

# Community Resilience Working Group

May 9, 2025 meeting

# **Agenda – May 9, 2025**

**Welcome & Introductions**  
**Updates**

**NOAA grant**  
**Resilience Office**  
**Federal funding**

**Discussion**

**Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission**  
**Input and Updates from Working Group Members**

**Closing and Next Steps**

# \$69M NOAA grant – Resilient Maine

Build Enduring  
Community Resiliency  
**\$35.2M**



Reduce Climate Impacts  
through Nature-based  
Solutions and  
Investments in Green  
Infrastructure  
**\$19.3M**



Strengthening  
Resiliency of Working  
Waterfront  
Communities  
**\$10.6M**



*Note: Other funds within the grant are for grant coordination within the new State Resiliency Office.*

[Partnership Regional Coordinators](#) | [Office of Policy Innovation & Future](#)

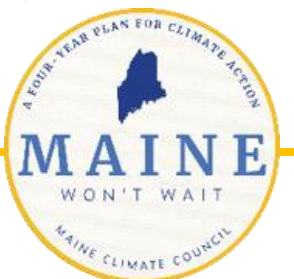
# NOAA Resilient Maine – Progress Updates

## Milestones

- ✓ Task 1.1 – Increase CRP participation to 263 communities
- ✓ Task 1.2 – Regional Coordinator functions filled at all 10 regional councils and Maine Service Fellows placed in five host communities

## Upcoming Priorities (partial list!)

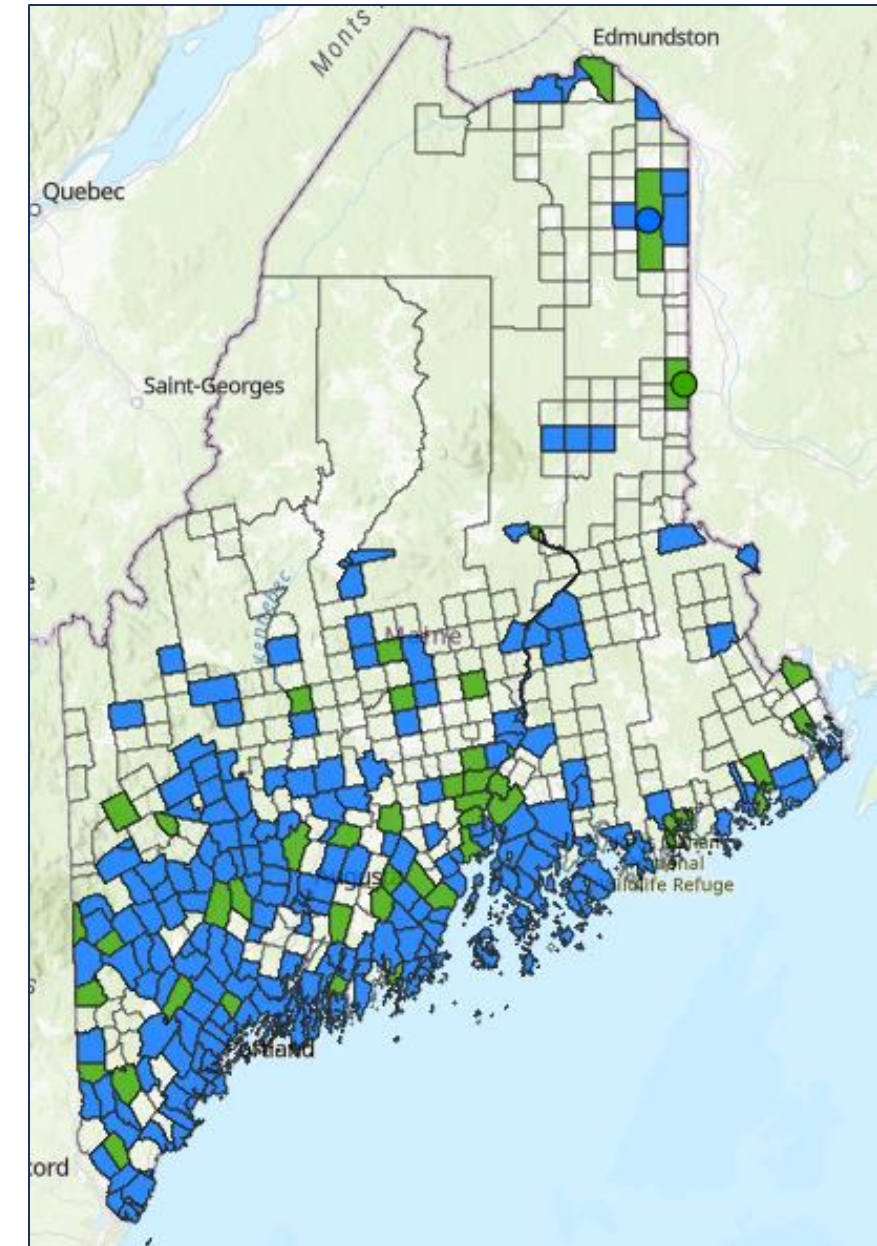
- Tasks 1.3 – CRP grant awards and preparing next grant round
- Task 2.1.g – DEP workshopping “Our Shore” design book for living shorelines and coastal bluffs
- Task 2.2 – DACF to launch new Shore Corps Stewards program (Maine Conversation Corps)
- Task 3.3 – Onboarding new co-chairs of the Seafood Economic Accelerator (SEA Maine)





