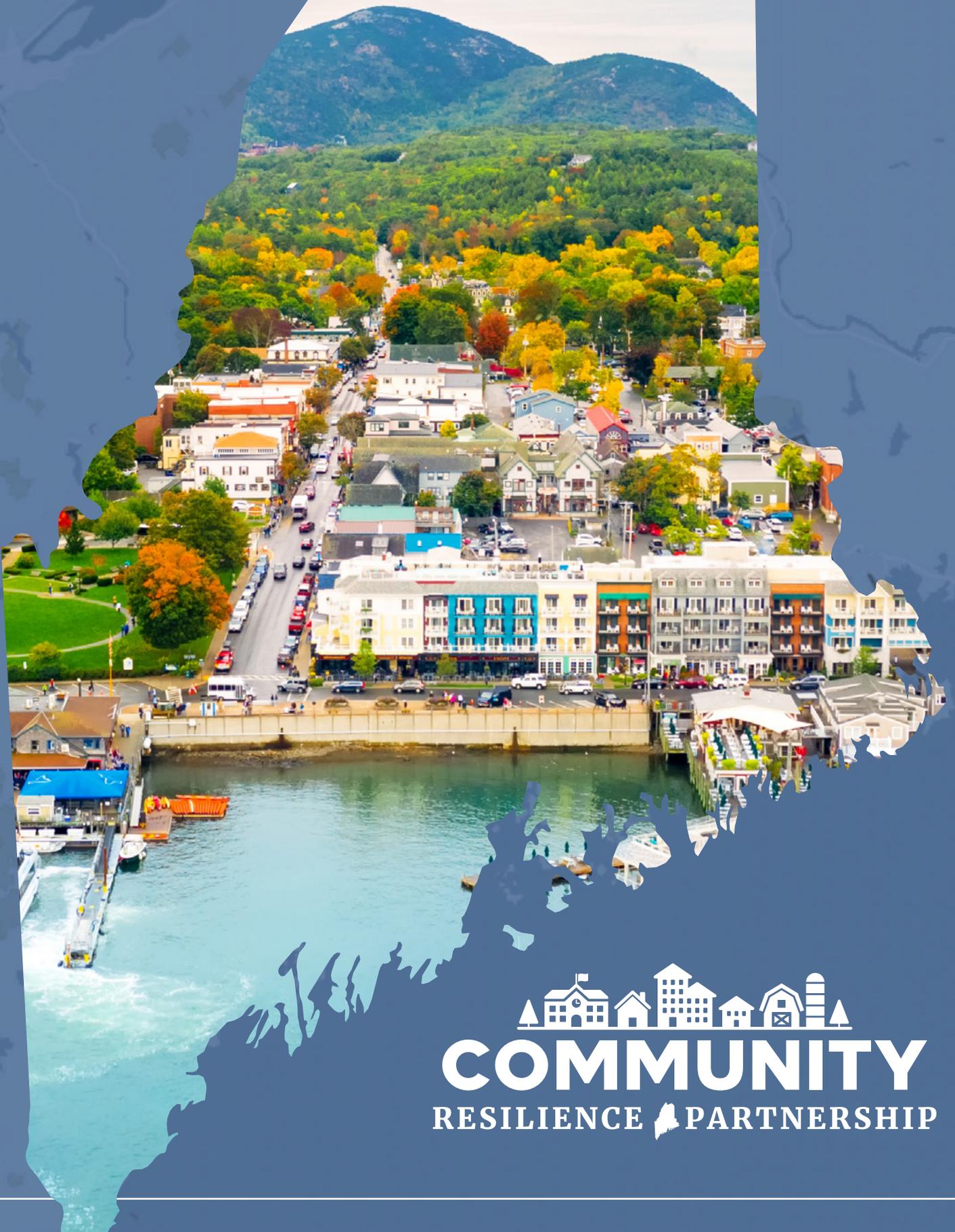


**2025
UPDATE**




COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE  PARTNERSHIP

To the communities of Maine,

Today, climate action is more important than ever. You are leading the way, and we thank you. Each and every day, you work on behalf of your residents to address the impacts of increasingly severe storms, both those that have already hit and those yet to come. You balance this critical work with searching for savings or efficiencies that will ease the burden on taxpayers, recognizing that solutions must be financially sustainable. By reducing carbon emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and improving infrastructure to make it more resilient against climate impacts like increased storm events and flooding, you are meeting the challenges of today head on and preparing to meet those of tomorrow.

Since 2021, the Community Resilience Partnership has brought together Maine communities to support this vital work. Governor Mills launched the Partnership in response to the state's climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*, which recommended robust technical assistance and funding to communities to support local and regional climate-resilience initiatives. With support from the Legislature, the Partnership provides grants directly to communities to take climate action and to regional service providers to assist groups of communities to get started.

Communities across the state are identifying risks posed by climate hazards to infrastructure, people, and ecosystems, and preparing for climate impacts from increased precipitation, sea level rise, and storm surges on roads and other critical infrastructure. Grants have also supported other local climate actions that reduce emissions and save taxpayer funds, such as heat pump installation for energy efficient heating and cooling, lighting upgrades, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and energy efficiency upgrades. In addition to grants, communities in the Partnership have access to Regional Coordinators who can help with developing and implementing climate and energy projects.

Since its launch, the Partnership has awarded \$15.8 million in grants for 276 climate resilience and emissions reduction initiatives in communities in all 16 Maine counties. Today, 263 communities are participating, more than halfway toward the goal set in the 2024 climate action plan update to have 80% of Maine communities participating in the Partnership by 2030. Led by Ashley Krulik, the Partnership's program manager, we are confident in meeting that goal.

Local climate action is key to Maine's ability to meet our ambitious targets for transitioning to renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and making our people, environment, economy, and society more resilient to the impacts of climate change. I am grateful for the efforts of our community and regional partners in this program and look forward to continuing to advance local and regional climate solutions with you into the future.



Hannah Pingree

Director, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

2025 UPDATE

The Community Resilience Partnership (Partnership) provides grants and technical assistance to Maine communities to help them identify and address local priorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to climate effects such as extreme storms, flooding, rising sea levels, and threats to public health.

A recommendation of Maine’s climate action plan, *Maine Won’t Wait*, the Partnership was launched by Governor Janet Mills in December 2021 with an initial goal of assisting 100 communities in its first year. Maine met that goal. In *Maine Won’t Wait 2024*, a new goal was set to have 80% of Maine communities participating in the Partnership by 2030.

To date, 263 communities are participating in the Partnership. The program has awarded \$15.8 million in grants for 276 climate resilience and emissions reduction initiatives in communities in all 16 Maine counties since 2021.

