

**TESTIMONY OF MATT DUNLAP, CIA
MAINE STATE AUDITOR**

***LD 258, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and
Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending
June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025***

Senator Rotundo and Representative Sachs, Senator Nangle and Representative Stover and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and Local Government, my name is Matt Dunlap of Old Town, and I have the high honor and distinct privilege of serving as State Auditor. I am here to present several sections of the biennial budget and to answer any question about those sections as they pertain to the Office of the State Auditor.

First, I believe some context is in order which I hope will assist the committees in their deliberations. The Office of the State Auditor was formally established in law in 1907; while our duties have changed somewhat over the last 116 years, our core mission has not. The premise is simple; we examine and test transactions conducted by state agencies to reasonably assure that those programs are expending resources according to the criteria set forth in law. As a former policymaker, I note that it's an activity that seldom attracts much attention, but in terms of our commitment to support the work of state agencies in maintaining efficient processes and in complying with legal guidelines attached to the use of Federal and state appropriations, allocations and allotments, the importance of the functions of this office cannot be over-emphasized. The Office is currently auditing 18 Federal programs totaling approximately 89% percent of the \$5.7 billion in Federal financial assistance expended by the State in fiscal year 2022. Our partners in state government in general and our fellow citizens in particular are well-served by the expert and committed staff at the Office of the State Auditor, and I am very proud to work with them.

In concert with the Executive, we are pleased to offer you the opportunity to modestly enhance our effectiveness. The initiatives for the Office of the State Auditor begin on **page A-125 of the budget document**.

C-A-12 – The first initiative provides continued and additional funding for the transition of auditing workpapers from a paper process to electronic workpapers. This initiative provides funding for the Audit Bureau Special Revenue Fund for All Other technology services and STACAP as part of operational needs for electronic auditing work papers including 25 initial software licenses and renewal of 30 licenses, as well as technology costs for OIT personal services to develop servers to roll out software. This all other request is funded from Other Special Revenues at **\$73,153** in FY 2024 and **\$69,446** in FY 2025.

C-A-13 – The second initiative provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology. MaineIT provides the Office of the State Auditor with desktop support, telecommunications including telephone and email services, and support for new technology implementation through internal service transactions. This all other request is funded from the General Fund at **\$12,164** in FY 2024 and at **\$11,623** in 2025, and from Other Special Revenues at **\$3,782** in FY 2024 and at **\$5,960** in 2025.

C-A-6 - The third initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager II Job Classification Code MA32 (our working title is Audit Manager) to a Public Service Manager III Job Classification Code MA34 (with the working title State Audit Director). It was proposed at the time of budget submission, but has since been approved and included in the supplemental budget request for FY 2023, and should be budgeted at Step 7 and Step 8 in the 2024-25 biennium. This personal services request is funded from Other Special Revenues at **\$6,592** for FY 2024 and **\$12,110** for FY 2025.

C-A-7 - The fourth initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Executive II (Deputy State Auditor), Job Classification Code EA35 to a PSE II Job Classification Code EA 37 within the same Job Specification. This was approved and included in the supplemental budget request for FY 2023, and should be budgeted at Step 7 in FY 2024 and Step 8 in FY 2025. This personal services request is funded from the General Fund at **\$8,240** for FY 2024 and **\$14,548** FY 2025.

C-A-8 - The fifth initiative provides funding for the approved employee-initiated reclassification of one Secretary Specialist Job Classification Code 6586 to a Public Service Coordinator I Job Classification Code CA23. Therefore, we request that it be funded with a retroactive effective date of 09/07/2021 and should be budgeted at Step 4 and 5 for FY 2024 and 2025. This personal services request is funded from the General Fund at **\$6,520** for FY 2024, and at **\$8,378** for FY 2025.

C-A-5 - The sixth initiative continues funding for the approved reorganization of one Senior Auditor Job Classification Code 0773 to a Principal Auditor Job Classification Code 0339. The Senior Auditor position was reorganized to a Principal Auditor with an approval date of 08/12/2022. This was included in the supplement budget request for FY 2023 and should be budgeted at Step 7 and Step 8 in the 2024-2025 biennium. This personal services request is funded from Other Special Revenues at **\$15,809** for FY 2024 and **\$20,456** for FY 2025.

C-A-11 - The seventh initiative provides funding for the proposed reorganization of one Public Service Manager II Job Classification Code MA32 (our working title is Audit Manager) to a Public Service Manager III Job Classification Code MA34 (with the working title Audit Director—Human Resources and Administration) with a proposed effective date of 09/01/2022 and therefore should be budgeted at Step 7 and Step 8 in the 2024-25 biennium. This personal services request is funded from the General Fund in the amount of **\$9,354** in FY 2024 and **\$12,112** FY 2025.

By fund, the total initiatives from the Office of the State Auditor from the General Fund are **\$36,278** in 2024 and **\$46,661** in 2025, and from Other Special Revenues are **\$99,336** in 2024 and **\$107,972** in 2025.

This concludes my testimony. At the pleasure of the chair, I am happy to answer any questions of the committees, now, at the work session, or at any time in between. Thank you.



MAINE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 263 • 254 ALEXANDER REED RD
RICHMOND, ME 04357
PHONE: 207-737-4092 • FAX: 207-737-7150
E-MAIL: MRWA@MAINERWA.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.MAINERWA.ORG

To: Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and Honorable Members of the Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and Local Government

From: Bradley Sawyer, Deputy Director

Date: February 17, 2023

Re: Testimony in Support of L.D 258, Section 0699, Maine Municipal Bond Bank – Maine Rural Water Association

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and Honorable Members of the Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and Local Government, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Brad Sawyer, and I am the Deputy Director for the **Maine Rural Water Association**.

The Maine Rural Water Association is a **member driven non-profit organization** that specializes in **training and technical assistance for water and wastewater utilities**. Our membership spans roughly 300 systems from some of the largest utilities in the state with thousands of water and sewer connections to some of the smallest, with customers in the tens and increasing trepidation about the future.

The **federal Safe Drinking Water Act** requires the same **regulatory compliance** of the largest water utility in the state, such as the Portland Water District, as it does of the smallest: the mobile home parks, schools, and businesses. Unlike our largest utilities, these small public water systems are not in the business of selling water and our technical assistance is necessary to safeguard public health and maintain compliance. Similarly, publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities in small towns are economically disadvantaged compared to larger municipalities when complying with the federal Clean Water Act. With increasing regulation from both federal and state governments some of these utilities find it difficult to keep up to date with the latest requirement.

Maine Rural Water receives a **General Fund Appropriation** which is administered by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. This is a **pass-through grant** that allows us to provide various types of technical assistance to individual water and wastewater utilities. This money allows us to help these systems regardless of membership status in our organization. At a time when small utilities are struggling, we ask that you not pull this lifeline away from them. When people our industry and your communities need help, we help them. This allocation, while a drop in the bucket of the entire budget, is critical to water and wastewater utilities when they are looking for help with grant writing, management and merger questions, compliance and financial issues, training, record retention, annual reviews, and anything else that comes with running a water and wastewater utility in Maine.

While training and technical assistance make up a majority of this funding it is also used to assist the utility community with industry studies that provide valuable data for the operation of each system. In 2022 this funding was used at a geographically diverse set of utilities and public water systems. Some places where this funding made a difference last year are the:

- Baileyville Utilities District
- Belgrade Water District
- Bethel Sewer Department

Bingham Water District
Bowdoinham Water District
Camden Wastewater Treatment Plant
Cedar Haven Mobile Home Park
Danforth Water District
Diamond Cove Water
East Vassalboro Water Company
Farmington Village Water
Freeport Sewer District
Great Salt Bay Sanitary District
Guilford-Sangerville Water District
Gardiner Water District
Hallowell Water District
Howard's Mobile Home Park
Jay Water District
Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells Water District
Limestone Water and Sewer District
Lincoln Water District
Livermore Falls Water District
Morrill Village
North Berwick Water District
New Portland Water District
Paris Utilities District
Searsport Wastewater Treatment Plant
Wilton Water District
Wiscasset Sewer Department

I am happy to answer any questions you may have now or if you have any questions or concerns after this hearing, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at Bradley.Sawyer@MaineRWA.org or 207-737-9014.



Permanent Commission RACIAL, INDIGENOUS & TRIBAL POPULATIONS

Testimony of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations

LD 258 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"

February 17, 2023

Senator Rotundo, Senator Nangle, Representative Sachs, Representative Stover, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and Local Government:

My name is Morgan Pottle Urquhart, and I am the acting Policy and Communications Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations. We extend deep gratitude to Representative Melanie Sachs for introducing this bill on behalf of Governor Mills.

Whether we're Black, brown, or white; Indigenous or newly arrived immigrants, we all want our families to thrive, our dreams to be possible, and our communities to be vibrant and prosperous. But depending on who you are or where you live, not everyone has the same opportunities for many of the things we consider the basics of a fair and just society: health care when we need it, a safe place to call home, reliable transportation, honest work for a fair wage, and a feeling of connection and hope for the future.

Disparities are not limited to those based on race, however. A full analysis of quality-of-life outcomes must also include disparities that white Mainers experience. The same structural factors that drive the racial disparities in our state hurt all of us. The opportunity before us is to repair those systemic and structural flaws and improve the lives of all Maine people.

In 2019, the Maine Legislature took an important step in this direction by establishing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, and Governor Janet Mills signed the Permanent Commission into law. In 2021, Maine made a historic investment in the Permanent Commission's work by allocating funds for staff to begin building the agency and pursuing its mission through research, community engagement, and policy advising.

The Permanent Commission is currently allocated five full-time staff positions; they are an Executive Director, Community Engagement Director, Operations Director, Research Director, and a Policy Associate. An additional contracted staff member is working as Policy and Communications Director. The Permanent Commission's request in Governor Mills' budget includes creating a new staff position for a Communications Director and reclassifying the Policy Associate position to reflect staffing needs.

The Permanent Commission's streamlined staffing structure recognizes its broad scope of work and the importance of leveraging the energy and enthusiasm in our communities to tackle difficult challenges with a collaborative and innovative spirit that reflects Maine's finest traditions. In this model, staff are responsible for coordinating and providing direction for projects that often include a robust network of businesses, service agencies, and community-led organizations in order to deliver the best possible results.

We respectfully urge you to support this request in the Biennial Budget. We could not do this critical and urgent work without the support of these committees, the Legislature and Governor. We are committed to working together across race and place so all of us can thrive and nothing stands in the way of us providing a great life for all Maine people and families.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional information.

Introduction

to the

**PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
RACIAL, INDIGENOUS, AND TRIBAL POPULATIONS**

Report to the
131st Legislature



**Permanent
Commission**
RACIAL, INDIGENOUS
& TRIBAL POPULATIONS

FEBRUARY 2023

I. History and Structure of the Permanent Commission

ABOUT THE PERMANENT COMMISSION

Whether we're Black, brown, or white; Indigenous or newly arrived immigrants, we all want our families to thrive, our dreams to be possible, and our communities to be vibrant and prosperous. But depending on who you are or where you live, not everyone has the same opportunities for many of the things we consider the basics of a fair and just society: health care when we need it, a safe place to call home, reliable transportation, honest work for a fair wage, and a feeling of connection and hope for the future.

Our systems and structures don't work the same for everyone, and investments in our communities too often exacerbate disparities. Your age, your skin color, your hometown, your health - these can all determine whether doors of opportunity are open or closed to you. Now imagine what our communities would look like if Maine's systems and infrastructure worked for everyone. Coming together to hear each other, learn from one another, acknowledge problems, and fix what's broken, we can make sure nothing stands in the way of living a good life – the way it should be – for all Maine families.

Structural racism is a driving force behind many of the disparities we can see all around us. Black Mainers are nearly nine times as likely to be incarcerated as white Mainers.¹ Maine's tribal populations are treated like municipalities rather than the sovereign nations that they are and have been since time immemorial. Racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations typically experience unemployment and poverty at twice the rate of white Mainers.² Structural disparities are not limited to those based on race, however. A full analysis of quality-of-life outcomes must include disparities that white Mainers experience. The same structural factors that drive the racial disparities in our state hurt all of us, including families in rural Maine, whose kids are nearly twice as likely to experience poverty than the rest of the state.³

For far too long, Maine and the nation have allowed the institutions and racism that dictate these disparate outcomes to continue. We have addressed fragments of the problem, but it's critical to evaluate the ways in which all systems and structures can be adapted to prevent future generations from confronting the same inequities. Government has a key role to play.

In 2019, the Maine Legislature took an important step in this direction by establishing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, and Governor Janet Mills signed the Permanent Commission into law. The independent entity has a mission to examine racial disparities across all systems and to specifically work at improving the status and outcomes for historically disadvantaged racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations in the state. The Permanent Commission is empowered by statute to advise and consult with all three branches of state government, as well as submit legislation.

¹ State data compiled by the Sentencing Project. Retrieved January 2023 from: <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

² Myall, James. Data on racial inequality shows need for solutions to advance racial justice. (June 2019). Maine Center for Economic Policy. Retrieved February 20, 2022 from: <https://www.meccep.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/MECEP-racial-inequality-fact-sheet-FINAL.pdf>

³ Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count Data Center, Children in poverty by county, 2005 — 2021 in Maine. Retrieved January 19, 2023. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/map/1562-children-in-poverty-by-county-2005-2020?loc=21&locr=5#5/any/true/false/574/any/3331/Orange/>

In 2021, the Maine Legislature made a historic investment in the Permanent Commission's work by allocating funds for staff to begin building the agency and pursuing its mission through research, community engagement, and policy advising.

Occupying a unique position in state government, the Permanent Commission represents a broad cross section of people most impacted by racial harm and colonization who have been excluded from policy making throughout Maine's history. The Commission's primary role is to identify and help eliminate systemic injustices embedded in the state's infrastructure, policies, and practices. Through its work, the Commission gives voice to the lived experience of impacted communities, promotes evidence-informed models for eliminating demographic and geographic disparities, and advances a vision of Maine where everyone, without exception, has the opportunity to live a good life and pursue their dreams.

FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE

Since the creation of the Permanent Commission, staff, Commissioners, and contracted content experts have worked collaboratively to establish the Permanent Commission as an entity within state government, and, at the same time, to carry out the work assigned to it by the Legislature. This required a delicate balance between building the Commission as an entity within state government while developing research, programming, community engagement opportunities, and other work. This has been and will continue to be a positive challenge. It speaks directly to the need for continued capacity-building support in order to fulfill the critically important mission of the Permanent Commission and build an accessible and sustainable entity.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2022, the Permanent Commission conducted an analysis of its functions and structure. Four main categories of work, aligned with the duties and powers assigned to the Permanent Commission by statute, emerged during this process. At that time, the committee structure was not matched to these areas. As a result of this evaluation process, the Permanent Commission revised its committee structure to facilitate collaboration between commissioners, staff, and contracted content experts to support all areas of its work (see Fig. 1).

Under the new structure, as approved in the Permanent Commission's bylaws in January 2023, each area of work now has a committee of jurisdiction and will have a staff member if the current budget request is included in the biennial budget.

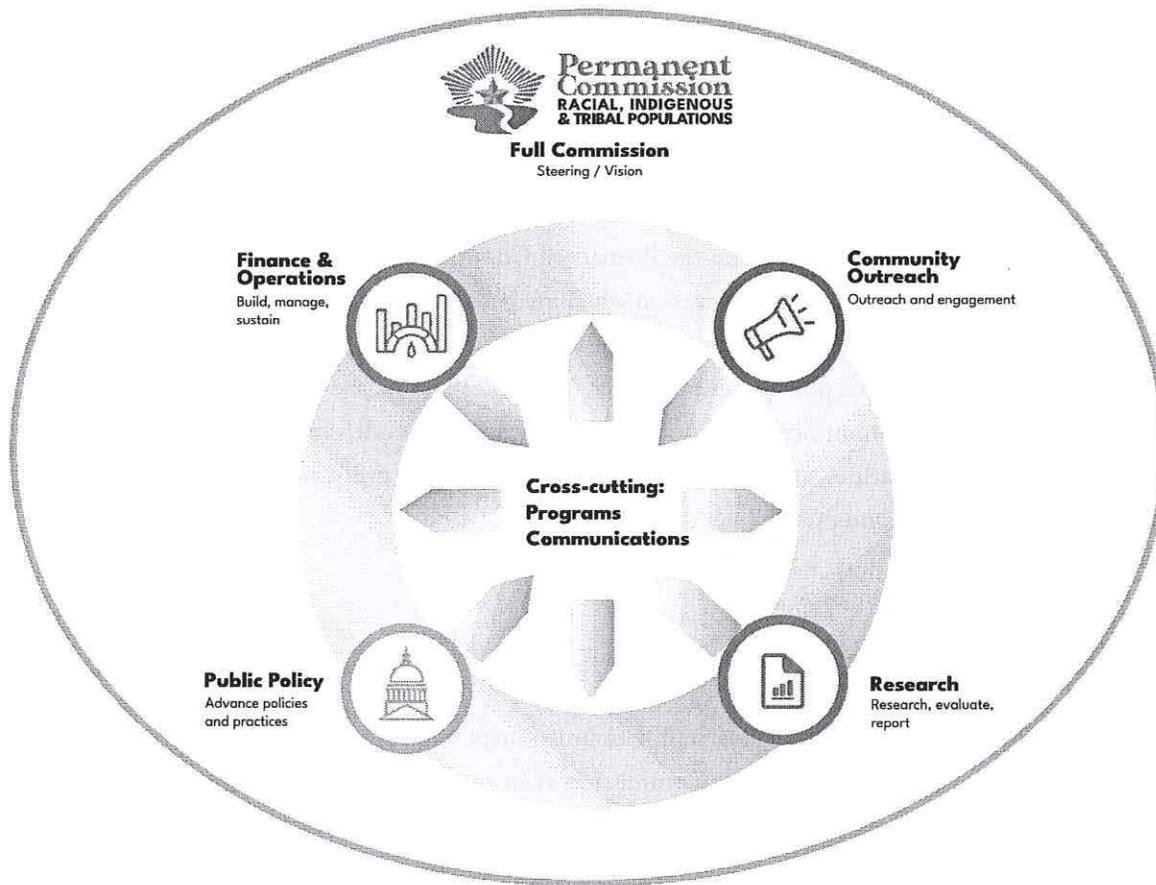


Fig. 1

Research:

- Carries out research on the status of historically disadvantaged racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations.

Community Engagement:

- Conducts public hearings, conferences, workshops, and other meetings to obtain information about, discuss, and publicize the needs of and solutions to the problems faced by historically disadvantaged racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations.

Policy:

- Has the power to submit legislation to improve opportunities and eliminate disparities for historically disadvantaged racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations.
- Advise and consult with the Governor, Legislature, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and other officials of the state and federal government with respect to policies, programs, and other activities relating to historically disadvantaged racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations.

Finance & Operations:

- Manages a new government entity, building appropriate, integrated systems that allow for the work of the Permanent Commission to operate smoothly and effectively.
- Reports to the Governor and Legislature concerning the work and interests of the commission.

Staff Positions

The Permanent Commission is currently allocated five full-time staff positions that align with the restructured committees; they are an Executive Director, Community Engagement Director, Operations Director, Research Director, and a Policy Associate. Two of those five positions (Operations and Community Engagement) are currently filled by individuals operating in an “acting” capacity. The Permanent Commission is working with the Bureau of Human Resources to hire an Executive Director. The hiring process for a Research Director will begin in the coming weeks. An additional contracted staff member is working as Policy and Communications Director. The Permanent Commission’s budget request in Governor Mills’ budget includes creating a new staff position for a Communications Director and reclassifying the Policy Associate position to reflect staffing needs.

The Permanent Commission’s staffing structure recognizes its broad scope of work and the importance of leveraging the energy and enthusiasm in our communities to tackle difficult challenges with a collaborative and innovative spirit that is the Maine tradition. In this model, staff are responsible for coordinating and providing direction for projects that often include a robust network of businesses, service agencies, and community-led organizations in order to deliver the best possible results for this important work.

II. Policy Priorities and Guiding Principles

TEN CORE CATEGORIES OF DISPARITY

In the summer of 2020, the Permanent Commission embarked on an unprecedented process, collaborating with 55 state legislators across party lines, to assess legislation pending in the 129th Maine Legislature for possible impacts on racial disparities. Through that process, the Permanent Commission identified ten core categories of disparity on which to focus.

These categories are:

- **Basic Needs** - Every Mainer deserves healthy food, economic security, and the opportunity to succeed. Unfortunately, not all communities receive the same access to the basic needs that allow them a fair chance at success. This is evident through the consistently higher poverty rates for most racial, Indigenous, and tribal communities as compared with the state overall.
- **Basic Rights** - All people deserve equal protection under the law and equal support from their government. Protections for people of every background must be included in our most foundational laws in order to influence all policies.
- **Criminal Justice** - There is extensive evidence showing that Black people are treated more harshly at every phase in the criminal justice system. We/They are more likely to be stopped by police, searched, ticketed, arrested, charged, and convicted, and when convicted, face longer sentences.⁴

⁴ State data compiled by the Sentencing Project. The Sentencing Project. Retrieved May 17, 2019 from: <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

- **Education** - Data about Maine schools suggests students of different races have very different experiences with public education. For example, Black students are 2.4 times more likely to be suspended than white students in Maine schools, while white students are 1.6 times more likely to be enrolled in AP classes.⁵ Structural challenges such as families' access to resources as well as the practices and policies of schools may contribute to these disparities.
- **Employment and Workers' Rights** - Discrimination by individual employers, as well as unfair treatment in the education system, holds back opportunities for racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations even when we/they attend college.⁶ This places a disproportionate number of racial, Indigenous, and tribal people in low-income jobs that lack adequate protections in the workplace and benefits.
- **Health Care** - Structural racism is deeply ingrained in our health care system, leading to inferior care and worse health outcomes for impacted communities. Even for individuals of the racial, Indigenous, and tribal population who have access to health care, we/they still have vastly different experiences than white people. Lack of access to comprehensive health care that can help prevent or manage chronic diseases.^{7, 8}
- **Housing and Homelessness** - Discrimination in housing based on race was legal in this country as late as the 1960s, and there have been many documented examples of illegal discrimination since. One can easily see the effects of this in the shape of cities and towns across the country today. It is no surprise then that only one in four Black Mainers are homeowners as compared with three-quarters of white Mainers. Affordable and acceptable rental housing is more difficult to obtain for racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations in the state. Those with housing report a lack of basic housing necessities, such as proper facilities or space, at a higher rate than people who are white.⁹ In addition, Mainers who represent the racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations experience homelessness at a greater rate than those who are white. This disparity is most pronounced for Black people, who represent 19% of those who are homeless while only consisting of 1% of the state's total population.¹⁰

⁵ Eads, David. Miseducation: Is there Racial Inequality at Your School? (October 2018). Retrieved May 17, 2019 from: <https://projects.propublica.org/miseducation/>

⁶ Myall, James. Data on racial inequality shows need for solutions to advance racial justice. (June 2019). Maine Center for Economic Policy. Retrieved June 15, 2020 from: <https://www.mecp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/MECEP-racial-inequality-fact-sheet-FINAL.pdf>

⁷ Race, Racism and Health. (July 2020). Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Retrieved August 20, 2020 from: www.rwjf.org/en/library/collections/racism-and-health.html.

⁸ Maxwell, Connor. Coronavirus Compounds Inequality and Endangers Communities of Color. (March 2020). Center for American Progress. Retrieved August 20, 2020 from:

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2020/03/27/482337/coronavirus-compounds-inequalityendangers-communities-color/>

⁹ State of Maine Consolidated Plan. (November 2019). Maine State Housing Authority and Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. Retrieved August 20, 2020 from:

https://www.mainehousing.org/docs/default-source/policy-research/federal-funds/2020-2024-consolidated-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=19978e15_4

¹⁰ Homeless Statistics: State Fiscal Year 2018. (July 2018). Maine State Housing Authority. Retrieved August 27, 2020 from:

https://www.mainehousing.org/docs/default-source/housing-reports/2017-2018-state-fiscal-year-homeless-statistics.pdf?sfvrsn=eb32bd15_4

- **Juvenile Justice** - The current system and use of juvenile detention centers undoubtedly places those incarcerated at a societal and economic disadvantage upon reentry.¹¹ While the number of juveniles who are incarcerated nationwide has dropped significantly, racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations are overrepresented in the juvenile prison system as they find themselves facing charges, being unable to post bail and being convicted more often than our/their white counterparts.¹¹ In addition, Black children are far more likely to be tried as an adult for the same crime as white children.¹²
- **Tribal Sovereignty** - The state of Maine has proven reluctant to meet the needs of the tribes, whose lands the state now rests upon, but it also simultaneously has repressed the ability for the tribes to be self-governing at the same level as tribes in other parts of the nation. The state's recognition of the inherent and sacred sovereignty of the tribes, which has been in place thousands of years prior to European settlement, would enable the tribes to act in the best interest of our/their people, and therefore help address the issues, many of which are mentioned throughout this section, that stem from the oppression and discrimination that we/they incur from the state and nation.
- **Wealth and Income** - Despite there being equal employment and opportunity laws in place to prevent economically driven racial disparities, people who represent the racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations are shown to consistently earn less, regardless of gender, than our/their white counterparts.¹³ This wage parity is due to various forms of discrimination that exist in many workplaces. Ultimately, this leads to racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations experiencing lower rates of employment and pay in comparison to those who are white.¹⁶

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In addition to the ten core categories of disparity, the 2020 report also outlined seven guiding principles for addressing structural racism through lawmaking.

- **Building awareness takes resources.** We know that there are many gaps in the data that is collected, analyzed, and made publicly available in Maine. State agencies will need a mandate and more resources to adequately measure and track disparities, and to partner with impacted communities in building trust and ensuring that the data collected is secure and collected in partnership with impacted populations. **LD 1610 allocated resources to establish data governance in Maine.*

¹¹ Holman, B. and Ziedenberg, J. The Dangers of Detention: The Impact of Incarcerating Youth in Detention and Other Secure Facilities. (2006). Retrieved August 20, 2020 from http://www.vjja.org/Resources/Publications/Dangers_of_Detention_Justice_Policy_Institute_2006.pdf

¹² Sawyer, Wendy. Youth Confinement: The Whole Pie 2019. (December 2019). Prison Policy Initiative. Retrieved August 20, 2020 from: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/youth2019.html>

¹³ Gray, Megan. Secretive police unit gathers information on Maine citizens, commissioner tells lawmakers. (June 2020). Portland Press Herald. Retrieved Sept. 3, 2020 from: <https://www.pressherald.com/2020/06/24/maine-police-unit-gathers-information-on-citizens-commissioner-says/>

- **Awareness alone is not enough.** Building awareness of the disparities is a first and important step, but awareness alone is not enough. Action needs to be taken to address their causes alongside a long-term commitment to learning, investigating, and, most importantly, listening to impacted communities.
- **Financial and human resources must be allocated.** Much of what is needed to reverse the effects of racism requires resources. We urge legislators to resist falling into a mentality of scarcity and austerity if doing so means delaying the changes that are needed. While the state's resources are limited, there is wealth here, and it falls disproportionately along racial lines. Much of that wealth has direct or indirect historical roots in racist institutions, laws, policies, and practices, such as slavery, Jim Crow, separate but unequal, segregation, redlining, predatory lending, discrimination, and more. If we as a state aim to reverse the centuries-long effects of racism, the Legislature must support and advocate for the allocation of financial and human resources for this purpose. To do otherwise would artificially limit what is possible and potentially prohibit any real progress on these issues.
- **Policies that are 'race-neutral' will ultimately maintain existing disparities.** Disparate impacts require disparate solutions. It also requires an examination of the impact of our laws and systems.
- **An adequate response requires a structural analysis.** Specific bills and policies may help provide relief in the short-term, but they generally are embedded in and reactive to the racist structures in our current systems. We need to re-examine those systems and how they intersect.
- **Developing solutions should be led by impacted communities.** We strongly believe that the right solutions will come from the communities most impacted by structural racism. This should go beyond policymakers seeking input and partnership with individuals from historically disadvantaged racial, Indigenous, and tribal populations. A significant part of the structural change that is needed to finally begin to reverse racial disparities includes representation within those entities with decision-making power over our State's laws.
- **Policies that affect tribal nations in Maine must be enacted in a government-to-government relationship that honors and respects sovereignty.** The Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseets, and Mi'kmaq Nation have lived in the region we now call Maine for millennia. Our/Their sovereignty long predates the State of Maine. However, as a result of the structural racism of European settlers, the State of Maine and the Federal government, we/they have had our/their sovereignty and ability to control our/their own lives severely limited. Since the implementation of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act, Maine's state government has treated tribes as if we/they were municipalities rather than the sovereign nations that we/they are. To move forward in a more constructive manner, legislators must work in partnership with tribal representatives when crafting legislation that will impact our/their communities.