# 2025 Community Resilience Partnership Grants

- Goal: 80% of Maine communities by 2030
- **263 participating communities, 53% of towns**
- \$8 million available for current round
  - 102 applications
  - Awards announced May 1
- Next round opens Spring/Summer 2025
- Regional Coordinator pilot expanded to all 10 regional councils and 5 years



# Maine Community Funding Portal: Connecting Communities to State (and Federal?) Funding

Maine communities are facing increased climate impacts such as extreme storms and rising sea levels. These challenges are compounded by issues like housing shortages and population growth. With new federal funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Maine has an opportunity to invest in infrastructure, resilience, and economic growth. **However, many communities, particularly small and rural ones, lack the capacity to learn about and access these competitive funding opportunities.**

To address this gap, Governor Mills established the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) in 2024 to improve coordination and support for municipalities. A key initiative under this effort is the creation of an online **Maine Community Funding Portal**, which will streamline information about funding opportunities.

## Functionality

MOCA will create a state-operated portal aggregating federal, state, and other funding opportunities for Maine communities, organized by topic and key funding details (e.g., deadlines, eligibility, funding amounts).

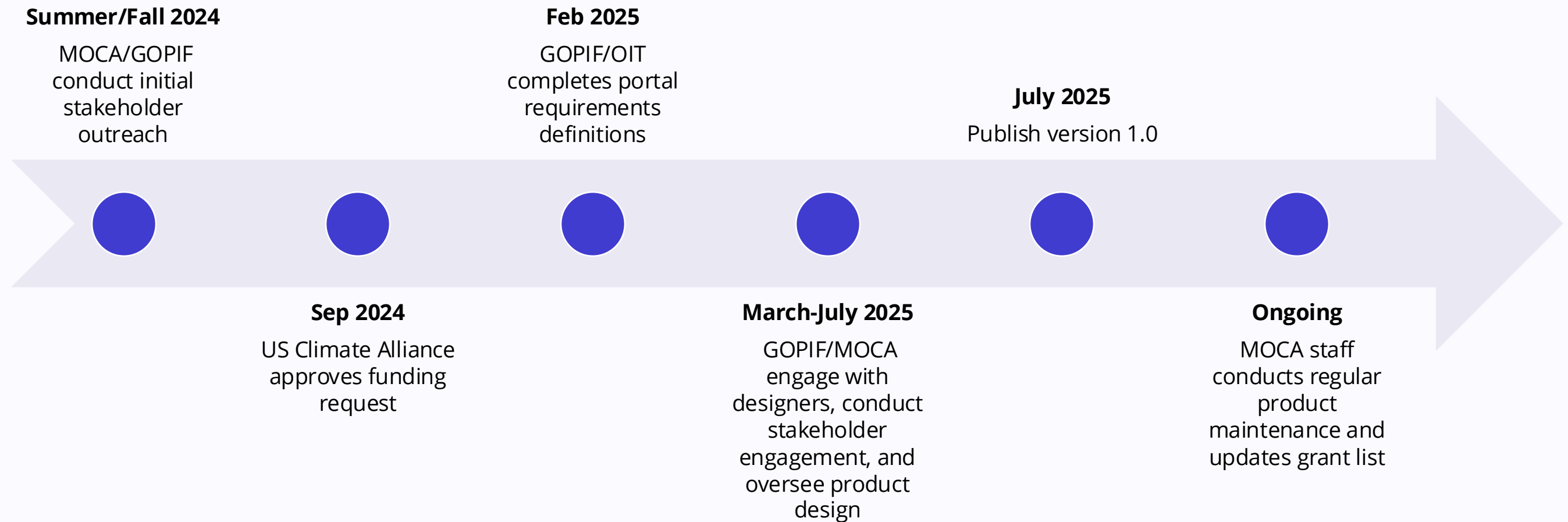
## Design and Integration

Project staff will create a user-friendly, professionally designed portal that cross-links to state program websites; ensures accessibility and readability for communities; and is regularly updated based on stakeholder and program manager feedback.

## Stakeholder Engagement

Focus groups with community leaders, municipal staff, and state agencies will test iterations of the portal to ensure it meets user needs, with maintenance protocols established for sustainability.

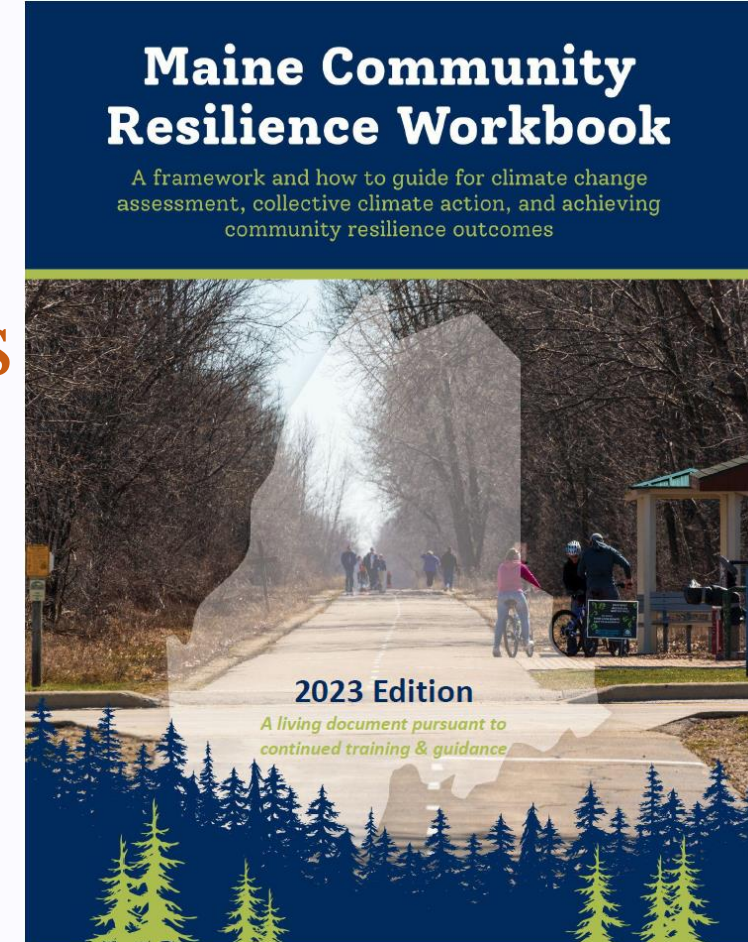
# Maine Community Funding Portal: Timeline



# Maine Community Resilience HUB: Connecting Communities to Resilience Resources

Many resources are available to communities to understand and enhance their resilience. They range from professionals in public, private and regional organizations to numerous tools that provide the scientific foundations of climate impacts, online map viewers, model climate vulnerability assessment frameworks, model ordinances, and more. Navigating this vast network of information can be difficult for Maine communities.

Many of these people and resources are described in the 2023 Community Resilience Workbook (to be updated in 2025). The Community Resilience HUB will support online user-defined access to this information.



## Functionality

A portal aggregating resilience resources for Maine communities, organized by topic and type of resource (e.g., mapping tool, climate change impacts, geographic region, resilience planning).

## Design and Integration

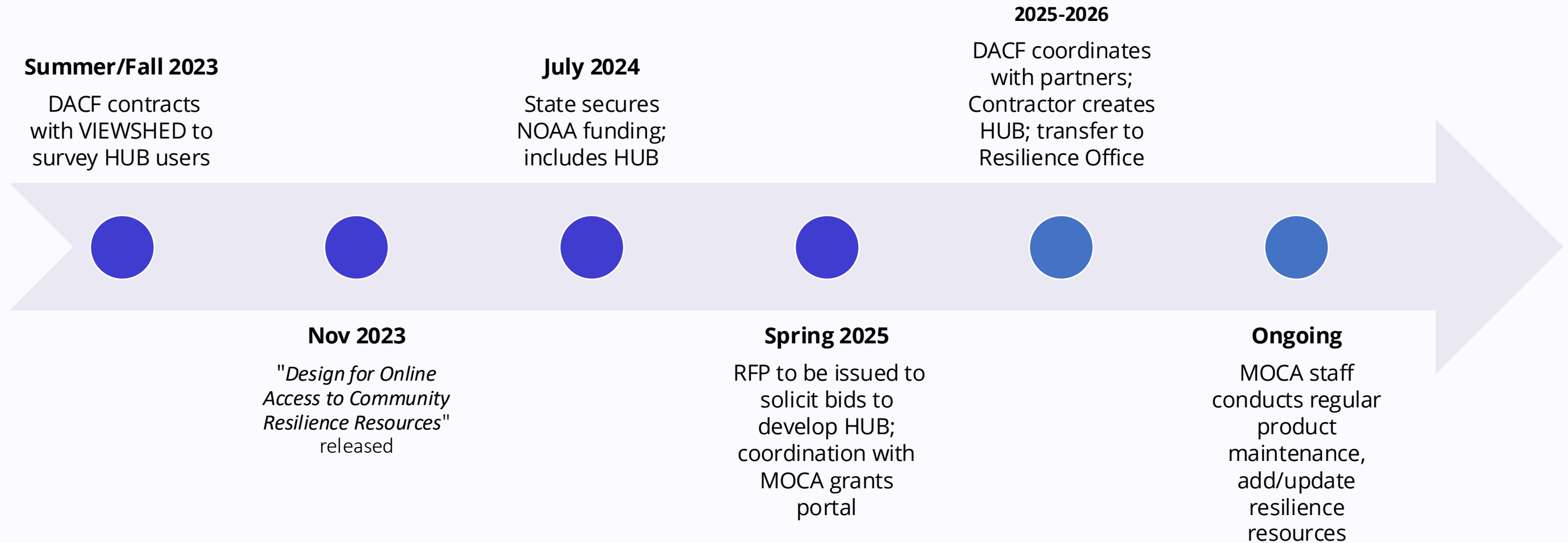
The HUB will be a user-friendly, user-defined interactive navigation portal that helps users of all expertise access Maine-specific resilience resources. Will be fully integrated with the Maine Community Grants Portal.

## Stakeholder Engagement

Community outreach efforts in 2023 will guide the HUB design to have sensitivity to the capacity, familiarity, and staff limitations of municipalities and the volunteers who may rely on this tool to support community resilience.



# Maine Community Resilience HUB: Timeline





# Interagency Regulatory Updates

Nathan Robbins  
Climate Change Program

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Protecting Maine's Air, Land, and Water*



## Maine Won't Wait (2020)

- **Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities**
  - Adopt official sea level rise projections
  - Update land use planning and legal tools for resilience
- **Strategy G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure**

## Maine Won't Wait Update - Resilience Workgroup (2024)

- Support communities in taking coordinated actions across the full spectrum of resilience choices

**Avoid / Do Nothing**

**Protect**  
*(in place)*  
*keep water out*

**Accommodate / Adapt**  
*live with water*

**Remove / Relocate**  
*move out of the water's way*

## Infrastructure Rebuilding & Resilience Commission Report (2025)

- 7. Expedite permitting for post-disaster rebuilding, infrastructure strengthening, and resilience projects.



**2021**

**New DEP rule-writing position** for OC

**Shoreland Zoning** certain structures in flood-prone areas to be elevated with height restrictions. (LD 1809)

**2022**

**Sea Level Rise** determination for Solid Waste Facilitates and Site Law projects. (LD 1970)

**2023**

**Sand Dune Restoration or Construction and Beach Nourishment.** Native dune vegetation, use of biodegradable and natural materials for stabilization and restoration. (New PBR section 16-A, LD 478)

**Sand dune maps statewide** referenced by MGS (NRPA Ch. 355)

**NRPA adds endangered and threatened species habitat** to significant wildlife habitat (LD 1246)

**Marine Oil Terminals new Natural Hazard Risk Assessment** for coastal flooding and sea level rise, requires management of larger stormwater volumes. (Ch. 600)

**Stormwater Management rulemaking initiated.** Forward looking protection of sensitive and threatened watersheds, managing larger storm events, tailored approach to low impact development standards. (Ch 500)

**2024**

**NRPA allows pier, wharf, or dock height increase to 4 feet** above base flood elevation when reconstructing or replacing (LD 2030). *Expand concepts going forward.*

**2025**

**New DEP Assistant Coordinator position** for Non-Point Source Training Center

**Coastal Wetland Definition to HAST** (LD 65)

**General Permit for Maine** US Army Corps of Engineers



# 2025 Shoreline Stabilization Under NRPA

- Allow some projects using riprap and biodegradable stabilization materials to be eligible for PBR. Increases vegetation, allows some in-water work. (Ch. 305)
- Increase heights under PBR (except in coastal sand dune systems). (Ch.305)
- Reduce restrictions on biodegradable materials for coastal sand dune restoration. (Ch. 305)
- Add beach scraping as a PBR-eligible activity. (Ch. 305)
- Set standards and limits on structural stabilization projects that require an individual permit, to increase predictability for applicants and to ensure impacts are reasonable. (Ch. 310)
- Limit use of riprap and hard armoring when not protecting structures or infrastructure. (Ch. 310)



# Maine Interagency Regulatory Forum Begins

- Dept. Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Dept. Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF)
- Dept. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW)
- Dept. Marine Resources (DMR)
- Dept. Transportation (DOT)
- Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF)



Cross trainings & meeting with partners

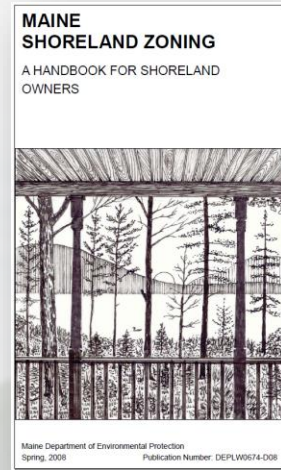


Inform regulatory revisions

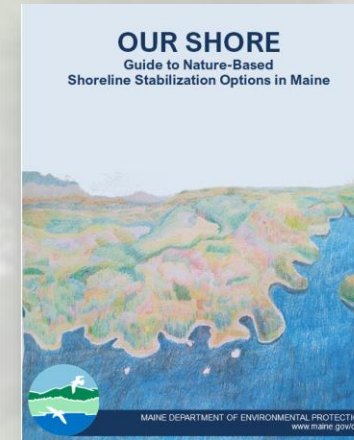


Internal and external regulatory guidance

# Regulatory & Design Guidance



**Maine Shoreland Zoning Handbook for Shoreland Owners (2025)**



**Shoreline Stabilization Guide - *OUR SHORE* (2025)**



## **Resilient Design Manual**

What does Resilient Infrastructure look like in Maine? Existing design selection and implementation practices across infrastructure types (2026)



**Regulatory Guidance Materials on Priority Topics...** Fact sheets, review checklists, video tutorials, slide decks. Application information, exempt and expedited permit-by-rule activities. (2026)

*Revisions will be made as needed to select materials after the initial content is complete.*



Contact:

Nathan Robbins

Climate Change Program

[Nathan.P.Robbins@maine.gov](mailto:Nathan.P.Robbins@maine.gov)

***[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)***



# Maine Office of Community Affairs

Samantha Horn, Director



# MOCA Programs

## Proposed to be Created

- State Resilience Office (NOAA funded)
- Flood Ready Maine (in State Resilience Office)

## Existing, proposed to move

- [Housing Opportunity Program](#) (DECD)
- [Municipal Planning Assistance Program](#) (DACF)
- [Community Resilience Partnership](#) (GOPIF)
- [Maine Floodplain Management Program](#) (DACF)
- [Maine Coastal Program](#) (DMR)
- [Volunteer Maine](#) (DOE)
- [MUBEC/ Code Enforcement](#) (Fire Marshal)

**State Resilience Office and the Flood Ready Maine program: Established in LD 1**

**Moves of existing programs: Biennial Budget, part D**



# LD1 An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure

## Home Resiliency Program at the Bureau of Insurance

\$15 million

- Grant program for homeowners to strengthen primary residences against severe weather damage and reduce insurance losses (\$15m)
  - For example, roof strengthening, basement floodproofing.

