



Maine Community Development Association

January-June 2021

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Maine Community Development Association

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The ARPA is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed and signed into law on March 11, 2021. Its purpose is to speed up the U.S.' recovery from the economic and health effects due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession.

The Plan provides direct relief to working families by -

- Providing \$1,400 per person checks to single family making less than \$75,000; Head of Household making less than \$112,500; and married families making less than \$150,000.
- Increasing the Child Tax Credit, Earned-Income Tax Credit and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. How it works:
 - For those without children, the Earned-Income Tax Credit will be increased from \$543 to \$1,502;
 - Those with children, increase the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per child for ages 6 and over and \$3,600 for under 6 and raise the age limit from 16 to 17;
- Extend the unemployment insurance until September 6 with a weekly supplemental benefit of \$300 on top of the regular \$400 benefit;
- Small business support provides emergency grants, lending, and investment to hard-hit small businesses; and
- Lower health insurance premiums and provide 100% federal COBRA subsidy through September 1 to ensure those who lose their jobs or have reduced hours don't lose their health care benefits.

In Maine, the ARPA funds are based on a formula grant application process requiring registration of your organization and submitting an application through the grant portal <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?url=MSL>. Applications are due by 11:45 p.m. on September 17, 2021.

The primary contact for questions is Janet.Mckenney@maine.gov; for VC#s, contact Kimberly.R.Clark@maine.gov; and questions on the application web portal and issues, contact Stephanie.Zurinski@maine.gov.

Correction noted by Janet McKenney: The Maine State Library received \$2,194,177. \$1,265,000 will go to fund statewide projects benefiting all libraries. \$700,000 will go directly to Maine public libraries via a formula grant. See [Formula Grants for Public Libraries](#). More information about ARAP funds for Maine Libraries is on [the Maine State Library ARPA webpage](#).

News from Around the State—

BIDDEFORD

City of Biddeford – The City was awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) under the Public Works Program to assist with the construction of roadway and utility improvements on Pearl Street. The EDA funding supports the economic revitalization of Biddeford's Downtown Mill District by providing improved access to the city's new parking garage and surrounding buildings. The project includes the reconstruction of approximately 900 l.f. of Pearl Street from the Lincoln Street intersection to the Saco River and Biddeford Riverwalk, including traffic calming bump outs, parallel parking space, pedestrian-friendly sidewalk, storm drainage, underground conduit for electric, telecommunications and internet lines and upgrading of approximately 465 l.f. of sewer lines.



City of Bangor – The City of Bangor and the Bangor Water Department awarded Eastwood Contractors Inc. of Brewer the \$1.7 million contract for the State and Hancock Streets Utility Improvements Project. The project scope includes approximately 1,000 l.f. of new sewer main along Hancock Street and approximately 300 l.f. of new sewer main on State Street. The project also includes approximately 1,245 l.f. of new water main, hydrants, and all appurtenances on State Street from Howard Street to Spruce Street.



Town of Madawaska – The Town of Madawaska was awarded a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant to continue working on its Downtown Revitalization Plan. The 2021 CDBG award will be matched with the Town's bond funds to demolish a retaining wall and building, site improvements (parking lot and access road), and utility upgrades (storm drainage, electrical, and water/sewer) at the former Kmart Plaza to accommodate the construction of a new state-of-the art health center. The Town is currently implementing a Façade Improvement Project on Main Street, a recreational trail development system, and is working with the Maine Department of Transportation on the international bridge replacement and new port of entry project.



Town of Fort Fairfield – The Fort Fairfield Utility District received four bids for the construction of Fort Fairfield's Wastewater Treatment Facility. The \$12.6 million project will be funded with grants and loans from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), USDA Rural Development and the Fort Fairfield Utility District. The project includes the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility, upgrades to two pump stations, access roads, and other associated improvements. The new facility replaces an aging and severely malfunctioning system constructed in the 1960s.



