



2022 Community Solutions Grant

Request for Proposal



MaineHousing
MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY



mainehousing.org | 207-626-4600

2022 Community Solutions Grant

Purpose

MaineHousing's 2022 Community Solutions Grant provides matching grants to municipalities, ethnic and community-based organizations, or Native American tribes in Maine that are taking a lead role in creating or preserving affordable housing in their communities. The grants are flexible and locally driven; each successful municipality, organization or tribe determines how best to address their affordable housing needs.

Program Overview

Municipalities, ethnic and community-based organizations, or tribes may request up to \$500,000 in Community Solutions Grant funds for the creation or preservation of affordable housing units. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to address their community's affordable housing needs. Grantees must partner with other entities and commit municipal or tribal resources. Applicants from communities with public housing authorities are encouraged to partner with their public housing authority in developing a proposal. Interested parties are invited to submit a thoughtful proposal offering a clear solution to their community's identified housing needs.

Municipalities, ethnic and community-based organizations, or tribes must demonstrate that they are bringing additional resources to the table with a value equal to or greater than the amount of the Community Solutions Grant requested. Such resources may include without limitation personnel, other in-kind contributions, and additional funds. In the 2022 program, MaineHousing will give preference to proposals that include local or county American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds to support eligible affordable housing.

Use of other MaineHousing programs such as the First Home Loan Program (MaineHousing has flexible requirements for homebuyers of 1-4 unit properties), the Lead Paint Hazard Remediation Programs, the Arsenic Abatement Program, the Home Accessibility and Repair Program, Public Housing Authorities' Short Term and Permanent Financing Demonstration Programs, the Community Aging in Place Grant, and Housing Choice Vouchers is encouraged. See MaineHousing's website (www.mainehousing.org) or contact Clyde Barr (207) 624-5772 for MaineHousing program information.

Funding requires compliance with state and local laws, including the Growth Management Law, commitments from any other funding sources, a final budget, and other documentation reasonably required by MaineHousing. MaineHousing may suspend or terminate this program at any time, reject or cease processing any application prior to issuing a Grant Agreement, and award all, a portion, additional, or none, of the available funds.

Eligible Uses

- Grant funds must be invested in the creation or preservation of affordable housing units for persons of low income.
- Applicants must match the Community Solutions Grant with other resources.

Application Process

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants must submit a plan that addresses the following topics:

- A Local needs assessment that describes the need for this program in the community.
- The specific geographic areas to be served.
- Collaborating agencies that will participate in the program and their specific roles.
- Municipal, organization or tribal staff who will work on the program including their anticipated roles and biographies or resumes.
- Agencies and individual consultants who will work on the program, including their anticipated roles and biographies or resumes.
- Documentation of the Municipality, organization or tribe's contribution of resources such as in-kind contributions, personnel, and financial resources.
- Sources of funds in addition to the Community Solutions Grant and the municipality's or tribe's contribution.
- A Proposed budget.
- An Estimate of the number of affordable units to be created or preserved.
- A description of the proposed use of the Community Solutions Grant.
- A description of the proposed use of any other MaineHousing resources.
- An Implementation timeline.

MaineHousing will review the plan to determine whether the plan adequately addresses program goals and requirements. MaineHousing may offer suggestions and/or seek further clarification. Funding decisions are based on the following:

- The applicant's demonstrated commitment to and leadership on affordable housing.
- The community's demonstrated housing needs.
- Capacity to carry out the plan.
- Commitment of municipal resources to the plan.
- Commitment of resources of other entities to the plan.
- Innovativeness of the plan.
- Viability of the plan.
- Proposed use of MaineHousing resources.
- The extent the plan addresses needs of Mainers with low incomes.
- Compliance with program requirements.
- Availability of Community Solutions Program funds.

Applicants selected for funding will enter into a Grant Agreement with MaineHousing. The approved plan will become part of the Grant Agreement. Funds will be disbursed as agreed upon in the execution of the Grant Agreement.

MaineHousing will conduct routine monitoring and oversight of progress and expenditures during the term of the Grant Agreement. Grantees must provide an accounting of grant funds spent. Funds that are not spent in accordance with the Grant Agreement must be returned to MaineHousing.

Grantees will track outcomes and participate in program evaluation and data collection requirements, as required by MaineHousing.

Information Contact

The MaineHousing contact for all questions and for submission is:

Name: Clyde Barr
Title: Policy Analyst
Address: MaineHousing, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, ME 04330
Telephone: (207) 624-5772
E-mail: cbarr@mainehousing.org

Conflicts of Interest

Applicants should disclose whether or not any principal or affiliate of the applicant, or anyone who will be paid for work on the program is a MaineHousing employee or commissioner or has business ties, familial relationships or other close personal relationships with a current MaineHousing employee or commissioner. Applicants must disclose the nature of the relationship between the applicant and any of the potential parties which may constitute a conflict of interest. MaineHousing may, at its discretion, impose restrictions or require other third party verifications on account of the conflict of interest concerns.

About MaineHousing

MaineHousing is an independent quasi-state agency that also is one of the top mortgage lenders and affordable housing development lenders in the state. The authority is a \$2.1 billion financial institution with a staff of 180+ whose mission is to assist Maine people in obtaining and maintaining quality affordable housing and services suitable to their housing needs.

On an annual basis the agency assists more than 90,000 Maine households and invests more than \$300 million in Maine's economy, most of it from the sale of tax-exempt revenue bonds, private capital generated by the low income housing tax credit, and federal funds.

MaineHousing provides financing and administers programs to assist first-time homebuyers; to develop affordable rental housing; to create housing for people with special needs; to provide housing for people who are experiencing homelessness; to provide low income households with rental assistance and heating assistance ; and to repair or weatherize homes of low-income homeowners.

MaineHousing does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, age, familial status or receipt of public assistance in the admission or access to or treatment in its programs and activities. In employment, MaineHousing does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability or genetic information. MaineHousing will provide appropriate communication auxiliary aids and services upon sufficient notice. MaineHousing will also provide this document in alternative formats upon sufficient notice. MaineHousing has designated the following person responsible for coordinating compliance with applicable federal and state nondiscrimination requirements and addressing grievances: Lauren Bustard, Maine State Housing Authority, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330, Telephone Number 1-800-452-4668 (voice in state only), (207)-626-4600 (voice) or Maine Relay 711.

Approved:

Daniel E. Brennan
Director
January 25, 2022