

A man with a full red beard and glasses, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and a baseball cap, is pouring a golden beer from a glass bottle into a glass. The beer is foamy and has a thick head of foam. The background is a rustic wooden wall.

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

INVESTMENTS AND INCENTIVES

a comprehensive list of
opportunities for business and
community development in the
state of maine

2025

welcome home.

Maine's depth of talent, world class research institutions, and premier undergraduate colleges as well as its unparalleled quality of place and work-life balance make it a choice location to start, grow, or relocate your business. Maine's 3,500 miles of coastline and convenient access to the world's largest consumer markets offer manufacturers unlimited opportunities both domestically and internationally. An increasing number of technology startups are beginning in Maine and scaling up. Maine's higher education institutions and trade organizations have made it clear they are eager and excited to partner with companies to deliver the talented workforce necessary to support growth.

The Department of Economic & Community Development is here for you and your business - to serve as a resource, liaison, partner, and guide as you navigate the programs which the State and its partners offer to businesses, non-profits, communities, and individuals. Have questions about a specific credit or incentive? Let us help.

While businesses may not qualify for all programs, be assured that your business can rely on the Department of Economic & Community Development to work with and for you to find the best possible programs and opportunities that will allow for success - as your business defines it.

Employees love working in Maine for the relaxed pace, restaurants and craft breweries, and fantastic outdoor recreation. Remote work opportunities abound in Maine as well, with competitive costs of living, accessible co-working spaces, and a State-wide commitment to improving internet connectivity. Maine is more than just Vacationland; it is a great place to live and work.

The Department of Economic & Community Development is pleased to welcome you and your business home to Maine.

CONTENTS

connect with us 4

tax and financial incentives 5-9

workforce 10-12

startup and entrepreneurial support 13-15

grants 16-20

loans 21-24

equity 25

MAINE.
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

STAY CONNECTED



maine.gov/decd



[facebook.com/Maine DECD](https://facebook.com/MaineDECD)



X.com/MEDECD



[linkedin.com/company/
mainedecd](https://linkedin.com/company/mainedecd)



maine.gov/businessanswers



selectmainesites.com

TAX & FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

DIRIGO BUSINESS INCENTIVES



DIRIGO BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Maine is committed to seeing businesses thrive.

HOW IT WORKS

Designed for simplicity:

- Straightforward application process - Meet the requirements, you get the credit.
- No time limit - Credits are available every year a business has eligible investment and training, and there is no sunset.

BENEFITS

Accepting applications July 2024

Beginning January 1, 2025, Maine will offer sector-targeted business credits equal to:



10% capital investment credit — including equipment, machinery, and building construction (5% in certain counties).



\$2,000 per worker provided an eligible training program, including approved private trainings.

ELIGIBILITY

For-profit businesses in Maine

Eligible Sectors:

- Agriculture, forestry, and fishing
- Manufacturing
- Long-distance freight transportation
- Software publishing
- Data processing and computer design services
- Engineering, architecture, and scientific research and development services

Limits:

Credit capped at \$2 million per business per year, can be taken over 5 years. Up to \$500,000 of the credit would be refundable per year.

GET IN TOUCH

Contact the Office of Business Development to speak to our business development specialists:
DECDTaxIncentives@maine.gov
1-800-872-3838

Scan the QR code below or visit:
maine.gov/decdbusiness-development/



MUNICIPAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (MTIF)

[Tax Increment Financing \(TIF\)](#) may be used by municipalities, towns, plantations, and the Unorganized Territory to leverage new property taxes generated by a specific project or projects within a defined geographic district. Any portion of the new taxes may be used to finance public or private projects for up to 30 years. A business may approach a municipality with an investment proposal for which a TIF district provides financing, or towns may take advantage of a pre-planned and financed project and create a TIF district around it, allowing for the capture of a portion of new property tax revenue for a specific use. The Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) routinely assists municipalities in establishing TIF districts.

MAINE FUNDERS NETWORK

The Finance Authority of Maine has a new [tool](#) that helps match companies seeking funding with the best providers of funding in Maine. Fill out one application and get matched to a variety of grant, loan, and equity funders, including FAME, the Maine Venture Fund, the Maine Technology Institute, and others.

MAINE CAPITAL INVESTMENT CREDIT (MCIC)

[A credit](#) is available to businesses that place depreciable property in service in Maine during the taxable year. The credit is equal to 1.2% of the federal bonus depreciation claimed for the taxable year under Internal Revenue Code 168(k) on that property. The credit is limited to the Maine income tax liability of the taxpayer, but any unused portion of the credit may be carried forward up to 20 years.