City of Lewiston – Lewiston's Tree Streets neighborhood is a working-class area that will get a transformational makeover with a \$30 million federal grant that is expected to leverage \$100 million in other development money. Lewiston has had a surge of downtown development in the past few years but has not reached some of Maine's most distressed housing stock and poorest residents. Lewiston's Tree Streets Neighborhood includes apartments owned by the Lewiston Housing Authority that some consider as "one step up from homelessness". A federal Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2018 paid for research and study of replacing the lead-contaminated crumbling housing. Over the next few years, 185 new housing units will be built in one of the state's poorest neighborhoods.



NMDC is requesting proposals for a Comprehensive Economic Resiliency Strategy Development for Aroostook and Washington Counties. Proposal requirements and more information on the RFP can be found at www.nmdc.org.

Jobs & Classifieds

City of Eastport – City Manager position. Please direct correspondence to: City of Eastport, City Council, Re: City Manager Search, 22 Washington Street, Eastport 04631. Position will remain open until filled or a candidate is found.

Town of Mechanic Falls – Town Manager position. Please submit application, résumé, professional experience and reference to: Town Manager Career, 108 Lewiston Street, Mechanic Falls, ME 04256. Letters of Interest and resumes are accepted until position is successfully filled.

Town of Monmouth – Economic Development Administrator to fill a new 20-hour per week position. Send cover letter, résumé, and 3 professional references to Linda Cohen, Town Manager at lcohen@monmouthme.org.

Town of St. Agatha – Town Manager position open. Visit the town's website at www.stagatha.com for more information. Apply by sending a cover letter, résumé, 3 professional references and 3-year salary history to: Town Manager Search, Town of St. Agatha, P.O. Box 110, St. Agatha, ME 04772. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found.

Kennebec Water District – Engineer. If interested, please send letter of interest and résumé to Jefferson Longfellow, P.E., Engineering Manager at jlongfellow@kennebecwater.org.

Town of Kennebunkport – Community Planner: Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, résumé, and town application to Human Resources, Town of Kennebunkport, P.O. Box 566, Kennebunkport, ME 04046 or apply online at <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/humanresources/pages/employment-opportunities> or submit an application to Yanina Nickless, Deputy Human Resource Coordinator at ynickless@kennebunkportme.gov.

Town of Millinocket – Town Manager position. To apply, submit cover letter, résumé, salary requirements and 5 references to Millinocket Town Manager Search, Eaton Peabody Consulting Group, Attn: Don Gerrish, 77 Sewall Street, Suite 3000, Augusta, ME 04330 or email dgerrish@eatonpeabody.com or call 207-622-9820. For more information go to www.millinocket.org.

Town of Winthrop– RFP for Norcross Point Redevelopment Plan. The town seeks a qualified, professional consultant or consultant team to assist in developing a Redevelopment Plan for Winthrop's Norcross Point and Beach. If interested, contact Jeff Kobrock, Town Manager, Town of Winthrop, 17 Highland Avenue, Winthrop, ME 04364 or 207-377-7200 x6003 or manager@winthropmaine.org.

Town of Gray – Community Planner – A complete job description is available on the town's website at www.graymaine.org. Send application with cover letter and résumé to Jonathan Hartt, Assistant to the Town Manager, 24 Main Street, Gray, ME 04039.

Town of Limestone – Town Manager: Submit letter of interest and résumé to tm@limestonemaine.org or by mail to Town Manager Search, Town of Limestone, 93 Main Street, Limestone, ME 04750. Position is open until desired candidate is found.

City of Gardiner – City Manager. The City is seeking an experienced, professional leader for its next City Manager. Send cover letter, résumé, salary requirements and 5 references electronically to Gardiner Manager Search, Eaton Peabody Consulting Group, Attn: Don Gerrish, 77 Sewall Street, Suite 3000, Augusta, ME 04330 or email dgerrish@eatonpeabody.com.

For more job listings, www.memun.org.

Funding Opportunities

USDA Programs:

- **Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG):** This program is designed to provide technical assistance and training for small businesses. Small means that the business has fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Transportation System applications are due June 30 and Coastal Areas Impacted by Wildfires applications due July 6.

See www.rd.usda.gov/program-services/rural-business-development-grants for more information.

- **Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program:** The program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. For more information, contact your local RD Office at www.rd.usda.gov/me.