III. Accomplishments and Goals

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Permanent Commission is grateful for our mission to examine the racial disparities across Maine, and to work toward improving the status and outcomes for those who have been harmed by structural racism. Among the accomplishments of the Permanent Commission are:

- 2020 Report to the Legislature, outlining policy priorities and guiding principles for addressing structural racism in lawmaking;
- Planned and hosted two public forums. The first was a remote meeting with more than 300 people registered to attend this forum from all 16 of Maine’s counties; the second was an in-person community listening session in Bangor;
- Established the Permanent Commission as an entity within Maine state government;
- Advised the Maine Legislature by submitting testimony on more than 30 bills in the second session of the 130th Legislature;
- Formed advisory subcommittees for entities within the Executive Branch who sought input from the Commission;
- Submitted reports to the Legislature on prenatal and maternal health disparities, on racial disparities in land access, and published a report on the history of tribal-state relations;
- Hosted Maine’s first celebration of a new holiday, James Weldon Johnson Day;
- Established an advisory committee to identify offensive place names in Maine, craft a uniform renaming process, and recommend any additional changes to statute;
- Developed a new committee structure that reflects the work and anticipated needs of the Permanent Commission into the future;
- Developed a model for community engagement that fosters trust and collaboration between the Commission and the populations and communities it serves.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Ongoing Projects

There are several ongoing areas of work that you can expect to hear more about from the Permanent Commission in the coming months. Among them are:

- **Community Listening Sessions** - The Permanent Commission hosted its first community listening session in Bangor on December 19, 2022. This was the first in a planned series of events that will provide an opportunity for the Permanent Commission to hear directly from impacted populations related to disparities caused by structural racism in Maine. These listening sessions are part of the Permanent Commission’s goal to build the capacity of overburdened communities to identify issues

that affect their communities and participate in, influence, and take on leadership roles in related decision-making processes.

- **Long-Range Strategic Planning** - The development and growth of the Permanent Commission as an integrated department of state government is now well underway. As such, the Commission will embark on its first long-range strategic planning effort in 2023, which will result in a blueprint for its work over the next 3-5 years. With support from governance and planning consultants, the Commission will develop goals and measurable objectives to guide its work to improve the systems and structures that hold Maine people back from achieving their dreams and reaching their full potential.
- **LD 2, "An Act To Require The Inclusion Of Racial Impact Statements In The Legislative Process"** - The Permanent Commission submitted recommendations regarding the extended pilot of Racial Impact Statements and will continue to collaborate with the Legislature in their implementation.
- **LD 1226, "Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations To Examine Restorative Justice"** - The Permanent Commission will submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary in early 2023.
- **LD 1441, "An Act To Create a James Weldon Johnson Annual Observance Day and an Observance Task Force"** -The first celebration of James Weldon Johnson Day in 2022 was a success and planning for the 2023 celebration is underway.
- **LD 1610, "An Act To Promote Equity In Policy Making By Enhancing The State's Ability To Collect, Analyze And Apply Data"** - The Permanent Commission is working with the Bureau of Human Resources to hire a Research Director who will collaborate with other state partners to implement data governance.
- **LD 1934, "Resolve, Changing the Identifying and Reporting Responsibilities and Extending the Reporting Deadline for the Identification of Places in the State with Offensive Names"** - Contracted content experts have formed an advisory board and are currently hosting programs and developing recommendations. An additional report is expected later this year.

THANK YOU!



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER

39 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0039

www.maine.gov/treasurer

HENRY E.M. BECK, ESQ
State Treasurer

GREGORY OLSON
Deputy State Treasurer

TO: Senator Peggy Rotundo
Representative Melanie Sachs
Senator Tim Nangle
Representative Holly Stover
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

FROM: Henry Beck, State Treasurer

DATE: February 17, 2023

RE: L.D. 258 An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"

Good morning, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and Local Government. My name is Henry Beck, and I am the State Treasurer. I am here today to testify in support of the fiscal year 2024-2025 biennial budget bill, LD258. Thank you for this opportunity to come before you today to discuss the Office of the Treasurer's Administration budget, which are outlined on pages **A-635**, **A-636** and **A-637**. We are proposing four initiatives.

Position Reclassification: This initiative would fund the reclassification of one Office Associate II range 13 position to an Office Specialist I range 16. This is in recognition of the increased tasks and responsibilities of this role and will align work functions to the appropriate classification. Funding for this reclassification is included in the FY22-FY23 supplemental budget.

Holder position: This initiative is for a new position to oversee holder compliance within our Unclaimed Property (UP) Division. This new position would be dedicated specifically to working with entities in possession of unclaimed property of another (referred to as "holders") required to comply with Maine's Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (RUUPA). After speaking with UP administrators around the country and with UP auditors in the private sector, we believe as many 30-40% of holders do not comply with RUUPA because of a lack of awareness of the law, confusion, and sometimes, intentional nonadherence. This new position will conduct outreach to property holders, assist in good-faith compliance, and manage any necessary audits conducted as a last resort. We conservatively estimate that increased compliance made possible by a new FTE will generate as much as **an additional \$5 million in UP transfers to the GF** over the previous FY in the first year of the new biennium.

This new holder position will help resolve operational backlogs affecting the Unclaimed Property Division's ability to fully assist the public. We have backlogs in scanning of documentation and have been behind in

inventorying safe deposit box contents from banks. Treasury has been unable to hold an auction of safe deposit box contents since the 2000's, and we are running out of space our secure storage facility. A new holder position will be sufficient to meaningfully address these delayed tasks.

Staff accountant position: This initiative is for an additional accounting position in Treasury to increase our ability to provide electronic payment services to State agencies and ensure financial reconciliations are accurate and timely.

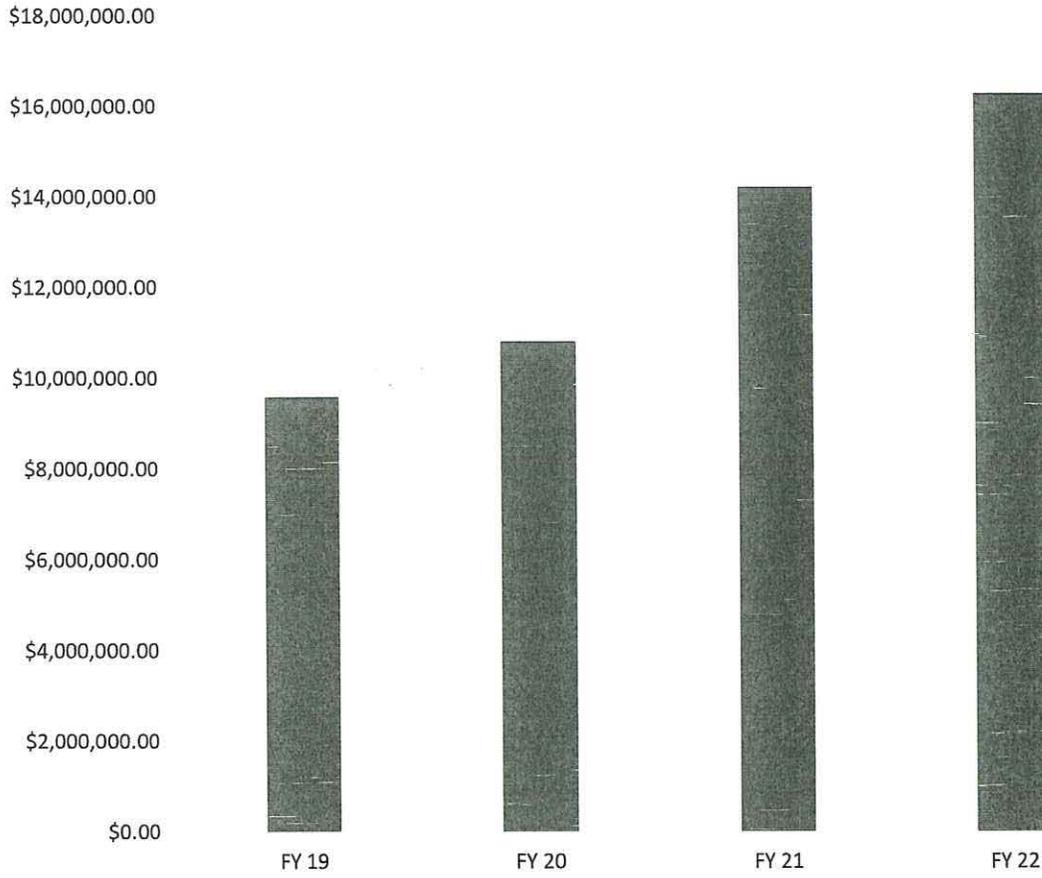
Many state agencies request on behalf of their customers for ACH (automated clearing house) services from Treasury and the accounting team. Given the development of payment systems over the past decades these requests are reasonable, but unfortunately, not realistic given today's staffing levels at Treasury and the needed requirements of the state's accounting and cash management systems. We currently offer ACH services for federal agencies only, and limited one-time payments from other customers and vendors. ACH payments often arrive without necessary details necessary to properly reconcile and credit agency accounts – leading to increased workloads, and agencies potentially missing out on intended revenues. A lack of capacity in our staff team can lead to situations where payments are not cleared in a timely manner. Delays can lead to agencies missing out on interest earnings and transfers not being recorded accurately. A new staff accountant will help expand dependable and accurate ACH services throughout all of state government and avoid delays of all manner of payments.

Additionally, the state's accounting and financial management system has grown increasingly complex, with more accounts and more payments - requiring more need for all manners of account reconciliation. This need has stretched the capabilities of our current accounting staff – and sometimes resulting in delays. When bank reconciliations are not current and outstanding (O/S) items are not cleared in a timely manner, revenues are not properly accounted in the accounting system and accounts where these O/S items should be posted are missing out on interest earnings. Additionally, revenues and expenditures can be over/understated until items are properly posted – resulting in additional burdens on respective departments.

Unclaimed Property Program Increase: The final initiative calls for a 5% increase in the Unclaimed Property Program budget. This increase reflects the ongoing growth in costs for technology used in the assisting the finding of property holders and dormant accounts of Mainers. This includes for subscriptions to services like that provide sophisticated data matching and unclaimed property auditing and recovery firms. Our investments have shown significant growth in the properties recovered by our office. Over the last biennium we have increase on our long-term average of \$25M per year recovered to \$31M in FY2021 and \$34M in FY2022. We believe these investments will continue to grow both the property recovered and the property returned to Mainers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present before you today. We hope you agree on the need to support these important initiatives. I would eager to provide answers to any of your questions here or at the work session.

UP Transfers to General Fund



**TESTIMONY OF HANNAH PINGREE, DIRECTOR
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION & THE FUTURE**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs,
and the Joint Standing Committee on State & Local Government**

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund
and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing
Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State
Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024
and June 30, 2025.”**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Nangle and Representative Stover and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Hannah Pingree, and I am the Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. I am here today to testify in favor of LD 258, the Biennial Budget.

This budget advances Governor Mills' guiding belief that to build a stronger, more prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, then we must invest in the infrastructure that supports the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why this budget proposal strengthens the very things that Maine people rely on every day to succeed, building on the strong success of the currently enacted budget and the last legislative session to tackle Maine's greatest challenges. We have governed cautiously and in a fiscally prudent way over the past four years, making sure that – even in the hardest of times during the pandemic – we lived within our means. This budget proposal continues that practice.

For the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), the biennial budget presented to you today includes continued staffing and funding for our office to support the range of policy and coordination projects we manage, as well as three new funding initiatives. The most significant initiative provides an increase in funding to the state's new Community Resilience Partnership program which provides grants and technical support for Maine's municipal and tribal governments.

OFFICE OVERVIEW

The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) was created by Governor Mills in 2019 to foster collaboration and innovative solutions to help solve Maine's most important long-term challenges. The office replaced the former Office of Policy and Management and retained funding and staff positions from both that office and the former State Planning Office, which was dissolved in the previous administration.

The Office manages broad cross-agency policy development, coordination, and implementation projects, as assigned by statute and the Governor. GOPIF also works closely with municipal, tribal,

and regional governments to ensure that state and federal programs are benefiting Maine's communities, with a significant focus on leveraging federal opportunities currently available. Staff work closely with stakeholders and leaders across the state in a variety of policy areas.

The Office's current areas of policy coordination, project support and leadership include:

- **Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan (MJRP) and related MJRP Workforce Cabinet Coordination**, in partnership with the Department of Administration and Financial Services, Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Department of Labor;
- **Maine Climate Council and the coordination of the Maine Won't Wait, Four-Year State Climate Plan**, including the Community Resilience Partnership Program, and other related climate and energy planning in collaboration with the Governor's Energy Office, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and other relevant state, local, private and public agencies and organizations;
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Coordinating Committee** and Working Groups;
- **Maine Children's Cabinet** and the Early Childhood Advisory Council, in close collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, which chairs the cabinet;
- The newly launched **Cabinet on Aging** together with co-chairs from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor;
- **Director of Opioid Response** and related coordination planning for response, recovery, and prevention programs;
- **Housing & Community Development Policy**;
- Coordination for the "**Ending Hunger by 2030**" plan, as directed by the Legislature;
- And **targeted support for economic development, workforce and innovation projects** including coordination of the Governor's Economy Recovery Committee, service on the MTI board, the 10-year economic plan, and other tasks as directed by the Governor and in close partnership with DECD.

I have included a short power point presentation deck with an overview of GOPIF's current projects and relevant websites, and current staffing. I will not review the presentation at this time but we are happy to answer questions about our specific initiatives anytime.

Our office's website is maine.gov/future and it includes links to our relevant projects, public meetings, reports, and current staff. The office has 13 permanent, general funded positions, plus one special revenue position, and we currently have several limited period and temporary positions associated with management of the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan and to support climate programs, including grant-writing support for competitive applications for federal infrastructure opportunities for state and local projects.

Two new positions were added to GOPIF since FY 21-22, taking the total number of general funded positions from 11 to 13 FTEs, including a new position to coordinate the work of the new Cabinet on Aging and a new position to coordinate the “Plan to End Hunger by 2030”, as directed by LD 174, passed by the 130th legislature.

I will briefly provide an overview of our budget, as is described on pages 289 – 290 of the budget documents, and I will highlight the three new budget initiatives for our office.

The current total general funded biennial budget for our office for FY 2022-23 is \$4,891,520 and this budget provides a total of \$5,394,632 and \$5,444,049 for FY 23-24 and FY 25-26 from the general fund.

Of this total, approximately \$3M is provided in each year of the proposed budget in the “all other” line, providing for an \$1.25M increase in funding for the Community Resilience Partnership program over the last biennial budget, and a \$3M increase over the baseline budget over the two years of the biennium. The Community Resilience Partnership program utilizes all of this program funding to provide direct grants to communities to support locally determined energy efficiency and clean energy projects, infrastructure planning, and other climate actions, and additionally provides grants to support service providers who provide technical support to communities as they navigate this work.

The remaining funds in the GOPIF budget provide for personal services and for all other for all the initiatives of the office, including the work of the Maine Climate Council, the Children’s Cabinet, and the Cabinet on Aging.

The budget includes an allocation of federal funds and an allocation for other special revenue funds – should either of these funds be made available through federal or private sources. In the past, GOPIF has received private philanthropic and federal grant funding to support climate programs and staff, and other related office activities, including the re-start of the Maine Children’s Cabinet programs. The budget also includes ARPA fiscal recovery funds (American Rescue Plan Act) for all-other to support limited period staff and associated program activities related to Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan Coordination.

This budget includes three new initiatives for GOPIF.

The first initiative provides an allocation for other special revenue funds for the Maine Climate Council, including an allocation of \$261,546 in FY 23-24 and \$260,508 in FY 24-25. Over the past four years, we have received funds from entities such as the Maine Community Foundation, to supplement the work of the climate council and to provide early seed funding for council programs – including a pilot version of the Community Resilience Partnership program.

The second initiative reflects the funding needed to support the rate increases from MaineIT, including \$25,633 in FY 23-24 and the same in FY 24-25.

The third initiative provides for additional Community Resilience Partnership program funding, as detailed above, and provides for one new public service coordinator position (PS II) to coordinate the work of this program. This position would serve as the only staff person dedicated fully to this program.

MORE ON THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Community Resilience Partnership provides grants and directs support to municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories across Maine to help them address local priorities for reducing carbon emissions, transitioning to clean energy and improving energy efficiency, and becoming more resilient to the climate change impacts such as extreme weather, flooding, sea level rise, public health impacts and more. While many of the actions have emission reduction and climate benefits, they are also contributing to savings for taxpayers, improving the quality and comfort of public buildings, and protecting public safety and health. This program implements several key recommendations from Maine's current four-year climate action plan including "empowering local and regional resilience efforts".

In addition to direct grants to communities, the Community Resilience Partnership also awards grants to service providers to help municipalities identify climate priorities, enroll in the program, and apply for funding. The program provides a larger grant award for communities who work together with surrounding municipalities and the program is providing extra support for smaller, rural and underserved communities who lack paid planning staff.

The program was established through the last biennial budget and received a \$4.75M allocation for the two-year period. In the first biennium, the program awarded \$4.65M during two grant rounds, including 74 grants to communities totaling \$3.71M and 24 grants to service providers to assist 82 communities to get started with climate resilience and planning. There are currently 131 communities enrolled in or in the process of enrolling in the program through service provider grants.

I have attached the first annual report of the Community Resilience Partnership, and, as you will read, the program and its grants are spurring diverse actions to promote energy efficiency, clean energy projects, and essential planning for infrastructure needs for our cities and towns, and tribal governments. These grants are also supporting the development of key shovel-ready projects that will enhance municipal applications for current and upcoming federal grant opportunities, especially from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

From Dover-Foxcroft to Paris to St. George, communities across Maine are engaging their citizens and are making plans for diverse and locally important actions. Here is a small sample of those activities:

Dover-Foxcroft – The Town of Dover-Foxcroft is using a \$50,000 grant to develop an emergency sheltering plan for vulnerable residents, especially seniors, during extreme heat and cold weather. The town's plan includes identifying potential warming and cooling shelters and planning needed improvements, conducting public outreach, and developing an extreme temperatures emergency communications plan for the community.

Paris – The Town of Paris will use a \$41,695 grant to install 144kW solar array on the roof of the police station. This system will have the option to integrate battery storage in the future to ensure the police station remains operational during power outages, which increases its resiliency and eliminates costs and emissions associated with a gas-powered generator. The town will also contract with energy consultants to assess the suitability of the fire station for solar, batteries, heat pumps, and required weatherization.

St. George – The Town of St. George has received a \$49,600 grant to conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical community infrastructure to effects to climate change. This assessment will gauge the exposure of town infrastructure to climate hazards, and how these hazards may evolve over time; how susceptible vulnerable town infrastructure is to damage or failure, based on design, location, age, and current condition; and the consequents to the community if that infrastructure is either becomes impaired or fails.

We are heartened to see local leaders engaging deeply in this work, and we know that these projects and planning efforts will have long term impacts that benefit citizens across our state, including reduced emissions, energy savings, and better planning for emergency management and infrastructure needs.

This concludes my testimony for the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. Thank you to both committees for your attention and for your commitment to this important process.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION & THE FUTURE (GOPIF)

- **GOPIF Mission, Scope, and Staff**
- **Highlights from our work**
 - Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan
 - Workforce Policy & Coordination
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
 - Maine Children's Cabinet
 - Cabinet on Aging
 - Opioid Response
 - Housing Policy & Coordination
 - Climate & Energy Policy and Programs
 - Plan To End Hunger by 2030

ABOUT GOPIF:

The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future (GOPIF) was created by Governor Janet Mills in 2019. The Governor said:

"I am following the advice of writer Kurt Vonnegut, who said 'Every government ought to have a Department of the Future.' And so my administration will create an Office of Innovation and the Future. This office will dive into major policy challenges, foster collaboration and propose concrete, workable solutions."

GOPIF's Mission: To foster collaboration and innovative solutions to help solve Maine's most important long-term challenges.

GOPIF AREAS OF STATE COORDINATION & POLICY

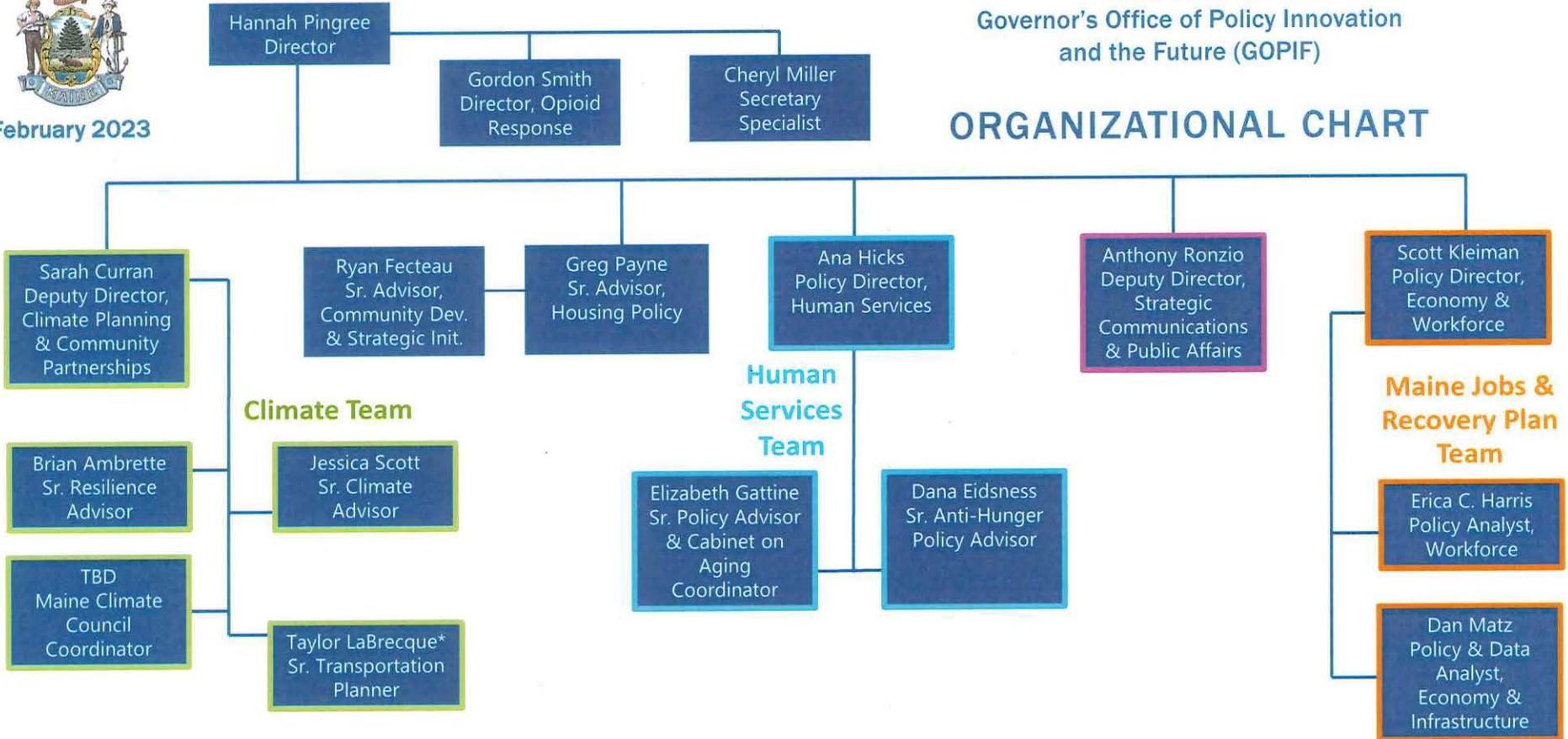
- **Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan (MJRP) & MJRP Workforce Cabinet Coordination** and targeted support for economic and innovation planning
- **Climate Policy:** Maine Climate Council and the *Maine Won't Wait* Plan, and the new Community Resilience Partnership Program for Maine municipalities and tribes
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Coordinating Committee and Working Groups**
(Resilience, Broadband, Federal Justice40 compliance, Workforce)
- **Maine Children's Cabinet** and Early Childhood Advisory Council
- **Cabinet on Aging**
- **Director of Opioid Response** & Strategic Response Plan Coordination
- **State Housing Policy & Coordination**
- **Cross-Cabinet Projects & Communications:** State COVID response websites, Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan coordination, and coordination of the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee
- **New:** Coordination of the "**Ending Hunger by 2030 Plan**" (as directed by the Legislature)



February 2023

State of Maine
Governor's Office of Policy Innovation
and the Future (GOPIF)

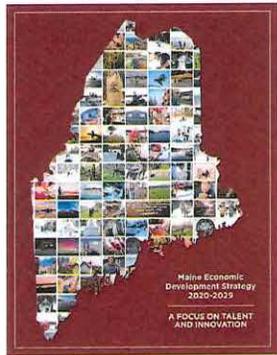
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



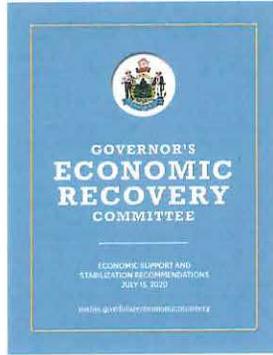
*50% GOPIF time,
FTE paid by DOT

MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN

2019
Maine's 10-Year Economic Strategy



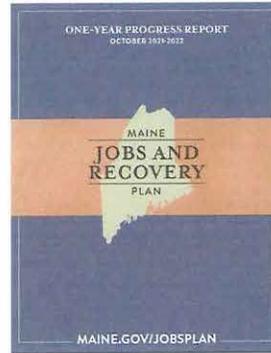
2020
Governor's Economic Recovery Committee



2021
Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan (LD 1733)



2022
MJRP 1-Year Progress Report



MAINE.GOV/JOBSPLAN



MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN AT 12 MONTHS

MAKING AN IMPACT FOR MAINE

DIRECT ECONOMIC RELIEF TO NEARLY **1,000 SMALL BUSINESSES**



Health Insurance Relief



Mitigating Unemployment Tax Increases



Economic Recovery Grants

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR **22,000 MAINE PEOPLE**



Job Training



Apprenticeships



Credential Attainment



Experiential Learning

100+ INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO CREATE JOBS AND REVITALIZE MAINE



Drinking Water



Wastewater



Climate + Energy Efficiency



Early Education + Childcare



Affordable Housing

MAINE.GOV/JOBSPAN/DASHBOARD



Jobs Plan Investment Dashboard

Jobs Plan Investment Dashboard

(Updated 1/11/2023)



JOBS AND RECOVERY



Jobs Plan Near You



Filter by Program



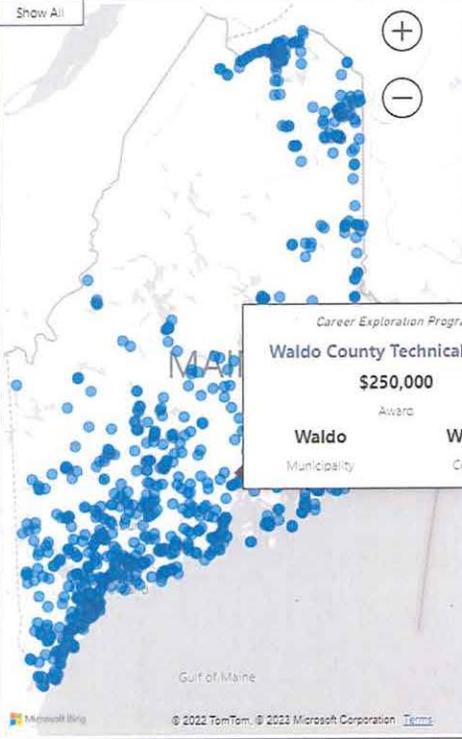
Find a Program



Sign Up for Updates

Show All



Career Exploration Program

Waldo County Technical Center

\$250,000

Award

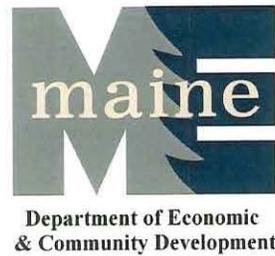
Waldo Municipality
Waldo County

Jobs Plan Program	Program Description	Recipients	Awarded	Learn More
Agricultural Infrastructure Investment Program	Funding to provide recovery grants to Maine farm and food processing businesses	64	\$19,277,860	Program Webpage
Career Exploration Program	Funding to develop and/or expand programming and supports needed to connect more Maine youth between the ages of 16 and 24 to meaningful paid work experiences	32	\$16,688,420	Program Webpage
Clean Energy Partnership - Workforce Development Grants	Funding for state agencies, private-sector partners, Maine's community colleges, the University of Maine system, labor organizations, municipalities, and others to develop programs and tools to grow the clean energy workforce and support businesses in Maine	9	\$2,492,697	Program Webpage
Water Infrastructure	Funding for local drinking water infrastructure projects, which will enable communities to mitigate lead in drinking water at schools and childcares and address harmful effects of PFAS substances	62	\$13,051,450	Program Webpage
Economic Recovery Grants	Funding to provide expense-based grant relief to small businesses and non-profits who are confronting substantial expenses stemming from the impacts of COVID-19	402	\$5,236,568	Program Webpage
Energy Efficiency and Weatherization	Funding to expand incentives for energy efficiency upgrades in municipal buildings; low- and moderate-income homes; and small businesses.	10		Program Webpage


GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future

6

MJRP WORKFORCE POLICY & COORDINATION



BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) - COORDINATION

BIL Investment Categories

By executive order of Governor Mills, the State has established an Infrastructure Implementation Committee to coordinate the implementation of BIL initiatives among the State, cities, towns, tribal governments, and other entities in Maine. For more about each BIL category, [visit the Categories page](#).