MAINE SEED CAPITAL TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The [Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program](#) is administered by FAME and is designed to encourage equity investments in Maine businesses, both directly and through venture capital funds. FAME may authorize state income tax credits to investors for 40% of the cash equity provided to eligible Maine businesses. Investments may be used for fixed assets, research or working capital

RESEARCH EXPENSE TAX CREDIT (RETC)

The Research Expense Tax Credit is based on a percentage of the federal Credit for Increasing Research Activities. The [credit](#) is limited to 5% of the excess qualified research expenses over the previous 3-year average, plus 7.5% of the basic research payments, with respect to corporate taxpayers. The credit is limited to 100% of the first \$25K in tax liability, and 75% of the tax liability that is more than \$25K. This credit cannot be carried back but can be carried forward for up to 15 years.

RENEWABLE CHEMICALS TAX CREDIT

The State of Maine offers a [tax credit](#) at \$0.08 per pound for the production of renewable chemicals, which are defined to be no less than 95% biobased content; to include chemicals, polymers, plastics and formulated products; and to exclude substances used for food, feed, or fuel, with limited exceptions. Eligibility for this tax credit is certified by DECD. This credit may be carried over for up to 10 years.

BIOFUELS PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

The State of Maine offers a [tax credit](#) of \$0.05 per gallon for the production of biofuels. The credit is available to biofuel producers who are certified by the Department of Environmental Protection. This credit may be carried forward for up to 10 years.

RENEWABLE ENERGY EQUIPMENT TAX CREDIT

In accordance with Public Law 2019, Chapter 440 and effective September 19, 2019, solar and wind energy equipment may qualify as exempt from local property tax. Businesses who supply industrial power do not qualify for this exemption. The business must file its [application](#) with the municipality in which it is located within the first year that it is seeking the tax exemption.

BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX EXEMPTION (BETE)/ BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX REIMBURSEMENT (BETR)

The BETE and BETR [programs](#) are designed to encourage capital investment in Maine by allowing businesses to recoup local property taxes paid on most qualified business property. BETE is a 100% property tax exemption program for eligible property that would have been first subject to tax in Maine on or after April 1, 2008. BETE has largely replaced BETR, which is for equipment and property acquired between April 1, 1995 and March 31, 2007. BETR provides a partial reimbursement of the taxes paid on qualified business property.

STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission administers this [credit](#) in partnership and consultation with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS). The program involves a 25% state income tax credit for the rehabilitation of a historic structure that also meets all requirements of the Federal Tax Incentive Program. The Small Project Rehabilitation Credit makes available a 25% state income tax credit for the rehabilitation of certified historic structures between \$50K-\$250K to entities that do not claim the federal rehabilitation credit.

COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL AND AQUACULTURAL PRODUCTION TAX EXEMPTION

Sales of feed hormones, pesticides, antibiotics, and medicines used in commercial agricultural or aquacultural production are [exempt](#) from sales or use tax. Sales of fertilizer, seed, defoliants, insecticides, weed killers, fuel, electricity, and depreciable machinery and equipment are also exempt from sales or use tax. The sale of breeding stock and other activities existing under animal agricultural production are also exempt from sales tax.

BIOTECHNOLOGY TAX EXEMPTION

Sales of machinery, equipment, instruments, and supplies used by the purchaser directly and primarily in a biotechnology application are eligible for a sales tax [exemption](#). The exemption must be applied with the Industrial Users Blanket Certificate of Exemption, or as a refund using the standard Refund Form. This certificate should be presented to the retailer at the time of purchase to receive

the exemption.

MANUFACTURING TAX EXEMPTION

The sale of machinery and/or equipment used by the purchaser directly and primarily in the production of tangible personal property for later sale or use is eligible for a sales tax [exemption](#). Additionally, items that are consumed or destroyed directly or primarily in production and repair and replacement parts for qualified production equipment are exempt from sales tax. Any manufacturer is exempt from paying 95% of the sales tax on fuel and/or electricity used on site in the manufacturing facility. Exemptions must be applied either at the time of purchase with the Industrial Users Blanket Certificate of Exemption, or a business may apply for a refund from Maine Revenue Services.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX EXEMPTION

Sales of machinery and equipment used by the purchaser directly and exclusively in R&D in the experimental and laboratory sense are eligible for a [sales tax exemption](#). Exemptions must be applied either at the time of purchase with the Industrial Users Blanket Certificate of Exemption, or a business may apply for a refund from Maine Revenue Services.

