STATE OF MAINE NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND DRAFT AVAILABILITY 2025-2029 CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR CDBG, ESG, HOME and HTF Including the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)

The Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Economic and Community Development are drafting the Consolidated Plan for 2025-2029 and encourage citizens to comment. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the State of Maine to publish a Consolidated Plan, along with the 2025 Annual Action Plan. The plans outline the use of HUD funds for the following programs administered in the state:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)
- HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
- Housing Trust Fund (HTF)

These programs receive approximately \$21 million in annual allocations.

The plan describes the various housing and community development initiatives that the State intends to undertake, including funding levels and target populations. The plan identifies the following areas as top priorities: improve and preserve the quality of housing, expand affordable housing opportunities, help Maine people attain housing stability, improve economic opportunity and improve public infrastructure.

The AI is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a condition for receiving federal housing and community development funds. This study is intended to identify barriers to fair housing choice and propose recommendations to address those barriers.

The draft Plans are available on the Internet at www.mainehousing.org/policy-research/federal-funds and https://www.maine.gov/decd/community-development.

MaineHousing and DECD will hold a public hearing to gather comments on the draft Consolidated Plan on December 19, 2024 @ 11 am at MaineHousing, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta. The meeting room is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. Upon sufficient notice, appropriate communication auxiliary aids and services will be provided. To listen or testify virtually, please contact Compliance Officer II, at MaineHousing, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330; (207) 626-4600 (voice); 1-800-452-4668 (voice in-state only); 711 (Maine Relay); or via e-mail:

<u>PublicComment@MaineHousing.org</u>. The deadline for written comment is 5pm on December 23, 2024.

If you would like to make a comment, please direct your communication to:

Compliance Officer

I Maine State Housing Office of Community Development

Director

Authority DECD

26 Edison Drive 111 Sewall Street
Augusta, ME 04330- 59 State House Station

6046 Telephone: 207-626 Augusta, ME 04333

4600 207-624-9817

1-800-452-4668 Maine Relay 711 PublicComment@MaineHousing.org

Upon sufficient notice, appropriate communication auxiliary aids and services will be provided. To make your preferences known, please contact Lauren Bustard, MaineHousing's Equal Access Coordinator at MaineHousing, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, ME 04330-6046; Tel: 207-626-4600 or 1-800-452-4668 (voice); Maine Relay 711.