Transportation

BIL funding will support important investments in Maine's transportation system to support economic opportunity and quality of life.

Coordinating Agencies: Maine Department of Transportation, Governor's Energy Office, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, Department of Environmental Protection, Efficiency Maine, and Department of Economic and Community Development.



Resilience & Environmental Protection

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.

Coordinating Agencies: Coordination of these investments is through a BIL Resilience Working Group, a cross-agency effort established to take advantage of BIL resilience opportunities which include over \$50 billion for evacuation routes, coastal resilience, improving infrastructure resilience, or efforts to move infrastructure to nearby locations less impacted by extreme weather and natural disasters.



Energy Programs & Building Efficiency

Programs supporting improved energy efficiency in buildings and the expansion of affordable, clean energy generation and transmission networks.

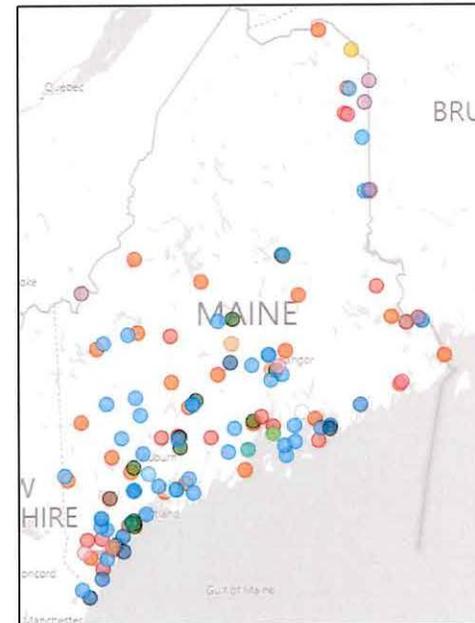
Coordinating Agencies: Governor's Energy Office, Maine Department of Transportation, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, Efficiency Maine, MaineHousing, and the Maine Public Utilities Commission.



Broadband & Technology

Programs 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.

Coordinating Agencies: Department of Economic and Community Development, Maine Connectivity Authority, Department of Administrative and Financial Services, and Maine Department of Transportation.



MAINE.GOV/BIL

MAINE CHILDREN'S CABINET

The Children's Cabinet was reinstated by Governor Mills in 2019. The Cabinet plays a vital role in convening and facilitating coordination across State agencies on initiatives and policies that will improve and promote the healthy development of children and youth in Maine.

The Cabinet meets bimonthly. High level staff from participating agencies meet several times per month to coordinate and collaborate on the implementation of Children's Cabinet strategies. GOPIF coordinates the work of the cabinet and the staff, and the associated Early Childhood Advisory Council. The Children's Cabinet has two overarching goals for children and youth.

Members of the Children's Cabinet



Commissioner Lambrew
Dept of Health & Human
Services
Children's Cabinet Chair



Commissioner
Liberty
Dept of Corrections



Commissioner
Makin
Dept of Education



Commissioner
Fortman
Dept of Labor



Commissioner
Sauschuck
Dept of Public Safety

Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children: All Maine Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared to Succeed

Access



Increase access to affordable early care & education, preventive and early intervention services for young children and their families.

Quality



Raise the quality of our early care and education system and support families to access quality programming.

Workforce

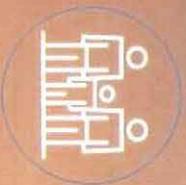


Recruit, prepare and retain a diverse early childhood workforce.



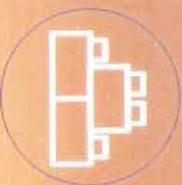
Children's Cabinet Plan for Youth: All Maine Youth Enter Adulthood Healthy, Connected to Workforce and/or Education

Basic Needs



Ensure basic needs of youth and their families are met.

Prevention

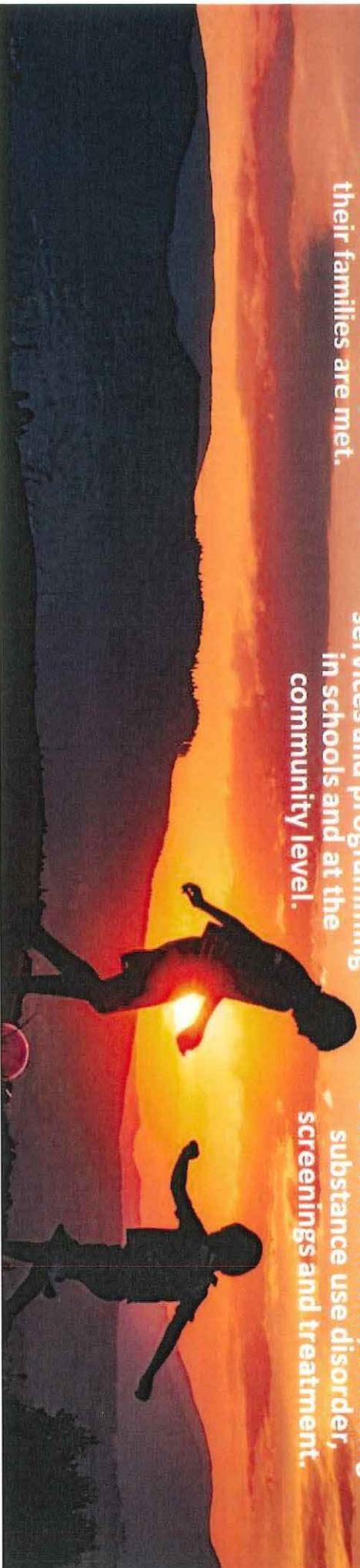


Increase prevention services and programming in schools and at the community level.

Treatment



Increase access to needed behavioral health, including substance use disorder, screenings and treatment.



CABINET ON AGING

Cabinet Members: Commissioners Lambrew and Fortman serve as the co-chairs. Cabinet Members include the Commissioners of Health and Human Services, Labor, Administrative and Financial Services, Economic and Community Development, Professional and Financial Regulation, Public Safety, Transportation and the director of the Maine State Housing Authority.

Governor's Executive Order: "The Cabinet on Aging is established to eliminate silos across State government, enhance communication, and accelerate actions and improved coordination **to help every person in Maine age safely, affordably, in ways and settings that best serve their needs**, including examining new modes of long-term care."

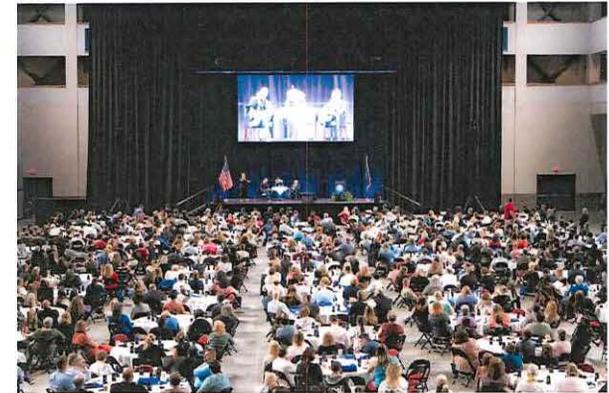
Areas of Focus for the Cabinet: Several key areas of focus have emerged from listening sessions and other feedback provided to the Cabinet this past fall.

- Supporting sustainable living for older Mainers in their communities.
- Supporting community connections that improve quality of life, inclusion and engagement of older adults.
- Engaging older Maine residents in active retirement and work.

OPIOID RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Coordinating implementation of the Opioid Response Strategic Plan with key agencies and stakeholders
- Developing and maintaining mainedrugdata.org, in partnership with the University of Maine and AG
- Organizing the annual Opioid Response Summit (pictured)



ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS:

- **Expanding Medicaid:** Expansion is providing health insurance coverage to over 25,000 individuals receiving treatment for substance use disorder.
- **Bolstering Recovery Resources:** Increasing the number of Recovery Community Centers and Recovery Residences; recruiting and training hundreds of new recovery coaches.
- **Expanding Medication Assisted Treatment Options:** Increased the availability of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to incarcerated individuals and release programs.
- **Creating the OPTIONS program:** A rapid-response program in each Maine county to engage with at-risk individuals to promote drug prevention and harm reduction, connect them to recovery and treatment, and distribute naloxone.
- **Creating An Overdose Review Panel and Strengthening Maine's "Good Samaritan" law**

HOUSING ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019 - 2023

Focus on adding housing supply has led to 1,500 new affordable housing new units and the largest production pipeline in MaineHousing's history:

- Release of \$15M senior affordable housing bond
- Creation of Maine Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program (\$80M over 8 years)
- Refinance of 2009 housing bond which created \$38.6M in new funding opportunities
- Appropriation of \$50M from Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan for more affordable housing production
- Supplemental budget allocation of \$22M for short- and long-term housing solutions and \$21M for additional

Under this Administration, affordable housing investment has been 3x greater than the total of all state investment prior to 2019.

Passage of land-use reforms to further long-term increases in housing supply:

- Strengthened homeowners' right to build an accessory dwelling unit, with limits
- Added statewide affordable housing density bonus and increased housing density in locally-identified growth areas
- \$2.5M in new annual funding for DECD support locally-identified zoning/land use reforms that will increase housing opportunities.

HOUSING PRIORITIES

Homelessness/emergency housing:

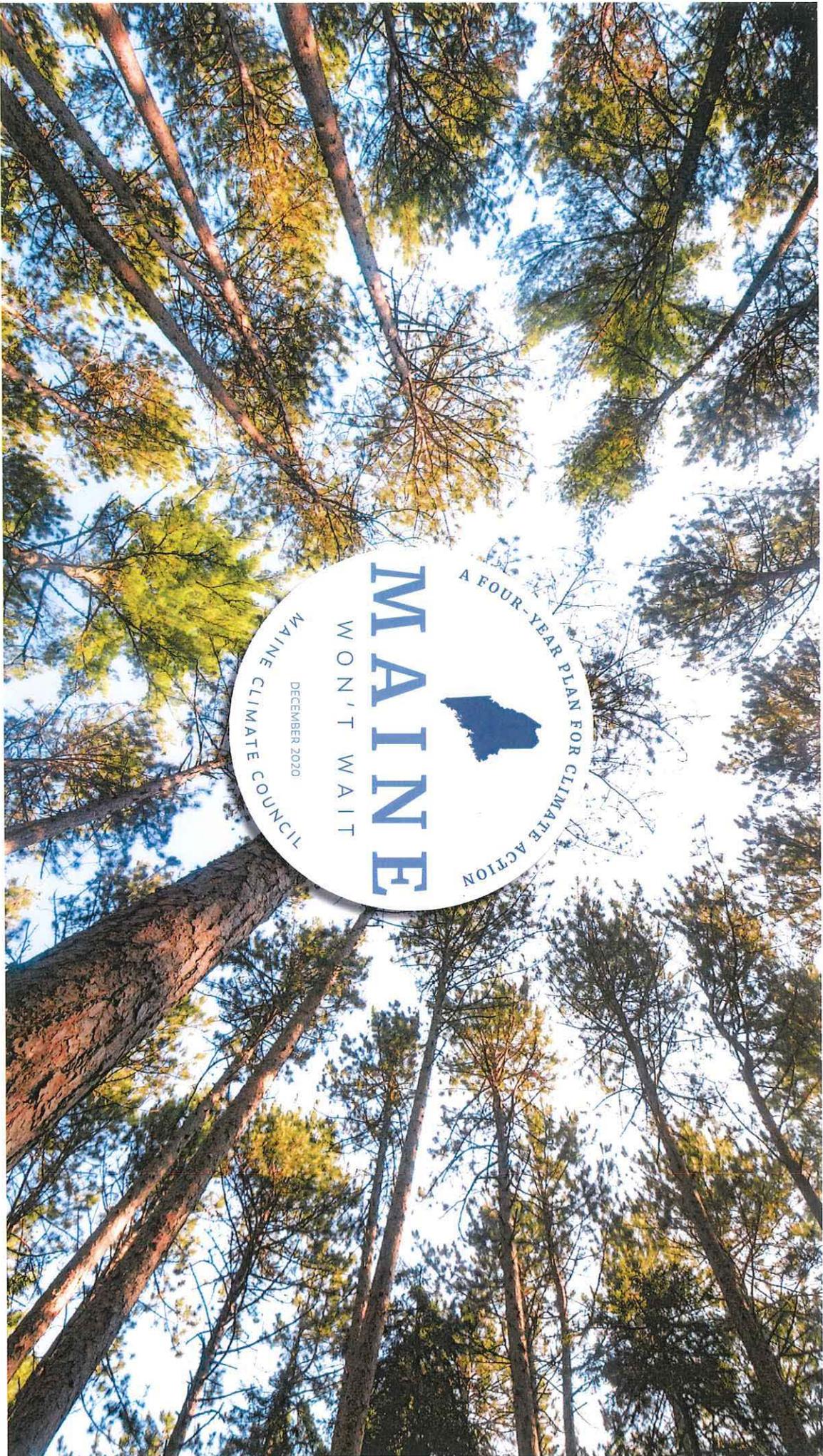
- Ensure Mainers have a safe and warm place to be through the winter months
- Work with MaineHousing and local partners to increase emergency shelter capacity and other interventions to address homelessness (including alternatives to use of hotels)
- Develop scalable, long-term solutions to chronic homelessness

Increasing the supply of affordable housing:

- Build on success of Rural Rental and Tax Credit Leverage programs - \$30M in additional housing production funding in proposed budget
- Consider increasing impact of other housing development tools, including TIFs

Support communities and needed growth through implementation of LD 2003:

- Support communities through rulemaking, technical assistance, guidance and funding to communities through DECD Housing Opportunity Program and Fund; support and share innovative approaches
- Guide regional housing production research, provide key data to inform/benefit partners



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL
DECEMBER 2020

CLIMATE COUNCIL GOALS



12.01.20
Climate Action Plan
Delivered



ACHIEVE STATE
CARBON NEUTRALITY BY
2045

REDUCE MAINE'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
BY TARGETS OUTLINED IN STATE LAW

45%
BELOW 1990 LEVELS
BY 2030

80%
BELOW 1990 LEVELS
BY 2050



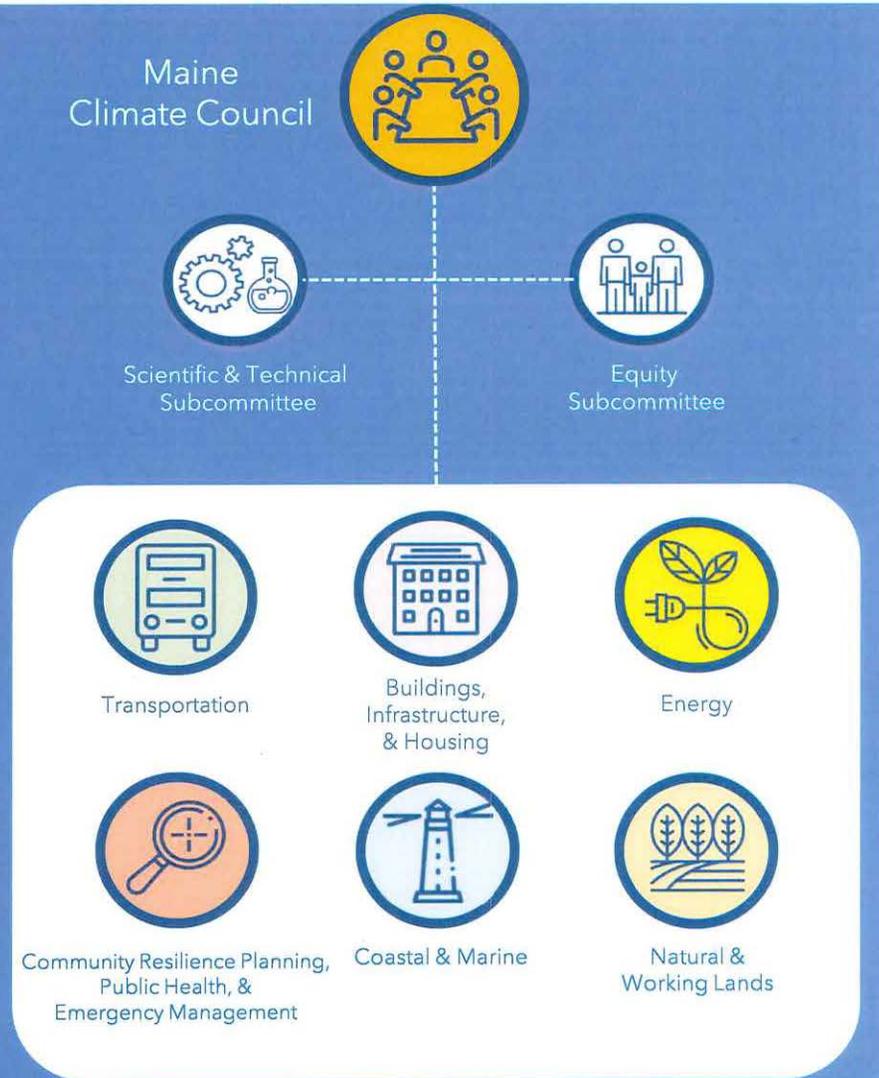
ENSURE MAINE PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMUNITIES
ARE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

Maine Climate Council

The **39-member Maine Climate Council**, an assembly of scientists, industry leaders, bipartisan local and state officials, is responsible for **developing Climate Action Plans** for Maine every four years.

Six working groups comprised of 230+ volunteer members recommend strategies to the Council.

An expert **Scientific and Technical Subcommittee** is responsible for identifying the impacts of climate change in Maine.



Tracking the Progress of *Maine Won't Wait*

This dashboard tracks numerical targets included in *Maine Won't Wait* to inform the public and help evaluate whether evidence-based adjustments, enhancements or replacements to policies are needed in pursuit of the plan's climate objectives. Over time, the dashboard will expand to include other key *Maine Won't Wait* metrics as updated data becomes available, new programs are established, and state and federal climate investments are realized.



8,594
Electric & Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles
Goal: 219,000 by 2030



389
Public EV Charging Stations
Up from 184 in 2019



82,326
New Heat Pumps since 2019
Goal: 100,000 new by 2025



9,112
Homes Weatherized since 2019
Goal: 17,500 by 2025



48%
Clean Energy Use
Goal: 80% by 2030



14,477
Clean Energy Jobs
Goal: 30,000 by 2030



22%
of Maine Land Conserved
Goal: 30% by 2030



127
Communities in Resilience Partnership
Goal: 100 Communities by 2023

Visit our online dashboard to learn more: maine.gov/climateplan/dashboard

Community Resilience Partnership

\$6 million for local, tribal, and regional grants to reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and prepare for climate change impacts (*proposed FY23-24/24-25*)

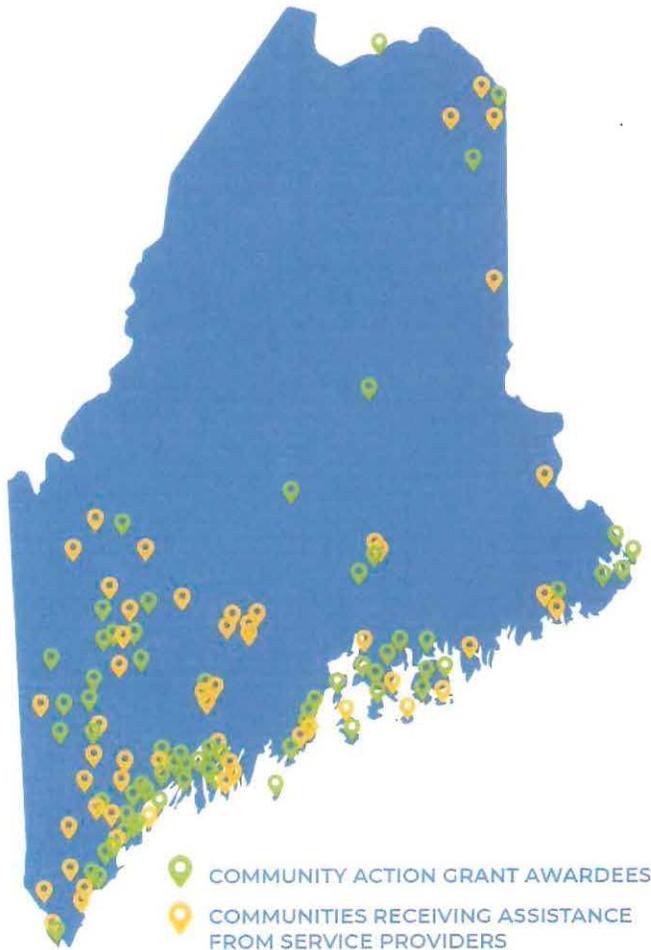
Two funding opportunities

- **Grants to communities** for planning and implementation
- **Grants to service provider organizations** to help communities get started

Grants

Technical Assistance



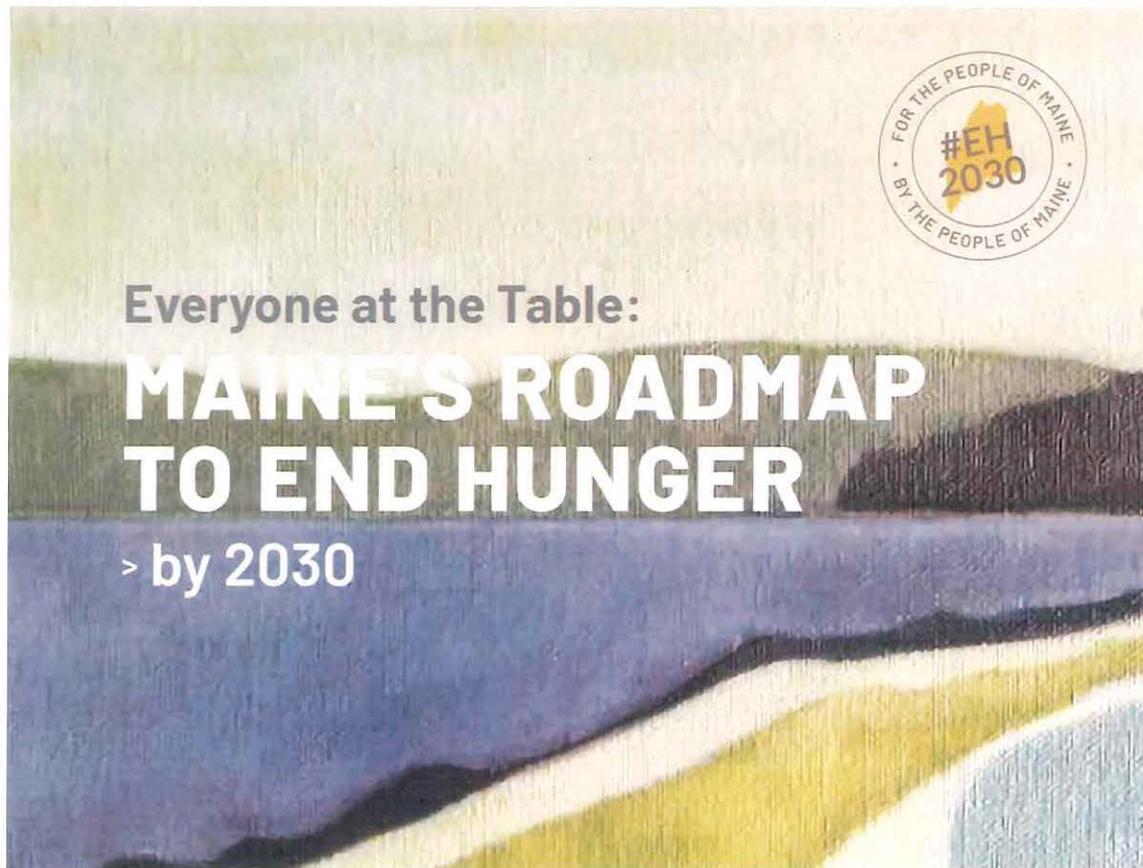


✓ **More than 100 communities engaged!**

131 participating communities

- 81 fully enrolled communities
- 50 communities working with Service Providers to enroll

PLAN TO END HUNGER BY 2030



**Testimony of Kirsten LC Figueroa, Commissioner
Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs
and State & Local Government**

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of
State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government
for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025”**

February 17, 2023

Good morning, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Kirsten Figueroa, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am here today to testify in support of the fiscal year 2024-2025 biennial budget bill, LD 258, specifically those items on today’s agenda relating to DAFS.

This budget advances the Governor’s guiding belief that to build a stronger, more prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, we must invest in the infrastructure that supports the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why this budget proposal strengthens the very things that Maine people rely on every day to succeed, building on the strong success of the currently enacted budget and the last legislative session to tackle Maine’s greatest challenges.

We have governed cautiously and in a fiscally prudent way over the past four years, making sure that – even in the hardest of times during the pandemic – we live within our means. This budget proposal continues that practice.

We look forward to the discussions over the next several months as we outline each initiative and the impact of the proposed investments.

Department of Administrative and Financial Services

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) consists of ten bureaus, a handful of boards and commissions, and more than 1,200 employees serving the public and all three branches of state government.

The Department has a broad range of responsibilities. We serve as the principal fiscal advisor to Governor Mills, prepare the state budget, coordinate the financial planning and programming activities of state agencies, prepare the financial records of the state, and advise the Maine Legislature on the economic status of the state and financial statutes of state government.

Additionally, DAFS oversees all aspects of: human resources, including employee benefits, contract negotiations, recruiting, retaining, training and performance; information technology services, including cyber security, data management, application development, project management, technology infrastructure, accessibility, and network services; maintenance, repairs and capital improvements of state-owned buildings and grounds; leased space; procurement, contracting and vendor management; state postal services; surplus property; tax collection, tax law and tax policy; and fleet management.

Various internal services for state agencies are provided by the Department, including review of accounting transactions and procedures and the implementation of account controls. We oversee three state-owned landfills. We also administer the state's lottery operations, medical and adult use cannabis programs, and the sale of distilled spirits within Maine's borders.

DAFS employees are respected as conscientious stewards of the State's assets: fiscal, human, physical and technical. We are valued for the professional expertise we provide that ensures State departments and agencies efficiently, effectively, and economically fulfill their important missions for the people of Maine. We lead and collaborate with open doors, open minds, and open hearts.

Before we get into the specifics, I'd also like to discuss a few components that you will hear throughout all department budgets that involve DAFS.

The first is internal service funds.

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services develops, delivers, and maintains centralized government systems that support the financial, human resource, physical and technological infrastructure of state government.

This allows the other departments to focus their expertise on their Department and statutory priorities – the state’s natural resources, education, health and human services, etc. - while we guide, support and innovate within our areas of expertise.

Centralized Services Internal Service Funds include:

Service Centers within DAFS provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies.

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput.

Central Fleet Management (CFM) within DAFS centrally procures, distributes and disposes of passenger and light truck vehicles. CFM handles many aspects of vehicle service including writing vehicle specifications, ordering vehicles, providing drivers with maintenance schedules, service assistance, fueling resources, insurance protection, and accident information processing.

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost.

Central Services within DAFS provides a wide range of mail services, including interoffice mail, as well as disposition of state surplus materials and equipment no longer needed by the state agency that purchased them. This group also manages federal surplus property.

All components of an internal service fund, including staff, All Other and capital, are included in our Internal Service Fund budgeting. Personal Services increases the result of collective bargaining, or any other Personal Services action, as well as increases to

All Other costs for various reasons, including vendor increases or supply chain costs, etc – just like with any agency – impact these budgets. Internal Service Funds are meant to recover the costs of providing the service. We bill agencies for these services and they pay us with All Other funds.

In this biennial budget, DAFS has adjusted these rates as they hadn't been in a number of years. Agency All Other funds are not increased in the baseline to reflect the increased costs of the ISFs, so statewide we will all include initiatives for additional All Other to cover these services.

