



HOMEWORTHY

February 10, 2026

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Senator Curry, Representative Gere & Honorable Members of the joint standing committee on Housing and Economic Development, thank you for the opportunity to show support for LD 2124. My name is Molly Feeney and I serve as the Executive Director at Homeworthy, a comprehensive homeless service agency out of Knox County, although our service region includes both Waldo and Lincoln Counties.

It is not lost on me that many of us spent a fair amount of time at this podium last spring, which resulted in your incredible support for one time funding through LD 698. This was a lifeline for our shelter programs, and because of it, every shelter that was operational at the point of passage remains open and full of Maine neighbors needing shelter from this incredibly cold winter. We return today with optimism and commitment to finding a permanent funding pathway.

ESHAP (Emergency Shelter and Housing Assistance Program) is the common grant operated by all of the shelters in discussion today. You will hear more about the integrity and accountability of this MaineHousing program in later testimony, but here is the brass tax. **37 shelters** currently receive operational funding through ESHAP; **1,209 beds** spread throughout this state- (the specific shelter list is also attached to this testimony). *And as of the end of December our statewide homeless service system reported 4,400 unsheltered Mainer's- a statistic that is once again on the rise.*

ESHAP shelters range from Domestic Violence (DV) programs to specific subpopulations including: families, youth, single adult, recovery, and low barrier programs. These shelters are located in 11 of our 16 counties, and offer service to **100% of our state**. This is best reflected in the series of maps that are in front of you- demonstrating that each sample shelter has a high density catchment in their County of origin- but also provides service to constituents from surrounding areas (This data was pulled from HMIS: Homeless Management Information System). In 2025 each program provided shelter to guests from an average of 9 counties.

Shelters provide regional coverage out of geographic necessity, and because our lean system requires us to work with each other to properly place neighbors in programs that are best suited for their needs. In 2025 our collective data reflected that over **55% of Maine towns** were identified as a shelter guest's last known address, and collectively shelters served **4,253 unique guests** (and this does not account for DV and youth due to privacy).

We have learned to lean on each other during this demanding stretch: working together to share policies/procedures, triage unanticipated needs and fighting together for our full system survival, because anything less would result in even greater strain on our already stretched programs and worse, catastrophic results for unsheltered Mainers.

The logical and lean funding mechanism built into this legislation has a natural and slow ramp up, which means our system will have the ability to respond to rising costs and inflation in real time. And as many of you still recall the funding/cost disparity we are facing is vast. An average bed night ringing in at \$102/night with \$7.16 subsidized through operational dollars. Once again we are not asking you to close that full gap. Simply, support us with this very reasonable increase- so together with our communities we can continue to keep this lifesaving system intact.

Sincerely,

Our Mission: breaking the cycles of poverty and homelessness in Midcoast Maine
Homeworthy is a 501©3 Not For Profit, EIN# 46-3136785 fna Knox County Homeless Coalition

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1696
Rockland, ME 04841

Family Shelter and
Support Services:
169 Old County Rd
Rockport, ME 04856

The Landing Place
Youth Center:
61 Park Street
Rockland, ME 04841

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SHELTERS IN MAINE'S EMERGENCY SHELTER AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Shelter Name	Town	County	Bed Count
Bangor Area Homeless Shelter	Bangor	Penobscot	38
Bread of Life Ministries	Augusta	Kennebec	40
Caring Unlimited		York	18
City of Portland Family Shelter	Portland	Cumberland	146
City of Portland Homeless Service Center	Portland	Cumberland	258
Community Care	Bangor	Penobscot	16
Family Violence Project Kennebec Shelter		Kennebec	16
Family Violence Project Somerset Shelter		Somerset	20
HOME, Inc., Dorr House Shelter	Orland	Hancock	7
HOME, Inc., Emmaus Homeless Shelter	Ellsworth	Hancock	25
HOME, Inc., Sister Marie Ahern House	Orland	Hancock	12
HOME, Inc., St Francis Inn	Orland	Hancock	12
Homeworthy	Rockport	Knox	22
Homeless Services of Aroostook	Presque Isle	Aroostook	57
Hope and Justice Project Central Aroostook Shelter		Aroostook	12
Hope and Justice Project Northern Aroostook Shelter		Aroostook	8
Hope and Justice Project Southern Aroostook Shelter		Aroostook	14
Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter	Waterville	Kennebec	62
Milestone Recovery	Portland	Cumberland	36
New Beginnings, Inc	Lewiston	Androscoggin	12
Partners for Peace		Penobscot	17
Preble Street Elena's Way Wellness Shelter	Portland	Cumberland	40
Preble Street Florence House Women's Shelter	Portland	Cumberland	40
Preble Street Hope House Emergency Shelter	Bangor	Penobscot	56
Preble Street Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter	Portland	Cumberland	28
Rumford Group Homes - Monier Family Center	Rumford	Oxford	14
Rumford Group Homes - Nancy Boggin Murphy Family Center	Leeds	Androscoggin	12
Rumford Group Homes - Norway Family Center	Norway	Oxford	15
Rumford Group Homes - Rumford Family Center	Rumford	Oxford	15
Rural Community Action Ministry	Leeds	Androscoggin	10
Safe Voices Annie Pearl		Androscoggin	17
Safe Voices Lupine Landing		Franklin	8
Tedford Housing Adult Shelter	Brunswick	Cumberland	24
Tedford Housing Family Shelter	Brunswick	Cumberland	40
The Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope dba Sisters In Arms	Augusta	Kennebec	10
The Next Step Domestic Violence Project		Hancock	12
Through These Doors		Cumberland	20
TOTAL ESHAP SHELTER BEDS STATEWIDE			1,209

Note: shelters highlighted in blue are shelters for victims of domestic abuse, so town names are purposely omitted

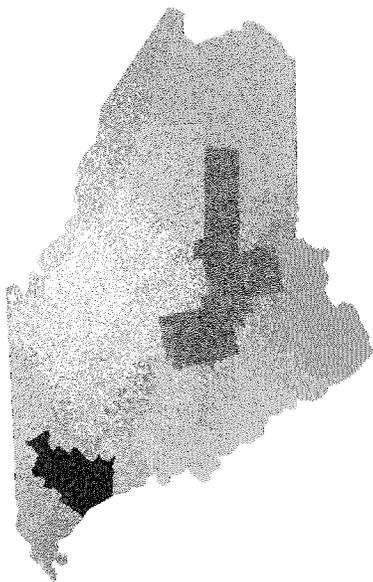
Shelter Stayers by County

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Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

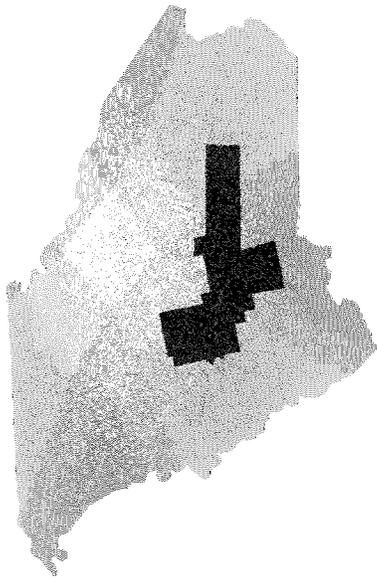


16
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
All

County	Clients
Cumberland	1,169
Penobscot	564
Aroostook	241
Kennebec	234
York	224
Androscoggin	223
Oxford	114
Hancock	89
Waldo	52
Somerset	51
Knox	39
Sagadahoc	37
Washington	36
Franklin	31
Piscataquis	26
Lincoln	24
Total	3,154

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

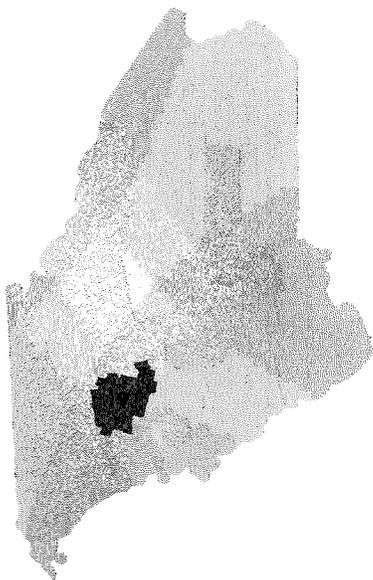


15
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Bangor Area Homeless Shelter

County	Clients
Penobscot	281
Waldo	20
Piscataquis	16
Hancock	11
Washington	10
Aroostook	8
Somerset	8
Androscoggin	7
Cumberland	7
Kennebec	7
York	7
Oxford	3
Lincoln	2
Sagadahoc	2
Knox	1
Total	390

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

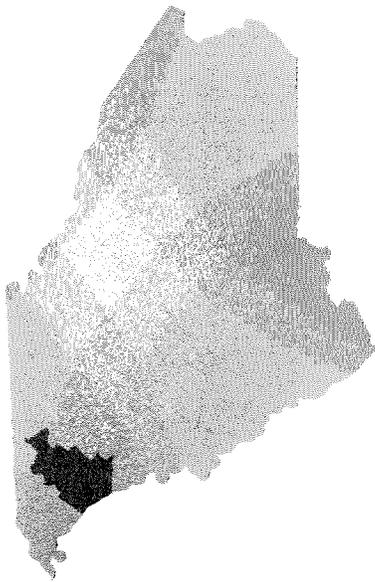


9
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Bread of Life

County	Clients
Kennebec	66
Androscoggin	10
Penobscot	6
York	4
Cumberland	3
Sagadahoc	3
Somerset	2
Knox	1
Oxford	1
Total	96

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

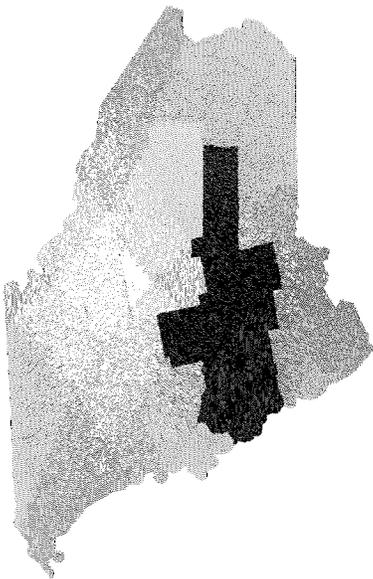


16
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
City of Portland

County	Clients
Cumberland	592
York	109
Androscoggin	54
Kennebec	27
Penobscot	16
Oxford	13
Knox	12
Aroostook	9
Sagadahoc	8
Lincoln	7
Somerset	7
Franklin	6
Waldo	6
Hancock	5
Piscataquis	1
Washington	1
Total	873

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

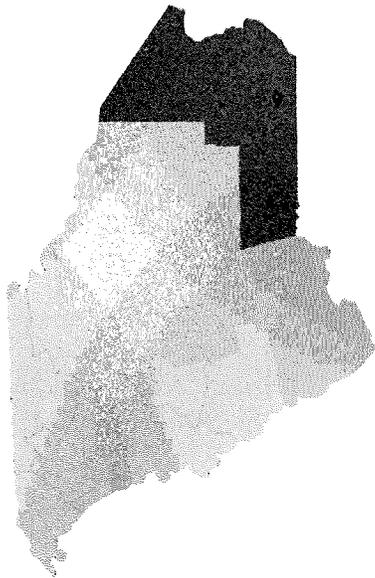


15
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Home Inc

County	Clients
Hancock	60
Penobscot	53
Washington	17
Waldo	12
Kennebec	8
York	5
Cumberland	3
Oxford	3
Aroostook	2
Knox	2
Androscoggin	1
Franklin	1
Lincoln	1
Sagadahoc	1
Somerset	1
Total	170

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

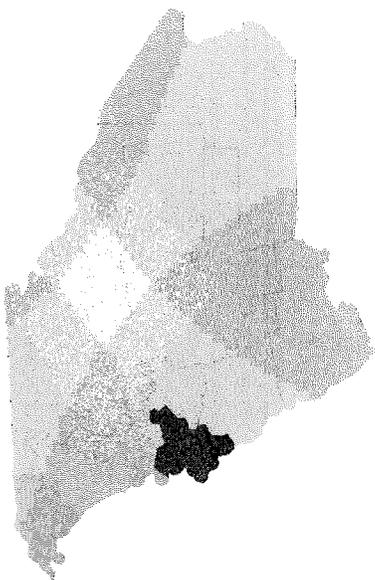


7
Counties Served

Agency Shelter
Homeless Services of Aroostook

County	Clients
Aroostook	207
Penobscot	6
Kennebec	1
Piscataquis	1
Sagadahoc	1
Somerset	1
Washington	1
Total	218

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

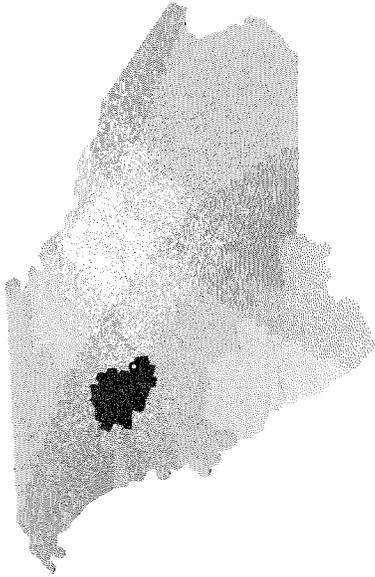


5
Counties Served

Agency Shelter
Homeworthy

County	Clients
Knox	14
Kennebec	2
Androscoggin	1
Lincoln	1
York	1
Total	19

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

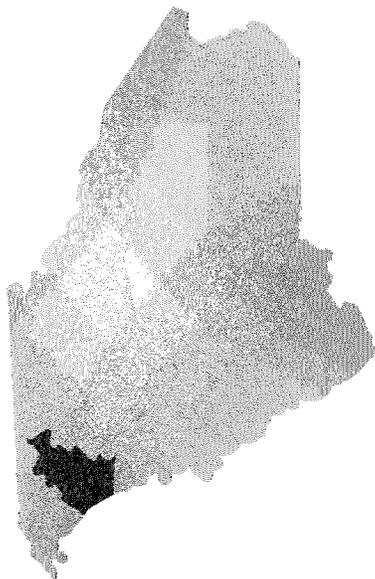


12
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Mid-Maine

County	Clients
Kennebec	78
Somerset	11
Penobscot	8
Cumberland	3
Lincoln	2
Androscoggin	1
Aroostook	1
Knox	1
Oxford	1
Piscataquis	1
Waldo	1
York	1
Total	109

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

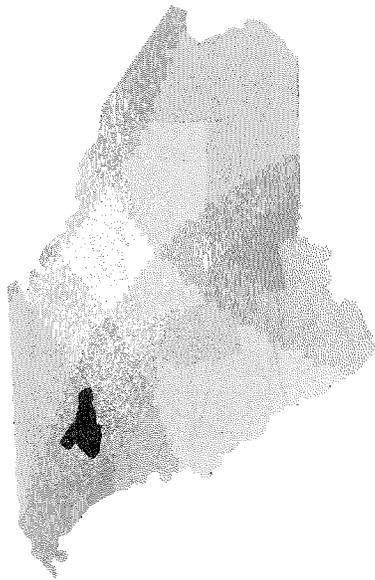


14
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Milestone

County	Clients
Cumberland	287
York	49
Androscoggin	17
Kennebec	11
Penobscot	7
Oxford	6
Knox	5
Waldo	3
Aroostook	2
Hancock	2
Lincoln	2
Sagadahoc	2
Somerset	2
Washington	1
Total	396

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact



9

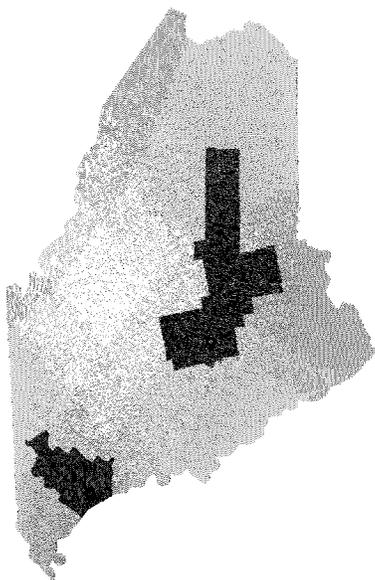
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter

New Beginnings

County	Clients
Androscoggin	19
Cumberland	8
Franklin	4
Kennebec	2
Oxford	2
Somerset	2
Aroostook	1
Penobscot	1
York	1
Total	40

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact



16

Counties Served

Agency, Shelter

Preble Street

County	Clients
Cumberland	211
Penobscot	168
York	39
Androscoggin	27
Kennebec	13
Hancock	8
Oxford	8
Waldo	8
Aroostook	7
Piscataquis	7
Somerset	7
Lincoln	6
Washington	6
Sagadahoc	5
Knox	2
Franklin	1
Total	523

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact



9
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Rumford Group Home

County	Clients
Oxford	72
Androscoggin	67
Franklin	17
Somerset	10
Cumberland	9
Kennebec	6
York	5
Penobscot	4
Sagadahoc	4
Total	194

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

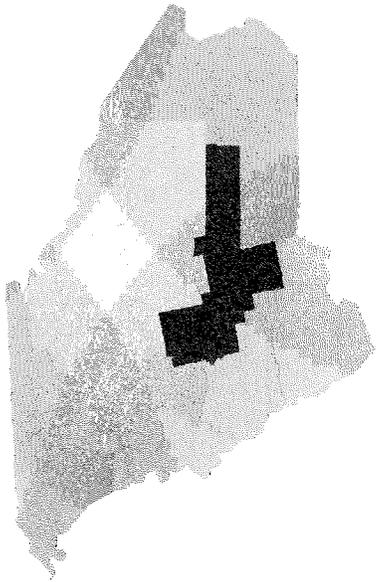


3
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Rural Community Action Mission

County	Clients
Androscoggin	5
Cumberland	1
Kennebec	1
Total	7

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact

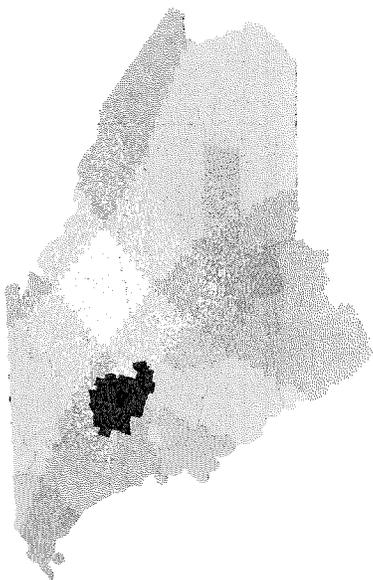


6
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Shaw House

County	Clients
Penobscot	10
Aroostook	4
Cumberland	2
Waldo	2
Kennebec	1
Oxford	1
Total	20

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact



5
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Sisters in Arms

County	Clients
Kennebec	4
Penobscot	2
Androscoggin	1
Knox	1
York	1
Total	9

Local shelter infrastructure, statewide impact



10
Counties Served

Agency, Shelter
Tedford Housing

County	Clients
Cumberland	43
Androscoggin	13
Sagadahoc	11
Kennebec	7
Oxford	4
Hancock	3
Lincoln	3
Franklin	2
Penobscot	2
York	2
Total	90