



Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund

Request for Applications

Overview of the Grant Opportunity

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), and the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) are seeking applications for the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund. This program is for Municipalities or Tribal Governments to adapt existing public working waterfront infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate change, sea level rise, coastal flooding, and other impacts. This program is administered by MaineDOT and State partners, and uses federal funding through the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Climate Resilience Regional Challenge \(CRRC\)](#), as well as other federal funding. These federal funds can be used as match for other federal grants, if that grant program allows it. The availability of making awards is contingent upon availability of funds from NOAA. NOAA CRRC funds are currently available and continue to be released.

Eligible properties include Municipal or Tribally owned existing public working waterfronts abutting tidal waters or located in the intertidal zone that provide access to or support commercial fishing, aquaculture, or other commercial marine activities. This could include boat launching, water access paths, gear loading/unloading space or equipment, among other things. While properties do not have to be exclusively used for commercial use, the use of grant funds must be able to demonstrate a benefit to the commercial fishing and aquaculture industries in Maine.

Eligible projects include but are not limited to elevating, strengthening, or relocating existing infrastructure, or other activities that will make public working waterfront infrastructure more accessible to commercial and recreational users and functional in future climate conditions. For more information, please refer to the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund Resiliency Guidelines document or the Frequently Asked Questions document.

The Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund provides grants for 1) scoping and design, and/or 2) construction projects at existing public working waterfronts. Applicants may request up to \$75,000 for scoping and design and up to \$2,000,000 for construction or a combination of scoping, design, and construction not to exceed \$2,000,000. Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 5% local match (cash or in-

kind) of the total project costs (the project phase that is being applied for). The local match must be raised or appropriated by the entity applying. All local match 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. Projects selected by this grant program will be **reimbursed only** for project costs incurred after the effective date of the grant agreement.

All projects are subject to NOAA's environmental compliance review before release of funds. Projects must be **completed by September 30, 2029**, and there will not be any opportunity for a no-cost extension. Projects will be selected following an interagency review, including staff from DMR, MaineDOT, MOCA, NOAA, and the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. The review panel may consult other state agencies as necessary to complete their evaluations.

Conditional awards should be expected by late Summer 2026. For further information regarding the timeline, please see the Frequently Asked Questions document. If selected for an award, the applicant will enter into a grant agreement with the State. Recipients of the Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund, and all vendors and contractors, are subject to provisions and requirements of Build American Buy America Act. **Reimbursement requests will be based on the project schedule and milestones discussed in the grant agreement.** Awarded applicants will be required to submit quarterly reports and a final project report. Quarterly progress reports will include, but are not limited to, a description of project progress, any scheduling changes, and total project costs. The grant agreement will further specify requirements.