Next is reclasses.

As we discussed in the supplemental, Civil Service Rules require the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources to maintain the classification plan and establish the processes and procedures with which to do so. There is a long-standing process in place to evaluate proper classification of positions and determine through a functional job analysis whether a position meets the requirements for reclassification, including any pay adjustment. The State's collective bargaining unit agreements include negotiated language related to this process. Reclasses may be employee or management initiated. Approved employee-initiated actions include a retroactive pay component back to the date the request was signed. In the biennial, the initiative might be already approved by BHR or pending – the initiative will indicate the status. Reclass initiatives in Part A of the budget are necessary to fund these approved actions, which is required before the reclassifications can be processed and paid. Reclass initiatives in Part B are self-funded.

DAFS has five committees of jurisdiction – plus significant interaction with the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs.

The following seven divisions (really 6.5), of our ten, fall under the jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government and will be covered in this testimony:

- State Economist, part of the Office of the Commissioner
- Office of the State Controller

- Bureau of the Budget
- Bureau of Human Resources, excluding the Office of Employee Health and Benefits, and the Office of Workers' Compensation
- Division of Financial and Personnel Services (Financial/Human Resource Service Center)
- MaineIT (former Office of Information Technology)
- Bureau of General Services

We've also distributed to Appropriations members our Orientation document presented earlier in the month to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, which has more details about the various inner workings of these divisions of DAFS. I am incredibly passionate about DAFS and our DAFS team. I do have a lot of words to say as we describe and advocate for our budget, but still there's so much more in the report.

I will discuss budget initiatives by division, in the above order – the order in which they appear in the Orientation document, except that we moved Financial and Personnel Services – rather than in page number order, as I believe it is less complicated and provides a clearer picture of our operations and responsibilities.

One more thing before the details. I'd like to take a moment to thank the amazing people who oversee key elements and these SLG components of the Department – in the spirit of efficiency, they aren't in the room today, but will be available for work session – and all of the DAFS employees who are performing the work I'm about to detail day in and day out. They are dedicated and incredible.

Office of the Commissioner – Administrative & Financial Services (0718)

Starting with the Office of the Commissioner on **page A-37**. Generally, the Office of the Commissioner provides strategic direction for the various bureaus and divisions of DAFS – primarily as it relates to policy and communication with the various segments of State government and the outside world, including the Governor, Legislature, the media, etc. Each bureau within DAFS reports to the Commissioner's Office.

The Office also includes the State Economist and her staff. The Office of the State Economist is responsible for tracking and analyzing economic and demographic trends in support of policy development. The Office maintains – and presents on – various modeling and analytical tools with the capability to do economic impact analysis, demographic projections, long-term and short-term economic forecasting, and statistical analysis. As designated by statute, the State Economist is a member of the Revenue Forecasting Committee, and the office provides staff support for both that committee and the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission. The Office also serves as a liaison between the state and the U.S. Census Bureau, including designation as the State Data Center lead agency for Maine.

The General Fund annual appropriation of approximately \$2 million funds 4 positions in the Office of the State Economist and 8 positions who oversee the various efforts of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and who seek to continually improve the quality of services provided by the Department.

There are two initiatives in this program.

The first initiative increases All Other appropriations by \$3,550 in each fiscal year to cover the increased cost of the econometric models used by the State Economist and the Office of Tax Policy. This is a shared cost between the Office of the Commissioner and the Bureau of Revenue Services. The Bureau of Revenue Services request may be found on the bottom of **page A-44**.

The second initiative provides funding for the Office's share of the financial and human resources service center. Service Centers within DAFS provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided.

State Controller – Office of (0056)

The budget for the Office of the **State Controller** is on **page A-51**. The Office is responsible for maintaining and reporting all state financial transactions. Staff analyzes fiscal transactions and payrolls to ensure legality and correctness. The Office is responsible for appropriation, allocation and allotment control including the review

and approval of all accounting transactions within AdvantageME, the automated production system for accounting and payroll services. In addition, the Office of the State Controller provides internal audit support for the agencies that comprise state government. Official financial records for all state agencies are administered by this Office. The Office's Financial Reporting Unit prepares and publishes the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Additionally, OSC provides insurance advice and services for all forms of insurance for State Government. Other areas of responsibility include: travel and expense policy, central payroll processing, fixed asset inventory, and Federal single audit resolution.

There are 27 positions within the Office of the State Controller; the annual budget is approximately \$3.5 million. There are 8 initiatives in this program.

The first initiative provides \$8,000 in each fiscal year for technology services provided by the Maine IT.

The second initiative provides \$25,000 in each fiscal year for training and tuition reimbursement for the Office's professional staff. Currently, there are nine positions in the bureau that require professional certifications and eleven employees who maintain professional certifications, including Certified Public Accountants (CPA), Certified Internal Auditors (CIA) and Certified Information Systems Auditors (CISA). These certifications require at least 40 hours of continuing education each year to maintain proficiency in their areas of responsibility. These certifications and training are necessary to allow staff to stay current with their expertise.

The third initiative provides \$25,000 each year for contractual services to provide training to agency partners for enterprise-wide systems such as the AdvantageME accounting system and DocuWare electronic content management system. The Bureau provides these systems with ongoing enhancements for thousands of agency users and this funding will help us to provide current training materials and resources. As systems are upgraded, new staff are hired, and processes are adjusted for new rules and/or efficiencies, it's important to ensure users have current information, training and understanding.

The fourth initiative provides \$14,494 in fiscal year 24 and \$15,286 in fiscal year 25 in Personal Services to increase the hours of one Accounting Technician position from 64

hours to 80 hours biweekly to support statewide vendor master file updates and vendor inquiries due to increased transaction volume, to mitigate increased cyber fraud attempts and to provide appropriate segregation of duties in the Accounting Division.

Turning to **page A-52**, the first initiative on this page provides \$81,001 in fiscal year 24 and \$85,172 in fiscal year 25 in Personal Services and \$5,375 in related All Other costs in each year to establish one Staff Accountant position to support accounting transaction review and approval due to increased transaction volume and to provide appropriate segregation of duties in the Accounting Division. There continues to be a significant increase in the volume of transactions each year. In recent years, some transaction types have more than doubled because of increases in funding at both the state and federal level. Disbursements and accounting journals make up the bulk of the volume increase as additional accounting and reporting requirements accompany most of the federal reporting. Even for temporary ARPA programs (like the Jobs Plan), the accounting and reporting requirements will continue for several years. In fiscal year 2022, we processed more than 2.1 million disbursements and more than 4.6 million financial transactions. Additionally, there has been an increase in external fraud attempts (e.g., vendor EFT modifications, social engineering, etc.). OSC has instituted a multifaceted approach to address these issues, including greater use of electronic document processing, automated validation and verification, and risk-based auditing. Even with these changes, staff must devote additional time to review transactions and to perform appropriate due diligence during the approval processes.

The next initiative provides \$20,014 in fiscal year 2024 and \$20,009 in fiscal year 2025 in Personal Services to reclassify two Public Service Manager II positions to better align their compensation with the levels of responsibility and accountability for the work activities associated with managing statewide accounting for more than \$12 billion of general, federal and other special revenue funds, and statewide payroll activities for more than 12,000 state employees.

The final two initiatives provide funding for increases in insurance coverage through the Division of Risk Management and the financial and human resources service center.

Risk Management (0008)

Risk Management, on **page A-47**, managed by the Office of the State Controller, is the internal service fund for insurance. There are 5 positions in the Risk Management

Division who are committed to providing high quality insurance, loss control and claims services at the lowest possible cost to all state agencies, the State's higher educational institutions and some quasi-state agencies. The Division annually reviews the entire subject of insurance as it applies to all State property and activities (except for workers' compensation and health benefits); develops and maintains accurate records of all insured buildings and contents, State-owned vehicles, aircraft, and ocean marine equipment; and gathers and evaluates other pertinent information to properly apply insurance coverage. The Division insures 4,300 buildings; 18,500+ employees; 4,300 vehicles; 6,000 watercraft; 19 aircraft; and 20 drones.

There are three initiatives within the Risk Management-Claims program.

These changes combined will allow the Risk Management Division to address increases in claim costs, changes in the cost and availability of insurance in the marketplace, and increases in demand for underwriting activities.

The first initiative provides \$7,241 in fiscal year 2024 and \$12,732 in fiscal year 2025 in Personal Services to reclassify one Public Service Manager II position to a Public Service Manager III position to better align with the work activities associated with risk management claims.

The second initiative provides \$122,487 in fiscal year 2024 and \$129,126 in fiscal year 2025 in Personal Services to establish one Public Service Manager II position to assist with managing the Division of Risk Management and to oversee the division's staff and statutory responsibilities. Loss prevention, subrogation and claims management activities have increased as we better manage the State's risk of loss. Risk Management performed an additional 251 property inspections and 24 property audits in 2022, resulting in an additional \$60,000 in cost recoveries over the prior two-year average. The number of policies processed has increased an average of 24% per year over the past three years. This additional position will assist with the implementation of a new claims management system; expand loss prevention and cost recovery activities to reduce the State's risk of loss; and better manage insurance lines to minimize future costs for insurance.

The final initiative increases the All Other allocation in the Risk Management Fund by \$2,000,000 in each year to cover increased claim activity. Adjusting this allocation will reduce the need for mid-year financial orders.

Budget – Bureau of (0055)

Moving to **page A-12**, the **Bureau of the Budget** manages all aspects of the state budget on behalf of the Governor. The Bureau is responsible for carrying out the program initiatives of the Executive Branch within the limits of legislative oversight to achieve the most effective program outcomes and results within available budget resources. The State Budget Officer and her staff are responsible for: supporting the Governor in the submission of budget documents to the Legislature; managing the annual Work Program; and budget and position analysis and control. Since 2019, the Bureau has submitted 8 budgets and 6 change packages. In addition to the Maine Jobs Plan and the recent Winter Energy Relief Package.

The Bureau of the Budget also compiles and issues the Maine State Government Annual Report; is responsible for preparing and submitting the four-year revenue and expenditure forecast for the General Fund and Highway Fund; and the State Budget Officer serves as a member of the Revenue Forecasting Committee and as a member of the State Procurement Review Committee.

There are 13 positions within the Bureau of the Budget: 12 are funded by the General Fund and 1 by the Highway Fund. The combined annual budget for the Bureau is just over \$1.8 million.

There are four new initiatives in this Program. The first three initiatives provide funding for increases related to centralized services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine IT, Division of Risk Management, and the financial and human resources Service Centers. The total impact of these three initiatives is a General Fund increase of \$16,900 in fiscal year 2024 and \$17,400 in fiscal year 2025 and a Highway Fund increase of \$180 in each fiscal year.

The final initiative in the Bureau of the Budget provides funding for the proposed reorganization of a Public Service Coordinator I position to better align with the position's responsibilities. This initiative increases General Fund appropriations by \$6,357 in fiscal year 2024 and \$9,661 in fiscal year 2025.

Administration – Human Resources (0038)

We start on **page A-5** with the Bureau of **Human Resources**. The Bureau is responsible for statewide human resources policy and procedure, including the administration of the State government's civil service system, employee relations activities, collective bargaining, recruitment and retention of State employees, statewide human resources programs, classification and compensation, performance evaluation, training, the State employee benefits package, deferred compensation plan, the State's workers' compensation plan, and equal employment opportunity policies and practices.

BHR includes the Division of Talent Management, Compliance Division, Office of Employee Relations, Field Services – responsible for delivering direct human resources services to most of the executive branch – as well as Office of Employee Health and Wellness and Office of Workers' Compensation and is supported with a General Fund appropriation of approximately \$3.2 million, most of which funds the 22 positions within the Bureau.

There is also an Other Special Revenue account, which had been used when BHR billed agencies for training. Training is now coordinated and provided on an as needed basis and funded directly by the bureau itself and/or agencies.

The first initiative in this program transfers one Public Service Coordinator I position from the Human Resources program General Fund account to the Financial and Personal Services Fund program, Internal Service Fund account. This position supports all human resources functions for the agencies covered by the General Government Service Center. This initiative will align work effort with appropriate funding and allow the costs associated with this position to be rebilled to the several agencies that this position supports. The initiative results in a General Fund decrease of \$98,037 in fiscal year 2024 and \$103,271 in fiscal year 2025. The corresponding initiative transferring the position into the Service Center can be found on **page A-26**.

The second initiative establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position to provide expertise to the bureau in the legislative and rulemaking processes and provides funding for related All Other costs. This position, serving as a Policy Analyst, will provide expertise to the bureau in the legislative and rulemaking processes, working closely with the department's legislative liaison, BHR Human Resources Officer,

Executive Director of Employee Health and Wellness, and Director of Workers' Compensation. This position meets the critical need to provide the bureau with expertise in review and analysis of legislation, preparation of summaries, drafting of testimony, and calculation of fiscal impact, as well as the critical need to initiate the rulemaking process to update Civil Service and other rules. This is consistent with other divisions within DAFS with a high volume of legislative and rulemaking activity such as Maine Revenue Services and the Office of Cannabis Policy. This initiative increases General Fund appropriations by \$127,862 in fiscal year 2024 and \$134,501 in fiscal year 2025.

The final initiative on **page A-5**, establishes one Public Service Coordinator I, as a Human Resources Analyst position, to provide expertise on classification and compensation and provides funding for related All Other costs. The classification and compensation group is responsible for: the evaluation of functional job analysis for position reclassifications, whether management or employee initiated; any and all efforts to reorganize and realign workforces for efficiencies and to ensure statutory obligations are met; establishment of new positions established through budget or financial order; minimal qualifications development for job postings; and, ensuring consistent statewide compensation commensurate with assigned duties. This is the unit responsible for the ongoing efforts of the Classification and Compensation Study meant to review the State's 40+ year old system for classifying, compensating, and rewarding State employees to attract and retain qualified employees. This effort, in addition to the day-to-day efforts of this small but mighty unit, involves in-depth discussion with every department in state government; market pay analysis and evaluation; classification systems' evaluation; and outreach to other states.

Specifically, this position will focus on functional job analysis evaluations (FJAs), including efforts to reduce the time for processing employee-initiated filings to limit future State liability. The number of FJAs has nearly doubled in the past two years, from 437 to 749, representing nearly 1,200 positions. There are currently only two permanent full-time positions doing this work. We have supplemented with a limited period position created with Maine Jobs funds, but that position a) is currently vacant and b) ends this October. This position would result in a permanent team of three, which is still fewer than needed. The backlog of FJAs, which has historically been fewer than 100, has grown to more than 190. Departments need these reviews timelier as job postings, filling vacant positions, starting new legislatively or federally awarded work, and reorganizing and realigning workforces for efficiencies and to ensure

statutory obligations are met, rely on these evaluations. This initiative increases General Fund appropriations by \$111,544 in fiscal year 2024 and \$117,273 in fiscal year 2025.

Turning to **page A-6**, the last initiative in BHR establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position to perform professional services work in the highly specialized area of diversity, equity, and inclusion and provides funding for related All Other costs. DAFS-BHR leads this effort for all state government by coordinating: strategic planning; agency DEI staff; training; and hiring practices. This position is critical to ensure the necessary expertise for continuing the important work already underway through a limited period position to educate and develop human resources professionals, State leadership, and employees on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The research is clear: providing a welcoming environment for all employees is critical to ensuring our workforce feels safe, recognized, and valued. This is a key component to elevating Maine state government as an employer of choice. Being an employer of choice places the State in the best possible position for ongoing recruitment and retention efforts. This initiative increases General Fund appropriations by \$127,862 in fiscal year 2024 and \$134,501 in fiscal year 2025.

Workers' Compensation Management Fund (0802)

The **Workers' Compensation Management Fund** is on **page A-58**. This division of 13 provides direction, management, and technical assistance in the administration of life-impacting workers' compensation cases for all state employees within the 3 branches of government at all locations throughout the state. The Workers' Compensation Management Fund is established to provide for the expenses related to the resolution of workers' compensation claims including: records and information management; investigation; medical review; representation; rehabilitation; payment of compensation; appropriate medical expenses and other payments required by the Workers' Compensation Board; the settlement of cases; and other related and necessary expenses.

There are four new initiatives in this program.

The first initiative continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator I position previously established by Financial Order 001935 F2. This position is necessary to ensure timely and comprehensive management of Workers'

Compensation cases. Specifically, this position: audits workers' compensation claims, which ensures compliance and prevents costly penalties and fees; handles a small caseload to ensure effective coverage of claims, along with career development; maintains legal spreadsheets for all claims to ensure our legal partners have updated file and claim information; tracks all medical-only claims that have work restrictions for proper reporting to the Workers' Compensation Board; schedules and prepares medical packages, and creates medical indices for case manager review, and for our legal and medical partners. Most importantly, this position allows Case Managers to perform the higher-level tasks necessary to manage claims appropriately and effectively. The initiative increases the Workers' Compensation Management Internal Service Fund Personal Services allocation by \$98,343 in fiscal year 2024 and \$103,712 in fiscal year 2025.

The second initiative establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position to provide oversight and training for the Human Resources Assistants (HRAs) in Workers' Compensation and to assist with the processing of worker compensation claims. The HRA position has high attrition, so this new oversight position will enable two things: 1) a pathway for career development in the office and 2) consistent oversight and training of current and future HRAs.

HRAs are an integral part of our time sensitive claims processing system as they process all first reports of injuries filed with our office, which must be filed with the Workers' Compensation Board within 7 days in most cases. They perform the initial investigation by contacting all parties involved, including obtaining medical documentation necessary for case management review. HRAs also process medical bill payments as well as other reimbursements to injured workers. These payments must be made within 30 days of receipt, adding on to other time sensitive matters they handle. There are currently three HRAs, so this position will maintain responsibility for some claims processing, but at a lower percentage. HRAs are typically assigned departments, and each is responsible for about 315 or more claims – up to 550 at the height of the pandemic.

The initiative increases the Workers' Compensation Management Internal Service Fund Personal Services allocation by \$91,030 in fiscal year 2024 and \$96,337 in fiscal year 2025.

The final two initiatives in this program fund proposed employee-initiated reclassifications. These initiatives would increase the Fund's Personal Services allocation by a total of \$16,290 in fiscal year 2024 and \$25,203 in fiscal year 2025.

Financial and Personnel Services – Division of (0713)

On **page A-26** is the **Division of Financial and Personnel Services** internal services fund program, which is organized into five service centers that provide consolidated and centralized administrative, financial and personnel management services to most Executive Branch departments and agencies. There are 275 positions and an annual budget of approximately \$29 million.

There are ten initiatives in this program.

The first initiative provides funding to increase the hours of one part-time Public Service Coordinator I position from 20 hours to 40 hours biweekly to support the operations of all Service Centers, including development of metrics, improved financial reporting, and creating and tracking performance measures. Additionally, this position will assist with reviewing, analyzing, and supporting the division's Service Center in creating value added reports for agency partners to better manage budgets and simplify financial tracking. This is an increased allocation of \$27,688 in fiscal year 2024 and \$27,677 in fiscal year 2025.

The second initiative is the transfer of one Public Service Coordinator I position from the Human Resources program, General Fund, that I discussed in the Bureau of Human Resources on **page A-5**, to the Financial and Personnel Services Fund program, Internal Service Fund. This initiative will align human resources work effort with appropriate funding and allow the costs associated with this position to be rebilled to the several agencies that this position supports. The initiative results in a General Fund decrease of \$98,037 in fiscal year 2024 and \$103,271 in fiscal year 2025, and a corresponding increased allocation in the Financial and Personnel Services Fund for the same amounts.

The third initiative establishes one Accounting Technician position, one Staff Accountant position, one Senior Staff Accountant position, and provides funding for related All Other costs within the General Government Service Center. Over the years, the GGSC's workload has increased as new programs and agencies have been added;

however, the position count in this division has been reduced. These positions are needed to process transactions, process payment approvals, and complete daily transactional work and data entry. Currently this work is being performed by our Managing Staff Accountants. This initiative is necessary so the Managing Staff Accountants can focus on strategic work including analysis; financial and budgetary reviews, reconciliations and reports; training; and more interaction with and guidance to our agency partners. This is a total allocation of \$258,795 in fiscal year 2024 and \$271,794 in fiscal year 2025.

The last initiative on **page A-26** establishes one Office Assistant II position and one Accounting Analyst Supervisor position within the Security and Employment Service Center. The SESC has taken on additional workload due to reduced staff and high turnover at one of our agency partner's business office. Work includes developing a consistent and reasonable cost allocation method; increased involvement in grant management, reporting and compliance with federal cash management requirements; and specialized tracking of "disaster" and "pre-disaster" costs for identification and federal cost recovery. Additionally, there is an increased volume of work due to the addition of two new small agencies as well as for the Departments of Labor and Public Safety due to additional grant funding. This is a total allocation of \$186,143 in fiscal year 2024 and \$196,198 in fiscal year 2025.

Moving to the top of **page A-27**, this initiative increases All Other allocation by \$240,148 in fiscal year 2024 and \$232,963 in fiscal year 2025 to fund statewide technology services provided by Maine IT.

The next initiative increases the hours of one Staff Accountant position from 54 hours biweekly to 80 hours to support the additional accounts and agency partners assigned to the General Government Service Center. This is \$26,335 in fiscal year 2024 and \$27,711 in fiscal year 2025.

The third initiative on this page funds the proposed reclassification of one vacant Office Associate II position to an Accounting Analyst position to support federal grant management within the Natural Resources Service Center. Increased review at the federal level and more rigorous reporting requirements have led to the need for additional resources to fully support this workload. Failure to approve this action may lead to audit findings and the potential loss of federal funding. This is increased allocation of \$16,238 in fiscal year 2024 and \$16,470 in fiscal year 2025.

The next initiative establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position to support human resources activities for the Department of Health and Human Services and provides funding for related All Other costs. This position will support human resources activities and the more than 3,000 positions in DHHS, the state's largest department, including processing of family medical leave, Americans with Disabilities Act claims, and hybrid work support. This is increased allocation of \$111,544 in fiscal year 2024 and \$117,273 in fiscal year 2025.

The next initiative provides funding to increase the hours of one Public Service Manager I position from 64 hours biweekly to 80 hours to support human resources activities within the Security and Employment Service Center.

The final initiative in this program provides funding to increase the hours of one Accounting Associate I position from 32 hours biweekly to 80 hours to support accounts payables including intake, review of documentation, and transaction processing for agency partners for the Security and Employment Service Center.

Central Administrative Applications (Z234)

On **page A-18** is the **Central Administrative Applications** program. This program was established to segregate costs related to the State's centralized computer applications such as those used for accounting, budgeting, payroll, online document storage, hybrid work management, data warehouse and other statewide applications.

There are three initiatives in this program.

There are two initiatives that fund internal service funds. The first and third initiatives increase funding for the program's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center and statewide technology services provided by Maine IT.

The other initiative provides \$1,371,117 in each year to support statewide software systems used to process, control and report on the State's financial information. Costs are related to upgrades necessary to the state's financial and online content management systems; systems to manage and track hybrid work environment, including office space reservations; and to add capacity to our online processing system to convert more paper-based processes to electronic.

Information Services (0155)

Next, on **page A-29**, is Information Services also known as Maine IT. Maine IT provides centralized direction, coordination and oversight to information technology policy making, planning, architecture and standardization, with the focus on delivery of effective information technology services. This includes responsibilities over information technology leadership, communications, planning, financial performance management, procurement and contract management, and resource management.

The goal of MaineIT is to manage technology from the perspective of the entire enterprise, utilizing common architecture and infrastructure, ensuring a unified vision and strategic plan through effective project management, accountability and establishment of statewide priorities. The General Fund component funds areas within the Office of the Chief Information Officer and statewide initiatives such as security, business continuity, and disaster recovery planning. The Internal Service Fund includes 419 positions and, as an internal service fund, is funded by the Executive Branch agencies that utilize any number of MaineIT's dozens of services, including radio services, telecommunications, desktop support, help desk, and applications development. Additionally, the Chief Data Officer provides data stewardship and communication to ensure valid and reliable data are protected and available for legal and ethical use/reuse for data driven decision making throughout state government. MaineIT supplements its state workforce with contractors who assist with project work and specialized technology needs.

There are six initiatives in this program.

We will start with the second initiative on the page requesting General Fund appropriations of \$3,595,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$4,095,000 in fiscal year 2025. This represents the ongoing strategic investments in our State's cyber resiliency to improve our capability of safeguarding State networks and infrastructure against cyber-attacks as part of MaineIT's Security Plan. The Governor proposed and the Legislature agreed that enterprise security should be funded with General Funds. In the FY22/23 biennial the Legislature split the roughly \$8.2 million request between General Fund and Maine Jobs during the pandemic response. At the time, it was noted that ongoing General Fund funding is key to maintaining these protections. The investments span prevention, response, and the critical training of State employees.

Over recent years, the cyber threat landscape has become increasingly volatile and more complex, emphasizing the need for targeted funding to remediate the most critical gaps in our information security preparedness. Cyber-attacks against public sector IT assets and entities continue to proliferate, posing one of the most significant risks to our state's ability to deliver secure and reliable services to our citizens while safeguarding the sensitive data entrusted to our care. The threat landscape has only continued to increase in frequency, sophistication, and complexity since the onset of the pandemic, creating unprecedented challenges for the State in its mission to safeguard the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of citizen data.

In any organization, employees are the main source of breaches with 85 percent of breaches involving a human element. Through appropriate training and awareness initiatives, we aim to substantially reduce the risk to essential services due to user error, insider threats, or exploitation of users. For our cyber security tools to work, Maine needs to be successful 100 percent of the time.

The State has begun to make significant strides in shoring up our enterprise security in an environment fraught with risk. Nationally, cyber-attacks against state and local governments continue to increase and we are on the frontlines of defense. As cyber-attacks, especially ransomware, continue to increase in volume, variety and sophistication, a growing number of victims are state and local governments and school districts. To lead on cybersecurity, we must continue to prioritize cybersecurity funding for initiatives that strengthen, improve, and promote our State's Information Security Program, build the capacity of our state's cybersecurity workforce pipeline, promote adoption of best practices and enhance security awareness at all tiers of government.

The State's general fund investments in information technology have enabled significant strides towards greater protection of the enterprise. Specifically, these funds have allowed MaineIT to prioritize three levels of effort:

1. Improving the breadth and depth of our information security professional staff. While we continue to have shortfalls in cybersecurity personnel, we have had success in onboarding six out of 8 of the positions requested in the Governor's Recommended Supplemental Budget for FY 2022 and 2023. These knowledgeable and skilled information security professionals are working to implement and operationalize OIT security initiatives, identifying a broad array of security risks on our network, and ensuring that security measures are up-to-date and effective. These professionals play

a key role in protecting the State's sensitive information assets and ensuring compliance with various federal and state information security regulations and standards.

2. Improvements to Automated Information Security Tools and Infrastructure. Information security tools play a critical role in protecting the State's network from cyber threats and potential data breaches. These tools help to secure sensitive information and prevent unauthorized access to sensitive data, such as personal information, financial information, and confidential government documents. These tools work together to provide a multi-layered defense against cyber-attacks and data breaches, helping to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the state's sensitive information.

3. Matching funds for the IJIA State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. State matching funds from Public Law 2021, chapter 635 leveraged federal cybersecurity funding from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's (IIJA) State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. This Grant Program provides an opportunity to fund initiatives that will move all levels of government towards baseline cybersecurity readiness and will incentivize collaborative partnerships at the federal, state and local levels. This initiative recognizes the high degree of interconnectedness of our state and local entities and will raise our collective cyber readiness to help our communities statewide become more secure. Maine continues to encourage the federal government to expand its funding for cybersecurity issues as fraud, scams, and breaches are a state, national, and global threat.

Additionally, progress would not have been possible without the funds provided through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP). These included the State Cybersecurity Program for \$8,173,402 and Business Continuity Plan for Information Technology for \$6,000,000. These funds were part of the planned \$40 million "to invest in targeted upgrades to make State systems more user friendly, as well as cybersecurity needed to ensure safe State operations." To cite specific improvements, MaineIT has:

1. Implemented new security practices and resources to continuously review, evaluate, and remediate security vulnerabilities as part of the continuous monitoring strategy;

2. Established audit and compliance capabilities with security and privacy laws, rules, and regulations to protect federal and state sensitive data;
3. Partnered with security vendors to provide 24/7 security monitoring of the State of Maine environment, making the enterprise less vulnerable to cyber-attacks and data breaches;
4. Enhanced and implemented capabilities that enable Endpoint Detection and Response functions to support a hybrid workforce;
5. Enhanced email security capabilities to tighten protections and mitigate threats; and
6. Increased capacity to address security gaps and to address threats to the State of Maine.