**Funding:** LD 1 is funded by existing Other Special Revenues and leverages federal funding. General Funds are not required.

## Maine Emergency Management Agency

\$12 million

- One-time funding for Disaster Recovery Fund as match for FEMA recovery funds (\$10m)
- Establish a Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (\$750k + 2yr contract/grant specialist)
- Update communications technology and early warning systems (\$800k + 2yr communications system manager)

## State Resilience Office and Flood-Ready Maine Initiative

\$9.6 million

- Establish the State Resilience Office at MOCA (four 5yr positions, federally funded)
- Flood-Ready Maine initiative to improve flood models and maps and develop an online data hub (\$5.75m + geospatial data manager)
- Regional Certified Floodplain Manager initiative to increase NFIP participation (\$1.6m + program coordinator)



# \$60 million for storm recovery

## 1. Business Recovery & Resilience Fund - \$6 million

- Round 1 - \$4 million to 109 businesses and nonprofits
- Round 2 - \$2 million to 40 businesses and nonprofits

## 2. Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund - \$25 million

- 43 communities
- 22 culvert replacements
- 13 road, bridge, and stormwater projects
- 4 water and wastewater facility projects

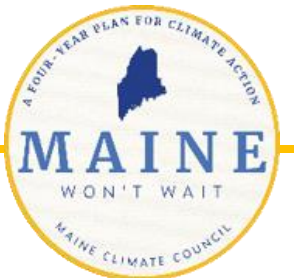
## 3. Working Waterfront Resilience - \$21.2 million

- 68 properties that each serve 10 or more commercial fishermen or aquaculturists
- Design, permitting, construction, 1:1 match required

2024 Maine  
Infrastructure  
Adaptation Fund  
Recipients\*



\*As appropriated by LD 2214\*





# Inland Flood Analyses - Inter-agency working group

## Partners:

- state (GOPIF, MDOT, DACF, DEP, MEMA, IFW),
- federal (USGS, NWS, NOAA, USACE),
- consulting (GEI), and
- non-profit (TNC)

## Meetings to date:

- USGS presentation: framework for flood mapping standards comparing the resolution and quality obtainable at various expense levels
- Massachusetts inland flood modeling efforts, which include future climate projections, and their applicability in Maine
- Maine DOT Culvert sizing/replacement strategy



# Federal Funding Updates

# Governor's Infrastructure Implementation Committee (IIC)

- Committee established by executive order to coordinate the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) initiatives among the State, cities, towns, tribal governments, and other entities in Maine
  - Also monitors other federal funding opportunities, including programs funded by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the CHIPS & Science Act.
- The IIC, staffed by the Gov's Office and GOPIF, holds regular internal meetings of State agency leads and high-level staff to discuss infrastructure policy, coordinate collaborative funding applications, and identify areas for future investment.
- The IIC is currently considering how to evolve their mandate to keep up with the changing federal funding landscape.



# Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)

- The BRIC grant program was terminated in early April
  - Only unobligated (unawarded projects) were terminated
- A total of 36 Maine projects have been successfully obligated between BRIC FY20-23 that remain non-impacted
  - This equates to a total of \$4,825,598 in federal funds awarded to Maine entities
- A total of 18 Maine applications have been terminated between FY23 and FY24
  - This equates to a total of \$39,602,271 in federal funds that Maine applicants will no longer be able to pursue through the BRIC program
- 11 applicants have been referred to FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance program as an alternate
  - 2 applicants have been referred to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as an alternate
  - 1 applicant has been referred to FY26 CDS funding as an alternate
  - 4 applicants will be left without a grant funding source to pursue





# Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund

- This is a grant the state can apply for to jumpstart a self-sustaining state Revolving Loan Fund
  - Interest to borrowers cannot exceed 1%
  - Can be used as match to FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants
- Cost match for jumpstarting this Revolving Loan Fund confirmed with the signing of LD1
- 1 Limited Period Position confirmed for MEMA with the signing of LD1
  - MEMA expected to be able to hire by July 1, 2025
- MEMA working to draft a project proposal solicitation for public posting (6 week minimum)
- MEMA to draft an Intended Use Plan, Administrative Plan, and grant application by September 30, 2025 deadline

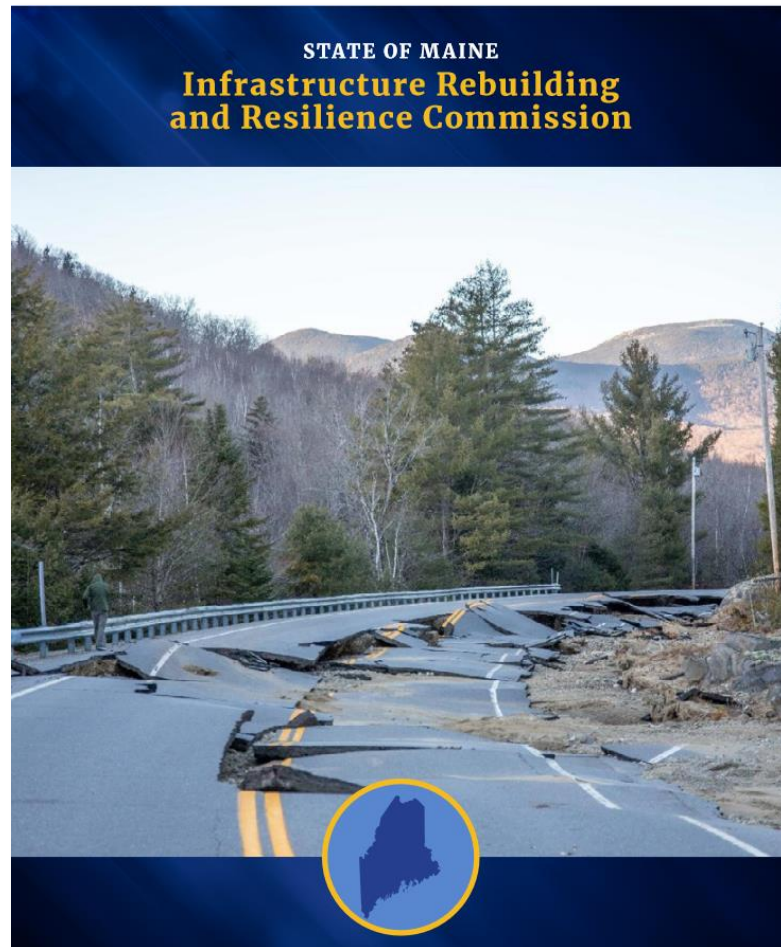


# Additional Updates

- \$9M NOAA Grant for Addison Road Project with DMR
  - Terminated April 2025
  - State reviewing options for restoring funding
- Federal administration canceled funding used to coordinate the National Climate Assessment, a congressionally mandated report produced through the U.S. Global Change Research Program
  - Sixth National Climate Assessment had been planned for publication in early 2028



# Infrastructure Rebuilding & Resilience Commission (IRRC)



## Focus areas

- Strengthen infrastructure resilience at the state, regional, and local levels
- Improve disaster preparation, recovery, and response
- Protect energy systems and critical community infrastructure

## Deliverables

- Infrastructure plan and strategies for Governor and Legislature

## Timeline

- ✓ November 15, 2024 - Interim report and recommendations
- ✓ **May 7, 2025 - Final infrastructure plan delivered**

# What success looks like...

## From June & November meetings:

Pragmatic and actionable

A specific and achievable roadmap with prioritization, timelines, a responsibilities

Maximize available funding sources + feasible and creative ideas for funding

Listening and hearing communities >> developing responsive actions >> Improving readiness for communities and individuals

Highlight successes and momentum >> Inspire hope and agency for Maine people, communities, and the next generation



# I. Strengthen Infrastructure and Reduce Disaster Risk

1. Identify, prioritize, and **strengthen vulnerable infrastructure**.
2. **Assist communities** to effectively assess and reduce risk.
3. Improve and protect **energy infrastructure** and increase **energy resilience** for customers.
4. Protect and promote resilience across a diverse mix of public and privately owned **working waterfront infrastructure**.

