

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Behavioral Health
11 State House Station
41 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 287-2595; Fax: (207) 287-9152
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

April 12, 2021

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 488 – Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations Throughout Maine

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

This letter is to provide information on LD 488, Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations Throughout Maine.

This resolve provides \$1 million over FY 2021-2022 and 2022-23 to recover community centers in the following counties: Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and York. The funds in this bill are non-transferable and will not lapse. The Department is directed to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) no later than October 1, 2021 to award grant funds beginning no later than 60 days after the effective date of legislation. Recovery community center is defined as a peer-operated organization whose primary purpose is to provide the community-based connections necessary for a person to enter and sustain recovery from SUD by serving as a source of information on recovery, making referrals to local resources, and providing or referring an individual to mutual-help or peer-support organization meeting and social activities.

The Department currently funds recovery community centers in the following locations: Bangor, Bath, Boothbay Harbor, Brewer, Bridgton, Calais, Caribou, Houlton, Machias, and Portland. These locations were awarded funding through two RFPs, RFP #201704077 and RFP #201801009, as well as through subsequent legislation. These services operate within the hub and spoke model, with Portland acting as the hub. The State currently spends approximately \$90,000-\$100,000 per center, per year in these locations.

The Department also funds separate recovery community center activities in the following locations: Rockland, Rumford, Millinocket, and Lewiston. We currently spend approximately \$50,000 per center, per year in these locations.

Given the procurement challenges that have arisen as a result of numerous additional COVID related contracts and amendments, it is possible that an October 1, 2021 RFP issue date may be difficult to meet. Given the amount already spend on current community center locations, it is possible that \$500,000 per year split between seven locations will not be enough funding to

provide adequate services in all of these locations. Additionally, the general fund breakout should be for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23, rather than 2020-21 and 2022-23 as currently written.

We wanted the Committee to be aware of the above information as you consider this bill going forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Monahan Pollard, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Monahan Pollard, PhD, Director
Office of Behavioral Health