In 2024, Governor Mills included, and the Legislature passed, \$5 million in the supplemental budget to support community resilience grant projects in the wake of the Winter 2023/2024 storms that caused devastating damage across the state. Additionally, in July 2024, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that Maine had won a \$69 million climate resilience grant through the highly competitive Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (CRRC) to protect Maine’s communities, environment, and working waterfronts from extreme storms, flooding, and rising sea levels. A portion of these funds will be distributed through the Partnership over the next five years via grants and technical assistance to support planning and projects to address climate effects, based on priorities identified by local leaders and citizens. This augments the \$3 million biennial budget authorized by the Legislature in 2023 to support grants to eligible communities and to regional service providers that work to help communities identify local climate and energy priorities and join the Partnership.



Camden residents watch as a severe storm in January 2024 damages the waterfront, as coastal Maine towns were 2024 devastated by flooding and damaging winds. Credit: Jack Sullivan/Island Institute

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP SNAPSHOT

263 participating communities

53% of Maine communities

**Maine Won't Wait 2024 Update Goal:
80% of Maine Communities participating in the
Community Resilience Partnership by 2030**

GRAND TOTAL OF GRANTS AWARDED: \$18.8 MILLION

ROUND 4 (SPRING 2024) GRANT SUMMARY
**Community Action, Energy Efficiency Priority,
and Service Provider Grants**

\$3.49 million in grants awarded to 101 communities

**41% of funds awarded support communities
designated as having high social vulnerability**

ROUND 5 (SPRING 2025) GRANT SUMMARY

Community Action and Service Provider Grants

\$8 million in grants awarded to 166 communities

**27% of funds awarded support communities designated
as having high social vulnerability**

TYPES OF GRANTS

Community Action Grants are awarded directly to municipalities, tribal governments, and unorganized territories to reduce carbon emissions and increase resilience.

Service Provider Grants are awarded to service provider organizations that assist communities with climate action, energy, and resilience planning, including enrollment in the Partnership and completion of community vulnerability assessments.

Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant was a special, one-time opportunity in Spring 2024 to distribute federal funds directly to municipalities, tribal governments, and unorganized territories to improve energy efficiency and implement clean energy systems.

In the Spring 2024 and Spring 2025 grant rounds, the Partnership received 162 Community Action Grant proposals requesting \$10.8 million. The program awarded \$9.7 million to support 161 communities. Nearly 32% of the communities supported by the Partnership in these grant rounds are designated as having high social vulnerability, meaning they have certain characteristics such as a high proportion of older residents, poverty, or people without vehicles, which may increase their vulnerability in the event of an emergency or limit their ability to recover quickly from a disruption.

In the Spring 2024 grant round, the program awarded \$2.4 million in Community Action Grants to 53 community-led projects. All awarded communities were first-time grant recipients. In addition, through a one-time federally-funded Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant, the Partnership awarded \$607,486 to seven communities to

complete energy efficiency and clean energy projects in public buildings. Lastly, 13 service provider organizations received grants to work with 41 new communities. The result is that 101 communities received financial or technical support in Round 4.

In the Spring 2025 grant round, the program awarded \$7.3 million to 108 community-led projects. Community Action Grant awards were funded using the State Biennial Budget, State Supplemental Budget, Federal Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds, and Federal NOAA CRRC grant funds.

In addition, 13 service provider organizations received grants to work with 58 communities to enroll in the Partnership and/or complete community vulnerability assessments.



Kennebunkport residents gather to hear more about climate action grant projects that can help their community withstand severe weather events like the winter storms of January 2024. Credit: The Climate Initiative

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS SPRING 2024

Community	Project Title	Award
Alna	Climate Impact Reduction, Response, and Resilience for Alna	\$44,090
Appleton	Sustainable Solutions: Enhancing Energy Efficiency in Appleton's Emergency Shelter and Town Office.	\$50,000
Auburn	Expanding Access to EV Charging Capacity for Residents and Visitors	\$50,000
Avon	Implement Energy Efficiency Strategies in the Town Buildings	\$24,235
Belfast	2024 Belfast Harbor Vulnerability Assessment	\$50,000
Boothbay – Boothbay Harbor	Community-Driven Planning for a Climate Resilient Boothbay Region	\$78,760
Brooklin	Brooklin Transition to Energy Efficiency and Climate Resilience	\$21,080
Brooks	Planning for a Resilient Brooks	\$33,730
Buckfield	Municipal Center Envelope Upgrade for Energy Efficiency	\$58,400
Cape Elizabeth	Cape Elizabeth LED Energy Efficiency Project	\$49,526
Cherryfield	Cherryfield Riverwalk Shoreline Stabilization & Vegetation Management Plan	\$50,000
Cushing	Town Community Center and Town Offices Heat Pump and Window Upgrades	\$26,963
Cutler	Building Resiliency and Planning for a Sustainable Future	\$48,191
Damariscotta	Energize and Weatherize: Municipal Building Upgrades & Community Education for Damariscotta	\$58,400
Fairfield	Conversions to Fairfield Community Center to become ADA Compliant & Energy Efficient Warming/Cooling Center and Emergency Shelter.	\$44,321
Frenchboro	Frenchboro Long-Term Sustainability Initiatives	\$50,000
Gardiner	Comprehensive Assessment of Climate Vulnerability on Community Infrastructure	\$50,000
Gouldsboro	A Resilient Working Waterfront for Corea, Maine	\$50,000
Gray	"Water We Doing?": Planning, Raising Awareness, & Changing Behavior to Address Climate Change in Gray's Nine Main Watersheds	\$49,960
Greenville	Implementation of Emergency Alert System	\$12,195
Hanover	Energy Efficiency Improvements in the Hanover Town Office	\$50,000
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	Installing 16 Heat Pumps, 1 each for 16 Maliseet Housing Authority Low Income Housing Units	\$48,000
Island Falls – Crystal	Engaging Island Falls and Crystal Community Members to Increase Public Awareness and Take Action	\$75,000
Isle au Haut	Charting a Course for Resilience: Isle au Haut's Comprehensive Planning Approach to Climate Action	\$50,000
Lewiston	Bringing Trees Back to the Tree Streets Neighborhood	\$50,000

