

HOUSING HEADLINES

SEPTEMBER 2020



Happy Fall!

As the pumpkins are coming out of the gardens and making their way to front porches, MaineHousing staff continue to help manage Maine's COVID-19 response and move our other initiatives forward.

Over the last week, we began winding down our COVID-19 Rent Relief Program. In partnership with the Mills Administration and Maine's Community Action Agencies, we have helped well over 14,000 households pay their rent over

the last five months. We're hopeful that Congress allocates additional federal money to help cover the range of Maine's significant COVID-19 related needs, including rent relief.

We have been preparing for spruce tipping and wreath making season for just over a month. (Not something we thought that we as an agency would ever prepare for, because while wreaths make wonderful home decorations.... But hey - it's COVID times and we've got to be nimble!) Over 400 workers will begin arriving the first week of November. In partnership with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, we are working to support COVID-19 testing and housing of wreath season migrant farm workers who may need to isolate or quarantine. By providing quarantine housing, medical and cultural support services, we are prepared to respond as needed to migrant farmers and their employers.

The Statewide Homeless Council's work on the redesign of Maine's homeless system continues as the Corporation for Supportive Housing, consultants who are supporting the Council's work, wrapped up stakeholder listening groups. The listening groups are an initial component of the redesign process. A leadership team has been formed to advise the redesign process and workgroups will soon be established to focus in on key elements of the redesign.

As always, if you have comments or questions about our work, please send them our way! In the meantime, enjoy fall and we hope you and yours are healthy and safe.

The MaineHousing Team

Mobile Home Replacement for **Limestone Couple**

Betty and Paul Taggett of Limestone are the proud owners of a new mobile home thanks to a partnership between the Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP), MaineHousing and MaineStream Finance, a subsidiary of Penquis. MaineHousing provided funding through our Pre-1976 Mobile

Home Replacement Program. Of their new home, Betty Taggett said, "It's just wonderful all the

way around.... It's still like pinch yourself to see if it's real. If you're really not dreaming. And they [ACAP] have been a wonderful agency to work with. But I'm glad they are, because there's a lot of people besides us that could utilize this, and it would be a dream come true for them, too. A video of an interview with Ms. Taggett and ACAP's Housing

Specialist Shannon Hill can be found here.



CEO Jason Parent **MaineHousing Submits Comments**

Regarding Fair Market Rents Fair Market Rents (FMRs), which are set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are used to

program. MaineHousing officially requested reevaluation of the proposed 2021 Fair Market Rents in Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo counties. We will compile local rent data and present it to HUD justifying

determine standard rents for the Housing Choice Voucher

market rent. Because of the competitive rental market, this proposed increase will help make it easier for families with Housing Choice Vouchers to find a home in the Midcoast area. MaineHousing Awarded \$7.8 Million in Emergency Solutions Grant

CARES Act Funding

Solutions Grant Cares Act Funding, which will bring an additional

MaineHousing was awarded a second round of Emergency

\$7.8 million to Maine. This brings our total to \$12.6 million in

Emergency Solutions Grant Cares Act Funding.

and case management.

an increase in the FMRs for the Midcoast that are at times half of

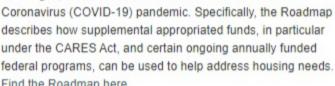
The funds will be used to fund shelter operation costs associated with planning and responding to COVID-19, including hotel/motel vouchers, temporary wellness shelters to allow for physical distancing, as well as rapid-rehousing identification, assistance,

Additionally, MaineHousing will make funding available for homeless diversion programs and shelter renovations necessary to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Further information on eligibility and applications for these programs will be available soon!

> Resource: COVID-19 Housing Resource Roadmap

to help state, local. tribal, and territorial

(SLTT) leaders and stakeholders with navigating some of the



challenges, as well as the resources associated with the

The COVID-19 Housing Resource Roadmap was created

Find the Roadmap here. MaineHousing is Hiring! MaineHousing is hiring for a few different positions: Multifamily Underwriter in our Development Department

Investor Reporting Specialist in our Finance Department



(207) 626-4600 (800) 452-4668 Maine Relay 711





on October 20, 2020 at 9 am via teleconference. For more information about how to listen in on the meeting, please contact us.



As of September 15, 2020: Purchases: 670

The total value of the

loans purchased so far in 2020 is \$98,891,729. There are 354 units in the pipeline at \$50,327,249 in

value.

Happy New



for the Home Energy Assistance Program. Here are numbers as of 9/25/2020: Total applications: 8,360 Pending: 6,342

Confirmed eligible: 1,730

information about the

program here - and

Find out more

accepting applications

forward to your networks and people who may need help!



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