



2019 Community Solutions Grant

Walk-In Grant Program
Request for Proposal



mainehousing.org | 207-626-4600

2019 Community Solutions Grant

Purpose

MaineHousing's 2019 Community Solutions Grant provides matching grants to municipalities 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 determines how best to address their affordable housing needs.

Program Overview

Municipalities 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 resources. Municipalities with local public housing authorities are encouraged to partner with their local 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 must demonstrate that they are bringing additional resources to the table with a value equal to or greater than the Community Solutions Grant requested. Such resources may include without limitation personnel, zoning provisions, other in-kind contributions, and additional funds.

Use of other MaineHousing programs such as the First Home Loan Program (MaineHousing has flexible requirements for homebuyers of 1-4 unit properties), the Affordable Subdivision Program, the Lead Paint Hazard Remediation Programs, the Arsenic Abatement Program, the Home Accessibility and Repair Program, the 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 (cbarr@mainehousing.org; 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.
- Municipalities must match the Community Solutions Grant with other resources.

Application Process

Applicants must submit a plan that addresses the following topics:

- 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 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.
- Municipality's contribution of resources such as in-kind contributions, personnel, zoning provisions, and financial resources.
- Sources of funds in addition to the Community Solutions Grant and the municipality's contribution.
- Proposed budget.
- Estimate of number of affordable units for persons to be created or preserved.
- Proposed use of Community Solutions Grant.
- Proposed use of any other MaineHousing resources.
- Implementation timeline.

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

- Municipality's demonstrated commitment to and leadership on affordable housing.
- 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. The full amount of the grant will be disbursed upon 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.

Branding

Each grantee may brand the program how they see fit. The Community Solutions Grant is an element of MaineHousing's Building Community Together program. Grantees may use MaineHousing's logo and the Building Community Together logo with MaineHousing's approval of marketing materials. MaineHousing's Communications and Planning Department is available to consult on branding and marketing.

Information Contact

The MaineHousing contact for all questions and for submission is:

Name: Clyde Barr
Title: Policy Analyst
Address: MaineHousing, 353 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04330-4633
Telephone: 207-624-5772
E-mail: cbarr@mainehousing.org

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 \$1.8 billion financial institution with a staff of 150+ 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 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: Louise Patenaude, Maine State Housing Authority, 353 Water Street, Augusta, Maine 04330-4633, Telephone Number 1-800-452-4668 (voice in state only), (207) 626-4600 (voice) or Maine Relay 711.

Approved:



Daniel E. Brennan
Director
October 17, 2019