MaineIT had a third-party security vendor conduct a security and privacy control assessment in 2019 against standards set by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). MaineIT ascribes to security and privacy controls set by NIST as these are the same standards used in all federal compliance requirements and by the State of Maine in audits conducted by the Officer of the State Auditor. Another, recently concluded assessment conducted by the same third-party security vendor showed a nine percent increase in our security and privacy control implementation. While this is a modest gain, this is a good news story when you consider NIST substantially increased the number of security and privacy controls required of an entity. NIST controls are generally used to enhance the cybersecurity framework, risk posture, information protection, and security standards of organizations. Specifically, NIST added 66 additional security and privacy controls and 149 control enhancements.

These general funds will be needed to offset what is currently being funded by MJRP. While we are constantly assessing what will be required to “appropriately fund” cybersecurity, this is a complex undertaking due to the ever-evolving nature of the cyber landscape and technology improvements and enhancements. What we know now is, our assessment shows areas we need to improve and certain areas where we need to catch up to minimal standards. We continue to have a lot of work ahead of us to reduce the risk to our IT infrastructure in our current cyber threat environment. We greatly appreciate your support as we continue working to understand the complex and

emerging cybersecurity risks that we face as a State. We are committed partnering with you to safeguard the State's IT infrastructure and the information entrusted to us by Maine residents.

The next initiative is on the top of **page A-30** and increases General Fund support by \$772,150 in each fiscal year. The technology industry is one of the fastest-growing industries in the United States. Computing professions are growing more than twice as fast as the average for all occupations, and significantly faster than most other science, technology, engineering, and math career fields. For the public sector, changing the approach to searching for new talent is essential to begin closing the workforce gap.

The public sector needs to use its strengths to encourage young people, veterans, and near-retirement workers to join the public sector – to both give back and use their talents to move public organizations forward. We believe our Intern/Mentorship Program addresses not only those entering the workplace but infuses the existing workforce as they train and mentor interns. This dual approach allows talent to grow from within to gain supervisory skills to enhance their own development and posturing them to become tomorrow's leaders.

The cost to hire interns, who complete the same level and quality of work as entry-level state employees, is significantly less than hiring a full-time employee to serve in the same role. This, coupled with the benefits of developing our current workforce and attracting new talent makes the value of this program to the State, IT, and citizens, immeasurable.

Currently no funding model exists to support a robust internship program within MaineIT. Agencies wishing to support an IT intern must identify the funding for that intern from within their agency. Many agencies have come to greatly appreciate their intern workers, many of whom transition to state employees when positions for full-time hire are available.

MaineIT is requesting \$722,150 in each year to support the internship program.

Skipping the fourth initiative, the next initiative establishes four positions in the Project Management Office to be billed to agencies as the services are used. The Project Management Office provides oversight and accountability for successful project

implementation by applying nationally recognized best practices to ensure projects are completed on time, within budget, and meet original goals while avoiding scope creep. The PMO provides a full array of project management services through the entire lifecycle of Projects and Initiatives critical to ensure the State's interests are met and intended outcomes are achieved.

The PMO continues its effort to replace costly staff augmentation contractors with state employees. Using State employee staff allows the PMO to gain the efficiency of assigning project managers to multiple projects, the benefits of ongoing training and familiarity with state projects and processes. By using state employees, quality is increased, and dollars are saved. A contracted project manager can only work on one project at a time while state employees have consistently and effectively managed 2-5 projects at a time. High quality project management has been proven to reduce unexpected expenditures, delays, and even project failures and deliver high quality results. This results in increased internal service fund allocations of \$564,620 in fiscal year 2024 and \$593,068 in fiscal year 2025.

This next initiative for MaineIT establishes two positions to support the Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management. These positions are required to acquire and maintain US Secret Service security clearance to work on DVEM's systems. They will be funded through DVEM (see corresponding request on **page A-179**) with \$232,715 in fiscal year 2024 and \$244,602 in fiscal year 2025.

Now to talk about various geospatial requests.

The first initiative on page **A-29** establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position and one System Analyst position in the General Fund to service Geospatial mapping needs within the Maine GeoLibrary and provides funding for related All Other. The Maine Library of Geographic Information (GeoLibrary Board) was established in 2002 through State statute to expand and promote the value of geographic spatial data through widespread distribution and innovative use for the benefit of Maine's citizens. The GeoLibrary Board is comprised of public and private stakeholders who, among other tasks:

- Collect, maintain, and determine how to use geospatial information system data.
- Support and maintain a state-of-the-art, comprehensive, and ever-expanding portal to public geospatial information and services.
- Reduce redundancies in the creation, verification, and maintenance of public geographic information to enhance its utility for complex analyses.
- Develop services to facilitate generalized access for and use of data by governmental agencies and the public.

MaineIT has historically augmented support for the GeoLibrary Board using two partially dedicated resources, totaling about 30 hours each week collectively. These staff hold roles that are intended to be dedicated full time to supporting Maine State agency needs. Our attempt to leverage existing resources in a part-time capacity to support the GeoLibrary Board has caused both this, and their primary focus area, to suffer. Attempting to divide time between two separate areas of focus hinders our ability to maintain a balance of ensuring both State of Maine agencies and the GeoLibrary Board are fully and adequately served in all Geospatial Information System initiatives.

The practice of leveraging our resources in this manner to support both GeoLibrary Board and Maine Geospatial Information Systems initiatives is not enough and does a disservice to both areas needing full-time support resources. There is far more work that is required which simply cannot be accomplished through the current support model. Maine is lacking in our ability to secure and leverage Federal matching grants. Additional funding avenues and our ability to robustly support citizens and governmental agencies using the data is also significantly constrained.

To deliver on the strategic direction and to be an effective partner in supporting the Maine GeoLibrary Board with its statutorily mandated tasks, we are asking to establish two new full-time positions to serve and focus on GeoLibrary Board initiatives, modernizations, strategic enhancements, and citizen support. The \$246,228 and \$270,993 being requested for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 respectively, will allow MaineIT to fill these positions to robustly support the GeoLibrary Board, generate more value, increase cost savings to the State of Maine, and ensure the citizens of Maine are able to benefit from the service.

Next and related is the fourth initiative in this program, or the second initiative at the top of **page A-30**. In addition to the increased headcount to serve the essential mission of the GeoLibrary Board, MaineIT is also requesting General Fund support for State Aerial Image Collection Projects. The General Fund support for this initiative will be used to collect, refresh, and store high resolution aerial images for the State, and financially support specific projects for Geographic Information System Mapping (GIS) and Orthoimagery and Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR).

Part of the GeoLibrary Board mission is the maintenance of the GeoLibrary, where aerial data, spanning back over a decade, is stored for statewide support and use. As GeoLibrary programs, imagery, technology, and data collection practices mature, new imagery data must routinely be collected to ensure the data is both viable and valuable long term to Maine communities. In Fiscal Year 2022 alone, the GeoLibrary acquired aerial imagery for over 16,000 square miles.

The data collected through the GeoLibrary has a transformative effect on land development costs for private and public sectors in Maine's economy. These detailed aerial images collected are used to map land, boundaries, climate change, erosion, and other land anomalies. In addition, elevation data provides a rich resource for analyzing natural and manmade environments. The GeoLibrary provides a coordination avenue for State agencies to support their efforts and combine aerial imagery needs to reduce overall costs. On-going funding will provide continuity for a program that has substantially benefited the state, counties, and municipalities.

As part of the cost-sharing funding model, the State has an obligation to provide matching funds necessary to supplement the fiscal support received from private sources, local governments, municipalities, and other statewide grant opportunities. The GeoLibrary needs an ongoing funding source to stabilize the Orthoimagery program, as well as GIS and data infrastructure for the future. The \$553,772 being requested in both Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 will provide the financial support necessary to match funds to counties and attract additional funding from local communities.

Centralized Imaging Services (Z372)

Turning back to **page A-22**, there is one initiative in this program providing an appropriation of \$500,000 in each fiscal year to conduct aerial imaging acquisition and processing and Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) on state agency directed

projects. While the GeoLibrary Board provides services and tools that align with the needs of the public, the Board does not currently have a mission to fund data and imagery collection and facilities that are statutory requirements of individual State agencies. Combining the resources of technology tools and platforms creates efficiencies and reuse but underlying those tools is still the need for ongoing collection of imagery and data. This initiative proposes to create a standing fund, dedicated to serve State agency data collection needs, to be prioritized and managed by a governing board internal led by MaineIT. This provides better opportunity to align data collection with the GeoLibrary Board and ensure Maine is getting the best value when acquiring aerial services.

The entirety of the first year of this funding will be dedicated to meet the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Public Lands division and their requirement to update forestry inventories that was established in Public Law 2017, Chapter 289. In subsequent years, these funds will be prioritized across all agencies' needs.

Statewide Radio Network System (0112)

The **Statewide Radio Network System**, found on **page A-53**, is the debt service for the statewide radio network. Radio Operations is a division within MaineIT that procures, installs, commissions and maintains a consolidated radio communications network to provide service to all State of Maine public safety and public service users.

The baseline General Fund appropriation to cover debt service for the infrastructure and the rolling replacement of radios is approximately \$4.2 million each year.

There are no new initiatives in this program. But, it makes sense to discuss language **Part R** at this time as it relates to this debt service account.

Part R may be found on **language page 23**. This Part authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for the acquisition of portable radios, upgrades of tower hardware, and the purchase of equipment to support tower maintenance for the Statewide Radio Network within Maine IT. This mechanism ensures the State can continually upgrade and provide maintenance of the State's radio network serving first responders and numerous other State agencies. The radios are on a rolling replacement schedule.

The last Division is the Bureau of General Services (BGS). BGS provides consolidated management and coordinated oversight for a range of property, procurement, and central services to meet the operational needs of State programs and services. BGS pursues cost-effective operations in its own activities and in the operations of other departments and agencies. BGS is comprised of eight functional divisions:

Division of Property Management; Division of Leased Space; Division of Planning, Design & Construction; Division of Safety and Environmental Services; Division of Central Fleet Management; Division of Central Services Division of Procurement Services; and, Office of State-Owned Landfill Management (under the jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee of Environment and Natural Resources).

Buildings & Grounds Operations (0080)

The **Buildings and Grounds Operations** program is on **page A-14**. This program ensures that facilities are safe, sanitary and healthy for those who work and visit them. This program covers both the Division of Property Management and the Division of Leased Space.

The General Fund appropriation and Highway Fund allocation support approximately 100 positions responsible for general maintenance and repairs, groundskeeping, and housekeeping as well as heating and cooling for state-owned facilities in the Augusta area representing nearly 2 million square feet. Funds in this program pay for utilities, fuel and security efforts of the buildings.

The Internal Service Fund supports 3 positions and contains the activity of the Division of Leased Space that administers over 250 active leases for office, warehouse, garage, storage, tower, classroom, mixed use, and training purposes in the service of 37 State agencies, across 68 different municipalities and 5 unorganized territories. The Division's leasing portfolio includes 1,882,244 square feet of space with an approximate value of \$27 million. This total includes rent, utilities, custodial services, and all associated costs of the leased space. The Other Special Revenue Fund contains activity associated with the leasing of state property to external agencies.

There are four initiatives in this program.

The two initiatives on **page A-14** provide funding for increased utility and fuel costs and for contracted services and repair costs. The first initiative increases funding in the General Fund and the Highway Fund by \$1,155,159 in each fiscal year to support cost increases related to the Augusta area. The second initiative increases the Other Special Revenue Funds allocation by \$285,000 in each year to support similar expenses on the Bangor campus.

At the top of **page A-15**, the third initiative establishes 2 Plant Maintenance Engineer positions for the Bureau of General Services to assist with the maintenance and repair of water, heating and electric systems in state owned facilities.

The work of these positions ensures the operation of the boilers and other heating and cooling equipment in our state-owned facilities. Regulations require that qualified technicians be on site 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to ensure appropriate monitoring (some systems require at least every 4 hours).

Based on the size, number, and age and state of our equipment, this staff operates at a deficit that requires frequent double shifts and no room for unanticipated or scheduled absences. The current staff are dedicated to their mission but are struggling with the overload of work. We did add one position in the last budget; however, we need more. The staffing shortage is a safety issue for our staff and those who work or visit our buildings, and puts our regulatory compliance at risk.

The final initiative in this program increases the allocation in the Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund account. This increase is necessary to support the current level of activity in the account and will minimize the need for financial orders processed during the year.

Leased Space Reserve Fund Program (Z145)

The next program, on **page A-31**, is the **Leased Space Reserve Fund Program**. This fund is used to collect savings that accrue from relocation of a state agency from leased space to a state-owned facility or a relocation of a state agency from leased space to a lower-priced leased space. Funds are used to defray moving costs.

Next is the Division of Planning, Design & Construction. This Division is responsible for capital improvement planning for facilities, architectural and engineering design

procurement, and approval of design agreements, bidding of public improvement projects, and construction administration and monitoring of all the State's public improvements and public-school projects. Currently, the Division is engaged in approximately 300 active projects.

First, some background on the need for funding investments to attend to state-owned facilities and infrastructure.

Background Study and Market Factors

BGS hired a consultant, Gordian, formerly Sightlines, to conduct an extensive evaluation of the state's building portfolio in 2020. Their report concluded that the state-owned buildings managed by BGS were older than comparable state government facilities in Maine (peer institutions were the community colleges and university campuses). Thirty-three percent (594,000 square feet) of the State of Maine's owned space was built before 1885. Another 45% (810,000 square feet) was built between 1851 and 1975. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the State's buildings (comprising 1,404,000 square feet) are more than 48 years old.

Due to chronic underfunding of maintenance, repairs, and capital improvements generally, Gordian identified a cumulative backlog in 2020 of \$87 million in immediate "catch up" costs. These funds were intended to address systems and facilities that had met their useful life and required full replacement. To maintain a "steady state" of all systems, \$8 million in "keep up" costs was needed annually.

In 2022, the "catch up" number increased to \$124 million and the cost to "keep up" building conditions costs increased to \$9 million annually. Inflation, scarcity due to supply chain issues, and the cost of labor are responsible for the increase, which generally reflects the inflation factor used in the construction industry of 10% per year. However, in today's market, a 10% annual increase is optimistic. For example, bids for the Cultural Building renovation were double the architect's renovation cost estimate.

It's important to note that the \$124 million is not all inclusive. Gordian's 2022 numbers do not and could not reflect two major factors that will increase the total costs. First, renovation costs are substantially underestimated if asbestos or other hazardous materials, and/or dangerous conditions prevent full access to the buildings. This can

conceal degradation and obsolescence of electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and structural systems. This was the case at the Cultural Building and the Stone Buildings. Second, the cost of hazardous materials remediation. Gordian was not tasked with assessment of hazardous materials, so the cost to remediate is not included in the report and would be in addition to the \$124 million. These costs can be extensive. In the Cultural Building, for instance, asbestos abatement costs are approaching \$4 million, adding 15% to the total construction budget. Additionally, the cost estimates did not include Mackworth Island or the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center, both of which require substantial facility work measured in the tens of millions of dollars. Nor do the estimates include civil projects such as retaining wall repairs, tunnel efforts, or the remediation of Dolby Landfill contaminated leachate.

There are several programs that support these efforts, in addition to the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority.

Capital Construction/Repairs/Improvement – Admin (0059)

On page A-17 is the baseline for the **Capital Construction/Repairs/Improvement – Admin** program. This program supports the preliminary work of planning and design of the large improvement projects managed by the Division of Planning, Design & Construction. The General Fund baseline budget is \$301,836. This Program also has an Other Special Revenue allocation in the rare case of private contributions made in support of state facilities.

There are no **new initiatives** in this program.

Public Improvements – Planning/Construction – Admin (0057)

The next program, **Public Improvements – Planning/Construction – Admin**, is on page A-39. This program covers the 11 staff in the Division of Planning, Design & Construction and the Division of Safety and Environmental Services. As previously highlighted, the Division of Planning, Design & Construction staff are responsible for the planning, design and construction administration of all the state's public school projects and the state's facility improvements. They manage the procurement process for architectural and engineering contracts, conduct the bidding for construction, and monitor construction projects. The Division of Safety and Environmental Services provides hazardous material (asbestos, lead, mold, mercury, PCBs) and indoor air

quality assessment and mitigation oversight services for public schools and state facilities and serves as the lead agency of the State for these matters. The annual budget is approximately \$2.0 million.

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services has direct responsibility to ensure the safety and wellness of our state government employees. Our Bureau of Human Resources' statutory mission is "to establish within state government a high concern for state employees as people". Our Bureau of General Services (BGS) is tasked specifically with ensuring "facilities are safe, sanitary and healthy for those who work in and visit them". DAFS advocated for and two positions were restored in PL 2021, Chapter 398 to staff the statutorily required Division of Safety and Environmental Services.

In direct response to the serious health threat posed by COVID-19, BGS worked with each department and agency to identify and complete retrofits to our State buildings that enhance worker safety and health. Improvements aimed at air quality include: installing bipolar ionization systems in State-owned and leased buildings; mechanical equipment replacements and upgrades to improve air circulation within nine State buildings; upgrading to higher density (MERV 13) air filters; and installing air purifiers throughout buildings without central air systems. As is their routine practice, the BGS team has been diligent about ensuring that all facilities meet U.S. CDC designated criteria for ventilation system design and indoor air quality. We replaced or upgraded the ventilation equipment in 1.2 of the 1.8 million square feet of state-owned space in Augusta.

The Division of Safety and Environmental Services has made a concerted effort to collect and catalog in a comprehensive file known data related to harmful contaminants contained in and around State workspaces (both owned and leased), including asbestos, lead, PCB and mold. This database includes all testing associated with the discovery and remediation, such as air and water testing, and including post clearance results. We also document the steps taken to remediate these items. Additionally, the Labor-Management Committee on Building Safety has met bi-weekly over the last year and provided an effective venue for MSEA to raise concerns brought to them by their members. At these meetings, BGS provides detailed actions, updates and remediations of any known air quality and hazardous materials issues. People know this Division exists and is diligent and responsive. This is an ongoing, dynamic effort and we use

and track this information to help ensure that facilities are safe, sanitary, and healthy for those who repair, maintain, work in, and visit them.

During recruitment efforts, it was determined that the supervisor position needed to be a higher classification due to the knowledge and special licenses. The first initiative provides funding to increase the hours of one Occupational Health and Safety Compliance Assistance Specialist position from 52 hours to 80 hours biweekly to ensure timely and adequate coverage of the responsibilities of this division. In addition, this full-time position will allow the Division to proactively engage on the design and installation of all ventilation improvements.

The second initiative provides funding for the Department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Bureau of General Services – Capital Construction & Improvement Reserve Fund (0883)

The next program, on **page A-16**, is the baseline budget for the **Capital Construction & Improvement Reserve Fund**. This fund is used for the receipt and expenditure of funds earmarked for major capital improvements, repairs, and renovation of state government owned facilities. The funding is necessary for repair, replacement, and renovation including: parking garage repairs; plumbing and electrical issues; roof replacements and repairs; mold, lead, asbestos and water testing; walkway repairs; septic system maintenance; building envelope repairs; drainage upgrades; site work; above- and below- ground infrastructure; paving improvements and striping; master plan updates; masonry repointing; window replacements; space planning; mechanical system upgrades; painting, flooring, carpeting, lighting repairs and updates; retaining wall maintenance; remediation efforts; and capital asset management planning.

These funds are more flexible than other capital improvement funds, such as Maine Governmental Facilities Authority (MGFA), allowing us to more nimbly respond to emergencies or unplanned events, such as a failed system or building envelope issue. These funds can also be used for project assessment, which helps us more strategically assign our MGFA funds; design facility upgrades and improvements in advance of the issuance of MGFA funds, allowing the MGFA projects to go to bid as soon as funds are available; and demolition, which MGFA does not cover.

The funding for this account is a bit sporadic. Public Law 2015, chapter 267, Part L-8 amended the statute that prioritized year end transfers, otherwise known as “the cascade”, by eliminating the transfer to this program. Prior to this elimination, at the close of each fiscal year following certain other transfers, 10% of the remaining excess revenues were transferred to this fund to support necessary projects and improvements related to state owned properties. Also, there is an Other Special Revenue account for proceeds from the sale of state buildings and property, which has spent down to nearly zero, meant to be used to support maintenance. However, deposits are not consistent as sales of state property are infrequent and even when available cover only a small fraction of the need.

Happily, Public Law 2021, chapter 398, Part SSS transferred \$50,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Other Special Revenue Funds account in this program for the purpose of funding unmet capital construction and repair needs for state-owned buildings.

The one initiative in this program provides a \$2 million allocation in Capital Expenditures in both fiscal year 2024 and 2025. Renovation and repair work is now in process, and the entire \$50 million has been assigned to nearly 30 capital improvement projects. Twenty-four percent (24%) has been expended and an additional twelve percent (12%) has been encumbered. Design work is in process for the remainder. This allocation increase will enable the use of these funds for those projects in the next biennium.

Next is more information on the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority (MGFA).

The Maine Governmental Facilities Authority (MGFA) was created in 1997 to assist with financing the acquisition, construction, improvement, reconstruction, and equipping of additions to governmental facilities. The authority is governed by five members including the State Treasurer, the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, and three members appointed by the Governor. The MGFA issues securities on behalf of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches to fund large projects essential to governmental operations.

Under the MGFA process, the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services identifies projects essential to Executive Branch operations, obtains legislative

approval for borrowing, and designates those projects to the MGFA Board for issuance of securities.

MGFA funding is a critical tool that allows DAFS to address the deteriorated condition of the State's old and chronically underfunded facilities, often allowing for an adaptive reuse to address current agency needs. Funds are used to address hazardous material abatement, building envelope repairs and restoration, improvements at state-owned landfills to reduce contaminated leachate, and to plan for and construct replacement structures in the rare case where a specialized use has outgrown the existing building's capacity.

It makes sense to discuss language **Parts E, F and G** at this time as they all relate to MGFA requests.

Debt Service – Government Facilities Authority (0893)

The baseline budget for the next program, **Debt Service – Government Facilities Authority**, may be found at the top of **page A-24**. This program provides funding for annual principal and interest payments in support of capital construction and renovation of state facilities. These funds provide the means to assist Maine State Government in financing the construction and equipping of facilities by providing access to the tax-exempt bond market. The annual appropriation in this account is nearly \$22 million.

MGFA Funds 2019-2022

Since 2019, three legislatively authorized MGFA borrowings have, are or will fund full renovations of long-neglected buildings (the Ray Building, 221 State Street, and the Greenlaw Building); abatement, repair and replacement of some major systems in the Cultural Building to restore it to functionality; and the first phase of work on the Stone Building. Important work included extensive building envelope work at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy; replacement of several badly deteriorated roofs (Tyson Building and 6 Elkins Lane, to which some Maine State Archives collections were relocated); and masonry work to secure Cross Building granite panels, many of which are held on with metal bands. Funds were also used on Phase II of the project to remediate contaminated leachate at Dolby Landfill, acquired in 2011, and to fund a new Office of Chief Medical Examiner facility as the current building is obsolete, does

not have an isolation area for communicable diseases, and is no longer able to support the number of autopsies required.

MGFA Requests FY 24-25 Biennial Budget

All this to say... We have made significant improvements to state-owned facilities. But there is still much to do and it is imperative to continue these critical infrastructure investment efforts. Therefore, in the biennial budget, DAFS is requesting authority for three MGFA tranches.

The first amount of \$34.05 million (**Part F, page 9**), will fund: continued efforts to address extensive building envelope and mechanical needs at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy; the final phase of the Dolby landfill capping project; the next phase of the Stone Building renovation (abatement and mechanical work); the next phase of roof edge and flashing work on the Center Building; some interior work to restore an old auditorium that will serve as conference space on the East Campus; remediation and closure of East Campus tunnels; renovation of several long-neglected small historic buildings occupied by the Maine Arts Commission, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and the Secretary of State; and structural work at a storage barn within the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center campus, turned over to BGS in poor condition when no longer used by the hospital. Due to refinancing and retirement of older borrowings, DAFS has funds to absorb the debt service in the baseline appropriation.

The second amount of \$37 million (**Part G, page 10**) will be used for window repairs and replacements at the Bureau of Motor Vehicle Building; a security screening facility at the Cross Building; security fencing at the Blaine House; insulation and window repairs at the Cross Building; the next phase of work at Stone Building (windows and interior renovations); renovation work to the former Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Building on the Bangor Campus; and a replacement of mechanical equipment at the Crime Lab.

It is important to note that these project lists are based on what we know today. BGS will shift as needed to accommodate bids in this unpredictable market, supply chain issues, contractor availability, and emergency needs.

The first initiative on **page A-24** provides \$3 million each year for annual principal and interest payments on funds borrowed through the Maine Governmental Facilities

Authority in support of **Part G**, on **language page 10**, which authorizes the issuance of \$37,000,000 for capital repairs and improvements to state-owned facilities and hazardous waste cleanup on state-owned properties.

not
SLG
The third amount of \$39.5 million (**Part E, page 8**) renovates the historic “CETA” Building (former AMHI nurses’ residence) at the East Campus and adds space for offices, labs, and equipment storage.

This plan will consolidate several Inland Fisheries & Wildlife locations into one central facility. The new facility will accommodate offices, conference rooms, education space, a necropsy lab, equipment and vehicle storage, and the fish health lab. It will create needed adjacencies among department units; provide centralized space for vehicles, storage, and supplies; and enhance opportunities for public education and interaction.

More than 7,000 people per year visit **IF&W’s main office**. This number will increase with additional outreach and educational programming; helping the Department reach its goal to recruit new outdoor enthusiasts. The proposed facility will be designed to meet Maine’s Climate Action goals through energy efficiency, use of Maine wood products, and incorporation of technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposed location, the **East Campus**, is consistent with the Augusta State Facilities Master Plan. The CETA Building, former nurses’ quarters for the Augusta Mental Health Institute, will be renovated and expanded for this project. An adjacent barn/building will provide storage for boats, ATVs, snow machines, and other equipment (all unheated space), and house the necropsy lab (heated space).

There are a number of benefits to renovating this state-owned building on land already owned and managed by the state. The **East Campus plan** carries the benefit of Property Management Division services and avoids the rent increases endemic to private leases. It avoids “additional rent” for things that PMD and the state would provide at a lower cost such as heating and cooling, water and sewer charges, maintenance fees, pest control, insurance, janitorial services, trash removal, snow removal and grounds work, and general property management. Leases also contain escalation provisions requiring the state to absorb increased costs including increases in property taxes. For instance, the lease for 109 Capitol Street, executed in 2017, experienced an increase in year two “additional rent” from \$611,854 to \$780,725. Of the increase, \$12,180 per

month is attributable to an increase in property taxes. In contrast, this state-owned project renovates an existing historic building, not only advancing the master plan goals for the East Campus, but also reusing existing building infrastructure.

As such, the second initiative on **page A-24** provides \$3.2 million in each year for annual principal and interest payments on funds borrowed through the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority in support of **Part E**, on **language pages 8 and 9**, which authorizes the issuance of up to \$39.5 million for this project.

One more note before we leave this Division, the funding we are requesting to do all of what was just outlined is **less than what it would have cost to demolish and replace the Cultural Building** (which we wouldn't do given the now iconic nature of the building!) which would have cost at the **very minimum \$110 million**. Oh, we also have two attachments: one is a drone view of the East Campus – we've touched or will touch just about every one of these buildings; the other is a rendering of the proposed IF&W headquarters.

Central Fleet Management (0703)

The next Division is **Central Fleet Management** on **page A-19**. The Central Fleet internal service fund coordinates the purchase, use and disposal of the state's vehicles. Funds in this program are used to purchase vehicles and equipment, pay for maintenance, fuel and insurance and maintain adequate staffing to provide fleet support services and analytical reporting of fleet costs. This service and the vehicles themselves are supported through the fees paid by user agencies.

There are 16 positions within the Central Fleet Management Central Motor Pool Internal Service Fund account; the annual budget is just over \$9.3 million.

There are five initiatives in this program.

The first initiative establishes one Fleet Support Specialist position to manage the asset management software and telematics program to ensure efficient tracking and care of the cars and light trucks procured, maintained and provided by the Division of Central Fleet Management.

The second initiative increases the allocation by \$46,766 in fiscal year 2024 and \$51,655 in fiscal year 2025 to fund the proposed reorganization of eight positions within the Division to better align their classifications to their work responsibilities. The total increased allocation related to these reclasses is \$46,766 in fiscal year 2024 and \$51,655 in fiscal year 2025.

The next two initiatives relate to a vehicle fleet telematics system. This includes a one-time \$10,000 allocation in fiscal year 2024 and an ongoing allocation of \$365,000 for the annual maintenance costs associated with a vehicle fleet telematics system.

Central Fleet Management maintains vehicle records in an internally developed, customized, and antiquated R-Base system that is no longer supported. In addition, we use several different MS Excel spreadsheets to track various processes, tasks, and items. And then there's the hard copies of invoices and other documents that must be retained and physically filed. Billing and reporting tasks are completed by merging all this together manually. The systems need to be replaced with a modern fleet management application that can consolidate all the processes and data into one comprehensive database. Upgrading will also provide telematics functions to collect administrative data currently submitted by hand (maintenance diagnostics, mileage, EV/hybrid data for proper placement with agencies, and vehicle charging data.) The introduction of telematics will allow mileage to be tracked and uploaded automatically, and with the planned increase in electric vehicles, will allow tracking of battery power consumption and charging details.

It will provide the following benefits:

- Consolidate data currently recorded on spreadsheets and other documents
- Improve accounting and billing processes
- Improve analytics and reporting capability
- Introduce required telematics for mileage tracking and vehicle diagnostics for most state vehicles. Telematics offer future needs such as fuel and battery power consumption and charging details in EVs.
- Maintain digital copies of invoices and other documents to minimize paper records
- Integrated fuel program
- Integrated EZ-Pass program
- Integrated purchasing program

- Integrated stock program
- Integrated garage work orders for the state-run facility and for local garages near the vehicle's location
- Integrated rental vehicle program

The final initiative provides one-time funding of \$30,000 each year to cover the ongoing maintenance costs of an asset management software system that will be shared between the Division of Central Fleet Management and the Central Services program. A corresponding initiative will be found in the **Central Services – Purchases** program on **page A-21** and the **Purchases – Division of** program on **page A-40**.

Central Services – Purchases (0004)

Next is the Division of Central Services.

The Central Services - Purchases Program, on **page A-21**, is an Internal Service Fund funded by fees charged to its customer agencies. The 31 staff are responsible for managing central services in the areas of Postal Services and Surplus Property.

State Postal Center provides a wide range of mail services for State agencies, including interoffice mail. The Postal Center presorts and bar codes mail thereby receiving discounted rates from the United States Postal Service.

Surplus Property provides various mechanisms for the disposition of state surplus materials and equipment no longer needed by the state department that purchased them. In addition, federal surplus property is obtained for donation to qualifying state, public or non-profit organizations throughout Maine.

As just noted in the Central Fleet Management section, the first initiative provides funding for ongoing maintenance, to be shared with Central Fleet, of the asset management system. Surplus Property is operating under original processes and tasks without the benefit of any modern technology. These rely on paper forms, one spreadsheet and limited tracking of vehicles in a Microsoft Access database. Information is stored in file cabinets. The ability to generate reports on intake and sales of surplus items is manual, incomplete and time consuming.

The Surplus Property organization needs to establish and integrate a modern asset management system to process, track, and liquidate surplus property efficiently and effectively. This will improve the agency experience, streamline the customer sales process, and increase intake and sales volume, with the ultimate benefit of creating a profitable and self-funded unit. An asset management system will consolidate all processes into one comprehensive system and provide the following additional benefits:

- Elimination of all paper documents and manual filing
- Online submission of surplus items by agencies
- Improved intake processes and tracking of items
- Implementation of barcodes and scanners to track all surplus items
- Implementation of Point-of-Sale equipment
- Improved public, donee, and employee sales
- Implementation of an online “virtual” warehouse for the public, donees, and employees
- Improved federal surplus sales, tracking and compliance, allowing for expanded acquisition of federal property for state and local government agencies and qualifying non-profits
- Improved accounting and billing processes
- Improved analytics and reporting capability

The second initiative in this program establishes one Postal Services Worker position. Postal workers pick up and deliver all types of mail, sort incoming mail for delivery and presort outgoing mail for discounting, apply appropriate postage to letter and package mail, and drive postal vehicles in the performance of their duties.

DAFS recently completed a study of Postal processes and the hours required to complete tasks by function. The report concluded that to meet standard delivery service and to perform all the functions required, Postal needs to staff 78.18 hours per day. To staff to this minimum, Postal needs one additional Postal Services Worker.

The third initiative on **page A-21** funds the proposed reclassification of two positions. The first changes one Office Associate II position to an Accounting Technician. Both Postal Services and Surplus Property have business functions that would be improved and streamlined with business processing, expense review and processing, billing and accounting skills.

The second reclassification is from a Central Services Supervisor to a Business Manager I position. This reclassification adjusts the imbalance between management of Postal and Surplus and offers a cost-effective way to recruit a person with the skillset and management experience needed to address production and operational concerns. It would allow for a greater focus on Surplus operations, particularly Federal Surplus, and allow Surplus to be the profitable operation it should be. These two reclasses increase allocation in the internal service fund of \$9,232 in fiscal year 2024 and \$9,904 in fiscal year 2025.

The final initiative in Central Services provides one-time General Fund support of \$1,734,808 for replacement equipment for the Postal Division and ongoing funding of \$98,262 for postage meters, maintenance, and supplies.

By now, you are sensing the trend that we have with a number of our Divisions. We need to modernize. Similarly, the equipment and technology used in the Postal Service is outdated and several systems are no longer able to be updated and are not supported by Maine IT on the state's IT network. Four major areas of Postal operations are impeded by old equipment and lack of reliable technology:

1. Data is entered manually, and old technology (various Access databases and R-Base for billing and processing) are no longer supported.
2. Mail scanning is part electronic and part manual, making the need for cellular technology critical. Also, certified mail cards are processed on a system running on Windows 98 software, the equipment frequently breaks down requiring hand-stamping, and equipment parts are difficult to obtain.
3. Folding, Inserting and Meter-printed material runs on Windows 7 software, which is not upgradeable or supported, causing service issues. Equipment failure is a risk due to lack of availability of parts for the 10-year-old equipment. There is no battery backup, and it's hard to find people who can service our outdated machinery.
4. The PCs and equipment that sort our Read and Sort system are operating on Windows 7, are obsolete and not upgradeable. The sorting system is 8 years old and other key equipment components are 15 years old. Again, parts availability, breakdowns, and delayed service are an issue.

The State Postal Center provides a wide range of mail services for more than 147 separate State locations, including interoffice mail. Last year, they handled more than 9 million pieces of outgoing mail, handled more than 4.5 million pieces of incoming mail, and processed more than 60,000 parcels/signature-required items. And still they are looking to do more!

Currently, Postal Operations are a mix of state provided and direct services as we cannot support all of the mail services with too little staff and outdated or non-existent systems. Modernizing will allow us to pull the direct services back to this Division creating cost savings to the state, efficiencies and tracking not currently available. The following equipment upgrades would be funded with the budget request and allow Postal Services to scale the business and improve effectiveness.

1. **Handheld Scanners** - Upgrade or replace the scanners to work on the cellular network in addition to Wi-Fi so it can support cellular voice and location tracking.
2. **Analytics Software** – Acquire this cloud-based software that can track all tasks done on all the connected machines and processes. This will provide standardized reporting and billing capability.
3. **Blue Crest Business Manager** – Upgrade the server to a Maine IT supported platform and upgrade the software to the latest Blue Crest software, also installed on the staff laptops so staff can control processes from their desks and track billing data.
4. **Certified Mail Equipment** – Replace the desktop PC with a Maine IT supported PC or use staff laptops with appropriate software. Replace the printer.
5. **Metering Systems** – Renew the lease on the six SendPro machines. Replace the package metering system with a new system that is connected to the Business Manager.
6. **Folding and Insertion Machines** – Replace or upgrade both machines with the latest technology. We need machines that have the same capabilities so that all tasks can be performed on either machine in case of an outage.
7. **OCR Sorting Machine** – Upgrade the machine to the latest technology so that it can be integrated with the Analytics software.

Purchases – Division of (0007)

The next program is on **page A-40**. The Division of **Purchases** procures materials, supplies, equipment and services that represent the best value to the State of Maine. The Division has responsibility under law to make purchases on behalf of all departments and agencies of State Government, with consideration to life cycle,

delivery, quality and price. The Division of Purchases provides for open and competitive bidding in the procurement of goods and services to the greatest extent possible. The budget for this program is approximately \$2.1 million each year and supports 13.5 positions. There are four initiatives in this program.

The first initiative provides \$7,500 in each fiscal year for the costs associated with the statewide technology services provided by Maine Information Technology.

The second initiative provides one-time funding of \$300,000 to fully implement the Microsoft Dynamics portal to allow RFP proposals to be submitted, evaluated and awarded within the portal and provides on-going funding of \$20,000 each year to cover licensing costs to streamline the procurement workflow and contract review process.

The third initiative provides a one-time appropriation of \$700,000 to support the asset management system that we discussed in the Central Fleet Management program, on **page A-19**, and Central Services Purchases program, on **page A-21**. The \$30,000 requests in Central Fleet and Central Services are the ongoing requests that will support the maintenance of the asset management system.

The final initiative in this program provides \$54,000 in each fiscal year for contractual expenditures related to temporary staffing and multimedia services.

I will now turn to language parts related to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Part D

Part D begins on **language page 7**. This Part updates the title of the Director of Human Resources to the State Human Resources Officer within the major policy influencing position of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and in the list of positions with salaries set by the Governor. Sections 3 and 4 direct the Revisor of Statutes and Department of Administrative and Financial Services to update this title when updating, publishing or republishing the statutes or when adopting or amending rules and developing or publishing forms, policies and publications.

Parts E, F, G

Parts E, F, and G all relate to the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority. I've left the information here that we spoke about earlier as reference, but won't read it again.

Part E, on **language pages 8 and 9** of the language document, authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue additional securities up to an amount of \$39.5 million for the purposes of paying the costs associated with the planning, design, renovation, abatement, construction, financing, furnishing, and equipping, of new and existing facilities to serve as a headquarters for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. There is a corresponding initiative on **page A-24** to provide the funding for the annual principal and interest payments in the amount of \$3.2 million each year.

Part F on **language page 9** authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue additional securities up to an amount of \$34,050,000 to pay for the costs of capital repairs and improvements to, and construction of, state-owned facilities and hazardous waste cleanup on state-owned properties. The debt service associated with this part can be covered within the baseline appropriation of the Debt Service-Governmental Facilities Authority program found on **page A-24**.

Part G on **language page 10** authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue additional securities up to an amount of \$37,000,000 to pay for the costs of capital repairs and improvements to, and construction of, state-owned facilities and hazardous waste cleanup on state-owned properties. There is a corresponding initiative on **page A-24** to provide the funding for the annual principal and interest payments in the amount of \$3 million each year.

Part N

Part N may be found on **language page 21**. This Part authorizes the State Controller to carry any remaining balances in the Debt Service – Governmental Facilities Authority program in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in each year of the 2024-2025 biennium into the following fiscal year.

Part O

Part O may be found on **language page 22**. This Part authorizes the State Controller to carry any remaining balances in the Central Administrative Applications program in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in each year of the 2024-2025 biennium into the following fiscal year.

Part P

Part P may be found on **language page 22**. This Part authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management Division.

Part Q

Part Q begins on **language page 22**. This Part authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for improvements to the State's technology infrastructure and data centers; purchase of enterprise software; modernization of databases, storage and other components; and improved security of personally identifiable information and other confidential data. The debt service for this Part is included in the baseline of the Central Fleet Management program on **page A-19**.

Part R

Part R may be found on **language page 23**. This Part authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for the acquisition of portable radios, upgrades of tower hardware, and the purchase of equipment to support tower maintenance for the Statewide Radio Network within Maine Information Technology. This mechanism ensures the State can continually upgrade and provide maintenance of the State's radio network serving first responders and numerous other State agencies. The radios are on a rolling refresh schedule. The debt service for this Part is included in the baseline of the Statewide Radio Network System program on **page A-53**.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Concept Design for new IF&W Headquarters at East Campus, Augusta



East Campus with Stone Building in Foreground

Testimony of Jeff McCabe
Maine Service Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989

In Support of LD 258, "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025" (Emergency)
(Governor's Bill)
Sponsored by Representative Melanie Sachs

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,
and the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
Friday, February 17, 2023, State House Room 228, and Electronically

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and member of the Committee on State and Local Government, I'm Jeff McCabe, director of politics and legislation for the Maine Service Employees Association, Local 1989 of the Service Employees International Union. The Maine Service Employees Association represents over 13,000 workers across the state, including workers in all three branches of Maine State Government.

In testimony both from our members and the departments of Maine State Government before these committees and others on the proposed State Budget, it is apparent the various reclassifications and reallocations across all Executive Branch departments must be fully funded.

We're here to ask, as an important next step in addressing the State's broken classification system, that this Legislature provide the funding necessary for the Executive Branch to both complete and implement the ongoing review of the State compensation and classification systems.

The current compensation and classification systems were put in place in the late 1970s, and both under statute and the civil service rules the State, through the Bureau of Human Resources, is required to perform active management and oversight thereof, including regularly reviewing all positions (5 MRSA § 7061(4)), and regularly performing comparative studies of salaries for State workers (Chapter 18, Section 389, chapter 5(2)(B)). However, the State's oversight has been haphazard, it has failed to adequately manage the systems in any comprehensive manner since the 1980s. As a result, the overall architecture of the classification system is in shambles, and pay for State workers has lagged far behind those of their peers.

In 2019 we sought the legislative resolve "to Conduct a Comprehensive Study of the Compensation System for State Employees." At hearing, the Administration testified in support of the bill, LD 1214, and Commissioner Figueora detailed at length how the lack of systemic oversight and years of neglect had bred numerous "inadequacies and inequities."

Following the Administrator's signal of support for the study, MSEA and the State entered into a separate Memorandum of Agreement which required the State to undertake the study – at which point the resolve was pulled. The Agreement required the State to contract with an outside consultant to complete the study and to make recommendations by August 1, 2020. It also obligated the State to share the results with MSEA, and allowed either party to then bring the results back to the legislature in early 2021.

And finally, we are asking this Legislature to set aside funds necessary and sufficient to substantially close the pay gap between State workers and their peers.

Thank you and I'd be glad to answer any questions.



DEAN E. STAFFIERI
President

CALVIN PAQUET
Vice President

ALEC S. MAYBARDUK
Executive Director

MAINE SERVICE
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION,
LOCAL 1989 SERVICE
EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION

65 STATE STREET
AUGUSTA, ME 04330-5126

207-622-3151

Fax: 207-623-4916

mseaseiu@mseaseiu.org

www.mseaseiu.org



@mseaseiu1989

Dec. 19, 2022

Dear Governor Mills,

On behalf of the members of MSEA-SEIU Local 1989, congratulations on your reelection as Governor. We look forward to advancing our shared goals of rebuilding State Government, adequately staffing state agencies, strengthening retirement security for Maine's seniors and increasing working families' wages. The forthcoming Supplemental Budget, the Biennial Budget and the Executive Branch contract negotiations offer a unique opportunity to advance these shared goals.

As you build these budgets, we respectfully request your administration include the following investments:

- Include sufficient resources necessary in the biennial budget to fully eliminate the State Employee Pay Gap;
- Include sufficient funding necessary in the next supplemental budget to complete the classification study in 2023;
- Fully fund a retiree cost of living adjustment (COLA) that matches inflation for MainePERS participants;
- Increase funding for Maine Maritime Academy.

Addressing the State Employee Pay Gap

The State Employee Pay Gap:

In January 2009, in response to a request by the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS), Crescendo Consulting Group, LLC, produced a labor market survey comparing Executive Branch employees to private sector and other public sector employees employed by 250+ companies and 100+ municipalities. The results were striking. On average, Executive Branch employees were paid between 7.5% and 21.7% less than comparable private sector workers. Specifically, on average, administrative employees were paid 7.5% less, operations and maintenance employees were paid 21.6% less, professional and technical employees were paid 21.7% less and supervisors were paid 9.6% less than comparable private sector workers.

In 2020, The Segal Group Inc. performed yet another pay study at the request of DAFS per the collective bargaining agreements between MSEA-SEIU Local 1989 and the State of Maine. According to the market pay study commissioned by DAFS, state employees earn on average 15% less than what their peers make from other public employers in Maine and throughout New England, even after adjusting for regional pay differences. This pay gap is unfair to State employees and their families and it harms the essential services the people of Maine rely on. In addition to using aggregated data on private sector compensation, Segal also compared State of Maine wages to public employers, including: the cities of Augusta, Bangor, Portland and South Portland; Cumberland County; four other New England states: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont; and the U.S. Government in Maine. This study confirms the findings of the labor-market survey the

We look forward to working with your administration and the 131st Maine Legislature on initiatives to ensure that all workers who have dedicated their careers to public service in our Great State of Maine can retire with dignity and that everyone impacted by the 2011 pension cuts is finally made whole.

Securing the Future of Maine's Seafaring Industries and Maine Maritime Academy

MSEA is also the bargaining agent for faculty and staff at Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) in Castine; we encourage you to make a greater investment in Maine Maritime Academy. As Maine's only public college focusing on maritime training, and with a top-notch faculty and staff, MMA is the bedrock of Maine's maritime industry. Most MMA students are Mainers, and the strong salaries they earn after graduating are a boon to families and communities across the state. However, MMA is in tough shape financially. Currently, public funding for MMA as a percentage of its overall revenue lags far behind that of other public institutions, including Maine's Community College and University Systems, as well as other maritime colleges across the country, such as Massachusetts Maritime Academy. By increasing its investment in MMA, the State would help alleviate their financial constraints, reduce the tuition costs for students and enable MMA to provide competitive wages for all MMA workers.

Congratulations, again, on your reelection. We look forward to continuing to work with you, your administration and the 131st Maine Legislature on solutions to address these critical issues and any others central to the lives of Maine's public service workers, active and retired, and to the people of Maine who count on quality public services.

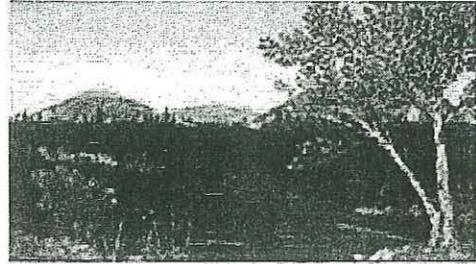
Sincerely,

Dean Staffieri, President, and the Members of the MSEA-SEIU Board of Directors

Town of Greenwood

Established 1816

Birthplace of LL Bean



593 Gore Road, Greenwood ME 04255 (207) 875-2773

February 14, 2023

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 258

Dear Senator Rotundo and Representative Sachs, Chairs to Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, and Senator Nagle and Representative Stover, Chairs to the Local Government Committee,

The Town of Greenwood's administration offers our full support for the Community Resilience Partnership's Budget – LD 258. The Town of Greenwood, a small town in western Maine, was a recent grant recipient under this worthwhile program. With this grant, the Town installed heat pumps and VFR systems in three of our Municipal Buildings, saving our Greenwood taxpayers the cost of the equipment and resulting in future energy savings.

This program is so important to our Town and to all of Maine. This program is assisting Greenwood in looking at our future energy usage, how to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, how to plan for community resilience, and how to protect our natural/working areas. These are all resiliency actions that the Town of Greenwood is proudly working on.

The Town couldn't have afforded these heating upgrades and we are so appreciative of these grant opportunities from this program. This program is beneficial state-wide by helping all Maine communities reduce emissions and helping us prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your time and support of LD 258.

Respectfully,


Kimberly Sparks

Town Manager, Town of Greenwood



February 17, 2023

Re: Testimony in favor of LD 258, and Funding for the Community Resilience Partnership

Senators Rotundo and Nangle, Representatives Sachs and Stover, and members of both Committees:

My name is Julie Hashem. I am Community Development Director for the City of Rockland, and here today to testify in favor of that portion of LD 258 that would provide funding for the Community Resilience Partnership Program.

I would like to share perspective on why a program that helps communities take action on resilience has been so important for our community.

The City's Downtown Waterfront includes two multi-use piers that provide access to Rockland Harbor and Penobscot Bay. It serves diverse commercial and recreational users from throughout the region and beyond – including supply vessels that serve island communities, excursion boats, pleasure boats, working boats and cruise ships.

The facilities are at risk. They are in hard shape due to age and need to be rebuilt. Add to this that larger storm surges overtop the seawall and piers even at current sea levels, and key support facilities are in the flood zone. These risks are more than theoretical; the December storm ripped the decking off one of the piers, and flooded access to the other.

So there is a need not only to rebuild the facilities, but also to redesign them for expected sea levels 2.7 feet higher than today's.

Large projects like this are hard for small communities like ours to pursue on our own. Just the conceptual design process and preliminary engineering on a project like this is more than \$200,000 – prep work that is necessary before even thinking about applying for federal grants for the actual improvements.

While there is a perhaps unprecedented opportunity to bring federal dollars to Maine for infrastructure improvements, we can only take advantage of the opportunity if we have the design and cost detail needed to put together a winning proposal.

This is where the Community Resilience Partnership has been so important. Two Community Action Grants are helping to fund the preliminary engineering: the first is focused on redesign of the piers and seawall, the second on the related site work and support infrastructure.

If we are successful in our application for federal funds – and we intend to be – the State’s \$100,000 investment in our project will help bring \$15-20 million in federal dollars to Maine. The resulting facilities also will continue to generate economic activity in the region for decades to come.

For your convenience, the line item for the Community Resilience Partnership Program is referenced on page A289 of the budget bill, and provides for an increase in funding of 26%. I would suggest you could double that funding and it would be money well spent.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Testimony of the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments in Support of
the Community Resilience Partnership Program

a part of LD 258, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

February 13, 2023

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs Committee, and Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the State and Local Government Committee: I, Amy Landry, Executive Director of Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), urge the full funding for Community Resilience Partnership Program, contained in the Governor's biennial budget.

Established in 1962, the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments is a regional planning agency serving Western Maine communities in Androscoggin, Franklin, and No. Oxford Counties. AVCOG is a not for profit, 501(c)(3) agency established pursuant to MSRS Title 30 Section 2311 as a Council of Governments, exclusively owned, and operated by member municipalities who join on a voluntary basis, AVCOG serves 51 municipalities and 3 counties. AVCOG is a leader in the coordination and delivery of regional planning and municipal services concentrated in four targeted areas: Economic Development, Land-Use Planning, Transportation Planning and Environmental Management.

In 2022, AVCOG joined the Community Resilience Partnership and is a two-time recipient of the Service Provider Grant program and serves as the Regional Coordinator for Western Maine including AVCOG's three counties, as well as the counties of Somerset and Kennebec. In February of 2022, AVCOG received its first service provider grant for the towns of Carthage, Chesterville, Greenwood, and Jay to enroll in the partnership. AVCOG assisted these communities to successfully enroll which includes conducting a town self-evaluation, holding community engagement meetings, and passing a resolution for the Partnership. In addition, we assisted three of these towns in applying for their first Community Action Grant. The towns of Carthage, Greenwood, and Jay applied for and received funding for a variety of climate action projects. The town of Carthage received \$36,940 to undertake a wide range of efficiency projects including upgrading the appliances in the food pantry and the emergency shelter, hosting a community energy fair, and building window inserts for 30 low-income households. The town of Greenwood received \$28,649 to implement energy efficiency projects, host an energy fair in the community, insulate the community building, and will implement VRF systems in multiple municipal buildings. The town of Jay received \$50,000 to insulate the roof of the town office.

AVCOG also applied to assist five more communities including the towns of Eustis, Kingfield, Phillips, Rangeley and Wilton to enroll. Currently staff is in the process of assisting towns in the enrollment



process and will assist those communities that are ready to apply for a Community Action Grant (CAG) in March.

As a Regional Coordinator we have focused on supporting towns and their service providers to fund and implement priority climate and energy projects that reduce emissions and address climate impacts. In the five-county region covered, there are 31 communities engaged in the partnership, with 20 communities enrolled and eligible for CAGs. Of those enrolled 13, or 65% applied for and were awarded CAGs. Examples of those grants include solar installation on a municipal building; creating a resilience committee; heat pumps for municipal buildings in seven towns; roof insulation; EV charging; updating a watershed protection guide; creating greenspace; and building window inserts.

In addition, as regional coordinator we are helping to facilitate a series of winter webinars to showcase the work of our communities and service providers, which covers the basics of joining the partnership, share experiences from towns that have had funding for their projects, and host timely sessions with grant funding organizations to prepare towns for upcoming opportunities that align with other resilience tools. The goal is to bring together new and existing program participants to inspire and connect projects and grants, and help towns leverage the upcoming resiliency grant opportunities.

All of these efforts are helping to build environmental, societal and energy resilience in communities throughout the region who otherwise would not have the resources and/or expertise to do so. The community resiliency initiatives can be large undertakings for communities, and many cannot successfully complete them without adequate support or funding.

The funding contained in the Governor's budget will enable AVCOG and the communities we serve to continue the work that has been started, implementing tangible actions that have immediate positive impact on individual communities, the region, and the state as whole. With the full funding proposed we are confident that our municipalities will have the support they need to implement actions and policies that make meaningful progress toward climate resiliency. With increased opportunities for federal climate and energy funding, these dollars are critical to help communities leverage those dollars to address climate impacts. The Partnership will allow communities to be prepared for these programs which gives them a tremendous opportunity to invest in their infrastructure and disaster resiliency.

For all these reasons we urge you to vote in support of full funding for the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future's Community Resilience Partnership program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

LD 258 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 -"

Representative Sachs, Senator Rotundo and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

My name is Dennis Lajoie, I have been the Town Manager of Norway, Maine for the last 5 years. I'm speaking today in support of LD 258, specifically the provision for funding Maine's Community Resilience Partnership. Our town, with the support of The Center for an Ecology-Based Economy, a local non-profit and Service Provider for the program, has received funding from the program to conduct a climate resilience assessment of all the critical infrastructure in the municipality, as well as assessment and planning work to support vulnerable populations in our community. Additionally, we are creating a standing Climate Action Advisory Committee to create a climate action plan for the town which will be referenced in our forthcoming Comprehensive Plan. This group will also guide future engagement with the Community Resilience Partnership and already identified a solar project on our town office building that will save the town thousands of dollars annually in electricity costs while being a public demonstration of the critical transition to renewable energy as Maine works to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Continued funding for this program will be critical to small communities like ours to lead the transition to clean energy and to build resilience to the accelerating effects of climate change. We look forward to working with the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future as part of this important and innovative program.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical funding.

Dennis Lajoie
Norway Town Manager
dlajoie@norwaymaine.com
207-743-6651
February 14, 2023

February 17, 2023

Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Representative Melanie Sachs – Chair

Senator Margaret Rotundo – Chair

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Representative Holly Stover

Senator Tim Nangle

Good morning, Chair Rotundo and Sachs, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. And, Good Morning Chair Nangle and Stover and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

My name is Lee Umphrey the President and CEO of Eastern Maine Development Corporation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization based in Bangor that promotes economic and workforce development, small business lending, community planning for municipalities and overall business support to people, businesses and communities helping them find and leverage resources to make a difference.

Our organization, as a leading regional coordinator within the State's Community Resilience Partnership, is here today to relay firsthand our strong belief that an increase in funding would further ensure the important progress Maine is making continues.

Maine's bold efforts to combat Climate change is gallant but needs to be stronger. The bipartisan legislation to establish the Maine Climate Council was just the beginning. Governor Mills deserves lots of credit for prioritizing this fight against climate change while promoting renewable energy opportunities. We need to continue this momentum by increasing funding for the Community Resilience Partnership's grants in the Governor's proposed budget. To date, the Partnership has helped multiple communities throughout Maine to assess and take steps to get ready for these climate related risks.

The partnership's framework aims to bring communities together to find and share solutions. This consensus building effort is a partnership between the state, towns and organizations. EMDC started this discussion with our 2021-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) exercise and report that identified Climate Resiliency as a major goal. Our CEDS plan builds upon DECD's Maine Economic Development Strategy and the Maine Won't Wait report.

EMDC's Climate Resiliency project Goals:

- Establish new climate and energy technical assistance capacity to support communities in Region 4
- Recruit and enroll communities in Region 4 to participate in the Community Resiliency Program through a robust outreach project
- Enrolled communities are eligible to apply for funds to support clean energy and climate resiliency projects
- EMDC will recruit and provide technical assistance to a minimum of 15 communities during the 2-year project
- Training and Peer Learning events will be hosted during the 2-year period to inform more about the benefits of addressing climate resiliency as part of their strategic planning process. Lessons learned and best practices will be shared.

- EMDC is committed to working with a high Social Vulnerability Index and low capacity for developing resiliency plans at the local level without additional assistance
- EMDC is a results-oriented Economic Development District. Reporting metrics are being tracked to document the results of our work and modify program components to meet the goals of this project

We are an organization that works equally with the Maine's Department of Labor and Department of Economic and Community Development. While a big part of the Community Resilience Partnership is to mobilize and prepare communities, the significant underpinning of this program ensures the workforce development system is fully aligned with economic development. To help meet the wind, solar, biofuel, and broadband sectors as part of the evolving energy industry's workforce demands, we are building community awareness of new training opportunities to prepare people at the local level to connect with jobs.

As the workforce development administrator in nine counties in partnership with the Department of Labor, we work with industries, businesses, community colleges and others to prepare workers for jobs in this green economy. These efforts go hand and hand with the Climate Resiliency work of the Partnership and your support for increased funding should take stock at how this cohesive, collaborative endeavor is an investment in Maine's future. Doing so is both practical and forward thinking in meeting the challenges of the climate crisis we all face.

2/17
SLG



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

In Support of
LD 258, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund...for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

Community Resilience Partnership (A-289)

February 17, 2023

Senators Rotundo and Nangle, Representative Sachs and Stover, and members of the Appropriations and State & Local Government Committees. My name is Kate Dufour, and I am offering testimony in support of funding for the Community Resilience Partnership proposed in LD 258 on behalf of the 70 municipal leaders who were elected by their peers to serve on the Association's Legislative Policy Committee and directed to establish MMA's position on bills of municipal interest.

The appropriation of \$3 million in each year of the proposed budget for the Community Resilience Partnership is important, because the program is intentionally designed to meet communities where they are on the path to becoming more resilient to weather related events and the impacts of climate change. Whether it is addressing energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings, taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or protecting watersheds, the program provides funding opportunities for all municipalities.

The 2022 Community Resilience Partnership annual report illustrates the scope and reach of this program among our members. Municipalities in communities across the state of varying populations and fiscal and workforce capacities have benefited from the partnership. For example, last year the town of Carthage received nearly \$37,000 to make energy efficiency updates to municipal buildings, while the town of Fort Kent received \$50,000 to conduct a comprehensive street drainage study. Whiting received \$26,750 to complete a flood protection checklist and develop an accompanying community-wide communications system. By working collaboratively, Blue Hill and Brooksville were awarded \$125,000 to conduct a community vulnerability assessment.

In all, the partnership funded over 70 locally initiated projects, which enabled municipalities to advance statewide goals without placing additional burdens on the property taxpayers.

Municipal officials urge our support of this appropriation. If you have any questions about our position, please contact me at kdufour@memun.org or 592-4038.

Senator Rotundo and Representative Sachs, Senator Nangle and Representative Stover and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Doretta Colburn and I am a resident of Waterford where my husband, Ted, and I own a bison farm, grow organic produce and make artisan bread. I am also the pastor of the local Congregational Church where I co-facilitate community programs on climate change awareness. It is through these personal investments in my town that I have witnessed the value of the Community Resilience Partnership grants in benefiting local communities, as my own. That is why I am here to speak to LD 258 and urge you to vote "ought to pass."

Early in 2021 Ted and I spoke with our Select Board about what our town was doing in light of climate change preparedness. We believed that something needed to be done to help our community prepare for climate impacts and the rising costs of food and energy. We were invited to continue the conversation, but weren't quite sure what we might bring to that dialogue until we learned in December of 2021 of the Community Resilience Partnership grants. We shared it with the Select Board who approved our setting up a separate committee to explore what we might do. Building a team of co-leaders and calling ourselves PEERWaterford for Partners in Energy, Efficiency, and Resilience, we worked with our Select Board to enroll in the program and began holding meetings to discuss needs, opportunities and set priorities. We began with addressing energy efficiency through an application for heat pumps for our Municipal Building which also houses Stoneham Rescue and the firehouse enabling us to improve our center of refuge.

A portion of that initial grant helped us develop a community garden on the fairgrounds as a source of education and community-building. During the fair, we incorporated gardens into the Little Hands for Agriculture exhibit where children could learn about and sample a harvest of fresh produce and herbs. It has become a place that is educational, inviting and fun.

In September we were awarded a grant for solar panels to further improve our municipal building.

For a rural town of under 2,000 residents, these grants provide opportunity that our town would otherwise not be able to afford. They better equip our community in managing the impacts of increasing weather extremes, and build an awareness of energy efficiency and resilience as was evident when the Select Board of a neighboring town invited us to share our experience with them. They are now looking to enroll soon.

The value of these grants will have lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents and demonstrate Maine as a leader in climate resilience. For these reasons, I encourage you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 258.



15 University Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
207-623-9511

February 15, 2023

Senator Margaret Rotundo, Chair
Representative Melanie Sachs, Chair
Members of Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee
5 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 258 – Biennial Budget - Department of Administrative and Financial Services – Information Services - GeoLibrary Related Budget Items

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and Members of the Appropriations and Finance Committee:

The Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) appreciates the opportunity to provide a letter in support for two budget proposals related to the Maine Library of Geographic Information (“the GeoLibrary”). The two initiatives are:

- *Administrative and Financial Services*
 - *Information Services*
 - *Office of Information Services Fund*
 - *Establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position and one System Analyst position to serve Geospatial mapping needs and provides All Other related costs.*
 - *Provides funding for state Orthoimagery Collection Projects coordinated by the GeoLibrary Board providing high resolution aerial images of the State of Maine.*

About MWUA. The Maine Water Utilities Association is a nonprofit association based in Augusta that provides support for water works professionals throughout the State of Maine in advocating for safe drinking water through educational and technical programming as well as advocacy on the local, state, and national level. The Association was formed in 1925 and counts approximately 109 water utilities in Maine as members.

Water utilities across the State of Maine make significant use of the GeoLibrary’s data. We rely on the GeoLibrary for orthoimagery (aerial imagery), statewide parcel data, and LiDAR-based elevation datasets. These datasets are highly important to a utility’s daily operation as well as in our planning processes. The GeoLibrary also provides valuable services coordinating the production of high-resolution landcover data with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Maine; such datasets are critical in our efforts to protect water resources.

An adequately funded GeoLibrary allows water utilities to focus on their mission – public health and safety. Without state coordination of spatial data, we would face significant data acquisition costs. For example, focusing only on the orthoimagery program, the Portland Water District alone estimates they would need to spend well in excess of \$200,000 over a period of five years for equivalent imagery. If utilities contracted to acquire the data themselves, and not through the State, they would incur greater demands on their resources due to managing and coordinating the data. These costs would be passed directly to customers.

MWUA encourages you to support these initiatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours for safe drinking water,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger Crouse".

Roger Crouse,
Chair, Legislative Committee, Maine Water Utilities Association
General Manager, Kennebec Water District

Corrinne Collett
Brooklin Climate Response Committee
LD 258

On behalf of the Brooklin Climate Response Committee I urge the Maine legislature to continue its support of the Community Resilience Partnership program. In particular our committee would like to speak about our experience working with the local service provider on the Blue Hill peninsula, Allen Kratz of Resilience Works LLC.

We formed our committee in the Fall of 2022 at the request of the Brooklin select board to help the town enroll in the Partnership. I think it is fair to say the committee members were novices at working with state requirements and were rather daunted by the forms placed in our hands. The expert guidance and assistance Mr. Kratz provided at this initial stage was critical to our successful Partnership application, and made it possible for us to move on to other projects.

In the few months since we first created the committee we are assisting our school with energy efficiency advice for their upcoming renovation program, helping the select board with efficiency improvements at municipal buildings, and building a neighbor to neighbor program to help town residents and businesses lower their energy demands and avail themselves of the many incentives offered by Efficiency Maine and the state and federal tax codes. Throughout this process, Mr. Kratz has been our eyes and ears into the wider world of grants, government programs, and other Maine organizations working to fight climate change. His advice and encouragement have been essential in helping our committee to move forward with confidence and speed. Without a service provider available to explain processes and make connections, I think it is safe to say that we would be struggling, if not failing entirely. Instead we have taken his advice to “think big” as we grow our projects to confront the effects of climate change.

It’s hard for me to imagine a more effective use of state monies than the funding of the local service providers like Mr. Kratz. His hard work and impressive talents have been essential to bringing the Governor’s climate programs to the residents of Brooklin.

Brooklin Climate Response Committee
Si Balch
Corrinne Collett
Doug Hylan (Chair)
Stephen Kazmierczak
Lars Selberg



CITY OF BANGOR

February 16, 2023

Testimony in Support of the Community Resilience Partnership Funding as part of LD 258: An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and the State and Local Government Committee. My name is Courtney O'Donnell and I am the Assistant City Manager for the City of Bangor. I am providing testimony today in support of LD 258 that provides funding for the Community Resilience Partnership.

The funding in LD 258 for the Community Resilience Partnership is an important step to ensuring Mainers are better equipped to reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. This funding would directly support local efforts to protect what makes Maine so great.

As a member of the Partnership, Bangor has been fortunate to receive grant funds to support the installation of additional EV chargers in Bangor, as well as develop a regional climate action plan with the Town of Orono and the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (also known as BACTS). Once completed, our regional climate action plan will be publicly available for all communities in our area to take advantage of, thereby jumpstarting regional efforts to implement recommendations, many of whom would benefit great from these grant dollars.

The proposed funding increase for the Partnership in this budget shines a light on the important acknowledgement that more and more communities are embracing the urgency of climate change and should be supported in their efforts. Through our own local process, we have learned firsthand that resources for regional planning, and implementation, efforts are vitally important.

Additionally, funding for the Partnership lets the people of Maine know that we are in it for the long haul while encouraging efforts to better prepare our communities for the challenges ahead. I know a walk through our City forest, a view from the Thomas Hill Standpipe, or lunch at one our many downtown restaurants with the Kenduskeag

Stream and Penobscot River nearby reinforce my desire to mitigate the effects of climate change while we still can. The Partnership has created an avenue for municipalities to act and for that we are appreciative.

Thank you for your time and attention. We'd be pleased to take any questions.

Courtney O'Donnell, Assistant City Manager courtney.odonnell@bangormaine.gov; 992-4202

Anja Collette, Planning Analyst anja.collette@bangormaine.gov

Rick Fournier, Council Chair, richard.fournier@bangormaine.gov

February 17, 2023

Kaitlyn Nuzzo, Government Relations Director
The Nature Conservancy in Maine
kaitlyn.nuzzo@tnc.org



***Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government***

***RE: LD 258 – Biennial Budget Proposal for the Governor’s Office of Policy, Innovation
and the Future and Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS)
Information Services***

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Kaitlyn Nuzzo and I am the Government Relations Director for The Nature Conservancy in Maine. **I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of two areas of the proposed biennial budget - the Governor’s Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future and the Information Services budget within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world’s toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners. The Nature Conservancy has been leading conservation in Maine for more than 60 years and is the 12th largest landowner in the state, owning and managing roughly 300,000 acres. We also work across Maine to restore rivers and streams, partner with fishermen in the Gulf of Maine to rebuild groundfish populations, and develop innovative solutions to address our changing climate.

Governor’s Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future (Z135, page A-289)

TNC has worked in close collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future (GOPIF). Our State Director, Kate Dempsey, served on the Maine Climate Council and many of our staff served on the Climate Council Working Groups. Our organization works with both coastal and inland communities to support climate resilience planning and investments. We are pleased to see this work in action in the GOPIF budget proposal.

Specifically, we support the increased funding proposed for the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) Program. The recently released annual report for the program demonstrates an outstanding record of success over just a short time. Since the program was announced in 2021, 131 cities, towns, and Tribal governments have participated in the program either on their own or through regional coalitions. To support these participants, CRP awarded \$4.65M during two grant rounds. This incredible success demonstrates the popularity and need for this work, and we strongly support continued investment in this program.

Additionally, the GOPIF budget proposal establishes one new staff position to manage the Community Resilience Partnership Program. As the programs grows, it is important to invest in staff capacity to continue to provide high quality support for the communities that are enrolled and participating. TNC fully supports the addition of a new staff member to support the CRP.

**Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) – Information Services
(0155, page A-29)**

The DAFS Office of Information Technology manages and provides enterprise information services throughout state government. These services include Geospatial mapping. The budget proposal establishes two new staff positions to serve these needs – one Public Service Coordinator I position and one System Analyst position to serve Geospatial mapping needs. Additionally, the proposal provides funding for acquiring spatial data including high resolution aerial images. Accurate, high resolution Geographic information, including aerial imagery, landcover data, and lidar-based elevation models are absolutely key to decision making and planning across all sectors in Maine. Private industry, town governments, state agencies, non-profits, and private citizens rely on these data and services. The Maine Office of GIS and the Geolibrary provide an essential service in the acquisition, analysis, and distribution of this information and knowledge. TNC and our partners specifically rely on the up-to-date accurate geospatial information the state provides for planning for land and water conservation, decision support tools, and climate change adaptation and mitigation planning. TNC supports increased, long term funding for staff and programs for Geospatial data, acquisition, and analysis.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of these two important budget areas.



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

2/17
SLG

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS
AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, AND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

IN SUPPORT OF LD 258

An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025

February 17, 2023

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I am Amanda Beal, Commissioner for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, submitting testimony in support of LD 258, the Governor’s proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 biennial budget bill. This testimony will highlight three Office of Information Technology initiatives that are crucial to the Department’s work and provided services.

The Governor’s budget has three Geographic Information System (GIS) related initiatives. The first initiative, found on page A-22, requests General Fund support of \$500,000 for each fiscal year to conduct aerial imaging acquisition, processing, and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) for state agency projects. GIS tools and digital spatial imagery are fundamental to managing important daily work activities, including land conservation. For example, the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) stewards more than 700,000 acres of State Parks and Public Lands and monitors more than 500,000 acres of conservation easements. GIS tools are used in nearly every aspect of land management, including mapping forest types; planning and monitoring harvesting operations; designing roads; and delineating stream buffers and rare habitat types. Most BPL foresters have hand-held iPads or iPhones that enable them to use and update GIS layers efficiently and in real time.

This initiative will also provide spatial data to BPL for the timely completion of the statutorily required detailed forest inventory of public lands. In recent years numerous large forestland managers have adopted LiDAR to streamline estimates of forest stocking and growth using algorithms that convert imagery to biomass. As a result, LiDAR will effectively replace or complement the costly and time-intensive methods of assessing forest stocking through field data collection. BPL staff have incorporated LiDAR in specific pilot projects involving mapping deer wintering habitats, vernal pools, and ecologically important older-growth forests.

HARLOW BUILDING
18 ELKINS LANE
AUGUSTA, MAINE



PHONE: (207) 287-3200

FAX: (207) 287-2400

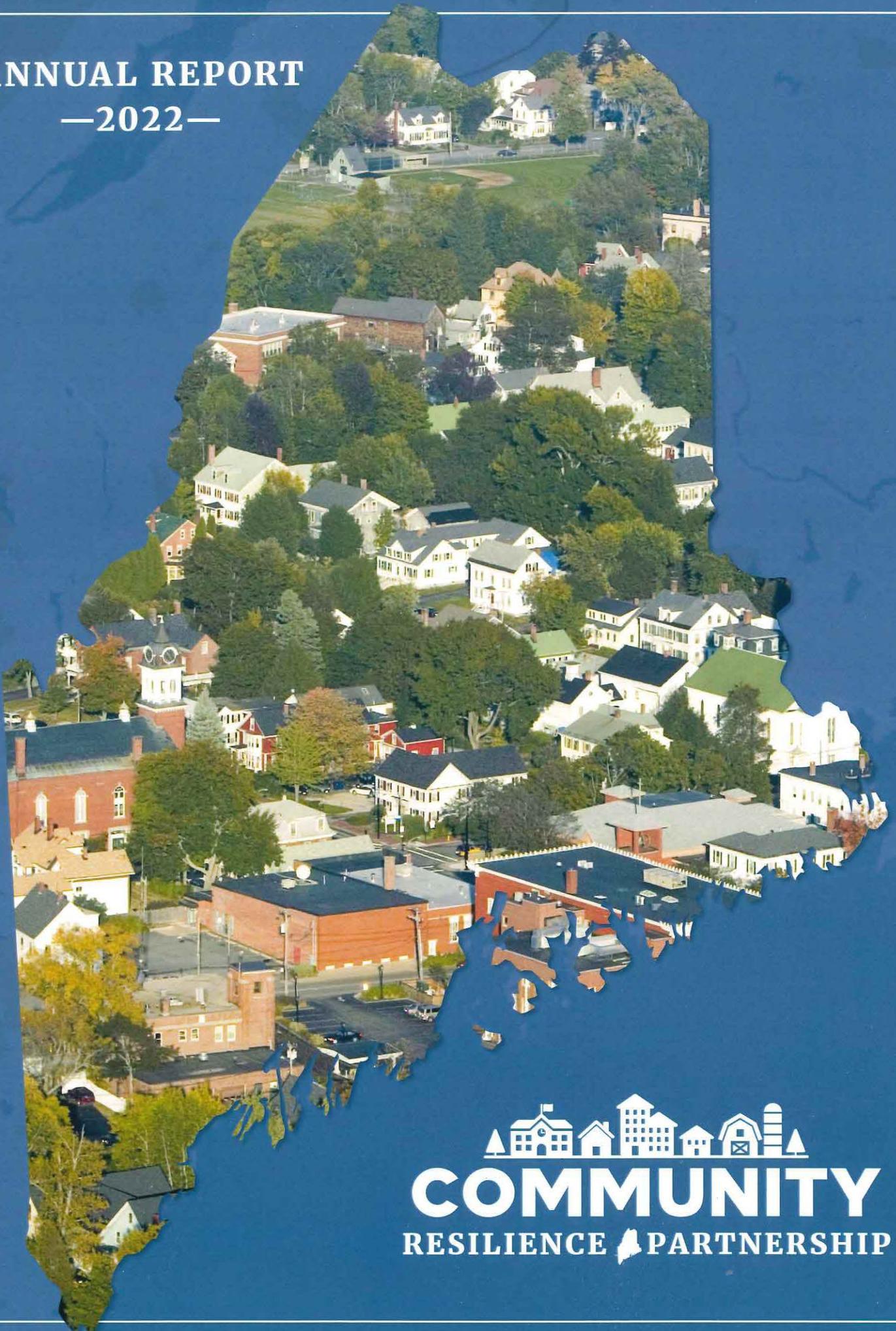
The second initiative for imagery is on page A-30 and requests ongoing General Fund support for high-resolution orthoimagery aerial images. Accurate and up-to-date imagery is utilized by the Department's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning to maintain the Conservation Lands Registry (Title 33 MRS §479-C, and Title 5 MRS ch. 353 Section 6206 I.D.), and complete a statewide mapping update of coastal bluffs, shoreline change, and the coastal submerged lands boundary. The Land Use Planning Commission uses imagery to fulfill certain statutory requirements such as tracking state and regional trends in future land use development patterns (Title 30-A §4331), and tracking locally designated growth areas in Comprehensive Plans (4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B). The Maine Geological Survey relies on this imagery for compiling thousands of geologic geospatial data points each year (Title 12 MRS §542). And our interagency PFAS work utilizes GIS data to identify and map areas properly.

The third initiative on page A-29 establishes two positions supporting the MEGIS and GeoLibrary teams. MEGIS requires additional staffing to support the increased utilization of this technology. The additional capacity will reduce implementation delays and allow for upgrade support.

In summary, the applications of GIS are vast and critical to DACF operations. Current data are incomplete, and additional staffing is necessary to respond to program needs. The support for MEGIS and GIS centralized data is essential for enabling the Department to serve and inform its many constituents, including the legislature, state agencies, municipalities, and the general public.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

ANNUAL REPORT —2022—



COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

SUMMARY

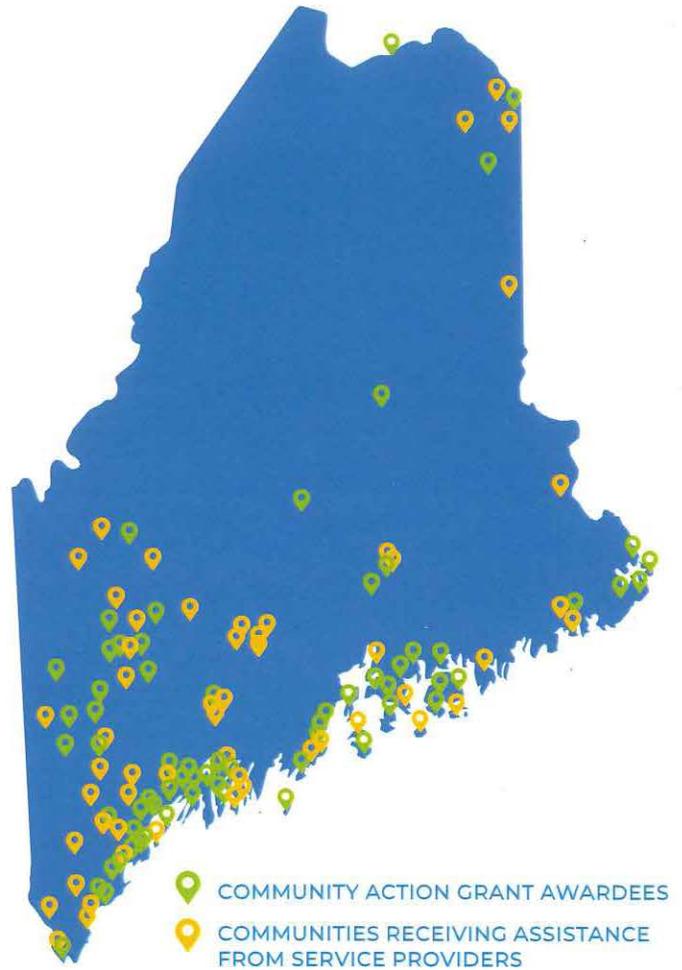
The Community Resilience Partnership provides grants and direct support to municipal and Tribal governments and unorganized territories in Maine to help them address local priorities for reducing carbon emissions, transitioning to clean energy, and becoming more resilient to climate change effects such as extreme weather, flooding, rising sea levels, public health impacts, and more.

The Community Resilience Partnership was a recommendation of Maine’s climate action plan, *Maine Won’t Wait* to fill a demonstrated need for climate technical assistance and funding to Maine communities, and received a \$4.75 million allocation in the 2022-2023 biennial budget. In addition to direct grants to communities, the Community Resilience Partnership also awards grants to service providers to help communities identify climate priorities and enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership.

Since the program was announced in 2021 by Governor Janet Mills, 131 cities, towns and Tribal governments in Maine have chosen to participate in the Community Resilience Partnership either as individual communities or through regional coalitions. This figure reflects 81 communities enrolled directly, and 50 additional communities working with service providers to enroll.

In its first year, the Community Resilience Partnership awarded \$4.65 million during two grant rounds. This includes 74 grants to communities totaling \$3.71 million for local climate and energy priorities and 24 grants totaling more than \$938,000 to service providers to assist 82 communities to get started with climate and resilience planning.

These communities are now using grants to conduct climate vulnerability studies, install high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, expand public charging for electric vehicles, transition to renewable energy, and develop resilience plans, in alignment with objectives outlined in *Maine Won’t Wait*. A list of communities that received grants in 2022 is on pages 5-9.



RESILIENCY PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPATION	
Completed Enrollment in the Partnership	81
Currently Engaged in the Enrollment Process with a Service Provider	50
TOTAL PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES	131

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

The state's climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*, observed that Maine will need, over time, to expand resources to support communities to plan for and reduce their risks from climate change impacts. Lack of capacity, expertise, and funding are consistently cited by municipalities as reasons why they are not able to address their climate risks.

Many of Maine's coastal and rural communities lack capacity to plan and prepare for climate change impacts on their ecosystems, residents, and economies. As recent flooding and storm events have demonstrated, there is an urgent need to provide information and decision support tools for community decision making to prepare for climate change impacts.

In addition, towns have uneven access to planning resources across the state to support other local planning issues, including housing access, economic development, and other land use considerations.

Maine Won't Wait recommended that the state provide robust technical assistance and funding to communities by 2024 to support local and regional climate-resilience initiatives. This includes climate information, best practices, case studies, and funding resources to help towns understand vulnerabilities, evaluate options, and prioritize actions; as well as increased funds to incentivize regional resilience planning and the inclusion of climate resilience in local and regional plans, regulations, and capital investments.

Additionally, *Maine Won't Wait* suggests that the state incentivize coordination among regional planning organizations, nonprofits, and private sector, many of which are already supporting some planning capacity for communities.

To this end, the Community Resilience Partnership offers support to communities for climate mitigation and adaptation activities that:

- Meets the unique needs of communities in Maine, and provides support that accommodates different local demands, priorities, and capacities;
- Provides equitable access to technical assistance and funding through targeted outreach and geographic distribution of grants;
- Encourages partnerships and peer learning among communities and organizations to build capacity and expertise;
- Builds new and leverages existing resources and capacity, locally and regionally.

With increased opportunities for federal climate and energy funding now available through historic legislation such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, state dollars, such as those from the Community Resilience Partnership, are now even more critical to help communities in Maine leverage federal dollars to address climate impacts.

Communities that are unprepared for these federal programs may miss out on once-in-a-generation opportunities to invest in their infrastructure and disaster resiliency capabilities. The Partnership is supporting vulnerable and under-equipped towns to start important planning and be ready for investment of these new federal infrastructure dollars.

GOVERNOR JANET MILLS

"Cities and towns across Maine recognize the serious threat that climate change poses to their people and their communities, and they are stepping up to take action to protect them. My Administration is proud to partner with municipalities to fight climate change and to preserve the beauty and character of our communities for generations to come. I thank our local leaders for their work and want them to know that they have a partner in my Administration."



COMMUNITIES LEADING ON CLIMATE CONFERENCE

In June 2022, the Maine Climate Council hosted more than 500 attendees (in-person and virtual) at the Communities Leading on Climate conference to learn from leaders across the state how to advance climate actions in their community.

To highlight community leadership on climate action, the conference featured speakers from Rockland, Biddeford, Lewiston, Limestone, Portland, Belfast, Kittery, York, Norway, the Penobscot Nation, Brooklin, Dover-Foxcroft, South Portland, Eastport, Machias, and more.



APRIL 22, 2022

Governor Mills awarded a total of \$2.5 million in the first round of grant funding to 75 communities across Maine to help them fight climate change. This included 29 towns and cities that received direct funding for local clean energy, energy efficiency, and community resilience projects. Grants to 12 planning, economic development and community organizations across Maine supported an additional 46 towns and Tribal governments in starting or advancing local and regional climate resilience plans in the months ahead.



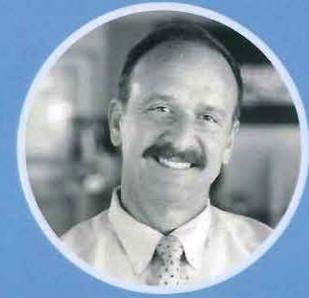
DECEMBER 1, 2022

Governor Mills awarded \$2.9 million in a second round of grants to support 90 Maine cities, towns and Tribal governments. This included grants to 54 communities for climate action, and 12 grants to service provider organizations to help another 36 communities to get started.

The City of Rockland is using two \$50,000 grants to plan and prepare for climate impacts from sea level rise and storm surge on critical infrastructure in the City's downtown waterfront.

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS Spring and Fall 2022

COMMUNITY	AWARD	PROJECT TITLE
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	\$50,000	Energy Sustainability of Micmac's Hatchery using Solar Power
Arrowsic	\$35,000	Arrowsic Climate Action and Outreach Plan
Bangor	\$50,000	Electrifying Bangor's Transportation Network and Addressing Community Vulnerability and Resilience
Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Tremont	\$91,722	Climate Action Plan, Community Engagement and Public EV Charger implementation
Bar Harbor	\$50,000	Municipal Building Electrification
Bath	\$50,000	Resilient Bath and Update of the City's Climate Action Plan
Bath	\$50,000	Master Planning for Modernizing Municipal Facilities — A Model for Business and Residential Facility Upgrades
Bethel	\$50,000	Assessing and Addressing Efficiency Needs in Bethel's Buildings
Blue Hill & Brooksville	\$125,000	Blue Hill-Brooksville Community Vulnerability Assessment
Bowdoinham	\$37,991	Energy Efficiency Improvements for the Town of Bowdoinham
Bridgton	\$50,000	Town of Bridgton Open Space Plan
Brunswick	\$50,000	Brunswick Climate Action Plan
Camden	\$50,000	Electric School Bus Purchase for MSAD #28 Transportation Fleet
Carrabassett Valley	\$40,159	EV Charging Stations - Carrabassett Valley Public Golf Course
Carrabassett Valley	\$28,853	EV Charging Stations - Outdoor Center
Carthage	\$36,940	Town Office, Emergency Shelter, Community Building and Food Pantry Energy Efficiency Upgrades and Community Outreach on Energy Savings
Castine	\$50,000	Castine Public Buildings Lighting and Weatherization Upgrades
Chebeague Island	\$50,000	Preparing for the Voyage Ahead: Building a Framework for Chebeague Island's Climate Future
Cumberland	\$25,000	Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Town of Cumberland by Reducing Use of Fossil Fuels and Enhancing Sequestration by Natural Systems



RICHARD FOURNIER

CHAIR OF THE BANGOR
CITY COUNCIL

"Bangor is poised to take a leadership role on climate action for our part of the state. This critical funding allows us to hit the ground running and helps move us toward our goals in line with the state's climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*, thereby bringing a local focus to our community."

CASTINE

The Town of Castine requested a \$50,000 grant to improve energy efficiency at three public buildings. The town will upgrade light fixtures to high efficiency LED lights at the town hall, library, and elementary school. The town hall will receive weatherization improvements including new insulation and weather-tight doors.



COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS Spring and Fall 2022

Deer Isle	\$50,000	Deer Isle Plan for Climate Action
Dover-Foxcroft	\$50,000	A Plan to Reduce Public Health Risk for Vulnerable Populations During Extreme Temperature Events
Dover-Foxcroft	\$50,000	Developing a "Complete Streets" Redevelopment Plan for Downtown Dover-Foxcroft
Falmouth	\$50,000	Strategic Watershed Plan: Geomorphic Data Collection, and Assessment, and Educational Campaign
Falmouth	\$50,000	Supporting Local Food Production and Social Equity: Provide Clean Energy to Hurricane Valley Farm/Cultivating Community
Farmington	\$50,000	Farmington Community Center HVAC
Fort Kent	\$50,000	Highland Avenue Comprehensive Drainage Analysis
Freeport & Yarmouth	\$121,388	Freeport and Yarmouth Sustainability Partnership: Creation of a Shared Full-time Sustainability Coordinator Position
Georgetown	\$39,000	Georgetown Level Three Energy Assessment & Plan for Town Buildings
Greenwood	\$28,649	Heating Upgrades to Municipal Buildings and Energy Fair
Hallowell	\$ 2,000	Hallowell Won't Wait: EV for Hallowell Police Department's Lead Patrol Vehicle
Harpwell	\$32,203	Town Office Energy Improvements - Phase 1
Islesboro	\$50,000	The Narrows and Beyond: Resilience Planner Pilot
Jay	\$50,000	Closed Cell Spray Foam Roofing Application
Kennebunkport & Kennebunk	\$125,000	Catalyzing Youth & Community in Mitigation and Adaptation to Sea-Level Rise Impacts in the Kennebunks
Lamoine	\$50,000	Lamoine Energy Transition Project: Municipal Solar Power Purchase Agreement and Heat Pumps
Limestone	\$50,000	Purchase and Maintain a Solar Power Generation System
Limestone	\$50,000	Enhance Operation of Solar Generation Equipment
Lisbon	\$49,898	Worumbo Waterfront Conversion
Livermore	\$43,648	Clean Energy for Community Buildings

JACK CLUKEY

TOWN MANAGER, TOWN OF DOVER-FOXCROFT

"Continuing and strengthening the Community Resilience Partnership program is very important. Without this program it would be much more difficult for communities like Dover-Foxcroft to fund these important stages in planning to ensure that our critical infrastructure and facilities meet the community's long term needs."

CINDY BOULEY

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER, TOWN OF FORT KENT

"With these funds, the town of Fort Kent will be able to fully evaluate problems residents are having due to increased amount of rainfall and runoff. These studies will better position the town to apply for future grants to upgrade our failing systems and increase our capacity to withstand climate change, mitigate the potential adverse effects of heavy rainfall, and increase the safety of our residents."





AMY LANDRY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

"AVCOG serves some of the state's most vulnerable populations, and with 72% of the Maine's communities lacking planning staff, we applaud the *Maine Won't Wait* climate action plan for identifying our work as critical in ensuring our communities are resilient. State support for local planning and projects to address the ever-increasing risks to our communities from climate change, is a regional priority that we are proud to support. Thank you to the State of Maine for its leadership on climate action."



COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS Spring and Fall 2022

Lubec	\$47,830	Resiliency Planning for Lubec's Future
Machias	\$45,000	Upper Machias Bay Resiliency Plan (coordination of 4 large projects)
Millinocket	\$50,000	Heat Pumps for Millinocket Municipal Building
Monhegan Plantation	\$11,000	Monhegan Water Company Treatment Facility Assessment
Mount Desert	\$49,225	Town of Mount Desert Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Municipal Solar Array Pre-Development, and Climate Vulnerability Assessment
North Yarmouth	\$50,000	North Yarmouth Climate Action Plan
Norway	\$50,000	Laying the Groundwork for Comprehensive Climate Action in Norway
Orono	\$50,000	Town of Orono's Multi-Tiered Approach to Baseline Data and Community Education on Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Orono & Bangor	\$125,000	Bangor Region Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Completion
Otisfield	\$40,480	Saving Energy and Protecting Watersheds
Paris	\$41,695	Police and fire station solar upgrades
Portland	\$50,000	Climate Resiliency Zoning Project (overlay zoning)
Portland	\$17,000	Portland Sustainable Neighborhoods Program
Rockland	\$50,000	Climate-Ready Infrastructure for Rockland's Downtown Waterfront (preliminary engineering on 4 projects)
Rockland	\$50,000	Climate-Ready Landside Infrastructure for Rockland Downtown Waterfront
Rockport	\$50,000	Rockport Climate Vulnerability, GHG Emissions Assessment and Outreach Plan Development: Equitable and Bold Climate Strategies for Rockport's Future
Saco	\$50,000	Saco Climate Adaptation Action Plan
Scarborough	\$46,240	Climate-Ready Infrastructure: Building a Resilient Route 1 and Pine Point Road
South Portland	\$50,000	Street Design Technical Manual
South Portland	\$50,000	South Portland Coastal Resilience Project



JULIE HASHEM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR, CITY OF ROCKLAND

"This grant will help the City of Rockland develop a more resilient design for the piers and seawall on Rockland's downtown waterfront. These facilities are vulnerable to increasing storm surges, and the Community Resilience Partnership grant will help us develop the engineering detail needed to apply for federal funds to redevelop our marine infrastructure. We couldn't take on large projects like this without help from grants, and we are grateful to the Mills Administration for creating a program to help communities like ours address resilience needs."



COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS Spring and Fall 2022

Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC)	\$100,000	Local Climate Action Planning Cohort with Biddeford, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Kittery
St. George	\$49,600	Visualizing Solutions: Assessing Vulnerable Infrastructure & Sites, Exploring Options and Engaging the Community Through 3-D Imaging
Surry	\$50,000	Community Vulnerability Assessment
Topsham	\$46,000	Municipal Complex LED Lighting Upgrades
Tremont	\$48,905	Town of Tremont Climate Resilience Planning Process with Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Vulnerability Assessment
Vinalhaven	\$50,000	Downtown Project Stormwater Management Design
Waterford	\$48,440	Project 1: Town Hall/Fire House Heat Pumps and Center of Refuge Project 2: Community Garden & Education Program
Waterford	\$49,979	Install Renewable Energy Solar System on the Office Portion of the Town Municipal Building.
Westport Island	\$48,500	Planning for Ground Water During Climate Change on Westport Island
Whiting	\$26,750	Complete Maine Flood Protection Checklist and Develop Community-wide Communications System
Windham	\$20,000	Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Emission Reduction Targets
Window-Dressers	\$125,000	Weatherize Eastport and Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point
Woodstock	\$26,820	Energy Audit, Heat Pump Installation, and Building Capacity with a Resilience Committee
Woolwich	\$10,900	Increasing Emergency Preparedness in Woolwich

SURRY

The Town of Surry will use a \$50,000 grant to conduct a climate vulnerability assessment of town infrastructure and at-risk community populations. The project will identify a range of adaptation strategies and estimated costs, and then recommend a capital improvement plan that identifies sources of government and non-government funding for increasing the resilience of those assets and populations.

AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS

The Aroostook Band of Micmacs earned a \$50,000 grant to expand the solar energy system that supplies electricity to the tribe-owned fish hatchery. The hatchery provides a traditionally important protein to tribal members year-round as well as a local, sustainable protein for food pantries in the Presque Isle region.

SERVICE PROVIDER GRANTS Spring and Fall 2022

ORGANIZATION	AWARD	COMMUNITIES ASSISTED
207 Permaculture, L3C	\$29,900	Durham, Gray, New Gloucester
Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	\$47,500	Carthage, Chesterville, Greenwood, Jay
Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	\$62,500	Eustis, Kingfield, Phillips, Rangeley, Wilton
Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System	\$22,500	Dixmont, Old Town
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy	\$50,000	Bethel, Otisfield, South Paris, Woodstock
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy	\$44,395	Casco, Hartford, Lovell, Oxford, Sumner
Greater Portland Council of Governments	\$50,000	Brunswick, Cumberland, Freeport, North Yarmouth, Yarmouth
Greater Portland Council of Governments	\$30,000	Gorham, Standish, Westbrook
Island Institute	\$37,458	Chebeague Island, Long Island, Monhegan Island
Island Institute	\$31,388	Cranberry Isles, Gouldsboro, Swan's Island
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments	\$62,500	Fairfield, Randolph, Skowhegan, Unity, Waterville
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments	\$19,720	Chelsea, Freedom, Gardiner
Klein Energy Consulting	\$25,000	Houlton Band of Maliseets, Penobscot Nation
Midcoast Council of Governments	\$25,000	Owls Head, South Thomaston
Resilience Works, LLC	\$62,475	Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Penobscot, Sedgwick
Resilient Communities, L3C	\$17,850	Islesboro, North Haven
Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission	\$42,500	Berwick, Eliot, Fryeburg, Old Orchard Beach
Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission	\$22,500	Ogunquit, Wells
Sunrise County Economic Council	\$37,500	Danforth, Jonesport, Lubec
Sunrise County Economic Council	\$25,000	Roque Bluffs, Whitneyville,
Sunrise Ecologic	\$50,000	Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Southport, Wiscasset
University of Southern Maine	\$62,500	Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, Westport Island, Woolwich
WindowDressers	\$50,000	Millinocket, Eastport, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point
York County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$20,000	Sanford, Waterboro

PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY PROFILES

Powering Up With Solar Energy in Limestone

The town of Limestone in Aroostook County received a \$50,000 Community Action Grant to help purchase a pair of existing solar arrays located at the former Loring Air Force Base. A second \$50,000 Community Action Grant is allowing the town to repair and upgrade the solar arrays, boosting the electricity generation of the systems. The town is partnering with the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM) and together will reduce their electricity bills by 95% with energy from the arrays.

Together the town and the school plan to use the savings to pay off the purchase price of the arrays in approximately seven years, after which they will enjoy the electricity from the solar panels at no cost.

“The Community Resilience Partnership grant demonstrates Maine’s proactive leadership towards a transition to renewable energy and provides essential support for local projects,” said Chuck Kelley, Chair of the Limestone Solar Committee. “The volunteers of the Limestone Solar Committee appreciate the opportunity to be a member of the partnership and these grant funds will help our community achieve strategic actions that were identified through the *Maine Won’t Wait* climate plan.”

“This Community Resilience Partnership grant helps a small town and a small school take charge of their energy future. As both recent geopolitics and local rates have shown, energy security is key in planning for a sustainable future,” said Sam Critchlow, Executive Director of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone. “As a school leader, I’m eager to take charge of our own energy needs. As an educator, I’m excited by opportunity



to involve our students, the next generation of climate leaders, in planning for a sustainable future.”

Volunteers from the town of 2,200 residents along with students from MSSM and Northern Maine Community College have helped with site maintenance as well as the repairs and upgrades to the solar systems. High school students are utilizing a data feed from the panels to monitor solar energy production at the sites and verify the school’s energy savings.

This is not the town’s first venture into solar energy. The Limestone Water and Sewer District built a solar array in 2018 on undevelopable well-head land area to offset energy usage at Limestone’s wastewater treatment facility. That project’s success convinced Limestone residents to authorize the town to purchase the arrays at Loring and increase the town’s savings from solar energy.



Laying groundwork for comprehensive climate action in Norway

The Town of Norway in Oxford County was a recipient in May 2022 of a \$50,000 Community Action Grant to start a coordinated climate plan for the community. The project involves engaging community members, conducting a community vulnerability assessment and an infrastructure vulnerability assessment, and adopting a climate resilience plan. Previously, the town completed a solar project at the wastewater treatment plant and installed electric vehicle chargers at key locations.

The town also received a grant of \$100,000 from the Maine Department of Transportation's Infrastructure Adaptation Fund in 2022. These funds are being used to assess the climate vulnerability of the town's stormwater infrastructure.

With assessment data from these grant funded projects, Norway is well positioned as a community to take advantage of further state and federal funding opportunities to address climate effects, reduce emissions, and transition to clean energy. Norway is an example of a community making steady progress to create a coordinated climate plan while taking incremental yet concrete actions – in the spirit of state's plan, *Maine Won't Wait*.

Tackling complexity with the Upper Machias Bay Resiliency Plan

The Town of Machias in Washington County earned a \$45,000 Community Action Grant to develop an Upper Machias Bay Resiliency Plan. This plan will provide needed coordination across four major resiliency projects in the town: the Machias Dike Bridge Project, the Shoppe Marsh Restoration Project, the Downtown Flood Protection Project, and the town's Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project.

Each of these projects is in various stages of planning and development and all have major implications for a healthy Machias Bay and a climate-ready future for the Town. Developing a master plan for the four projects will help the town identify overlapping areas of flood vulnerability, efficiently engage residents and businesses in the project areas, and effectively coordinate implementation of the four projects.

This project aligns closely with *Maine Won't Wait's* Strategy G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure to improve the climate readiness and resilience of infrastructure so that it serves Maine better under day-to-day conditions and functions reliably during emergencies.



CATHERINE CONLOW

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

"The Community Resilience Partnership is an example of placing investment where your policies goals reside. Municipal leaders understood from day one that Governor Mills was serious about advancing policies to address the adverse impacts of climate change and that partnerships, rather than mandates, would be put into place to address mutually supported goals."

GRANT PROGRAMS

The Community Resilience Partnership offers two kinds of grants: Community Action Grants and Service Provider Grants.

Community Action Grants

These offer direct financial support to local projects that reduce energy use and costs and make communities more resilient to climate change effects, such as flooding, extreme weather, drought, and public health impacts. Eligible communities include municipalities, Tribal governments, and unorganized territories in Maine.

Eligible communities may request up to \$50,000 for individual projects. Collaborative projects among two or more are encouraged, with increased awards available for multi-community partnerships.

To be eligible for Community Action Grants, communities must complete an enrollment process designed to help them assess current activities and set priorities based on community input. The enrollment process helps to build community support and develop a pipeline of local projects for funding as opportunities arise.

In 2022, the Community Resilience Partnership awarded \$3,709,014.60 in Community Action Grants to communities for climate resilience and emissions reduction projects. The total amount requested in grant applications was \$3,859,225.60. The Partnership provides a List of Community Actions aligned with *Maine Won't Wait* that offers guidance

for communities starting on climate action and incentivizes a baseline level of climate action across the state. Grants for activities on the list are available with no local match requirement. Communities may also apply for local climate and energy priorities that are not on the List of Community Actions, with a local match required.

All funded projects are required to provide quarterly updates, project deliverables, and a brief project case study that communicates lessons learned at the project's conclusion.

Service Provider Grants

While many communities can complete the enrollment process on their own, others benefit from the assistance, capacity, and expertise of a service provider organization. Service provider organizations possess deep experience in climate resilience, clean energy and emissions reduction, community engagement, and process facilitation.

Service provider grants ensure that communities — especially smaller communities with fewer staff — have the support of an organization to identify and understand their vulnerabilities, engage their residents successfully, generate solutions, and apply for funding to implement high priorities.

In 2022, the Community Resilience Partnership awarded \$938,186.00 dollars to service provider organizations to assist a total of 82 communities with enrolling in the Partnership, identifying priorities, and applying for grants. In 2022, 32 communities successfully enrolled in the Partnership with support from a service provider organization, with the remaining 50 slated to complete their enrollments in 2023. Eligible service provider organizations include regional planning organizations, councils of governments, regional economic development organizations, county governments, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions and cooperative extension programs, and for-profit enterprises and consultants.

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

SPRING 2022 ROUND

24 grants supporting 29 communities
TOTAL AWARDED \$1,214,311.55

FALL 2022 ROUND

49 grants supporting 54 communities
TOTAL AWARDED* \$2,494,703.05

** Total award may vary slightly as several contracts and project budgets in the Fall 2022 are still being negotiated with awardees.*

Service Provider Grants support regional organizations to recruit groups of two to five communities. Eligible service providers can request up to \$10,000 per community in their proposed group, with additional \$2,500 for each community with high social vulnerability or population smaller than 4,000.

SERVICE PROVIDER GRANTS

SPRING 2022 ROUND

\$542,783.00 AWARDED

12 service provider organizations supporting 46 communities

FALL 2022 ROUND

\$395,403.00 AWARDED

12 service provider organizations supporting 36 communities

Regional Coordinators Pilot

A Regional Coordinators Pilot is providing communities enrolled in the Partnership with on-going capacity and assistance to develop more complex projects and seek larger state and federal funding. The pilot is funded by private philanthropy and federal funds. Four organizations have two-year contracts to serve one of four geographic regions of the state. Eligibility for the Regional Coordinators Pilot was the same as the Service Provider Grant program.

REGION 1

Region 1 Coordination Collaborative (R1CC)

York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and southern Oxford counties

REGION 2

Sunrise County Economic Council

Waldo, Hancock, and Washington counties

REGION 3

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

Androscoggin, Oxford, Kennebec, Franklin, and Somerset counties

REGION 4

Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Piscataquis, Aroostook, and Penobscot counties

Grant Equity

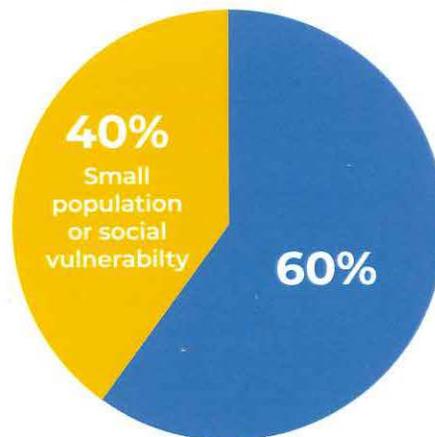
Equity in grantmaking is a primary goal of the Partnership. In 2022, 57% of Community Action Grant dollars went to small communities and communities with high social vulnerability. The Partnership identifies small communities as those with populations below 4,000. These communities are the most likely to benefit with the additional capacity and expertise offered by a service provider organization.

High social vulnerability is determined by the Maine Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), which considers socio-economic conditions to identify communities that may have a more difficult time recovering from a variety of challenges including climate impacts.

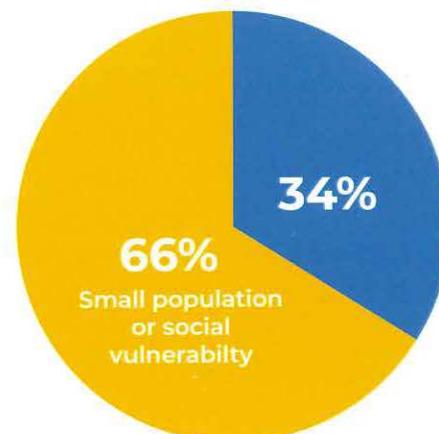
The charts below illustrate a substantial increase in the Fall 2022 grant round of the dollars awarded to small or highly vulnerable communities. The increase is attributed chiefly to the success of incentives in the Spring 2022 grant round encouraging Service Provider organizations to recruit these communities into the Partnership and helping them apply for the grants.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT DOLLARS

Spring 2022 Round



Fall 2022 Round



Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund

As part of recommendations to support community climate resilience, *Maine Won't Wait* proposed an Infrastructure Adaption Fund for municipal investments to protect vital infrastructure from effects of climate change. Federal funding from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan offered a one-time opportunity to pilot this program. In 2022, the fund awarded nearly \$20 million to 13 communities around Maine to protect vital infrastructure from the effects of climate change.

The grants were awarded by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT), with funding allocated through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, the plan from Governor Mills to invest nearly \$1 billion in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Infrastructure Adaptation Fund recipients will use the funds for projects to address flooding along ocean and riverfronts, protect stormwater and wastewater systems, install culverts to reduce flooding; and ensure energy availability during extreme storms.

INFRASTRUCTURE ADAPTION FUND AWARDS

Anson-Madison - \$842,000
Bath - \$4 million
Berwick - \$1.425 million
Blue Hill - \$1 million
Boothbay Harbor, \$4.15 million
Eastport - \$165,750
Frenchville - \$58,500
Kennebunkport - \$2.585 million
Norway - \$100,000
Ogunquit - \$2.85 million
Rockland - \$75,000
Scarborough - \$60,000
Winslow - \$2.738 million

Preparation for federal funding

Communities that have enrolled in the Partnership are better prepared to benefit from recent Federal and State actions that are delivering historic investments in infrastructure and disaster preparation for communities in Maine.

- The Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan is Governor Mills' plan, approved by the Legislature, to invest nearly \$1 billion in federal American Rescue Plan funds to improve the lives of Maine people and families, help businesses, create good-paying jobs, and build an economy poised for future prosperity. The Jobs Plan includes significant investments in broadband, transportation, energy efficiency, and Maine's heritage industries, consistent with recommendations of *Maine Won't Wait*, including \$20 million in funding for the Infrastructure Adaptation Fund.
- The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which has subsequently been referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), includes significant funding for transportation, resilience and environmental protection, energy programs and energy efficiency, and broadband and technology.
- The federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) includes \$370 billion for climate and energy spending with the aim of reducing US greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. The IRA will deliver transformational climate and clean energy opportunities for Maine, supporting our climate, energy, and economic plans with opportunities for businesses, consumers, and communities with significant support for tax incentives, funding, innovation opportunities, financing, and more.

The Community Resilience Partnership helps communities in Maine be ready for these funding programs by providing capacity and support for setting priorities and developing project plans, and in some cases, by providing the local match required to leverage federal dollars.



COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

CONNECT WITH THE PARTNERSHIP!

Are you wondering how to get started in the Community Resilience Partnership?

Are you Looking for the Regional Coordinator for your community?

Follow these links!

Learn the benefits of participating in the Partnership and how to join:

maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership/support

See maps of grant-funded projects and communities:

maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership/examples

Find your community's Regional Coordinator:

maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate/community-resilience-partnership/regional-coordinators

Still have questions?

Read our Frequently Asked Questions:

maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership/faq

Contact:

Brian Ambrette

Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future

brian.ambrette@maine.gov

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF

Policy Innovation

and the Future



maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

TESTIMONY OF SHENNA BELLOWES, SECRETARY OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
and State and Local Government

February 17, 2023

LD 258. An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Senators Rotundo and Nangle, Representatives Sachs and Stover, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and Local Government, my name is Shenna Bellows and I am the Secretary of State. I am here today to present testimony in support of those items presented in the 2024-2025 Biennial Budget for the Department of the Secretary of State.

Department information begins on page **A-622** of the **Budget Document** with the first initiative on page **A-623**.

Administration - Archives 0050

There are 10 General Fund initiatives:

1. Initiative: Establishes one Archivist II position and provides funding for related All Other Costs. The Personal Services request is **\$79,165 in FY2023-24 and \$83,904 in FY2024-25**. The All Other request is **\$11,207 in FY2023-24 and \$2,796 in FY2024-25**.

The Maine State Archives houses a vast collection of judicial records which are accessed more frequently than any other collection. The Judicial collection contains the earliest records (dated to 1639) and largest collection (easily 1/3 of the paper storage). Archives staff devote the equivalent of 1.5 full-time positions to service and support this collection. An Archivist II position designated for judicial records will allow better service for this collection with someone specialized in its unique legal requirements and make the collection more accessible to the public.

2. Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position. The Personal Services request is **\$5,061 in FY2023-24 and \$5,059 in FY2024-25.**

This management-initiated reorganization from an Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on May 17, 2022.

3. Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Inventory & Property Associate II position to one Archivist II position. The Personal Services request is **\$4,686 in FY2023-24 and \$4,899 in FY 2024-25.**

This management-initiated reorganization from an Inventory & Property Associate I position to an Archivist II position was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on August 24, 2022.

4. Initiative: Establishes one Digital Archivist II position and provides funding for related All Other costs. The Personal Services request is **\$79,165 in FY2023-24 and \$83,904 in FY2024-25.** The All Other request is **\$11,207 in FY2023-24 and \$2,796 in FY2024-25.**

Maine Agencies are shifting away from paper-based records to create and maintain records in a digital format. This new phase for digital record keeping requires additional Maine State Archives staff to properly manage and process those records. Currently there is only one archivist on staff for digital records, but the volume of digital state records is much more than one person can handle. To keep up with the demands of state agencies and for public access, an additional staff person will be required.

5. Initiative: Establishes one Archives Imaging Specialist position and provides funding for related All Other Costs. The Personal Services request is **\$90,092 in FY2023-24 and \$95,095 in FY2024-25.** The All Other request is **\$11,207 in FY2023-24 and \$2,796 in FY2024-25.**

There is currently only one staff person in the Archives Imaging Lab. 21st century researchers are seeking records and research material available online. To reach the widest possible audience across Maine and to reduce the need for frequent handling of fragile historical material for long-term preservation, one additional Archives Imaging Specialist position is needed to properly image large format and bound material to archival preservation standards, to safely image our most fragile historical documents, and to scan and convert imaging from microfilm. For example, the current Imaging Specialist has worked on the same project to digitally image the earliest 45 journals of the Maine State Legislature

for the past three years. It is estimated, it will take him another year to complete the project. With an additional staff person, Archives could complete such projects in half the time and make more state records available to the public.

6. Initiative: Establishes one Photographer II position and provides funding for related All Other costs. The Personal Services request is **\$84,064 in FY2023-24 and \$89,044 in FY2024-25**. The All Other request is **\$11,208 in FY2023-24 and \$2,796 in FY2024-25**.

Converts one existing document scanner contractor position to a permanent state employee. Researchers now expect and require online access to state records whenever possible. For the past 6 years, the Maine State Archives has paid contract staff members to scan historical documents for online access, with only an estimated 10% of Archival holdings scanned and available online to date. The need to scan state records and create digital preservation copies of those records will not go away, as archives only grow. At the current rate of scanning documents, with current resources, the State Archives estimates it will take at least 73 years to digitally image every box of records currently held by the Maine State Archives. This is an on-going need and an important role for modernization, continued preservation and public access into the 21st century.

7. Initiative: Provides one-time funding to match a federal grant from the National Historical Publications & Records Commission. The All Other request is **\$20,000 in FY2024-25**.

This is funding for the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board. They will apply for a two year, \$80,000 grant from National Historical Publications & Records Commission for training and re-granting to records-collecting organizations across the State of Maine to include libraries and town offices. The grant requires a 25% cost match. The project will begin January 2025.

8. Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a box truck with a lift gate to retrieve and transport boxes to the State Records Center. The Capital Expenditures request is **\$171,254 in FY2023-24**.

The Maine State Archives regularly uses a box truck (with liftgate) for retrieval and transportation of boxes to the State Records Center and archival records storage area. The current box truck is 14 years old. Recently, the liftgate broke and central fleet management struggled to repair it due to a lack of parts still available for the old model. A new box truck, with lift gate, is needed to continue operations.

9. Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Director Special Projects position through December 31, 2026 and provides funding for related All Other costs. The Personal Services request is **\$110,111 in FY2023-24 and \$116,135 in FY2024-25**. The All Other request is **\$61,207 in FY2023-24 and \$52,796 in FY2024-25**.

This position will serve as the Sesquicentennial Program Coordinator and will plan and coordinate statewide cultural activities for the nation's Sesquicentennial in 2026 to coordinate activities and events for America's 250. The Program Coordinator will need to travel throughout the state, convene planning meetings, and develop some initial marketing to establish the statewide program.

10. Initiative: Provides funding for repayment of Certificate of Participation loan principal and interest for information systems ongoing modernization project. The All Other request is **\$247,874 in FY2023-24 and \$247,874 in FY2024-25**.

Provides funding for repayment of Certificate of Participation loan principal and interest for information systems ongoing modernization project.

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Department of Administrative and Financial Services and Department of Secretary of State; financing agreements for ongoing modernization of customer service and information services systems. Pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1587, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, in cooperation with the Treasurer of State, on behalf of the Department of Secretary of State, may enter into financing agreements in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for improvements to the department's customer service system, technology infrastructure and data centers; updating of department software and hardware; ongoing modernization of databases, storage and other components; and improved security of personally identifiable information and other confidential data. The financing agreements entered into may not exceed \$5,700,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 in principal costs, 7 years in duration and a 7% interest rate. The annual principal and interest costs must be paid from the appropriate line category appropriations in the Department of Secretary of State accounts.

This concludes my testimony on the items included in the Governor's proposed 2024-2025 biennial budget.

I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session.

Thank you.