

2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) will be seeking applications for the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund. **The purpose of this fund is to provide one-time funding to municipal, tribal, and infrastructure districts to adapt their critical infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate change.** The goal of this program is to reduce the existing infrastructure risk to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, increased precipitation, and other related climate risks, and provide increased resilience. All projects are encouraged to utilize nature-based solutions (NbS) and/or a combination of green (natural) and gray (structural) solutions (hybrid) where applicable; however, NbS is not a requirement for this program.

Eligible properties include publicly owned infrastructure in municipalities, tribal communities, and infrastructure districts.

This grant is federally funded, and therefore, privately or state-owned infrastructure are not eligible to apply.

Eligible projects include stormwater systems upgrades, water system upgrades, and other interventions that support public infrastructure repair to reduce or eliminate climate impacts.

Additional eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Stabilizing coastal or inland shoreland through the use of vegetation and biodegradable materials (the construction of hard shoreline stabilization structures are not eligible for funding unless they are part of a hybrid green and gray adaptation action);
- Replacing existing stream crossings with structures that comply with MaineDOT's 100-year flood standards and ensure habitat connectivity;



- Adapting stormwater infrastructure to accommodate the increase in extreme precipitation events;
- Scoping and design, and/or construction of wastewater treatment plants upgrades for increased resilience to climate change stressors;
- Transportation resilience projects;
- Upgrading, retrofitting, or relocating existing infrastructure to reduce risk from weather and climate impacts (construction of new facilities is not an eligible activity under this grant opportunity).

All projects are subject to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) environmental compliance review prior to the release of funds. **Projects must be completed by September 30, 2029.** The State anticipates awarding up to \$13.8 million to eligible proposals through Maine's NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge award.

The Request for Applications (RFA) will open in late March 2026 and is expected to remain open for approximately six weeks. **The RFA will be posted here: <https://www.maine.gov/dot/programs-services/environmental-efforts/climate-initiative/adaptation> in late March 2026.** Please note that the requirements for the grant application are subject to potential modifications. In the event of any discrepancies between this document and the RFA, the RFA will be considered the final document.

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\$13.8 Million

Eligible Activities Include:

Scoping and Design

Applicants may request up to

\$75,000

Construction Projects

Applicants may request up to

\$3,000,000

A Combination of Scoping, Design, and Construction

Applicants not to exceed

\$3,000,000

Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 5% local match

(cash or in-kind) of the total project costs.

All local match must be raised or appropriated by the entity applying. All local match amounts must be directly related to the proposed project and tasks. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement, including application preparation costs, will not be considered as part of the match requirements.

This grant program is reimbursement only.

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MaineDOT