Community	Project Title	Award
Lovell	Energy Assessment and Improving Efficiency with Heat Pumps and Weatherization of Lovell's Town Hall	\$50,000
Manchester	Reduce and Adapt to Climate Change Impacts to Town of Manchester By Updating Comprehensive Plan, with Focus on Lessening Damages from Storms Including Stormwater Drainage and Storage	\$28,500
Matinicus Isle Plantation	Matinicus Renewable Power Project	\$54,320
Minot	Baseline Environmental Assessment for Town Owned Properties and Fire Ponds/Dry Hydrants.	\$30,000
Monmouth	Engineering Study to Determine Needed Improvements at the Annabessacook Lake Dam to Mitigate Impacts from Maine's Changing Climate	\$50,000
Montville	Montville: Planning for a Climate Resilient Future	\$49,965
New Gloucester	New Gloucester Community Risk Assessment and Resilience Engagement Project	\$48,000
Patten	Heat Pumps for Municipal Buildings in Patten, Updating Emergency Action Plan, Planting Trees around the Stephen Yates Community Playground	\$50,000
Penobscot	Town of Penobscot Energy Efficiency Project	\$50,000
Poland	A.B. Ricker Library HVAC Project	\$50,000
Readfield	Readfield Public Building Heat Pump and Lighting Improvements	\$19,331
Roque Bluffs	Roque Bluffs Comprehensive and Wildfire Management Planning	\$50,000
Sanford	Sanford Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment	\$50,000
Southport	Southport Community Climate Preparedness & Vulnerability Assessment	\$50,000
Stoneham	Sand Shed Solar and Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$50,000
Strong	Implement Energy Efficiency Strategies in the Town Building	\$49,844
Swan's Island	Swan's Island Vulnerability Assessment of At-Risk Community Infrastructure	\$50,000
Thomaston	Public Landing Resilience Project	\$50,000
Van Buren	Van Buren Resiliency Initiative	\$44,345
Vienna	Investing in Climate-Ready Infrastructure: Implementing StreamSmart Crossing Guidelines for Culvert Improvements at High-risk Crossings Most Vulnerable to Climate Change.	\$50,000
Waldoboro	Upgrade the Waldoboro Town Office HVAC System	\$50,000
Wales	Upgrade Windows and Doors to Strengthen the Building Envelope	\$39,641
Washburn	Modernize Maine Buildings	\$50,000
West Paris	Climate Mitigation and Adaptation with Heat Pumps and Infrastructure Assessment	\$50,000
Winthrop	Installation of Heat Pump System at Winthrop Fire Department	\$50,000
Wiscasset	Community-Driven Waterfront Climate Resilience Planning	\$50,000

Supplemental Budget Grant Awards

To date, 69 Community Action Grant awards have been obligated utilizing the Supplemental budget, totaling \$4,632,500. Thirty percent of the funds awarded support communities designated as having high social vulnerability.

Examples of the Community Action Grants utilizing Supplemental funds include:

- The Towns of Boothbay and Boothbay Harbor are partnering on a collaborative community-led climate vulnerability assessment.
- The Town of Cherryfield is implementing a riverwalk shoreline stabilization project and developing a vegetation management plan.
- The Town of Fairfield is making energy efficiency and ADA improvements to the Community Center so it can become a warming/cooling center and emergency shelter.
- The City of Lewiston is holding a Tree Streets Neighborhood tree planting and conducting community engagement.
- The Town of Vienna is implementing Maine DEP's StreamSmart Crossing Guidelines for culvert improvements at high-risk crossings most vulnerable to climate change.



NEW Community Vulnerability Assessment Grant Opportunity

In the Spring 2025 grant round, the Partnership opened a new Service Provider Grant opportunity. Community Vulnerability Assessment Service Provider Grants enable organizations to assist two to five enrolled or enrolling Communities to complete community vulnerability assessments that identify vulnerable community members, infrastructure, and assets, and then utilize that data to further prioritize climate action projects and apply for grant funds. The Partnership made awards to eight Service Providers to complete vulnerability assessments for 31 communities. These grant awards were funded by the State Supplemental Budget.

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS SPRING 2025

Applicant	Project Title	Conditional Award
Acton	Modernizing Municipal Facilities in Acton through Energy Efficient Upgrades	\$68,838
Alfred	Alfred Municipal Energy Assessment and Village Museum Upgrades	\$54,070
Arrowsic-Georgetown	A Collaborative Assessment of Island Groundwater Vulnerability and Sustainability in a Changing Climate	\$170,122
Auburn	Expanding Access to EV Charging Capacity at Our Municipal Facilities	\$75,000
Bangor	Improving Mobility and Evaluating Efficiency of Municipal Buildings in Bangor	\$75,000
Bath	Resilient Bath Outreach & Education Campaign	\$79,650
Beals	Beals Plan for a Resilient Future	\$47,000
Belfast	Belfast Harbor Master Building Modernization Project	\$48,600
Biddeford	FEMA Category G (100-yr flood protection) Dune & Beach Engineering	\$80,000
Bowdoinham	Old Town Hall Energy Upgrades	\$75,000
Bristol	Assessing Vulnerabilities and Planning for Climate Resilience in Bristol	\$80,000
Brooks	Improving Energy Efficiency and Communications in Brooks	\$21,898
Canton	Replacing Fossil-Fuel Heating with Air-Source and Geothermal Heat Pumps	\$75,000
Cape Elizabeth	Community Services Building Heat Pump Installation for Energy Efficiency and Climate Resilience	\$39,400
Caratunk	Hydrologic Survey and Modeling of Pleasant Pond Stream and Associated Watersheds	\$33,500
Chebeague-Long Island	A Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Towns of Chebeague Island and Long Island, Maine	\$86,000
Corinna	Heat Pump Installation in the Stewart Library & Corinna town office.	\$37,769
Cranberry Isles	Fostering a Future of Sustainability and Resiliency — an update to Cranberry Isles Comprehensive Plan and continued focus on energy security	\$70,650
Cumberland	Reduce greenhouse gas emission of the Town of Cumberland by increasing energy efficiency, reducing use of fossil fuels, developing a local food economy, and enhancing sequestration from natural systems.	\$75,000
Dover-Foxcroft	Dover-Foxcroft Resiliency Project	\$75,000
Durham	Durham Open Space Plan and Conservation Strategy	\$80,000
Eastport	Eastport Storm Water Systems Mapping, Capital Investment, and Municipal Energy Efficiency Upgrades	\$51,947
Freeport	Freeport Community Resilience and Public Safety Collaboration	\$10,000
Fryeburg	Fryeburg Walkability Improvements	\$75,000
Gardiner	City of Gardiner Municipal Building Heat Pump Installation	\$75,000

Applicant	Project Title	Conditional Award
Gorham	Gorham Municipal Buildings Lighting Retrofit Project	\$56,077
Hallowell	Planning for Nature-based Stabilization of Hallowell's Kennebec River Shoreline: Community Engagement and Design in Support of Policy Development and Implementation	\$74,736
Harpswell	Develop Maps that Combine Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge to help the Town, Working Waterfront Community and Residents with Resilience Planning.	\$80,000
Harrison	Stream Smart Crossings for Flood Resilient Roads in Harrison	\$75,000
Hartford	Weatherize the Harford Town Hall for heating efficiency.	\$70,000
Hollis	Town of Hollis Open Space Plan and Hollis Resilient Trails	\$34,475
Hope	Hope Community Sustainability & Resilience Plan:	\$60,150
Howland-Enfield	Laying the Groundwork for a Stronger Future	\$130,300
Islesboro	Community-Driven Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation of Vulnerable Life-Line Coastal Infrastructure	\$80,000
Jay	Preparing for High Priority Culvert Improvements to Increase Resiliency	\$75,000
Kennebunk	Waterhouse Center Rooftop Solar	\$75,000
Kennebunkport	Adaptation and Flood Mitigation Designs for Increasing the Resilience of Coastal Riverfront Areas in Kennebunkport	\$80,000
Lincoln	Lincoln Assessment and Planning for Stormwater Management	\$55,000
Livermore Falls	Town Office Building Envelope Upgrade for Energy Efficiency	\$75,000
Lubec	Lubec Resilience Districting and Capital Investment Planning	\$43,000
Machias	Machias Resilience Planning and Storm Water Systems Mapping	\$67,922
Mariaville	Mariaville Otis Volunteer Fire Department Fire-Fighting Water Cistern	\$75,000
Monhegan Plantation	Resiliency Improvements to Monhegan's Breakwater	\$75,000
Montville	Solar Capacity Increase with Heating Retrofit to Offset Municipal Costs for all Town Buildings	\$75,000
Mount Vernon	Build 50-Kilowatt Solar Array to Generate all Current Municipal Energy Used Yearly	\$75,000
Naples	A Municipal Fiber Network for Resilience and Emissions Reduction	\$75,000
Newcastle	Battery Storage Systems for Strengthening Community Resilience and Sustainability in Newcastle	\$68,500
North Haven	Design and Scoping: Mitigating Saltwater Intrusion Risk in Fresh Pond	\$75,000
Northport	Shoreline Stabilization, Landscape Architecture, and Project Management in Bayview Park	\$75,000
Ogunquit	Enhancing the Resilience of Ogunquit's Main Beach Natural and Physical Infrastructure through Design and Implementation of Nature-Based Strategies	\$75,000
Orono	Executing Projects Identified in the Municipal Building Energy Audit	\$50,943
Otisfield	Making Otisfield's Fire Stations Energy Efficient	\$74,755

Applicant	Project Title	Conditional Award
Owls Head	Fire-Fighting Water Supply Ponds with Dry Hydrants	\$44,857
Parsonsfield	Town of Parsonsfield Municipal Energy Plan	\$66,304
Penobscot Nation-Houlton Band of Maliseets	Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Coordinator to Support Wabanaki-led Sustainable Energy Initiatives	\$155,144
Phippsburg	Town of Phippsburg Climate Vulnerability Assessment	\$75,000
Portland-South Portland	One Climate Future Risk Based Asset Management Tool Project (RBAMT)	\$180,000
Rockland	Safe Routes to South School: Advancing Active and Public Transportation Access Between Rockland's Neighborhoods, Elementary School, and Community Services	\$80,000
Rockport-Camden	Climate Action Through Collaboration: Building Resilience in Camden and Rockport	\$174,099
Rome	Fire Fighting — Emergency Water Source Resiliency	\$38,280
Saco-Old Orchard Beach	Determine Quantities of Sand Needed to Achieve 100-Year Flood Protection	\$180,000
Scarborough	Sustainable Scarborough: Climate Action Plan	\$80,000
Shapleigh	Shapleigh Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment	\$65,000
Sorrento	Preparing for Tomorrow: Securing a Stronger Sorrento	\$65,800
South Berwick	Energy Efficient Window Upgrades for South Berwick Town Hall	\$75,000
Southport	Community-Driven Nature-Based Solutions for Vulnerable Coastal Infrastructure at Hendricks Head	\$80,000
Southwest Harbor	Strengthening Southwest Harbor's Community Resilience, Emergency Preparedness, and Access to Public EV Charging Infrastructure.	\$74,500
St. George-South Thomaston	Collaborative Climate Action Planning in St. George and South Thomaston	\$128,200
Stockton Springs	Energy Efficiency and Community Garden for Stockton Springs	\$72,435
Stoneham	Improving Energy Efficiency Through Weatherization, Heat Pumps, and Appliances	\$58,075
Stonington	Pursuing Resilience for Our Island Fishing Community: Update and Revision of Stonington's 2018 Comprehensive Plan with a Focus on Working Waterfront, Transportation and Climate Resilience	\$80,000
Strong	Implement Energy Efficiency Strategies in the Town Fire Station	\$36,859
Sullivan	Emergency Response in Sullivan: Planning for Future Climate Change Impacts	\$62,000
Surry-Brooklin-Castine-Sedgwick	Blue Hill Peninsula Tomorrow Climate Resilience Leadership Development	\$177,985
Temple	Rooftop Solar for the Temple Town Office	\$75,000
Thomaston	Working Waterfront Resilience Project	\$75,000
Topsham	Streets for People	\$69,038
Tremont	Implementing Tremont's Resilience Plan: Action in Pursuit of Community Resilience	\$80,000

Applicant	Project Title	Conditional Award
Trescott Township	Trescott Township Citizen Committee and Vulnerability Assessment Development	\$80,000
Union	Union Severe Weather Infrastructure Risk Management Plan	\$74,982
Vanceboro	Vanceboro Community Center Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$75,000
Verona Island	Updating Verona Island's Comprehensive Town Plan to Advance and Fund Climate Resilience	\$61,472
Vinalhaven	Alternatives Analysis and Preliminary Design for Flood Resilience at Two Critical Roadway Locations	\$75,000
Waldoboro	Town Office and Emergency Service Building Modernization	\$75,000
Waltham	Setting the Cornerstones for Resilience in Waltham: Assessing Efficiency and Infrastructure, and Building Community Awareness and Engagement	\$39,365
Warren	Warren Buildings and Operations Efficiency Upgrades Plan	\$75,000
Waterford	Install Phase II Solar Array to Power the Waterford Town Hall and Fire Department & Develop Plans to Remedy an Identified Vulnerable Stream Crossing Subject to Climate Change	\$75,000
Waterville	Weathering Our Future: Fostering Efficiency in Our Municipal Facilities	\$70,112
Wayne	Town of Wayne Climate Impact Infrastructure and Population Vulnerability Assessment	\$75,000
West Bath	West Bath Energy and Vulnerability Assessment	\$60,000
Westport Island	Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Municipal Buildings	\$69,840
Wilton	Heat Pump Installation for the Public Safety Building	\$60,846
Winthrop	Upgrade of Winthrop Municipal Facilities to Energy Efficient LED Lighting	\$75,000
Woolwich	Assessing Vulnerability and Charting a Course of Action to Build Climate Resilience in Woolwich Maine	\$75,000
Yarmouth-Falmouth	Greater Portland Energy Coaches (GPEC) Program	\$175,000
York	York Sewer District Infrastructure Resiliency Project	\$75,000



Federal Funding

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

In 2024, the Partnership secured and awarded federal funds to support community energy efficiency and clean energy projects in public buildings. This funding came from the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

EECBG funds were distributed to 15 communities via two grant opportunities: a one-time Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant and the Community Action Grant. Awarded community projects include installing solar arrays, energy efficient windows, LED lighting, and heat pumps, and building weatherization and energy planning.

In addition, EECBG funds are supporting a one-time Energy Efficiency Planning for Rural Communities (EEPRC) technical assistance program. The purpose of the EEPRC program is to help rural Maine communities identify energy efficiency opportunities for their publicly owned buildings. This assistance will provide energy audits, energy benchmarking training, and an energy conservation implementation plan tailored to each community. Fourteen communities were selected to receive these services for two public buildings in each community.

Total EECBG funds distributed: \$1.2 million

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

GOULDSBORO In the wake of the 2023/2024 winter storms, the coastal community of Gouldsboro received \$50,000 in grant funding to identify and study alternative approaches to rebuilding roads and other working waterfront infrastructure around Corea Harbor. The area can be cut off by flooding and damaged roads during severe storms, so the town is looking at solutions that will withstand future sea level rise. The town intends to leverage these learnings to apply for additional state and federal funds to implement the selected approaches and reduce road flooding.



Flooding in Gouldsboro shown on January 10, 2024, just after high tide around Corea Harbor. Credit: Brett Ciccotell

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Resilience Regional Challenge

A \$69 million National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (NOAA CRRC) Grant is helping to protect Maine’s communities, environment, and working waterfronts from extreme storms, flooding, and rising sea levels. This includes the following funding to be distributed through the Partnership:

- \$9 million in Community Action Grants over the next 5 years to support community resilience projects.
- \$5 million expand the Regional Coordinator Program, increasing regional capacity to provide technical assistance and grant development support in communities.
- \$525,000 in engineering and green infrastructure technical assistance to communities enrolled in the Partnership.

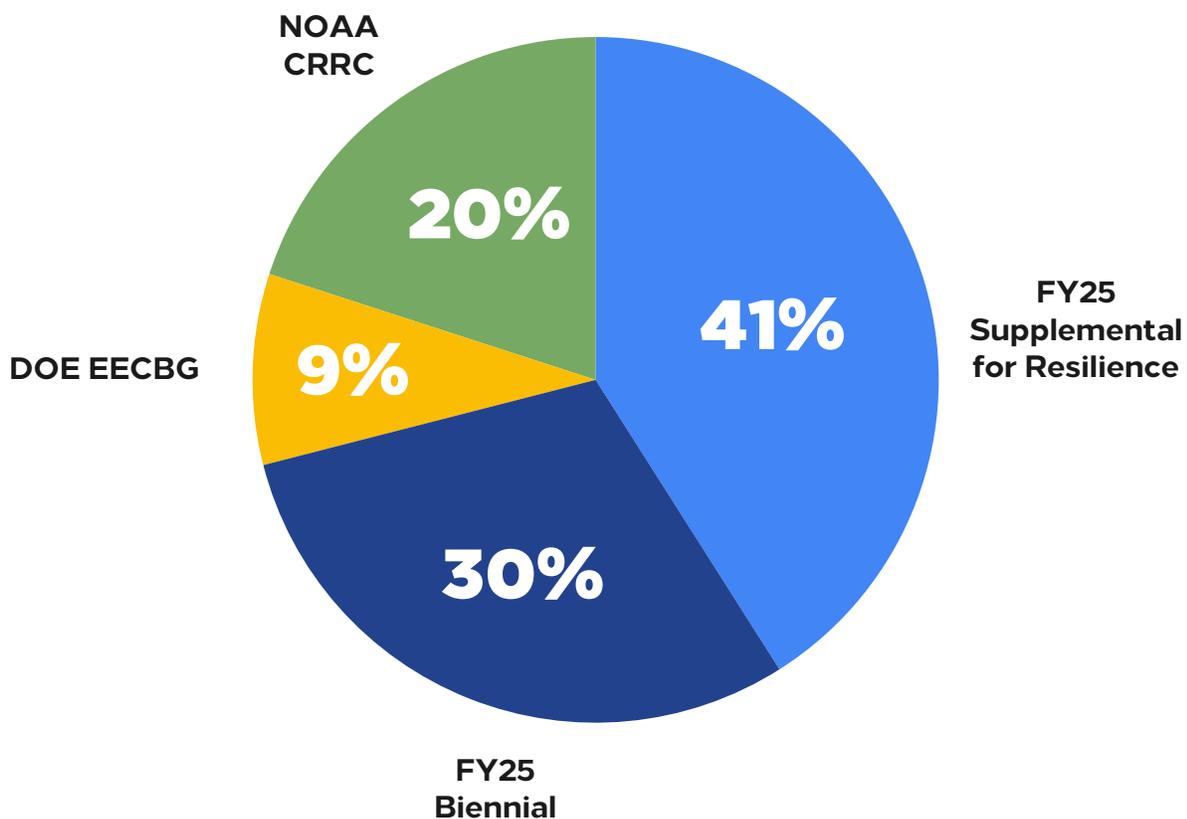
In the Spring 2025 grant round \$2.1 million in NOAA CRRC funds were awarded to 25 communities to support projects that increase community resilience.

Spring 2024 and Spring 2025 Funding Source Distribution

Grant awards were funded using four different sources for Spring 2024 and 2025 grants. These include:

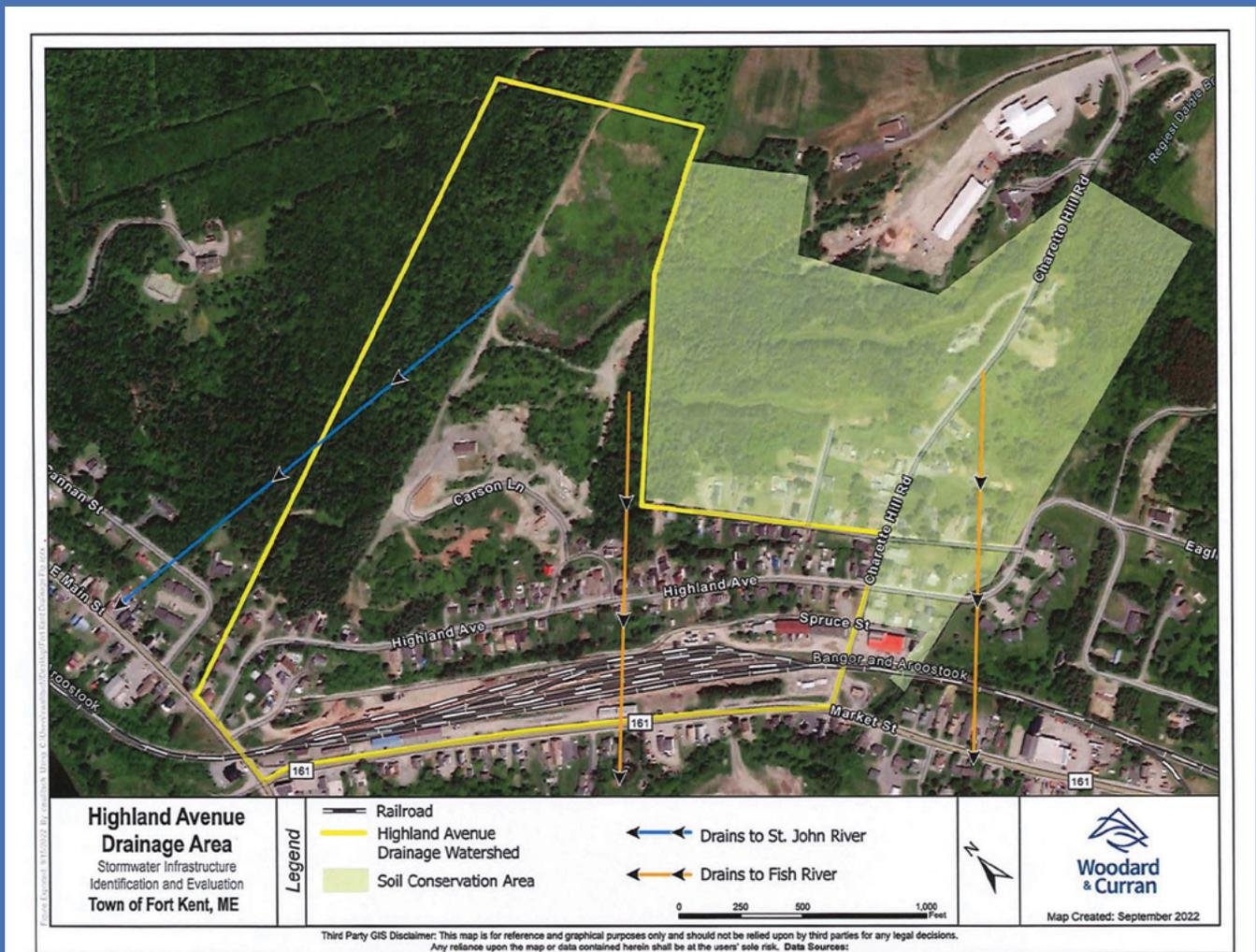
- FY25 Community Resilience Partnership State Biennial Budget
- FY25 State Supplemental Budget
- U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
- NOAA CRRC Grant

SPRING 2024 AND SPRING 2025 FUNDING SOURCE DISTRIBUTION



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

FORT KENT Received a \$50,000 Community Action Grant to evaluate residential flooding due to increased rainfall and runoff. The funds supported an analysis that identified drainage patterns and locations with higher risk, determined a proposed drainage system layout to mitigate nuisance flooding, and provided an estimate of probable construction cost for the Town to implement a system that addresses the highest risk areas.



Current conditions along Highland Avenue show failing conditions that cause flooding in a residential area between Charette Hill Road and East Main Street. The Highland Avenue Stormwater Improvement project plan (above) is a top priority for the town, which needs to be upgraded to mitigate adverse impacts of heavy rainfall events.

Upcoming Technical Assistance Programs

The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) secured the following federal grants and financial assistance that include components anticipated to be distributed through the Partnership. These include:

- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Technical Assistance
 - The Governor's Energy Office secured technical assistance to support three Partnership communities – Dover-Foxcroft, the Mi'kmaq Nation, and Waterford – who will each receive 10 hours of direct technical assistance from NREL to conduct feasibility and design analysis for solar plus storage resilience projects at priority buildings in their communities.
- Congressionally Directed Spending Earmark
 - U.S. Senator Angus King secured \$2.5 million for GOPIF to partner with 10 rural communities on energy resilience projects for town buildings. To reduce the workload for communities, GOPIF will will solicit bids for a single vendor that will meet with each community to select, design, and install energy efficiency, solar, and battery storage solutions appropriate for the community's goals. Participating communities are Caribou, Carthage, Dover-Foxcroft, Fairfield, Jonesport, Limestone, Lubec, Machias, Millinocket, and Rockland.
- U.S. Climate Alliance-Funded Technical Assistance
 - GOPIF secured \$55,000 through the U.S. Climate Alliance to provide targeted educational materials and technical assistance through July 2025 to support Maine communities, schools, and nonprofit organizations that have invested in eligible clean energy projects in understanding how to access available Direct Pay tax credits.

Community Resilience Partnership Participation (April 2025)

36% of Partnership communities rank high on the social vulnerability index and 73% have populations of fewer than 4,000 residents.

Community Action Priorities

Resilience planning and community engagement actions, followed by emissions reduction actions, are the highest priority actions in Community Action Grant projects.

These include:

- Critical community infrastructure vulnerability assessments.
- Community vulnerability assessments and climate resilience plans.
- Climate change education, outreach, and engagement programs.
- Engaging populations that are vulnerable to climate impacts in resilience, clean energy, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.
- Installation of heat pump or Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) systems for heating/cooling and heat pump water heating in municipal/tribal buildings.
- Energy efficiency planning and building envelope weatherization improvements for municipal/tribal buildings.

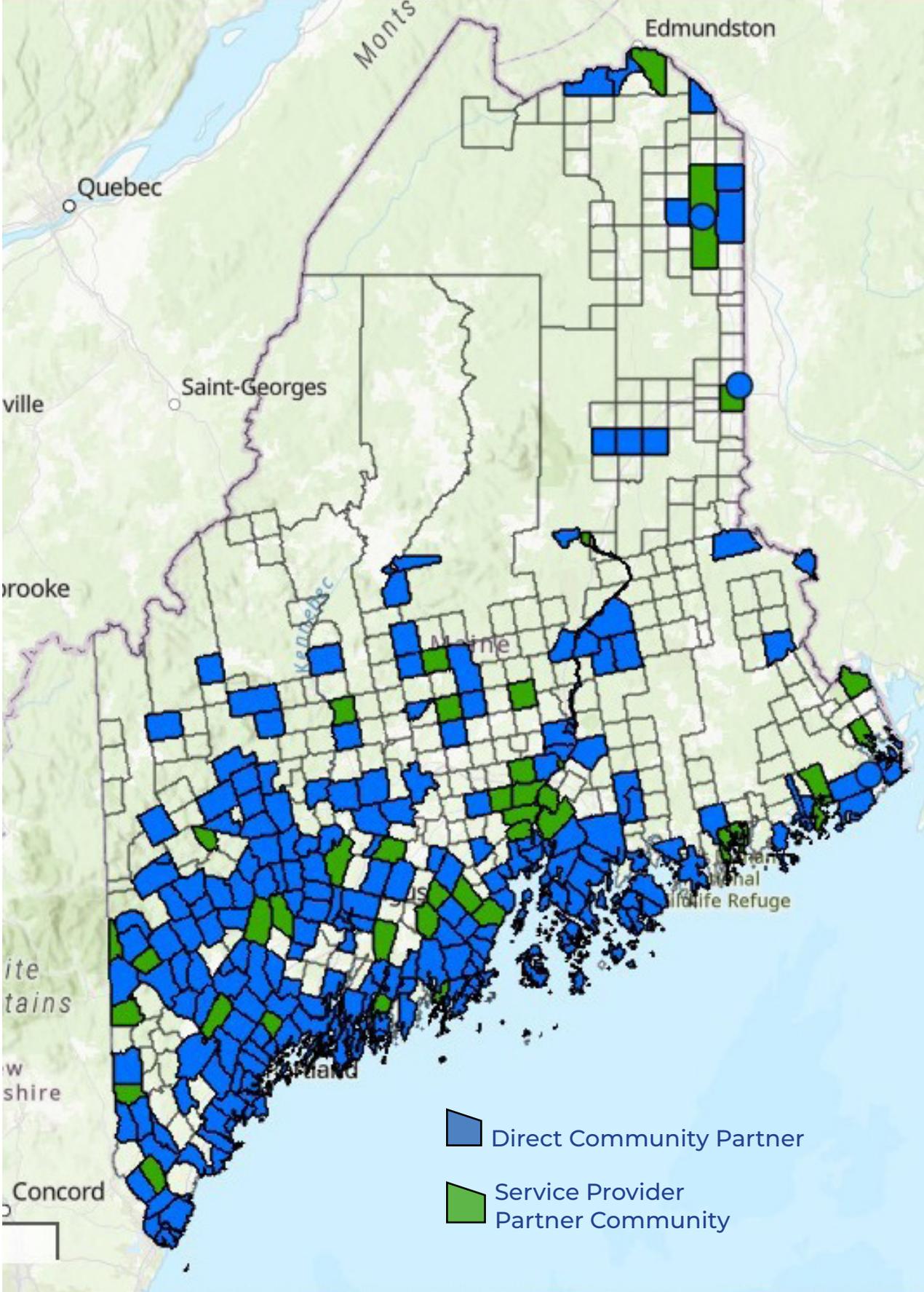
PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPATION BY-THE-NUMBERS

263: TOTAL COMMUNITIES
representing more than two-thirds of
Maine's population

222: Communities Fully Enrolled

**41: Communities Working with
Service Providers To Enroll**

Community Resilience Partnership Participation (April 2025)



Increased Funding and Grant Program Opportunities

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS offer direct financial support to local projects that reduce energy use and costs and make communities more resilient to climate change effects. To be eligible for Community Action Grants, communities must enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership. The enrollment process is designed to help communities assess current activities, set priorities based on community input and identified vulnerabilities, and determine what action(s) to apply for grant funds to complete. In Spring 2024 and Spring 2025, the Partnership awarded 147 grants supporting 161 communities, totaling \$9,687,291.

SERVICE PROVIDER GRANTS support regional organizations to recruit groups of two to five communities and assist them in prioritizing climate actions and applying for grant funding, and new in Round 5, complete community vulnerability assessments for enrolled/enrolling communities. Eligible service providers can request up to \$10,000 per community in their proposed group, with an additional \$2,500 for each community with high social vulnerability or population smaller than 4,000. In Spring 2024 and Spring 2025, the Partnership made 17 grant awards to service provider organizations supporting 99 communities, totaling \$1,214,247.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRIORITIES GRANTS offered a special, one-time grant round in Spring 2024. The purpose of the Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant was to distribute federal funds to priority communities in Maine for projects that improve energy efficiency and implement clean energy systems. Through the Partnership, six grants supporting seven communities were awarded, totaling \$607,486.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

- Thirty-nine percent of all funds distributed directly to communities, were to communities designated as high social vulnerability
- \$5,562,521, 61% of all funds distributed directly to communities, were to Tier 1 (population under 4,000) communities

SPRING 2024 ROUND 4

Community Action Grant

**51 Grants Supporting
53 Communities**

TOTAL AWARDED: \$2,386,797

All Community Action Grant awards were made to first-time grant recipients

41% of funds, \$969,033.41, were awarded to communities designated as having high social vulnerability

Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant

**6 Grants Supporting
7 Communities**

TOTAL AWARDED: \$607,486

U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) funneled through the Partnership to support community energy efficiency and clean energy projects

71% of funds, \$429,009, were awarded to communities designated as having high social vulnerability

Service Provider Grant

**13 Service Provider
Organizations
Supporting 41 Communities**

TOTAL AWARDED: \$497,377

SPRING 2025 ROUND 5

Community Action Grant

96 grants supporting 108 communities

TOTAL AWARDED: \$7,300,494

**26% of funds, \$1,912,038, were awarded to communities
designated as having high social vulnerability**

Service Provider Grant

**13 Service Provider Organizations
Supporting 58 Communities**

TOTAL AWARDED: \$716,870

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS (2022-2025)

Community Action Grant

276 Grants Supporting 266 Communities

TOTAL AWARDED: \$15.8 Million

Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant

6 Grants Supporting 7 Communities

TOTAL AWARDED: \$607,486

Service Provider Grant

**27 Service Provider Organizations
Supporting 190 Communities**

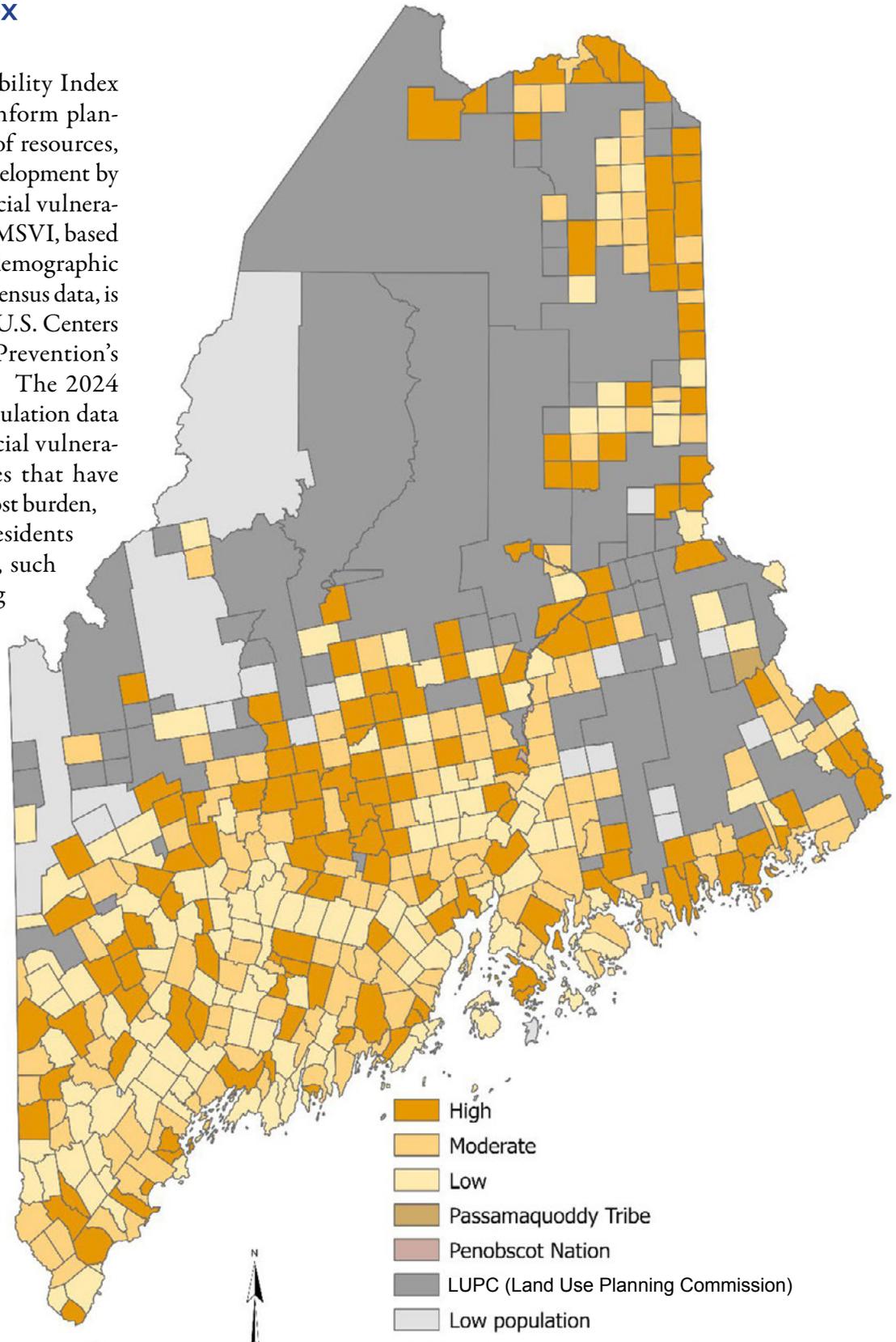
TOTAL AWARDED: \$2.5 Million

GRAND TOTAL AWARDED: \$18.8 Million

Maine Social Vulnerability Index Update

The Maine Social Vulnerability Index (MSVI) is a tool to help inform planning processes, allocation of resources, and policy and program development by bringing the elements of social vulnerability into the calculus. The MSVI, based on 19 socioeconomic and demographic indicators taken from U.S. Census data, is a customized version of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's social vulnerability index. The 2024 update reflects updated population data and changes in the U.S. social vulnerability index. New variables that have been included are housing cost burden, uninsured residents, and residents residing in group quarters, such as assisted living and nursing home facilities. The MSVI is intended as a starting point for conversations in communities to identify vulnerabilities, and the Partnership uses it in several ways to ensure our programs are accessible to all types of communities in Maine.

[View the updated MSVI:](#)



Scale: 1:2,000,000

High represents communities with more categories at upper percentile. Low represents communities with fewer categories at upper percentile.

Grant Funds in Action

After learning about the Partnership, a citizen group in Waterford (located in the Western foothills) formed Partners in Energy, Efficiency and Resilience (PEER) Waterford. The group worked with the municipality to join the Partnership, prioritize community actions, and apply for grant funding. To date, the Town has received two Community Action Grants. The first, \$48,440 in spring 2022, was used to install heat pumps in their Town Hall/Fire House to increase energy efficiency while also making it a Center of Refuge (heating and cooling community center), and to construct a community garden to increase local food access and build community connectedness. The second, \$49,979 in fall 2022, is being used to install an 11.4 kW solar array at Town Hall. The solar array is projected to provide approximately a third of the Town Hall's original electrical load and will offset more than 13,000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year and approximately 16,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year.

“Just about the time we were looking for ways in which our town could take action to help mitigate climate change, we learned of the opportunities the Community Resilience Partnership was offering. It has given us the structure, inspiration, and encouragement that has allowed us to affect tangible change in energy and community resilience.”

—Ted Colburn, Co-Founder, PEERWaterford



Solar install team at the Waterford Town Hall



Waterford Town Hall and Solar Array



Learn more about what communities are doing with Community Action Grant funds



CONNECT WITH THE PARTNERSHIP!

Are you wondering how to get started with the Community Resilience Partnership?

Are you looking for the Regional Coordinator for your community?

Follow these links!

[Learn the benefits of participating in the Partnership and how to join](#)

[See maps of grant-funded projects and communities](#)

[Find your community's Regional Coordinator](#)

[View Maine's Social Vulnerability Index](#)

Still have questions?

[Read our Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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[**maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership**](https://maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership)