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Message from the President

President's Message on the State of the CDBG Program

Over the past several decades community and economic development directors, planners and consultants have effectively utilized the CDBG program to implement local infrastructure, facilities, downtown, housing and economic development plans. However, as the old Bob Dylan song goes, "The times they are a-changing". Probably the most important lesson learned from last spring's educational efforts by OCD, MCDA members and our Congressional Delegation to prevent drastic cuts in FY2011 CDBG funding is that we may have achieved a level of success in the short run but the writing is on the wall for continued CDBG funding cuts. MCDA and its members need to prepare themselves for this inevitability; which, many are already beginning to do. More specifically, municipalities are now viewing CDBG funds as part of a local project funding mix used in conjunction with MeDOT and Department of Conservation grants, municipal TIF revenues, Brownfields, state bond issues, private foundations such as the Maine Community Foundation, and state and Federal historic tax credits. About three years ago MCDA anticipated the current change in CDBG funding and sponsored two professional training sessions in conjunction with the 2009 Annual MMA Convention on alternative grant funding opportunities.

In summary, the MCDA through its listserve and through individual networking is available to assist members with information on alternative funding resources, and to help wean towns off their often almost total dependency on CDBG programs.

Rodney Lynch, AICP

President, MCDA

2011-2013

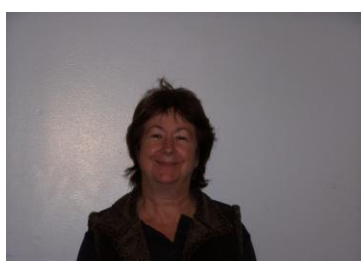
2011 MCDA Annual Meeting

The 2011 MCDA Annual Meeting was held at Margarita's Restaurant in Augusta on Thursday, October, 6, 2011. In attendance were 23 members who elected the 2011-2013 slate of officers. They are:

- President: Rodney Lynch
- Vice President: Darryl Sterling
- Treasurer: Ron Harriman
- Secretary: Joella R. Theriault
- At Large: Gail Chase
- At Large: Suzie Paradis



Suzie Paradis, MCDA Board Member
Town of Madawaska



Gail Chase, MCDA Board Member
Kennebec Valley Council of
Governments

2012 CDBG Proposed Program: The persistent budget cuts in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program continue to trouble community and economic development professionals. The Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) Office of Community Development (OCD) report an anticipated 10% decrease in the 2012 CDBG Program. OCD will be holding a public hearing on the 2012 CDBG Program in Augusta on October 14, 2011. More information on the 2012 CDBG Program can be found on Page 3.

COSCEA National Conference: Deborah Johnson, newly appointed OCD Director, attended the national Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCEA) conference in September, 2011 and reported on the conference's primary objective, which is the need for economic development. As a result, The 2012 CDBG Program will focus on four elements: due diligence, gap financing, underwriting, and public benefit.

OCD will be holding 2012 CDBG application workshops on November 8 at the DECD office in Augusta; November 9 at Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) in Bangor; and November 10 at Northern Maine Development

Commission (NMDC) in Caribou. The workshop application dates will be published to the OCD website and regional technical assistance providers were urged to contact their communities to make them aware of these dates.

MCDA Out-going President's Remarks: In conclusion of the annual meeting, Jim Gulnac presented his out-going President's remarks. Mr. Gulnac is the Economic Development Director for the Town of Sanford. His community is one of 23 communities currently participating in the Brownfields Program. He emphasized that each community in the State of Maine has an opportunity to participate in this program, and should, because it is a "doorway to funding". Funding opportunities are available under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs that can benefit a community's environment while providing economic development opportunities.

The State Planning Office (SPO) will no longer be an entity, which leaves an opportunity for community and economic development plans to be reviewed by the regional planning commissions and councils of government rather than by a state entity.

MCDA Past Presidents Awards: President Rodney Lynch presented the Past President's Plaque Awards to Jim Gulnac for his service as President from 2010 to 2011 and Tony Levesque for 2008 and 2009.



Pictured are Jim Gulnac of Sanford, Tony Levesque of Fort Fairfield, and MCDA President Rodney Lynch.

2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The proposed 2012 CDBG Budget is \$9,427,331 representing a 16% decrease from the 2011 budget. The distribution of funds are proposed as follows:

Program	Budget	Letter of Intent Due Date	Application Due Date
Administration	\$288,547		
Technical Assistance Administration	\$94,272		
Regional Council Technical Assistance	\$245,000		
Special Projects Matching Fund	\$24,512	N/A	N/A
Housing Assistance Grant	\$1,200,000	March 16, 2012	May 4, 2012
Home Repair Network Program	\$1,500,000		
Critical Access Ramp Program	\$200,000		
Public Infrastructure Grants	\$2,000,000	January 20, 2012	March 10, 2012
Public Facilities Grants	\$900,000	January 20, 2012	March 10, 2012
Public Service Grants	\$150,000	April 13, 2012	June 8, 2012
Downtown Revitalization Grants	\$500,000	February 10, 2012	March 30, 2012
Maine Downtown Center	\$175,000		
Community Planning	\$0	N/A	N/A
Urgent Need Grants	\$0	N/A	N/A
Economic Development Program			
-Business Assistance Grants	\$1,400,000	1 st Friday of Every Month	
-Community Enterprise Grants	\$750,000	February 10, 2012	March 30, 2012
Development Fund	\$0	1 st Friday of Every Month	
	\$9,427,331		

All CDBG funded activities must meet one of three National Objectives of the program. These objectives are: (v) benefit to low and moderate income (LMI) persons; (v) prevention and elimination of slum and blight conditions; and (v) meeting community development needs having a particular urgency.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT DECD



Deborah Johnson, Director
Office of Community Development

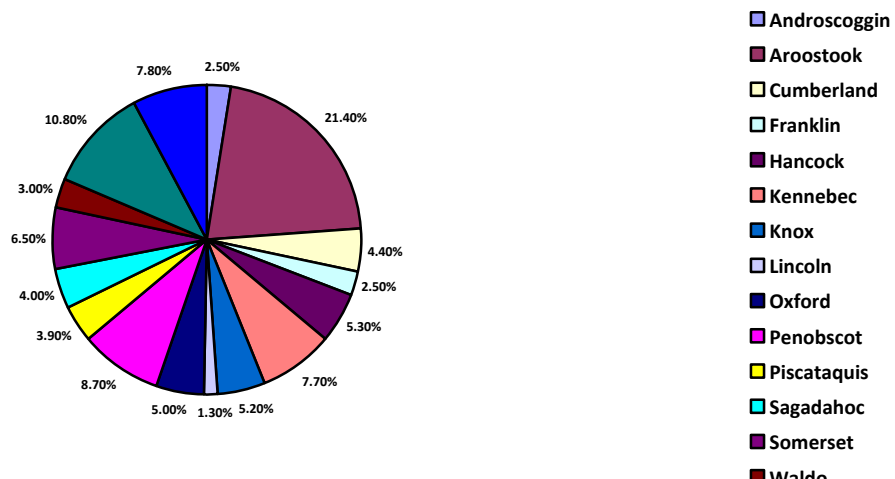
Deborah Johnson has worked at DECD as a Project Development Manager for the past 14 years and was recently appointed Director of the Office of Community Development. MCDA members congratulate Deborah on her appointment and look forward to working with her on the CDBG program. Commissioner George Gervais also announced two new appointments to DECD. Deb Neuman has been appointed Deputy Commissioner and Denise Garland appointed as Director of the Office of Business and Community Development. Ms. Neuman has 10 years experience as a small business owner and recently served on the Governor's Transition Team. Ms. Garland served as Associate Commissioner in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. She also worked in the Secretary of State's Office as Director of the Elections Division. Welcome to all new appointees!

What's New at HUD!

HUD, through its Office of Block Grant Assistance, provides video training modules on eight components of the CDBG Program. Community and Economic Development Directors, Local Officials, and other interested parties may be interested in viewing the HUD website at www.hud.gov. By clicking on the What's New section, you will access information on the CDBG Program, as well as the 2012 Income Limits, CDBG training modules, economic development webinars, etc.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD (Housing and Urban Development). The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to general units of local government and States.

In 1982, states were given an opportunity to administer their own CDBG non-entitlement programs. Since 1982, the state CDBG program has spent \$430,306,024 in 338 towns/cities/counties. The following provides a percentage of CDBG funds expended in each county.



As mentioned in the earlier paragraphs of this section, HUD offers CDBG training modules to help town officials, community and economic development professionals, and other interested persons. The modules are as follows:

- **Module 1:** Statute, Regulations and National Objectives
- **Module 2:** State CDBG Program
- **Module 3:** Administration, Planning, and Financial Management
- **Module 4:** Housing and Real Property
- **Module 5:** Public Facility, Public Service and Other Activities
- **Module 6:** Economic Development
- **Module 7:** Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program
- **Module 8:** IDIS, Performance Measurement and Reporting

State Planning Office

Last spring, an 11-member committee was formed and charged with developing a plan for deconstructing the State Planning Office (SPO). The recommended deconstruction of SPO transfers responsibilities to other departments as well as the elimination of the SPO Director's position. The following changes are recommended:

Responsibility	Transferred to
Code enforcement training and certification	Department of Economic and Community Development
Land use planning	Department of Conservation
Waste management and recycling	Department of Environmental Protection
Ownership of the State's landfills	Bureau of General Services
Land for Maine's Future	Department of Conservation Bureau of Geological Services and Natural Areas
Maine Coastal program	Department of Conservation
Flood Plain Management	Maine Emergency Management Agency
Maine Commission on Community Services	Department of Education
Office of Energy Independence and Security	Governor's Office
Economic and Demographic Analysis and Information	Office of Policy and Management
Office of Policy and Management	New office to be staffed by six employees. Purpose of this office is to conduct investigations of state agencies and to advise Governor on policy changes

Before any transfers of responsibility can be implemented, the Legislature will have an opportunity to review the plan and make amendments as it sees fit. It is anticipated that the deconstruction of the SPO will be complete before the end of the current fiscal year, which is June 30, 2012.

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Best and Worst States for Business

Forbes Magazine, for the second year in a row, has ranked Maine as the worse state for business. Forbes' ranks states based on six categories:

1. Costs (44th)
2. Labor Supply (28th)
3. Regulatory Environment (45th)
4. Current Economic Climate (42nd)
5. Growth Prospects (50th)
6. Quality of Life (17th)





City of Presque Isle



The City of Presque Isle was awarded three (3) grants in 2011. The following is a brief description of the projects the City is implementing.

Public Facilities Grant: A \$350,000 grant was secured for major renovations to Aroostook County Action Programs' (ACAP) Gouldville School Daycare Center on Parsons Street in Presque Isle. The funds are a pass-thru to ACAP for the purpose of repairing and renovating a former elementary school which is now a daycare center. ACAP contributed approximately \$96,000 of local matching funds for a total project estimate of \$445,000.

Public Services Grant: The City of Presque Isle, acting as an agent for the Aroostook County Action Program, also applied for and was successfully awarded a Public Services Grant to allow ACAP to establish a computer lab at their daycare Gouldville School Daycare Center located at 44 Parsons Street. CDBG funds were used to acquire computer equipment, furniture and software with which to establish a computer lab so that clients can use that equipment for daily educational activities at the center.

Community Planning Grant: A \$10,000 planning grant, which was combined with approximately \$12,500 in local cash funds were used to hire a collaborative of private transportation consultants and others with expertise in business development in downtown centers to analyze the traffic patterns in the city retail center in hopes of devising a traffic system that will increase pedestrian safety, while encouraging expanded access and development in the City downtown core.

Downtown Revitalization: The City is also implementing a downtown revitalization project. The project is overseen by a Downtown Revitalization Committee whose role is to encourage the community to preserve and reinvest in the economic, aesthetic and cultural future of the City by promoting viability and vitality of the downtown area by working closely with the City Manager and staff, City Council, and the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce. The committee is made up of nine members, four year terms, and meets monthly from March to December each second Wednesday of the month.

Highlights on a MCDA Member Community!

*(If you are interested in highlighting your community and learning more about MCDA, please join.
Details are listed on the following pages.)*

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

NETWORKING

What is a Networking List?

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
Wade Hanson
Noel Musson

Communications

Joella Theriault (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Mary Walton
Ken Arndt

Finance

Ron Harriman (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development

Darryl Sterling (Chair)
Jim Gulnac
Joella R. Theriault
Steve Dyer
Wade Hanson
Mathew Eddy
Noel Musson
Suzie Paradis

Membership

Steve Dyer (Chair)
Michael Bush
Suzie Paradis
Tony Levesque
Jonathan Edgerton

Nomination

Al Smith (Chair)
Wade Hanson
Paul Bernier

2011-2012 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

Rodney Lynch, AICP
Town of Thomaston
123 Summer Street
Rockland, ME 04841
(207) 594-7663

Term Expires: October, 2013

Vice President:

Darryl Sterling
Central Maine Growth Council
50 Elm Street
Waterville, ME 04901
(207) 680-7300

Term Expires: October, 2013

Treasurer:

Ron Harriman
Ron Harriman Associates
61 Main Street, Suite 62
Bangor, ME 04401
1-800-648-8335

Term Expires: October, 2012

Secretary:

Joella R. Theriault
Northern Maine Development Commission
11 West Main Street, Suite 104
Fort Kent, ME 04743
(207) 543-1802

Term Expires: October, 2012

Past President:

James Q. Gulnac, AICP
Town of Sanford
919 Main Street
Sanford, ME 04073
(207) 324-9150

Term Expires: October, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS

Wade Hanson

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
88 Bell Road
Littleton, ME 04730
(207) 532-4273 x 204

Term Expires: October, 2012

Gail Chase

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17 Main Street
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Term Expires: October, 2013

Steve Dyer

Ransom Environmental Consult.
400 Commercial Street, Suite 404
Portland, ME 04102
(207) 772-2891

Term Expires: October, 2012

Suzie Paradis

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

Term Expires: October, 2013