## II. Improve Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Rebuilding

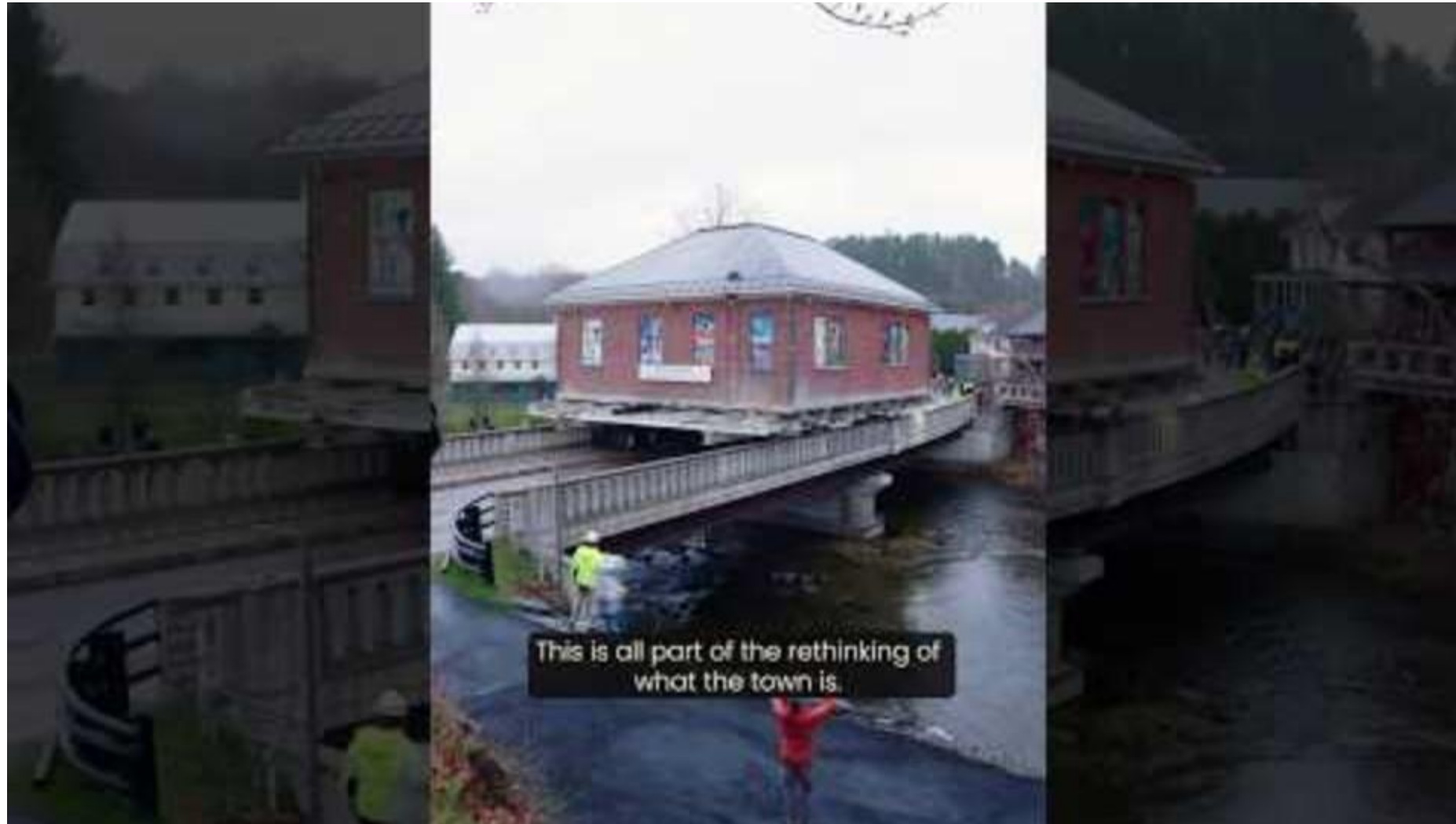
1. Enhance **communications** during and immediately after emergencies.
2. Strengthen **emergency coordination and rapid reaction** capabilities across governments and with the philanthropic and nonprofit sector to alleviate immediate post-disaster needs.
3. **Expedite permitting** for post-disaster rebuilding, infrastructure strengthening and, resilience projects.
4. Develop tools and education to **make buildings more resilient**.

# III. Sustain Maine's Momentum through Strategic Investments

1. Improve **data and information sharing** to help leaders make informed decisions about risk.
2. **Maximize federal funding** for disaster recovery and proactive resilience projects.
3. Develop **long-term funding and financing** strategies for infrastructure resilience.



# Resilience Spotlight: Relocating Vermont Public Library out of Flood Zone



# Community Resilience Working Group

Discussion



# Community Resilience Working Group

Next Steps  
2025 Meetings

