



Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1/26/2026

Q1: Is there a limit on the number of applications that can be submitted?

A1: Municipalities or Tribal Governments can submit up to three applications per entity and must submit a separate application for each project.

Q2: What is the source of funding for this grant?

A2: The source of funding for this grant is federal funds through the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (CRRC) Grant ([Climate Resilience Grant | Office of Policy Innovation & Future](#)) and Senator Susan Collins' Office.

Q3: Can other state grants, private contributing parties, or non-governmental organizations serve as the local match requirement?

A3: No, the 5% local match requirement must be raised or appropriated by the Municipality or Tribal Government applying. The local match requirement can be cash or in-kind, including labor, equipment, or materials.

Q4: Could you clarify what the minimum 5% local match requirement of the total project costs mean?

A4: The 5% local match requirement must be raised or appropriated by the Municipality or Tribal Government applying, which can include cash or in-kind. Total project cost refers to the project phase that is being applied for funding through the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund. For example, if your Municipality or Tribal Government has completed final design and is applying for construction funds, the 5%

local match would be 5% of the total construction costs, not the entire project from conceptual design through construction.

Q5: What does reimbursement mean?

A5: The Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund is reimbursement only. Reimbursement means that eligible project costs have been paid by the Municipality or Tribal Government and then submitted for reimbursement. Reimbursement requests will be based on the project schedule and milestones discussed in the Grant Agreement. At a minimum, each project will have three reimbursement requests throughout the project. For example, if a project is requesting final design and construction funds, reimbursement requests could be 1) after final design has been completed, 2) 50% through construction, and 3) 100% through construction. If awarded, the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Team will send an invoice template and a step-to-step guide. Each reimbursement request must include supporting documentation, such as an invoice with itemized list of expenses incurred, timesheets, purchase orders, etc., with corresponding proof or payment, such as a copy of a bank wire transfer.

Q6: Can Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs) apply on behalf of Municipalities?

A6: No, but RPOs can be involved and support the Municipalities in their application(s).

Q7: Does the local match need to be secured by the time the application(s) is submitted?

A7: No, the funds do not need to be secured by the time the application(s) is submitted. However, if your project(s) are awarded, the local match should be secured before signing the Grant Agreement.

Q8: Can these federal funds be used as match towards other federal programs?

A8: These funds are eligible as match for other federal grants, if that grant program allows it.

Q9: Is there a deadline for having projects completed by?

A9: All projects must be completed by September 30, 2029. There will not be any opportunity for a no-cost extension.

Q10: What are some examples of eligible projects?

A10: Eligible projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Raising a breakwater that protects a harbor
- Raising a wharf or pier
- Raising/extending/improving a boat launch
- Reinforcing seawalls/bulkheads around parking lots and municipal facilities
- Relocating hoists, fuel, etc.
- Elevating or relocating harbor master buildings (construction of new facilities is not eligible)
- Replacing decking or piling
- Addressing erosion issues at water access paths
- Rebuilding floats

These funds can be used to strengthen pre-existing infrastructure, including hardened/gray shoreline stabilization infrastructure, adapt existing infrastructure to maintain access and functionality, and build infrastructure higher to withstand future storm events. Please refer to the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund Resiliency Guidelines document for more information.

Q11: Are private or state-owned working waterfront facilities eligible for this funding opportunity?

A11: No, only publicly owned municipal or tribal working waterfronts are eligible.

Q12: Are riverine Municipalities or Tribal Governments eligible for this funding opportunity?

A12: Tidally influenced Municipalities or Tribal Governments are eligible to apply. Please use the [Coastal Zone Map](#) to determine if your Municipality or Tribal Governments is eligible.

Q13: Are there specific projects that are not eligible for funding through this program?

A13: The purpose of this funding is to adapt existing public working waterfront infrastructure, and therefore the construction of new facilities is not eligible. Funds cannot be used to add any additional linear feet of hardened shoreline. Any increase (in terms of linear feet) in hardened shoreline infrastructure (e.g., breakwaters, riprap, jetties, breakwaters, seawalls) is not eligible. Below are some examples of projects that are not eligible for funding:

- Construction of new seawalls
- Construction of new breakwaters
- Construction of new working waterfront infrastructure/facilities
- Construction or installation of new shoreline stabilization activities (rip rap) unless the stabilization structures are part of a hybrid green and gray adaptation action.

Q14: Does this program fund Vulnerability, Feasibility, or Planning Studies?

A14: No, this program will not fund Vulnerability, Feasibility, or Planning Studies. This program will fund scoping and design of working waterfront projects. Scoping and design efforts need to identify an issue and then produce recommendations/solutions to solving the issue.

Q15: Are there federal requirements for this funding?

A15: Yes, requirements include [Build America Buy America](#) (BABA) Act and American Iron Steel. Davis-Bacon Act does not apply to these funds. BABA applies a domestic content procurement preference requirement to any federally funded public infrastructure project. All iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project must be produced in the United States. If your project is awarded, further requirements will be detailed in the Grant Agreement.

Q16: If I am interested in applying for construction-only funds, do I need to have final design completed?

A16: When applying for construction-only funds, it is preferred that you have completed a preliminary design or final design, but it is not required.

Q17: The Municipality I work for was awarded a Community Action Grant (CAG) for preliminary design for the Town Wharf. Can I apply for final design and construction funding through this program?

A17: Yes, you can apply for final design and construction funding through this program. In your application, please be clear that the Municipality has been awarded a CAG for preliminary design and describe what the timeline will look like for completing that. All projects must be completed by September 30, 2029.

Q18: If the Municipality I work for was awarded a CAG, Coastal Community Grant, or Shore and Harbor Planning Grant for preliminary design or final design, could I apply for construction funding through this grant program?

A18: Yes, you could apply for construction funding through this grant program. In your application, please be clear that the municipality will have preliminary design or final design plans funded through CAG, Coastal Community Grant, or Shore and Harbor Planning Grant and describe what the timeline is for completing that project. All projects must be completed by September 30, 2029.

Q19: The use of the Town's waterfront is primarily recreational, not commercial. Am I eligible to apply for this funding?

A19: Working waterfront properties do not have to exclusively be for commercial use, but the use of the grant funds must be able to demonstrate a benefit to commercial fishing and aquaculture industries in Maine.

Q20: Am I allowed to apply for grant funding to fund a phase of construction?

A20: Yes, you can apply for construction funding using a phased approach. Please be clear in your application(s) that you are applying for funding for a specific phase of the proposed construction project. Be descriptive as to why (size, costs, schedule, etc.) and the benefit to a phased approach.

Q21: What is the general timeline for this grant and when do you expect awards for this funding to be made available?

A21: The Request For Applications went live on January 29, 2026, and will close on March 11, 2026 at 11:59pm EST. Scoring will take place over the course of a couple of months, and then NOAA will be conducting their environmental compliance review that could take between 90-100 days. Conditional awards should be expected for this funding by late Summer 2026. Grant Agreements will be issued in Fall of 2026. Timeline subject to change.

Q22: If my project receives grant funding, when can I start?

A22: Awarded projects will be able to start once the Grant Agreement has been signed by both parties, the entity awarded and the State. Work completed before the effective date (last signature) of the grant agreement is not eligible for reimbursement.

Q23: What is the difference between the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund and the [Seafood Infrastructure Adaptation Fund](#)?

A23: The intent of the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund is to adapt existing public working waterfront infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate change. An example project for this program would be to increase the height of a pier deck due to overtopping of the pier during storm surges. The Seafood Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (SIAF) is for supply chain infrastructure adaptations to marine living resource infrastructure in public facilities that will strengthen the seafood sector and provide greater resilience to climate-related shocks. An example project for SIAF would be energy efficiency conversions for an existing aquaculture facility. For more information about SIAF, please reach out to Sylvie Piquet, spiquet@mdf.org.

Q24: What is the difference between the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund and the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund?

A24: As stated in the above question, the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund is to adapt public working waterfront infrastructure. The purpose of the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund is to provide funding for municipal, tribal, and infrastructure districts to adapt their critical infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate change. Eligible projects include stormwater system upgrades, water system upgrades, and other interventions that support public infrastructure repair to reduce or eliminate climate impacts. For more information about each program, please go to this [website](#) or send an email to Adaptation.DOT@maine.gov.