People - Implementation Steering Committee and Work Group Members, Collaborating Networks

Steering Committee Additions and Changes since last meeting:
Changes – none
Additions – none

Work Groups:
Additions/confirmations and Adjustments:
• Housing – Ana Hicks staffing Workforce Housing priorities, larger work group formed and connecting to stakeholders
  Current members – Denise Lord, Erik Jorgensen, Deborah Johnson, Martha Bentley, Brian Hubbell
    o Stakeholders engaged to date - Anne Ball, Susan Hammond, Nancy Smith, Mandy Reynolds, Nathan Szanton, Naomi Beal, Kevin Bunker, Nancy Harrison, Maine Public Housing Directors, Liza Fleming-Ives, Jason Bird, Jen Giosia, Matt Lewis

Work Group Structures:
Attracting Talent - stronger coordination with State Workforce Board subcommittees including newly formed Immigrant Workforce Subcommittee and existing subcommittees – SWB subcommittees focus on workforce participation of existing residents, Attracting Talent workgroup focus on bringing to and retaining new talent and workforce to the State.
Grow Local Talent – A1- Career Exploration work team connecting directly with Children’s Cabinet staff for focus on paid work experience for at risk youth
Stable Business Environment – Action item F3 (energy costs) will be led by Climate Council (committed); Action item F4 (healthcare costs) will be led by DHHS (per Maine Jobs and Recovery Act investment and related structure)

June Collaboration Submissions for Steering Committee consideration:
FOR/Maine (Opportunity Intersects/Innovation/Grow Local Talent/Attract Talent) – recommended
Maine Alliance for Health and Prosperity (Grow Talent/Ubiquitous Connectivity/Supporting Infrastructure/Hubs of Excellence) – recommended

Collaborations Accepted and Notified:
Maine Business and Education Partners (Grow Talent)
MaineSpark (Grow Talent)
Portland Professional Connections (Attract Talent)
Transition of Maine Campaign (Attract Talent)
Maine Downtown Center (Attract Talent)
Maine Manufacturing Partnership collaborative (Opportunity Intersects/Innovation)
Innovation Communications Collaboration (Innovation/Attract Talent)
Maine IDEa Network of Biomedical Research (Innovation/Grow Talent/Attract Talent)
Eastern Maine Hub of Excellence for Life Sciences and Technology (Hubs of Excellence)

Functional Partner Collaborations Approved, not yet notified (approval of MOU template pending):
FAME
Maine Economic Growth Council (MDF)
Collaborations Accepted and In Process:
Broadband Connectivity collaboration (Ubiquitous Connectivity)

Collaboration Submission Determined to be Outside Guardrails:
IntWorks

Process - Support Team Development and Stakeholder Engagement, Tactics and Mechanisms; Functional Team Development

Identified To be done by June:
Form a functional group around Strategic Plan metrics and tracking – completed
Explore having a heat map or coverage map by region or industry to be sure we’re making progress in the right areas for the right groups – not complete
Form a functional group around finance mapping/innovative financing approaches – underway and two-pronged looking at immediate needs (led by Carlos Mello/FAME) and innovations and mapping (led by Claire Eaton/DACF)
Build MOU for Functional Partner engagement – underway but not complete; MOU pending approval from AG Office
Determine best role for Steering Committee and meeting frequency moving forward based on Steering Committee feedback – not complete

Functional Team Building:
Progress Metrics, Data and Tracking – team formation underway with State Economists Office, USM’s Center for Business and Economic Research, Maine Economic Growth Council, Roux Institute’s data visualization team
  • Team members: Amanda Rector, Angela Hallowell, Kate deLutio, Deborah Strumsky, Andrew Crawley (Ryan Wallace and Yellow Breen “ex officio”), Mark McInerney (invited), Melanie Tory (to be invited)
  • Team members have reviewed and provided input on proposed metrics and sequencing
Financing Roadmap, with including of finance and governance model innovations – team formation underway, Chaired by Claire Eaton (Director, Natural Resource Markets & Economic Development within Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry), team forming attended the Shift 2021 conference and convened to discuss approaches and tactics to consider for Maine, additional volunteers from CDFI/CDE convening
  • June 7th CDFI convening yielded additional teammates
  • Initial concept shared with EDA’s Alan Brigham to begin discussion
Financing Short Term Recovery – team formation in place, Chaired by Carlos Mello (Interim CEO, FAME)
  • Team assembled and convened as of June 8

Support Team Development
Addition of communication contracted support in place for remainder of calendar year
  • Communication plan and checklist completed and under review
  • Collaborator communication toolkit completed
Grow Local Talent and Attract Talent work groups recommend contracting for project management to move to next step of operationalizing recommendations; process underway via MDOL
Ana Hicks, Children’s Cabinet and GOPIF, is supporting Workforce Housing work stream and supporting portion of Career Exploration work stream
Maria Povec, GOPIF, is supporting STEM Career Exploration Pilot in Franklin and Somerset Counties

AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Listings:
Financial Resource Development Position
Continuing to interview
Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Position
Have split position into two, with geographic split by 8 most populated counties and 8 least populated counties. VISTA volunteers will be onboarded in August

**Maine Law Intern** – Wes Birdsong, started in June  
**Bowdoin Fellow** – Jack Butler, started in June  
**UMaine grad student intern** – Taylor Cray, started in June

**Pursuing Potential for Cooperative Agreement with UMaine System for partnership around specific areas of implementation** – TBD

**Direct work with the Regional FEMA long term recovery team** – FEMA Solutions-Based teams mirror or connect with Strategic Plan work groups – Innovation, Climate/Clean Energy (led by Climate Council), Workforce (Grow Local Talent/Attract New Talent), Broadband (led by Broadband Coalition), Marine Infrastructure (led by SEAMaine) – convening work with FEMA teams winding down in most cases; FEMA will work with individual project streams to bring Federal connections and TA.

**National Governors Association Workforce Innovation Network** – Maine was selected in the first cohort of the Workforce Innovation Network. Work Plan included in meeting materials for focus on Strategy A.4 – Engaging today’s workers in continuing education to achieve credentials for career advancement. Project also includes work on brand and marketing around public workforce system. Team has engaged Blaze Partners in the brand and marketing work – discovery interviews underway

**External Stakeholder Engagement Since Last Report**

- Maine Cultural Alliance  
- Maine Arts Commission  
- Maine Development Foundation  
- Focus Maine  
- Four Directions Development Corporation  
- Maine EPSCoR eDNA Workforce Subcommittee  
- Technical Assistance providers under contract with DECD’s CDBG & Northern Border Regional Commission programs  
- Alliance for Health and Prosperity  
- Maine Accelerates Growth  
- Roux Institute team  
- Downeast Innovation Network  
- National Governors Association Workforce Innovation Network  
- MTI, MVF, CEI Ventures, FAME, Maine Angels – portfolio staff  
- Coworking Cohort  
- Congressional delegation staff  
- SBA Service Provider Network  
- CDFIs who attended convening –  
- STEM Franklin and Somerset Pilot Governing Board and Advisory Committee (multiple meetings)  
- Maine State Workforce Board  
- Ending Hunger by 2030 project kick off  
- Maine Space Grant Consortium

**Emerging Tactics** –

Across multiple work-streams, several key tactics are emerging that are also envisioned via Maine Jobs and Recovery Act investments across strategy areas:
1. Better leverage existing collaborations and initiatives underway; potential to scale what works  
2. State procurement innovations or changes  
3. Grand Challenges
4. Digital connection improvements
5. Communication and connection improvements
6. Modeling career exploration via regular use of intern talent

Updated Implementation Structure

Products

Strategy Areas Action Item Projects Underway

June 28, 2021 – updates since last report out highlighted in yellow
**STRATEGY A**

