \$13.7 million to \$11.4 million. It is anticipated that the 2012 CDBG Program will be reduced an additional 18%. In June, 2011, OCD staff requested all CDBG Technical Assistance Providers and MCDA members seek input from communities throughout the state regarding the allocation and design of the 2012 CDBG program. The four (4) main questions and their respective responses were;

1. Should reductions be made across the board? (**Overwhelming NO**)
2. Should certain programs be eliminated? (**Overwhelming YES; specifically Nonprofit Development Grant and Planning programs**)
3. What factors should be used to determine which programs to eliminate? (**1. Amount of dollars leveraged; 2. Timeliness of Expenditure; and 3. LMI benefit**)
4. Should the maximum amount per program be lowered to do more grants per program? (**Most responses favored keeping current levels of funding to make an impact and keep local financial burden within reason for LMI communities.**)

Continued on Page 3 –See 2012 CDBG Program

Maine State Housing Authority

2010 - 2014 Consolidated Plan

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a Consolidated Plan every five years. The 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan was submitted in November, 2009 and approved by HUD. Each year Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) must provide an annual update called the Annual Plan by November 15. Public forums provided by MSHA and DECD throughout the State of Maine provide an opportunity for input in the programs offered by both MSHA and DECD. Housing needs identified includes housing affordability, homelessness, home buyer assistance, home improvement, rental housing development for low income families and seniors, and supportive housing. An analysis of housing affordability on the economy was conducted by Professional Charles Colgan of the Muskie School located at the University of Southern Maine. The table to the right shows the number of job gains from making Maine housing just 10% more affordable.

MSHA and DECD will hold public forums to gather input during the month of June, 2011.

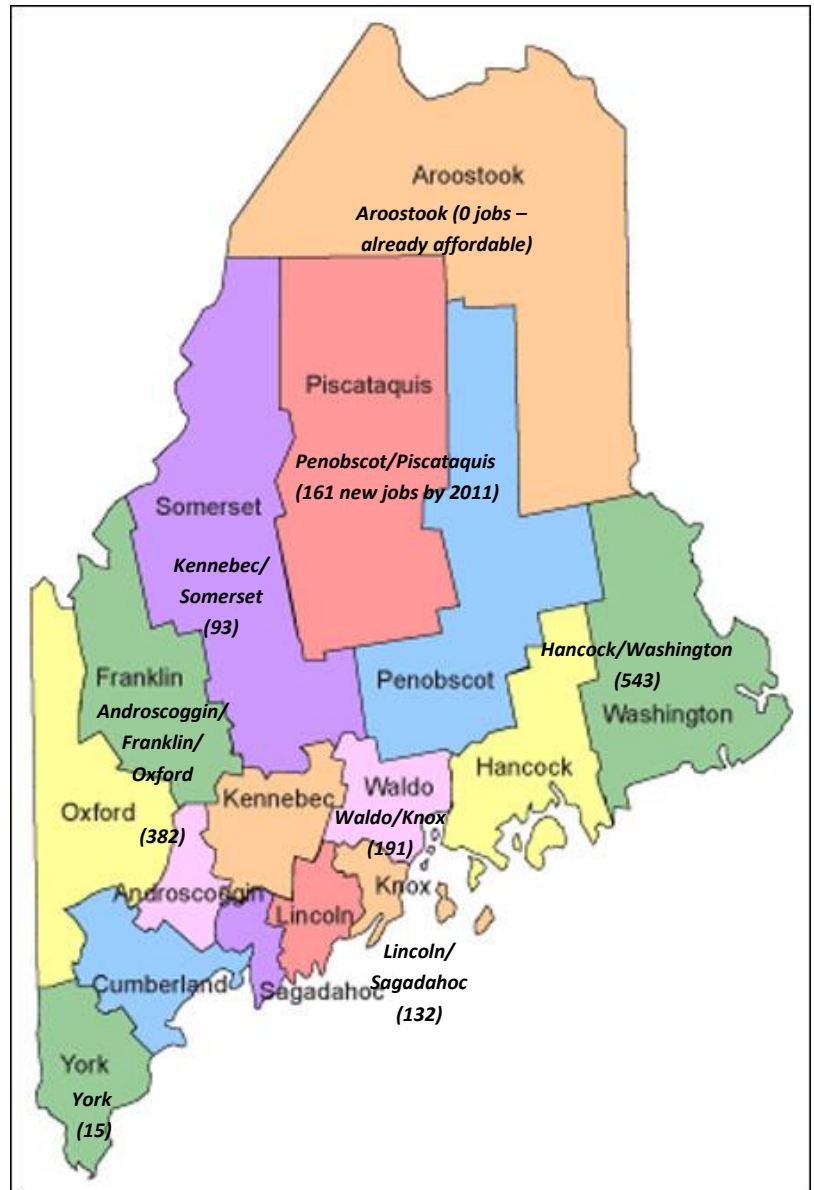
Augusta – June 21

Biddeford – June 22

Presque Isle – June 28

Bangor – June 29

To make your preferences known, please contact MaineHousing's Equal Access Coordinator, Louise Patenaude, at MaineHousing, 353 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04330-4633. Telephone (207) 626-4600 or 1-800-452-4668 (voice) or 1-800-452-4603 (TTY). For more information on the Consolidated Plan or the programs offered by Maine State Housing Authority, please visit their website at www.mainehousing.org.



2012 CDBG Program - Continued

MCDA recommendations on the allocation and budget for the 2012 CDBG program were as follows:

- ✓ ***Eliminate all set-asides, which include Home Repair Network, Critical Ramp Program, and Maine Downtown Center***
- ✓ ***Propose to move Home Repair Network and Critical Ramp Program budgets to the Housing Assistance Program***
- ✓ ***Propose to move Maine Downtown Center budget to Downtown Revitalization Program***
- ✓ ***Propose to remove restrictions regarding community's inability to compete annually***

Other discussions, with no action taken, included –

- ✓ ***Business Assistance program is cumbersome and recapture restrictions do not benefit communities. On a positive note, the program is a useful tool for many communities and should remain as is.***
- ✓ ***Non-Profit Development Grant program: It was decided not to eliminate this program, but allow OCD the flexibility to shift monies from this budget line item to another category if needed.***
- ✓ ***OCD staff commented about the effectiveness of the Community Planning Grant program, but MCDA members suggested that for such a small amount, it should remain as proposed.***



Central Maine Growth Council:

Founded in 2001, the Central Maine Growth Council is a public-private, non-profit partnership dedicated to the collaborative economic development for Central Maine, including the communities of Waterville, Winslow, Oakland and Fairfield. The Central Maine Growth Council (CMGC) was founded by Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce as a conduit for information and resources to businesses seeking to locate or expand in Central Maine. On July 6, 2011, CMGC hired Darryl Sterling as their new Executive Director. Mr. Sterling is a member of the MCDA Board of Directors and has spent the last 10 years as the Town of Richmond's Director of Economic and Community Development. He has in excess of 25 years experience in economic and community development. His skill sets/education/expertise include: marketing, public relations/administration, business and counseling. He has written and administered multiple CDBG/other grants and projects throughout Maine, New England and New York. Mr. Sterling has served on several boards and received the 2009 State of Maine DECD Governor's Award – CDBG Administrator of the Year. He



Efficiency Maine was established in 2002 by the State Legislature with goals of saving energy, reducing energy costs, helping and environment and promoting sustainable economic development in Maine. Efficiency Maine is funded through the system benefit charge included in electricity rates, the regional greenhouse gas initiative and federal



grants. On June 12, 2009, LD 1485 – An Act Regarding Maine’s Energy Future was signed into law and the Efficiency Maine Trust – a nine person board of directors – was created to administer energy efficiency. The Trust assumed responsibility for administering all non-transportation related energy efficiency programs for the State of Maine.

What is Efficiency Maine? Efficiency Maine has a variety of programs to promote the more efficient use of electricity. It offers information, incentives, training and technical assistance to a wide variety of groups, including residents, businesses, contractors, schools and others.

What are Efficiency Maine’s objectives? The five primary objectives are to:

1. Increase consumer awareness of cost-effective options for conserving energy.
2. Create more favorable market conditions for the increased use of efficient products and services.
3. Promote sustainable economic development and reduced environmental damage.
4. Reduce the price of electricity over time for all consumers by reducing demand for electricity during peak use periods.
5. Reduce the total energy costs for Maine electricity customers by increasing the efficiency with which electricity is consumed.

Are Efficiency Maine programs for businesses or individuals? Efficiency Maine has many different programs. Two of the most important are the Business Program, which is designed to help organizations (including municipalities, schools and other nonprofits); and the Residential Program designed for consumers.

What does Efficiency Maine do for Mainers? Efficiency Maine helps businesses and residents save energy, save money, and reduce pollution created by the generation of electricity. It provides incentives, technical assistance, professional training, educational curricula and other services.

Persons interested in learning more about Efficiency Maine, please join us at the MMA Convention on October 6, 2011 at the Augusta Civic Center. Mary Ann Hayes, Executive Director of Maine Rural Partners, and MCDA member has organized two sessions: Session 1: Municipal Partnerships with Efficiency Maine and Session 2: Energy Innovative. Panelists for the first session will provide information on PACE program for residents; municipal energy planning and efficiency investments; and municipal and business programs. Session 2 panelists include persons having knowledge of geothermal, solar pv, wood pellet furnace, natural gas, and transportation.

More on *Maine Rural Partners*

Maine Community Development Association is a sponsor of Maine Rural Partners. This non-profit organization was incorporated in 2003 for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of rural communities to secure quality of life. Maine Rural Partners recently completed a report entitled, *Realizing Maine’s Worth*, which reveals intergenerational investment opportunities and identifies steps to secure a vibrant future for each of Maine’s communities. The report outlines a scenario whereby all Mainers invest 5% of their estates in community endowment funds. Assuming that these endowment funds generate 5% returns, then by 2020 an additional \$74 million generated each year would be available for community economic development projects. You can access the full report at www.mainerural.org.

Riverfront Community Development Block Grant Projects

Roughly \$5 million in voter-approved bonds were divided among communities throughout the State of Maine for riverfront development projects. A total of \$652,000 of riverfront development funds matched \$2.5 million dollars in other public and private funding to create trails, provide public access and complete other riverfront projects. The towns of Fort Kent, Frenchville, Madawaska, Grand Isle and Van Buren have sought the means to realize the St. John River's recreational potential for fishing, canoeing, kayaking and other endeavors with varying degrees of success. Here was an opportunity for a unified regional effort that reflected the Valley's traditional cooperative spirit and the St. John Valley's importance to the region.



Town of Madawaska: Madawaska worked collaboratively with the Maine Department of Conservation office to provide funding to develop a boat landing on Town-owned land located near the community's Public Works Garage. The scope of the project consisted of a boat launch, public parking, amenities for an RV site, handicap accessible restrooms, proper signage and other related components. The concept is to expand on tourism using the St. John River by creating recreational facilities/activities and enforcing partnerships with area civic

organizations. Adding an RV site, pump station and restroom facility to the proposed boat landing, we'll create a more attractive riverfront access and host concerts and seasonal festivals featuring local musicians.

Town of Frenchville: The Town of Frenchville is also working in concert with Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W) to develop a public boat launch at an identified site approximately three miles from the Town's built-up district. The site consists of a concrete boat launch, picnic area, restroom facilities, public parking, signage and other features.



Town of Fort Kent: This granite monument replaces a wooden sign, which marks the beginning of U.S. Route 1 and ends 2,000 miles south in Key West, Florida. The monument features an American, Canadian, State and Acadian flags. The new monument was named America's First Mile. The America's First Mile logo will be used as a marketing tool to attract tourist to Fort Kent.



On the Move

Wade Hanson, Community Development Director, for the Town of Houlton recently announced his resignation. Wade's last day of work with the town is September 30th. Beginning in 2000, Wade served as the civic center director, then served as Code Enforcement Officer for 8 years before becoming the Community Development Director. Town Manager, Douglas Hazlett, cited grant writing skills, knowledge of the community and strong ability to work with people as Wade's outstanding qualities. On October 3, 2011, Wade will begin his new duties as the Economic Development Director for the Houlton Band of Maliseets. Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) is currently working on the economic development plan for the Maliseets.



In 2010, funding secured through the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) was matched with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) planning grant funds to develop and implement a tribal economic development plan.

Wade Hanson is also a member of MCDA and has served on the Board of Directors since 2009.

Retirements



For more than 25 years, Michael D. Baran, served as Project Development Director, Technical Assistance Director, and Director of the Office of Community Development. The announcement of his retirement in May, 2011 saddened many of his colleagues. Mike was a strong advocate of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, frequently updating members of the Maine Community Development Association (MCDA) of proposed legislation that would have an effect on the program. He was instrumental in assisting communities with their community and economic development projects throughout the State of Maine.

MCDA members knew Mike for his professionalism and wisdom of community development and housing activities and resources. He was also well known for his humor, particularly at CDBG Appreciation Day. We wish Mike the very best!

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

NETWORKING

What is a Networking List?

Membership

It is an e-mail networking list that permits you to:

- *Network with colleagues*
- *Quickly resolve problems and seek solutions*
- *Seek advice or answers and get responses quickly*

Actively participate in discussions or simply monitor news or developments

- *Stay involved with the organization*

How does it work?

Think of it as a bulk mailing system. You send out a message for your colleagues to read and/or respond to. All messages to the list are received by everyone on the list. Messages are posted in response to yours, and everyone on the list gets to see the answers. Participation is limited to current MCDA members. Messages to the group can only be sent or received at your subscribed e-mail address. Once you are subscribed to the list, to send a message to the listserv, simply send an e-mail to: MCDA-Networking@imail.memun.org.

How do I sign up?

The MCDA list is managed by the Resource Center at MMA. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list, contact the Resource Center. The Resource Center updates the list as members join the organization or change jobs or change their e-mail address. Members should contact the ResourceCenter@memun.org or 1-800-452-8786 if changes need to be made to your list information or if you are having problems using the list.

Maine Community Development Association

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

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

www.maineecda.org

MCDA Subcommittee Members:

Advocacy

Daniel LaPointe (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Ron Harriman
Al Smith
Jamie Francomano

Communications

Joella Theriault (Chair)
Mike Baran
Mary Walton
Ken Arndt

Finance

Ron Harriman (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development

Jim Gulnac (Chair)
Rodney Lynch
Steve Dyer
Wade Hanson
Mathew Eddy

Membership

Steve Dyer (Co-Chair)
Jim Gulnac (Co-Chair)
Suzie Paradis
Tony Levesque

Nomination

Al Smith (Chair)
Wade Hanson
Paul Bernier
Tony Levesque

2010-2011 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

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Town of Sanford
919 Main Street
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Term Expires: October, 2011

Vice President:

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Term Expires: October, 2011

Past President:

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Town of Fort Fairfield
18 Community Center Drive
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Term Expires: October, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS

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Term Expires: October, 2012

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Term Expires: October, 2011

