

Maine Social Equity Program (SEP)

Advisory Committee Meeting – March 4, 2026

10:00-11:00

Total Time: 60 Minutes

Meeting Objective: Confirm Phase 1 execution alignment and establish clear policy direction for Phase 2 as a continuation of SEP's reparative intent.

1. Opening & Framing (10 minutes)

Lead: Dr. Brien Walton

- Reaffirm SEP legislative intent and reparative purpose
 - Clarify meeting goals:
 - Validate Phase 1 launch and execution readiness
 - Make explicit decisions framing Phase 2
 - Confirm advisory vs. operational roles (DECD authority; Advisory guidance)
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2. Phase 1 Status & Readiness Check (15 minutes)

Lead: DECD / Dr. Brien Walton

Brief updates on:

- Final eligibility criteria, application, and scoring rubric
 - Outreach execution approach and partner engagement
 - Application platform readiness
 - Department of Labor coordination
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3. Application & Scoring Validation (15 minutes)

Lead: Dr. Brien Walton

- Stress-test rubric against December priorities:
 - Lived experience and narrative weight

- Business readiness without penalizing historic exclusion
 - Avoiding “polished applicant bias”
 - Identify indicators that should trigger Phase 2 support eligibility
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4. Phase 2 Framing & Policy Direction (20 minutes)

Lead: Dr. Brien Walton / Facilitated Discussion

Primary Decision Segment

Core Question:

What obligations does Phase 1 create that Phase 2 must fulfill?

Discussion Focus:

- Phase 2 target populations (awardees, near-miss applicants, reentry, tribal cohorts)
 - Essential supports (training, workforce alignment, capital readiness, broadband, mentorship)
 - Governance and funding structure (DECD-led, partner-implemented, braided funding)
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5. Meeting Close