**grow local talent**

**PLAN ACTION ITEMS**

A1: Maine Career Exploration
A2: Web Portal matching students to opportunities
A3: Align Curriculums with digital economy skills
A4: Engage today’s workers in continuing education to obtain credentials of value
A5: Expand professional preparation for educators
A6: Improve quality of care in early childhood system

**Associated Projects Underway or Identified by Work Group**

A1: Pilots & overall program design underway. Financial support included in Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan (MJRP); Internship development (at HS & young adult levels) – via Franklin & Somerset County STEM pilot (launched 5/12/2021); Clear Definitions of Various Options (completed) & then associated outreach via work group/DOE; Exploration of existing resources. Work supported by Children’s Cabinet, GOPIF and subset of Strategic Plan work group.

A2: Envisioned in connection with A1 under MJRP financial support; collaborative partners assistance on program design and scaling existing efforts.

A3: Concepts brought forward by collaborative partners, TBD

A4: NGA Workforce Innovation Network alignment; Credential platform work currently underway via collaborative partners under philanthropic grant; DHHS/DOL collective work in pathways mapping in select industries

A2-A6: Mapping of existing programs/resources/partners via GLT workgroups

A6: Connecting to Children’s Cabinet for Action E1; Included in MIRA

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**STRATEGY B**

**attract new talent**

**PLAN ACTION ITEMS**

B1: Increase the labor force participation of existing residents
B2: Governor’s Welcome Home Program
B3: Expand & Simplify Opportunity Maine Tax Credit
B4: Help New Americans, veterans, & other newcomers get qualified to work in Maine
B5: Promote quality of place investments
B6: Support Learning

**Associated Projects Underway or Identified by Work Group**

B1: Included in Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan; Procurement expansions & DBE certification drive; Work via SWB committees

B2/B3: ERC: Included in MJRP; Building welcoming community program & pipeline; work group members collaborating to diversify current options & target specific demographics (veterans, BIPOC, rural); Mini-Grant program via DECO around specific demographic or strategic foci (completed, 14 mini-grants awarded); Innovation Marketing Collaborative launched with pilot at PWM

B3, ERC: Opportunity Maine Tax Credit – IRS discussions with large employers underway, but Live & Work Maine promoting under contract with FAME currently; Not able to be included in use of Federal ARPA Funds; Working group will meet over summer for this work via legislative bill carry overs

B4: Legislation passed – LD 149; ELL Child Development Associate Certification (Portland Adult Ed) – underway; Work via SWB committee

B5: Included in MJRP; Quality of Place Investments in social & community building infrastructure – sub workgroup not finalized, stakeholder engagement & program design input underway; Co-working development – in budget & underway; Working Communities Challenge underway
### Strategy C

**promote innovation**

**PLAN ACTION ITEMS**

| C1: Increase R&D investment levels in Maine |
| C2: Raise the investment cap of the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program |
| C3: Revitalize the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board |
| C4: Promote domestic exports to strengthen the climate for startups |

**Associated Projects Underway or Identified by Work Group**

- **Multiple Streams Identified in Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan**
  - C1: Launch of Early Adopter Program by State – underway; two projects approved in first pilot quarter. Additional investments in MIRP – program design underway; Maine Accelerates Growth work plan recommendations received; stakeholder engagement underway.
  - C2: Completed 2020; updates to program pending legislatively.
  - C3/ERC: Underway
  - C4: DEC Office of Business Development continues to build out Domestic Trade assets using baseline study completed with key data & recommendations; included in MIRP for financial infrastructure.
  - ERC: Innovation Data Dashboard (tracking mechanism) – completed using USM partnership.
  - ERC: Partner with MxG – MxG multiple work groups have submitted recommendations for action.

### Strategy D

**ubiquitous connectivity**

**PLAN ACTION ITEMS**

| D1: Provide a loan guarantee program for financiers of broadband projects |
| D2: Continue to provide local planning grants in order to help increase take rates & make projects more feasible |
| D3: Provide a consistent, predictable, & robust annual level of ConnectME infrastructure grants |

**Associated Projects Underway**

**Priority for Federal funding under Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan**

- **Strategy-wide**: Building new operationalization infrastructure with proposed Maine Connectivity Authority – LD 1484 passed; advisory committee and working group formed to develop MCA board and structure.

- **Strategy-wide**: Broadband Intelligence Platform/Mapping effort – The data analytics tool to support ConnectMaine to obtain the needed tools to identify areas, costs of build, potential revenue streams (hence, what is the hole that state & federal funds are needed to fill), as well as lay out a plan for needed middle mile, & assist communities in their process of identifying what can be built in their area.

- **Strategy-wide**: Broadband Coalition speed test

- D2: Continuous

- D3: Continuous; Bond funded projects awarded ~20 projects totalling $8.5M, 8500 (+) locations, and $16M in match.
**STRATEGY E**

**provide supporting infrastructure**

**PLAN ACTION ITEMS**

E1: Set the bar high for childcare; aim to create a world-class system in Maine
E2: Establish an adequate & sustainable funding system for public transportation
E3: Expand the production of workforce housing in Maine

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**Associated Projects Underway**

**Area Targeted by Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan**

**Childcare:** TBD via Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan

- **E1, ERC:** Strengthening & supporting the Child Care Subsidy Program (increased subsidies for infants & toddlers) underway
- **E1, ERC:** CEI Child Care Business Lab underway
- **E1:** Children’s Cabinet plan execution underway

**Transportation:**

- **E2:** UMaine/MDOT researching transportation models in other states
- **ERC:** GPCOG Transit Tomorrow public transportation vision – adopted 2021
- **E2:** Focus of MIRP – GoMaine & planning for other pilots - underway
- **ERC:** Village Partnership Initiative – in development

**Housing:**

- **E3:** Included as priority focus for MIRP; working group formed, led by Ana Hicks; stakeholder engagement underway
- **ERC:** State Affordable Housing Tax Credit – enacted 2020, expanding 2021
- **ERC:** UMaine composite lumber 3D printing project
- **ERC:** Community Solutions Program – pilot
- **ERC:** Tree Street Neighborhoods (Lewiston) - underway
- **ERC:** Commission to increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by studying Zoning & Land Use Restrictions – bill signed (LD 609)

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**STRATEGY F**

**maintain stable business environment**

**PLAN ACTION ITEMS**

F1: Review & simplify the application/decision process & pipeline
F2: Create a web portal where applicants can track their applications
F3: Control & reduce energy costs
F4: Control Healthcare costs

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**Associated Projects Underway**

**F1 & F2:** In Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan – focused DEP regulatory process improvement work, including data system integration, licensing process updates & short-term contractual support for permit application review. Requirements gathering for DEP Online Licensing data system completed. Business Use Case and Request for Proposals undergoing final review. RFP to be issued when funding is approved. Several bills in legislature also amend DEP licensing requirements with minor streamlining effect. New land licensing support will provide long-term improvement in permitting timeframes.

- **F1:** LD 69 signed by Governor - reduce duplication of state & municipal permitting efforts; Nonprofit partner (TNC) developing mapping tool for pre-screening of properties for high demand permitting projects, like renewable energy projects & manufacturing facilities; Solar energy Permit-by-Rule development (Q3 2021)

F3: In MIRP; Procurement innovations around carbon footprint/climate costs & Maine-based businesses (under discussion)

F4: In MIRP – Lowering Health Care Costs for Small Businesses; Lower health care costs through establishment of Office of Affordable Health Care – bill amended and in process (LD 120)

**Other:** DECD-led work group examining incentive structures & potential improvements
Associated Projects Underway or Completed

**G1: Northern Border Regional Commission** — updated grant priorities align with strategic plan priorities; first submission of pilot Hub of Excellence.

**Strategy-wide:** Eastern Maine Hub of Excellence for Life Sciences & Technology — under development; approved as Strategic Plan Collaborator and connecting with staff to begin to define a pilot concept for more rural communities.