- **Strategic Economic and Community Development:** Funding for this program is authorized through a Farm Bill provision that supports regional economic and community development planning. For more information contact Kristen.Grifka@usda.gov or Gregory.Batson@usda.gov.

- **Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program:** This program provides affordable funding to develop community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

Maine Community Foundation Programs:

- **Community Broadband:** The goal is to increase the number of Maine people, communities, and businesses that have access to high-speed internet service and the skills, opportunities, and knowledge to use this technology effectively. Maximum Award is \$15,000 and Application Deadline is August 2.
- **Conservation for All:** The program invests in organizations and projects that build strong connections between people in Maine and our land and water. Maximum Award is \$15,000 and Application Deadline is August 2.
- **Downeast Innovation Fund:** The Downeast Innovation supports nonprofit organizations that provide programs to support or increase entrepreneurship and innovation in Hancock and Washington Counties in Maine. Maximum Award is \$10,000 and Application Deadline is October 15.
- **The Leary Firefighters Foundation:** Jeremiah Lucey Grant Program funds equipment, education, training, and technology for firefighters nationwide. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Letters of Inquiry are due August 15 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2021.
- **TD Bank Group: TD Ready Challenge:** The grant program provides support to nonprofit organizations that develop innovative, impactful, and measurable solutions for a changing world. The 2021 theme focuses on addressing predicted learning loss in math and reading for disproportionately impacted students in Grades K-12 as a result of COVID-19. Grants range from \$325,000 to \$1 million and application deadline is August 26, 2021.
- **Medline Community Impact Grant Program:** The program supports nonprofit

organizations that address prevalent health challenges, stimulate health equity and improve population health in under-resourced areas. Grants up to \$25,000 are available and the application deadline is August 27, 2021.

- **USDA Rural Innovative Stronger Economy (RISE):** The program offers grant assistance to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters, and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas.
- **2021 Regional Forest Economy Partnership Program:** The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) released a press release announcing the 2021 Regional Forest Economy Partnership Program seeking applications for projects supporting forest-based businesses and research. The maximum award size is \$1 million and the minimum is \$250,000. Applicants have until September 10, 2021 to submit a Letter of Interest and applications (by invitation only) are due November 12. Award decisions will be made in January 2022. For more information and to access the application manual, please visit www.nbrc.gov.
- **2021 CDBG Awards**

Public Infrastructure	Amount Funded
Eastport	\$400,000
Limestone	\$990,000
Lubec	\$990,000
Stonington	\$990,000
Public Service	Amount Funded
Bath	\$50,000
Danforth	\$30,000
Downtown Revitalization	Amount Funded
Madawaska	\$300,000
Housing Assistance	Amount Funded
Belfast	\$500,000
Kennebunk	\$100,000
Poland	\$280,000
Wallagrass	\$175,000
Community Enterprise	Amount Funded
Belfast	\$100,000
Hallowell	\$50,000
Skowhegan	\$100,000
Van Buren	\$100,000
Economic Development	Amount Requested
Belfast	\$240,000
Caribou	\$120,000
Danforth	\$75,000
Fort Kent	\$60,000
Frenchville	\$60,000
Hodgdon	\$30,000
Houlton	\$250,000
Machias	\$180,000
Presque Isle	\$250,000
Skowhegan	\$270,000
Waldoboro	\$90,000
Winslow	\$210,000

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

LD 1733 – An Act to Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds is an emergency bill presented by Senator Breen of Cumberland. The bill dated June 3, 2021 is part of the ARPA distribution to states in response to the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 and to its negative economic effects. The \$983 million in federal funds sent to Maine through the American Rescue Plan Act will be used to make investments in workforce development, child care, health care, and infrastructure. The funding plan includes:

- Expanding access to child care and public preschool by creating a \$10 million grant program for child care providers to support efforts to renovate, expand or build new child care facilities to increase access to quality, affordable child care in Maine. The bill would also create a \$10 million grant program to expand the number of public Pre-K programs throughout the state.
- Opening up new economic recovery grants will have access to \$20 million to support businesses and organizations still struggling to rebound from the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to ensure no small business or organization falls through the gaps.
- LD 1733 establishes a new program within the Maine Bureau of Insurance to help small business owners afford small group health insurance as their business recovers from financial setbacks caused by the pandemic.
- An investment of \$21 million for the expansion of affordable broadband, with a focus on historically disadvantaged areas and populations will be provided to the Maine Connectivity Authority.

The Revitalization of Maine's Paper Industry

LD 1713 – An Act to Increase Workforce Skills for the Revitalization of Maine's Paper Industry through the Establishment of an Income Tax Credit for Paper Manufacturing Workforce Training would provide a tax credit to companies like Twin Rivers in Madawaska that maintain good-paying jobs and make significant capital investments to acquire, modernize or improve machinery before January 1, 2024 becomes law. The credit applies to companies that are not eligible for the New Market Tax Credit programs that currently exist.

Fairs and Festivals, 2021



The 74th Fort Fairfield Maine Potato Blossom Festival was held during the week of July 10 to 18, 2021. The well-attended festival included activities such as a BBQ Cook Off, Corn Hole Tournament, Town-wide Yard Sale, Maine Potato Queens, a parade of 100+ entries, and many more and ended with **Fireworks on Sunday Night**.

The 43rd Acadian Festival is scheduled for August 12-15 in Madawaska. Activities will include charlemagne tournament, merchant sidewalk sale, art expo, various contests, music and fireworks. A complete list of activities are posted at the St. John Valley Chamber website: <https://www.stjohnvalleychamber.org/43rd-annual-acadian-festival-schedule---list-of-sponsors.html>.

The 2021 Bangor State Fair is located at the Cross Insurance Center and scheduled for August 5-8, 2021. Events include demolition derby, truck/tractor pulls, Old McDonald Farm and many more events. For a complete listing, go to www.fairsandfestivals.net/states/ME.

Maine Development Foundation-Maine Downtown Center

MDF's Maine Downtown Center has just launched a new initiative, the Main Street Fellows AmeriCorps Program, which will place five Fellows in five Main Street Maine communities to help develop systems and strategies for a more resilient future. A central focus will be on increasing social capital, fostering more welcoming and equitable communities, and sharing new mindsets and models needed for communities to thrive. Our inaugural team of Main Street Fellows will apply their considerable skills and talents to provide Biddeford, Gardiner, Rockland, and Skowhegan, as well as several other MDC member communities with a collective 8,500 hours of support to help develop systems and strategies for a more resilient future. The Fellows are serving as a part of Maine's robust network of AmeriCorps volunteers. Check out this link [HERE](#) to read more about the Main Street Fellows.

Upcoming Events

July 29, 2021	Maine Housing Webinar on Action Plan	Contact Paula Weber at 626-4600
August 6, 2021	MCDA General Meeting	In-Person Meeting (See Flyer Below)
August 13, 2021	Maine Housing – Substantial Amendment to the Annual Action Plan for 2021	Public Hearing at MaineHousing
September 30-October 1	85 th Annual MMA Convention	Augusta Civic Center
September 30	MCDA Annual Meeting	TBD



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

BBQ

 **Maine Community Development Association**

Celebrating Resilience & Determination of CDBG & Northern Border Projects

Friday, August 6, 2021
11:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Gardiner Elks Club (148 Cobbossee Ave.)

AGENDA

11:00 - Registration/Social/Networking
 12:00 - Welcome/Lunch
 1:00 - Office of Community Development Presentation - Deborah Johnson

- * 2022 Program Statement
- * Current Year Programs
- * ARPA Guidance Topics

We will pick 3 CDBG Projects and 2 Northern Border Projects to be showcased at the event. Please submit your project to tdejsardins@gardinermaine.com by July

For an accurate head count, please **RSVP** to tdejsardins@gardinermaine.com by 12:00 p.m., **Friday, July 23**





MaineHousing
MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

**STATE OF MAINE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND DRAFT AVAILABILITY
RECOVERY HOUSING PLAN**

The Maine State Housing Authority is drafting a Recovery Housing Plan (RHP) and encourages citizens to comment.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the State of Maine to publish a Recovery Housing Plan. The Plan outlines the use of the HUD Recovery Housing funds in the state. This program was allocated \$951,000 of FY 2020 funding. The RHP is authorized under Section 8071 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act and is a pilot program.

The draft Recovery Housing Plan is available on the Internet at www.mainehousing.org/policy-research/federal-funds.

MaineHousing will hold a public hearing to gather comments on the draft Recovery Housing Plan on August 3, 2021 at 2:15 pm (or immediately following the conclusion of the public hearing on the 2021 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment) at Maine State Housing Authority, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine. To listen or testify virtually, please contact Paula Weber no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 29, 2021, at MaineHousing, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330; (207) 626-4600 (voice); 1-800-452-4668 (voice in-state only); 711 (Maine Relay); or via e-mail: pweber@mainehousing.org.

Oral comments may be presented at the hearing. Written comments may be submitted via email to pweber@mainehousing.org or by mail to the attention of Paula Weber, Compliance Officer, MaineHousing, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine, 04330 no later than 5:00 pm Tuesday, August 10, 2021.



MaineHousing
26 Edison Drive
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 626-4600 • (800) 452-4668 • Maine Relay 711

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. Beginning in December, general membership and executive committee meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month. 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 via the MCDA website.

Benefits to Becoming an MCDA Member –

MCDA Funding Opportunities
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. If interested in serving on one of the following committees, please signify by checking the subcommittee of choice on your membership application.

- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Membership
- ✓ Officer/Executive Committee

DID YOU KNOW!!!

On This Date in History –

July 20, 1969 – Neil Armstrong was the first human to walk on the moon. The moon is 240,000 miles from earth. His words were – “*That’s one small step for man, one giant Leap for mankind.*”

July 20, 2021 – Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder, blasted to the edge of space at about 9:12 a.m., traveled 62 miles in the Blue Origin and touched down at 9:22 a.m.

Maine Solar System Model

The Maine Solar System Model includes the Sun, nine planets, seven moons, and three Dwarf planets. The system extends from Topsfield and follows U.S. Route 1 through The communities of Danforth, Houlton, Littleton, and Mars Hill to the University Of Maine at Presque Isle. The scale for the Solar system model is one mile on Route 1 To the astronomical unit (AU), which is The distance of that planet from the sun.

All of the planets, except Pluto can be seen From the road. Visit the planet’s website at www.pages.umpi.edu/nmms/solar.



Maine Community Development Association

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

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

www.maineccda.org

MCDA Subcommittee Members:

Advocacy
Vacant (Chair)
Tony Levesque

Communications
Joella R. Theriault (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Stephen Dyer
Darryl Sterling

Finance
Mathew Eddy (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development
Scott LaFlamme (Chair)
Jennifer Peters
Tony Levesque
Linda Smith
Cary Tyson

Membership
Tony Levesque (Interim Chair)

Nomination
Tony Levesque (Chair)

2020-2021 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

		Term Expiration October, 2021
President:	Tracey Desjardins City of Gardiner 6 Church Street Gardiner, ME 04345 (207) 582-4200	
Vice President:	Scott LaFlamme Town of Yarmouth 200 Main Street Yarmouth, ME 04096 (207) 846-2401 Ext. 227	October, 2021
Treasurer:	Mathew Eddy City of Biddeford P.O. Box 586 Biddeford, ME 04005 (207) 282-7119	October, 2021
Secretary:	Joella R. Theriault Northern Maine Development Commission P.O. Box 779 Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 551-5812	October, 2021
Immediate Past President:	Stephen Dyer Ransom Environmental Consulting 400 Commercial Street, Suite 404 Portland, ME 04102 (207) 772-2891	October, 2021

Board Members

Darryl Sterling Economic Development Consultant 11 Corliss Street Bath, ME 04530 (207) 807-9062	October, 2021
Cary Tyson Portland Downtown 549 Congress Street Portland, ME 04101 (207) 772-6828	October, 2021
Nancy Ketch Town of Houlton 21 Water Street Houlton, ME 04730 (207) 521-5938	October, 2022
Jennifer Peters Sunrise County Economic Council 7 Ames Way Machias, ME 04654 (207) 255-0983	October, 2022