CUSTOM COMPUTER PROGRAMMING TAX EXEMPTION

Any custom computer programming purchased by a business is [exempt](#) from sales tax. If a standard program is purchased, then customized, the cost of the standard program would be taxable and the customizing, if separately stated, would be nontaxable.

WORKFORCE

CAREER CENTERS

[Maine Career Centers](#) provide a variety of employment and training services at no charge for Maine workers and businesses. Career Centers can aid in the recruitment process, provide support to candidates, and assist with employee retention during lean business times. Maine's Career Center program is administered through the Department of Labor.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT (OPPORTUNITY MAINE)

[Opportunity Maine](#) is available to individuals who have continued to live and work in Maine after graduation from an eligible post-secondary school as a possible tax credit on their income tax returns. The credit is also available to Maine businesses that make their employees' educational loan payments.

MAINE JOB LINK

[Maine JobLink](#) is a free resource for employers (and jobseekers) which functions as a job board. In speaking with a number of individuals within DOL and at partner agencies that help to administer workforce assistance programs, having employers register on this site makes it easier for them to track opportunities that you may qualify for down the line—and is also free advertising of the positions available at the business. Please note that CareerCenters can also assist with anything JobLink related.

GLOBAL U: PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING

[Maine International Trade Center \(MITC\)](#) has developed a three-tiered education series to provide practical skills training for business owners and their staff to succeed in international markets. MITC's Global U offers seminars for those new to export and import who are determining whether international trade is right for their business, offerings with more in-depth content for those with intermediate export experience, and training for businesses with significant experience in multiple markets. A team of research and trade specialists is also available for businesses engaging with MITC.

MAINE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (MAP)

MAP assists in setting up structured yet flexible training [programs](#) that can help meet the specific needs of Maine employers with on-the-job learning and related classroom instruction. Apprenticeship programs can be sponsored by employers, employee associations, or labor/management groups that both hire and train. MAP is a formal, industry-led, and nationally recognized workforce training program. Sponsors must provide incremental wage increases as the apprentice enrolled in the program gains proficiency and completes course requirements (determined with MAP guidance). Sponsors receive assistance developing their program, as well as help identifying related instruction providers, reimbursed for up to 50% of the cost of classroom instruction, and register their program for federal purposes.

MAINE QUALITY CENTERS PROGRAM (MQCP)

[MQCP](#) offers customized workforce training that is delivered through one of Maine's seven community colleges. Grants are available to fund pre-hire, post-hire, and incumbent training. MQCP affords employers the opportunity to both strengthen and increase their workforce at little to no cost. MQCP works with businesses to put together a program that will provide workers the skill set they need to succeed. Programs range from basic safety onboarding processes to intensive and elaborate education on heavy machinery operation.

APEX (FORMERLY PTAC)

[APEX](#) is a statewide program hosted by the Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC). Procurement counselors work throughout the state to provide a variety of services to aid businesses in obtaining government contracts, among which include technical training and registration assistance.

SAFETY AND EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAM (SAFETYWORKS!)

[Maine's Bureau of Labor Standards](#) provides customized health and safety training, site evaluation, and technical support in an effort to reduce injuries, illness, and worker's compensation costs—all free of charge. Small and mid-sized employers with a higher risk of occupational illnesses are prioritized, but businesses of any size will qualify and are eligible for some level of service. Training seminars are valued anywhere from \$30K - \$500K.

WELLNESS PROGRAM CREDIT

Employers with 20 or fewer employees are [allowed a credit](#) equal to expenditures for developing, instituting, and maintaining a wellness program for their employees. Expenditures applied to a credit claim that are also used as an expense against federal adjusted gross income must be added back to income through a Maine modification. The credit cannot reduce Maine income tax liability below zero, but unused portions can be carried forward for up to five years.

STARTUP & ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT

MAINE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Free, confidential, small business advising for Maine entrepreneurs on a wide range of topics including business planning, credit and financing, financial analysis, marketing and sales, and operations and management. [Maine SBDC](#) has locations throughout the state.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE INNOVATION SUPPORT AND BUSINESS INCUBATION

The University of Maine is a statewide leader in incubating innovation-driven businesses. Through its partnerships with multiple organizations, it offers mentoring and resources at multiple incubators throughout the state, including the Center for Cooperative Aquaculture, the UpStart Center for Entrepreneurship, and the Union River Center for Innovation. The UpStart Center and the Union River Center have specific physical spaces and resources for biotech and biomedical companies. Innovate Maine trains interns in innovation and connects them with startups and growing companies in Maine to work on innovation projects that fuel growth. The Foster Center for Innovation actively supports budding entrepreneurs with training, coaching, and consulting to help them actualize their ideas.

The [University of Maine Office of Strategic Partnerships, Innovation, Resources and Engagement](#) helps support new and existing businesses. This is done by connecting companies to the innovation resources of the University; facilitating commercialization activities, such as for new innovations developed at UMaine; and helping to transfer university research and development into marketable products and services.

MAINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURS

The [Maine Center for Entrepreneurs](#) (MCE) maintains the Maine Mentor Network, through which entrepreneurs can schedule one-hour meetings with experienced businesspeople in their sector. MCE also runs a series of business accelerators for entrepreneurs in various industries, including food/beverage and bioscience.

DIRIGO LABS

[Dirigo Labs](#) is a regional startup accelerator that galvanizes mid-Maine's unique diversity of academic institutions and tech firms to harness the entrepreneurship and digital skills of our students, graduates, academic faculty, and business owners to power a thriving rural economy. Dirigo Labs operates under Central Maine Growth Council, and is pleased to partner with several resource partners, venture funding groups, and academic institutions, not limited to Center on Rural Innovation, Bricks Coworking and Innovation Space, Colby College, Thomas College, Kennebec Valley Community College, Maine Venture Fund, and the Maine Angels.

SCORE MAINE

[SCORE Maine](#) provides free business mentoring for small businesses, including help with business planning, early-stage financing, and critical operational support. SCORE has chapters around the state which offer access to volunteer mentors and business education workshops. Mentors bring a wealth of experience from a variety of business backgrounds.

BUSINESS ANSWERS

DECD's [Business Answers](#) is your one-stop shop for answers to all your questions as a business owner, including how to start or expand your business. Business Answers features a 1-800 line, an email address, and an on-line searchable business licensing tool.

MAINE MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (MEP)

[Maine MEP](#) provides affordable and innovative solutions to the problems that today's manufacturers may encounter by facilitating engagement between industry, government, and partners in academia. Maine MEP offers full facility planning, plant layout, equipment arrangement, and manufacturing flow recommendations, as well as project assistance in business systems, software implementation, and quality management. Experienced project managers and industry professionals are available for free consultations and can continue to serve as a resource at an affordable rate.

GRANT FUNDING

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT (ADG)

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF) administers this [program](#), which serves to provide cost-share grants to conduct market promotion, research and development, value-added processing, and new technology demonstration projects. Funding is made possible through the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund. Awards range from \$10K-\$50K.

BOATING FACILITIES FUND

This [program](#) assists towns, cities, districts, and other public and private agencies in the acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of boat launching facilities on Maine waters available to the general public. Funding may be available to assist in the development of hand-carry and trailered boat launching facilities. Grants may be monetary or material (e.g. floats and concrete planking for ramps). This program is administered by the Bureau of Parks and Lands at DACF.

BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (BIG) PROGRAM

MaineDOT sends out an announcement each year, typically in the spring, related to a [Boating Infrastructure Grant \(BIG\) Program](#) funding opportunity from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for projects that may benefit 26 feet or larger recreational transient boats. These improvements are eligible for both public and private facilities. It is important to note that the project improvements often benefit all users in a harbor or coastal tidewater facility. This is an important opportunity to help improve Maine coastal communities.

MAINE CONNECTIVITY AUTHORITY

We cannot afford for anyone in Maine to be stranded in the digital dark. Facilitating internet connections for all Maine people remains MCA's top priority. Since 2021, MCA has enabled almost 80,000 high-speed internet connections across the state, reducing the number of Maine homes and businesses with no modern internet connection to 35,000 (just over 5% of all locations). [MCA](#) estimates that the All-In Program will bring high-speed broadband to over 30,000 homes and businesses in rural and remote areas.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)

Administered through the Office of Community Development at DECD, [CDBG](#) serves to provide communities with gap funding to assist identified businesses in the creation and/or retention of jobs for low to moderate income persons. Grants are awarded to municipalities that support the identified business(es) in which they exist. All CDBG funds are intended to be used where a funding gap exists and alternative sources of public and private financing are not adequate for the project.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL (C&I) PRESCRIPTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Efficiency Maine's [C&I Prescriptive Program](#) offers fixed or "prescriptive incentives" to reduce the cost of projects that help businesses use energy more efficiently. Eligible organizations include businesses and non-profits, municipalities, schools and higher education facilities, and small-, medium-, and large-scale manufacturing and industrial facilities. Efficiency Maine routinely assists in finding Qualified Partners to work with businesses and organizations in this program's process.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

LWCF exists to assist in the acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation facilities. This [program](#) may provide up to 50% of the allowable costs for approved acquisition or development projects for public outdoor recreation. The Grants and Community Recreation program routinely provides assistance in this grant application process. LWCF is administered through the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (MTI)

[MTI](#) awards R&D money to companies and non-profit research organizations to support the commercialization of new technology-related products and services that create and support sustainable, high-quality jobs for Maine people. All MTI funding must support efforts in forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, biotechnology, composite materials technology, environmental technology, information technology, or precision manufacturing technology.

MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM (MAP)

Through MAP, the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) partners with U.S. trade associations, cooperatives, state and regional trade groups, and small businesses to share the costs of overseas marketing and promotional activities to build commercial export markets. Businesses who are seeking to grow their market internationally may qualify. This [program](#) is administered through the Maine International Trade Center.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION (NBRC)

NBRC is a Federal-State partnership for economic and community development in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. The Federal funds the NBRC provides funding through a competitive grant process to projects that leverage private sector investments and other matching funds toward critical economic development needs leading to new jobs being created job and business creation. better leveraging of substantial. State and Federal partners

focus NBRC funding strategies and help prioritize investment applications and approve funding requests. Applications that advance Maine's Economic Development Strategy are strongly encouraged. Contingent on the level of economic distress in the region, NBRC projects may be eligible for up to an 80% matching grant. DECD routinely assists in determining whether the NBRC grant programs are a good fit for communities. NBRC also offers forest economy, workforce, and [other programs](#) to support economic and community development in the region.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)

RTP is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. [RTP](#) provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Municipalities, other sub-divisions of state government, and non-profit organizations may be eligible for this funding. This program is administered by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

MOT SPECIAL EVENTS GRANT PROGRAM

This grant funds major events that have an impact on travel in at least two or more regions and/or generate national/international press coverage for the state. The events must have the ability to create multi-regional and/or statewide economic impacts that draw tourism-related activity inside Maine and from beyond its borders. This [program](#) is administered by the Maine Office of Tourism and interested organizations should contact MOT before applying. Only non-profit, tribal, and governmental entities are eligible to apply.

STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM (STEP)

This Small Business Administration grant [program](#), administered by the Maine International Trade Center, is meant to encourage Maine companies to seek new international sales opportunities. Businesses seeking assistance for international business development, export skills development, and/or export

marketing may be eligible for this program. Provides reimbursements for eligible activities up to \$20k per year.

USDA SPECIALTY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (SCBG)

SCBG funds market research, market promotion, and new technology projects specifically to benefit specialty crop producers. [Grants](#) are generally provided to projects that will help a number of businesses within a designated sector. This grant is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). Awards range from \$10K - \$100K.

MAINE DOT INDUSTRIAL RAIL ACCESS PROGRAM (IRAP)

The [Industrial Rail Access Program](#) has been designed by the Maine Department of Transportation to encourage economic development and increased use of rail transportation. MaineDOT currently has approximately \$1,250,000 programmed for IRAP that is available on a competitive basis each year. The average IRAP award is \$175,000 and the maximum IRAP award is \$750,000.

LOANS

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING LOAN FUND (AMLF)

[AMLF](#) provides financing to help Maine farms and agricultural businesses enhance and improve their products. Projects should demonstrate how new and innovative equipment and facilities could improve and enhance the manufacturing, marketability, and production of Maine products. Farms, food processors, and aquaculture operators can access the fund to enhance production processes, innovate marketing techniques, and/or make product improvements. The program was developed by DACF and is administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME).

BROWNFIELDS REVOLVING LOAN FUND (BRLF)

BRLF is a partnership program between DECD and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with DECD as the financial manager of the program and DEP serving as its environmental manager. [BRLF](#) serves to increase local tax bases and facilitate job growth while protecting and improving the environment. Brownfields are identified and qualified by DEP and are properties where the presence of a potential hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant may complicate projects for expansion, redevelopment, or reuse. This program provides additional funding to DEP's current Brownfields Program for remediation of identified brownfield sites and serves as an added resource to leverage private developer funds, municipal funds, and/or state funds.

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CFD)

The Maine Rural Development Authority ([MRDA](#)) can serve as a lender, principal developer, partner, or investor in the acquisition of property and redevelopment of existing commercial properties under the CFD program. Investments through this program are available up to \$500K. Projects must develop new commercial facilities or acquire/redevelop nonproductive commercial facilities for subsequent return to productive use through either sale or lease. CFD loan terms last up to 20 years.

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM

FAME, in conjunction with the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and DEP, administers the [Compliance Assistance Loan Program](#), which is intended to help businesses finance the renovation, removal, disposal, or replacement of all or any part of certain oil storage facilities or tanks and certain air quality improvement equipment. Loan amounts are available up to \$400K with terms up to 15 years.

DAIRY IMPROVEMENT FUND

[The Dairy Improvement Fund program](#) is intended to help farms and other dairy enterprises fund capital improvements to maintain and enhance the viability of their farms. Businesses located in Maine and identified as being engaged in commercial production of cow milk/cow milk products may be eligible.

FAME DIRECT LOAN

The [FAME Direct Loan](#) helps new or existing businesses with flexible gap financing when traditional loans may not work. Businesses must be Maine-based, exhibit reasonable ability to repay the loan, and demonstrate that other sources of capital have been exhausted. Generally, FAME Direct Loans are less than \$500K, but loans up to \$1 million may be available if substantial public benefit is demonstrated and funds are available.

LINKED INVESTMENT PROGRAM FOR COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES

FAME works in conjunction with the Maine State Treasurer to implement this program, which reduces a borrower's interest rate. [Loans](#) are approved and funded by financial institutions in accordance with their own policies. To qualify, businesses must be non-agricultural, have 20 or fewer employees or annual sales of less than \$2 million, be a manufacturer or report 70% of their sales outside the state, be 50% owned by Maine residents, or create/retain one job for each \$20K of deposited funds. Loan proceeds must be for real property, fixed assets, research, or working capital.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The [Nutrient Management Loan Program](#) is administered by FAME and was developed by DACF, DEP, and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. It exists to help farms and other businesses fund nutrient management projects such as diversion, irrigation, anaerobic digestors, composting, or treatment facilities. Businesses that have been identified by DACF as having eligible agricultural non-point-sources of pollution abatement projects are generally considered candidates.

POTATO MARKETING FUND

Low-interest financing is available through [FAME](#) to help Maine potato growers and packers improve the quality and marketing of their potatoes. These funds are also available to improve the economic viability of the potato industry through new construction or improvements to storage and packing facilities, or purchase of packing, sizing, washing, and drying equipment.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM (REDRLP)

[REDRLP](#) makes loans through Maine's regional development agencies to create or retain jobs. Disbursements are made to those agencies, and they in turn make loans to eligible borrowers. Businesses must have sales under \$10 million or employ 100 or fewer employees, and be conducting business in advanced manufacturing, advanced information systems, advanced biological/natural resource techniques, in conversion from the defense industry, conducting significant R&D or significant export involvement, or be engaged in significant tourism efforts, quality child-care efforts, or community facilities development. Terms vary contingent on the nature of the project. This program is administered by FAME.

SPECULATIVE BUILDINGS PROGRAM (CIB)

[The Community Industrial \(Speculative\) Buildings Program \(CIB\)](#) provides communities and their local development corporations with financial assistance in the form of loans for the construction and associated costs of speculative commercial and industrial buildings. Loans for the CIB program are available up to \$500K with terms up to 20 years. Projects must foster job creation and/or encourage business development in areas of economic need. This program is administered through MRDA.

EQUITY

MAINE VENTURE FUND (MVF)

[MVF](#) is the state of Maine's venture capital fund. Each company and investment opportunity at MVF is examined on an individual basis. To qualify for funding from MVF, companies must have significant operations in Maine, demonstrate a viable plan for providing an ROI for MVF and other investors, provide evidence of the need for financial assistance to realize Maine-based job growth and retention, receive co-investment match for at least the amount sought from MVF, and employ 50 or fewer people/have gross sales of \$5 million or less within the past 12 months. Initial investments from MVF are generally \$100K- \$300K, but additional capital may be available to continue to support the company.

MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (MTI)

In addition to MTI's other programming, [MTI](#) offers equity investments to businesses, organizations, and individuals to support Maine's innovation economy.

Did something in this Guide catch your eye? The Office of Business Development at the Department of Economic & Community Development is happy to provide additional information about our programs.

We're here to help.

maine.gov/decd

Business Answers:

1-800-872-3838

Business.Answers@maine.gov

MAINE.
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT