

Q&A Summary

Funding Opportunity CAG2025-6

Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant Program

Updated August 8, 2025

Community Enrollment

Is enrollment good for one or two years?

To maintain active status in the program, every two years communities must reenroll in the Partnership. Steps to complete reenrollment can be found on the [Support page within the CRP website](#) under “Staying Enrolled.”

Is there a list on your website of communities that are currently enrolled?

Yes, enrolled communities and communities working with Service Providers to enroll are listed on the [website](#).

Can one community meeting be held to enroll three communities that share the same town office?

If three communities share the same governance and town staff, and have similar priorities and needs, it may be possible to hold one community workshop to enroll all three communities.

Applicant Eligibility

Are quasi municipalities, for example, municipal water districts eligible to be applicants?

School districts, water and sewer districts, neighborhood associations, and similar entities are not eligible to be primary applicants and are encouraged to partner with a municipality or other eligible entity.

Must an applicant be a town or can an applicant be a sub-unit of a town, such as a volunteer fire department?

The primary applicant must be a municipal government, tribal government, plantation, township, or unorganized territory in Maine, who are enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership. A volunteer fire department is eligible to partner with an eligible entity on a

project, and if the fire department building is publicly owned, the fire department would be eligible for funding to make energy efficiency upgrades to the building. A letter of support from the volunteer fire department would help to strengthen the proposal.

Are enrolled communities eligible to submit a Community Action Grant proposal AND participate in a Track 2 Service Provider Grant proposal to complete a vulnerability assessment?

Communities participating in a Track 2 Service Provider Grant application are also eligible to participate in a Community Action Grant application.

Communities who received a Round 5 CAGs are also eligible for round 6 and round 7 grants as well, so they could conceivably receive 3 grants in about 12 months. Are there concerns, or is there guidance, for how towns can provide capacity in their applications in that case?

Correct, if a town received a Round 5 community action grant, they will be eligible for Round 6 as well as Round 7 (which is anticipated to open in winter 2026). If a community feels that they have the capacity to handle three grant projects simultaneously, the grant application(s) should clearly describe how the town intends to manage all the grants, with clear roles and responsibilities defined.

Towns may also choose to work with a service provider or a consultant to help manage those grants. A description of those management services, tasks, deliverables, and budget allocated, should be included within the CAG application.

Are the grants only eligible for municipal projects? Or could the funds go to a nonprofit?

A municipal government, tribal government, plantation, township, or unorganized territory in Maine, who is enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership, is eligible for grant funding. A nonprofit could serve as a partner in a grant project, with one of those eligible entities as the primary applicant. A letter of support from the nonprofit organization would help to strengthen the proposal.

Service Providers may apply on behalf of communities. Letters of support must be provided from each community.

Our community is looking to evaluate strategies for shoreline stabilization along three parcels with critical town infrastructure. One of the parcels is owned by a nonprofit

but the town has a lease to manage it. Would this cause a complication for CAG eligibility?

To complete a planning study, such as a vulnerability assessment of community assets, a property that is leased by the town would be eligible. If the proposed CAG includes any form of implementation, the leased site may not be eligible for grant funding. We would need more information on the lease terms, public use, and the project need to determine if the site would be eligible for implementation funding.

Can a town be a partner on two applications during the same grant round, e.g., an application on a single-town application and an applicant a joint application with other towns?

A town may only submit one Community Action Grant proposal per grant round. The town may submit an individual proposal with one of the tasks being to work on a joint project with another community. In this case, we would like to see a letter of support from that other community and clear management structure.

What is the maximum number of towns that can apply on a joint application?

There is no maximum number of towns that can participate in a joint application. A strong joint proposal would include a detailed management section to demonstrate how the towns will work together and who will lead various aspects of the project. The maximum award amount of \$175,000 for a joint application will not be increased for additional communities.

Two communities are interested in submitting a joint proposal to bring electricity to their shared transfer station which is located in a third community that is not enrolled in the Partnership. Would this be an eligible use of funds?

The planning component of this project would be eligible with the following requirements:

- The unenrolled community where the transfer station is located must supply a letter of support for the project and commit to enrolling in the Partnership during the duration of the project.
- The electric infrastructure planning components are in alignment with Maine.Won't. Wait goals – such as generating clean energy utilizing renewable sources.

Are communities that have active grant projects eligible to apply for Round 6 grant funds?

Yes, communities with active grants are eligible to apply. Clear demonstration of how the community will manage both grant projects simultaneously will strengthen the application.

Eligible Use of Funds

I noticed that the updated List of Community Actions includes item A9: “Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes, including transit, bike, e-bike, and walking infrastructure.” I wanted to clarify how “implement strategies” is defined in this context. Does it refer to the adoption of policies that support multimodal transportation, or can it also include planning activities such as a sidewalk/crosswalk assessment study?

Both adopting policies that support public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes and planning activities that facilitate the increased use of bikes and walking, or improvements to biking and walking infrastructure, would be eligible for no-match grant funds and could fall within action A9.

Would a generator for the town Fire Station be eligible for this grant?

Fossil fuel powered generators are not eligible for grant funding. Solar plus battery back-up storage systems are eligible for grant funds.

We are building a new fire station, is it eligible for grant funding?

New construction is not eligible for building energy efficiency improvement actions (weatherization, insulation, heat pumps). The installation of a solar array, battery storage, or EV chargers at the new building would be eligible for grant funding.

Do actions B3-B7 apply to new construction as well as existing building?

New construction is not eligible for building energy efficiency improvement actions (weatherization, insulation, heat pumps, appliances). The installation of a solar array, battery storage, or EV chargers at the new building would be eligible for grant funding.

Our library is working on becoming an official Sustainable Library through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative ([Home | Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#)). As part of this, we are looking to obtain and install one to two bottle filling fountains to allow the

public to fill up reusable water bottles at our facility. Would this be something that could fit with Community Action Grants criteria?

Libraries are eligible to partner with municipalities to apply for community action grant funds, with the municipality as the primary applicant. To be eligible for any infrastructure improvements, which would include a bottle filling station, the library building must be publicly owned. Water bottle filling stations could be eligible for grant funds as one component of a larger waste reduction or emergency shelter plan (if the library is used as a warming/cooling shelter).

Would F28 (Amplify public health advisories for climate-related health and weather events such as air quality advisories, extreme heat or cold events, extreme storms, power outages, waterborne disease outbreaks, harmful algal blooms, vector-borne disease trends, etc.) in the new list of actions include purchasing a 311 system? A community communications plan and system to improve communications around climate impacts, such as public health risks, extreme weather notifications, and emergency shelter information, could align with actions F7 or F28. Having this as one component of a larger communications plan to better prepare and inform residents about climate risks would help to strengthen the application.

We are interested in completing an assessment of fire suppression water sources in 4 to 5 communities. Based on that assessment, it is anticipated that adding reliable water sources, such as cisterns, within the geographic area to aid in firefighting will be necessary. The assessment will help inform and determine the priority and location of these reliable water sources. Our question is: can a portion of the requested funds go toward the assessment, with another portion being set aside to help fund installation of the water sources, based on the recommendations of the assessment?

The assessment of reliable water resources to better prepare for reduced water access due to climate impacts as well as the increasing risk of wildfire, is well-aligned with the list of community actions.

Given that the recommendations from the assessment will be unknown at the time of application submission, the project scope of work would lack detail around what water resources will be installed, the deliverables, vendors, cost, etc. and limit the review committee's ability to assess the project. I would suggest breaking this project into two phases and applying for funds for the assessment this round, and funds for installation based on the assessment findings in a future round.

Would a milfoil removal project qualify for a community action grant?

Invasive species management/milfoil management aligns with MWW climate action Strategy E, Protection Natural and Working Lands. Under the CRP's list of community actions this action may be relevant to watershed planning (E4), preserving climate threatened natural areas (E7), and developing inland/coastal monitoring systems that helps inform impacts to natural resources (E16). Having the milfoil management project as one component of a larger invasive management plan or demonstrating that it is a recommendation of a watershed plan, would strengthen the application.

Is there an opportunity in this funding for communities to apply for ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans to help improve accessibility?

While ADA accessibility plans and improvements do not directly relate to the list of community actions eligible for grant funding, they could be eligible for grant funding as one component of a larger emergency shelter or heating/cooling center plan. Please note that only publicly-owned buildings would be eligible for the implementation of ADA improvements utilizing Community Action Grant funds.

Is an audit (B1), and energy conservation plan (B2) a prerequisite to embarking on a weatherization (B3) project?

We encourage communities to complete energy audits and conservation plans prior to making energy efficiency updates, but they are not required. Providing background on how the proposed weatherization improvement was selected, why this weatherization improvement aligns with other upgrades within the building, and any metrics around the anticipated energy savings after project completion would help to strengthen the application.

Our Library, a 501c3 that leases the library building from the municipality, is seeking funds to install a new roof and add insulation to reduce energy consumption and heat loss in the building. They have a letter from an Efficiency Maine certified vendor explaining the findings from their inspection and recommending adding insulation to the roof. Is that sufficient to meet the requirements of the CAG to submit an application this round in partnership with the town for roof repairs and installing roof insulation? Or do they need additional information?

Providing the Efficiency Maine qualified vendor's report findings will help to strengthen the application and demonstrate the need for increased insulation. Grant funds cannot be used for structural repairs that are needed due to deferred maintenance, such as roofing

and siding, but if the roof improvements are a necessary part of installing the new insulation there is a window of eligibility to fund that project component as well.

If electrical upgrades are required to install heat pumps, can those costs be covered by the CAG?

Yes, electrical updates that are required to install heat pumps are eligible for grant funds.

Our Town was awarded a Stream Crossing Grant in January, can Community Action Grant funds be used as match or to meet funding gaps?

Community Action Grant funds may be used for culvert replacement construction to supplement other funding sources. CAG funds are best positioned for design/engineering costs for culvert projects, given the max funding available, but in this case given that you have already secured another State funding source and are hoping to supplement those funds to fill in the funding gaps, this could be an eligible use of funds.

Per the program statement, the Community Resilience Partnership has a strong preference for proactive infrastructure resilience and energy efficiency projects over deferred maintenance projects. Design and engineering components of road and culvert improvement projects to address climate impacts align well with the List of Community Actions and max grant funding amount. Making the connection to why these improvements are needed due to climate impacts will help to strengthen the application.

Our Town is interested in installing heat pumps in the Town Hall, however, we learned that we were not eligible for Efficiency Maine rebates, as there are currently natural gas systems in place. Would this project be eligible for CAG funds?

Community Action Grant funds may be used to install energy efficient heat pumps and VRF systems to replace natural gas systems. Proposed energy efficiency projects utilizing Community Action Grant funds should align with Efficiency Maine guidelines. If your community would like more information on Efficiency Maine municipal incentives and guidelines, please reach out to Ashley Krulik (ashley.krulik@maine.gov) Satchel Toole (satchel.toole@efficiencymaine.com) at Efficiency Maine to get additional guidance.

Can we submit a single grant application with two distinct projects? E.g., an application for a stormwater management study for \$50K and energy efficiency upgrades to town buildings for \$25K?

Yes, applicants may apply to complete multiple activities within one proposal.

How long for approval or for review of the applications until award?

We anticipate making award notifications in mid-December.

Can this grant be combined with another state funded grant?

Applicants are encouraged to utilize Community Action Grants as match to leverage other federal, state, or philanthropic grant funds as allowed by those programs. Community Action Grants may also be used to close project funding gaps for other state funding programs, in accordance with 2.2 (i) or (ii) in the CAG2025-6 Program Statement. It is the applicant's responsibility to consult the rules for the federal or state funding programs if the Community Action Grant will be designated as cost-share or match. If applicable, applicants should explain any anticipated use of Community Action Grant funds as match for another funding program.

If a community wants to apply for a project working with a water district separate from the town, would the grant eligibility be maximum \$75,000 or \$175,000?

If the water district serves only one community, the maximum grant amount would be \$75,000. The community would need to be the primary applicant with the water district as a project partner. If the water district serves multiple communities, and those communities would like to submit a joint grant application with the water district as a partner, they could apply for a joint grant of up to \$175,000.

Is it possible to get extensions on the deliverables of the vulnerability assessment if factors like winter weather hinder the ability to complete the assessment?

Contract terms will be up to two (2) years, as specified by the applicant's proposal. If an applicant applies for a one (1) year project and after award needs to extend it to two years due to unforeseen conditions, that is possible.

For a potential project concept for a resilience-focused Library of Things, are materials and equipment available to be borrowed by residents eligible for funding? For example portable battery packs or emergency kits owned by the Library but open to be borrowed and returned.

Grant funds may be used to purchase publicly owned equipment that is made available to residents.

Would a new Building Automation System to increase building energy efficiency be considered an eligible action item under B5?

Yes, building automation systems are eligible for no-match grant funding. A few notes to consider:

- Completing an energy audit to inform what technologies are needed would be recommended.
- If you feel that you already know the type of system that would be needed prior to the energy audit, please provide the exact model that will be used as well as evidence of the system's efficiency through metrics such as anticipated energy consumption reduction, GHG emissions reduction, and cost savings to support the effectiveness of the system, in the application.
- The proposed system would be required to have specs that would support an entire HP HVAC solution if that is not already present at the school.
- HVAC controls are potentially eligible for incentives through Efficiency Maine's Custom Program. These incentives need to be incorporated into your grant budget. You can reach out to Jesse Remillard from Efficiency Maine to learn more (jesse.remillard@efficiencymaine.com).

Are there Community Action Grant funds available for municipal building energy efficiency upgrades?

Yes, Community Action Grant funds will be available for municipal energy efficiency projects.

For F5: Adopt and implement a plan or policy to make critical working waterfront infrastructure and intertidal access more resilient to storms and sea level rise, can a community implement working waterfront infrastructure projects, or is it more to develop plans, engineering designs, and policy recommendations?

Typically, CAG funds are most appropriate for planning and design given the max award amount of \$75,000. That being said, for F5, CAG funds may be used for implementation as well. If the project scope is large and CAG funds would only cover a small portion of the project cost, demonstrating that other funding sources have also been secured or are being pursued would help to strengthen the application.

If we request \$25,000 for energy audits across four facilities, and actual costs exceed that estimate, could we instead audit three facilities within the available funds? Or would we be required to complete all four audits and cover any shortfall with local funds?

There is no requirement to complete an energy audit for all municipal buildings at the same time, you can pick and choose your priorities based on the available budget. If a community applies to complete four energy audits, and after the grant award learns that the actual cost for the energy audits will exceed the estimated costs that were awarded, please reach out to Ashley Krulik to discuss revising your project scope.

Could we request funding to audit just one facility -- our ambulance station is the top priority -- and use the remaining portion of that \$25,000 allocation to implement one or more of the audit's recommendations?

You may request funding to complete an audit of just one municipal building. Given that the recommendations from the audit are unknown at the time of application submission, the implementation of the recommendations would have an unknown scope of work and would be unlikely to receive funding due to lack of detailed deliverables, timing, budget, etc. about what the implementation will include.

If you feel that you have already identified certain priority energy efficiency improvements prior to the completion of the energy audit, please provide a scope of work to complete those improvements and anticipated energy consumption reduction, GHG emissions reduction, and cost savings to support the effectiveness of the energy efficiency improvements, in the application.

How does the CRP view a municipality applying for a subsequent grant to implement audit findings? Would it be preferable to combine both the audit and upgrades into a single CAG application, or is it acceptable to pursue implementation funding in a future cycle?

Phased projects are encouraged. Utilizing the completed energy audit to prioritize and inform the updates that are proposed in a future grant proposal would help to strengthen the application.

Could a town include funds in their Community Action Grant that could help low-income residents install heat pumps through Strategy C2?

CAG funds can be used to develop a program to assist low-income residents to transition to clean energy or increase their home's energy efficiency, but funds cannot be used to purchase equipment for privately-owned homes. Publicly owned low-income housing is eligible for equipment purchase and installation.

If the town were to establish a resilience fund in line with strategies F4 and F5 to support construction/implementation costs of resilience improvements to public infrastructure, could they request grant funds to put into that reserve fund for future projects?

Community Action Grant funding may be used to support the development of a reserve fund but cannot be used to fund the established reserve account.

Would insulated blinds to reduce heat loss and increase energy efficiency be eligible for community action grant funding?

The installation on insulated blinds doesn't directly align with the list of community actions but could be eligible for grant funding if sufficient information to support this energy efficiency solution in place of window inserts or new windows is provided. This could include information on the efficacy of the proposed blinds (anticipated \$/year saved in energy costs) with proof from reputable sources, a letter from Efficiency Maine supporting this as an effective solution, and the anticipated lifetime of these blinds. Including a cost benefit analysis of the possible options (blinds, inserts, windows) with rationale for choosing this solution as the preferred option, i.e. compare the cost of each option versus the ROI and projected energy savings, would help to strengthen the application.

Is one quote from our contracted vendor sufficient for our CAG application or are additional quotes from other vendors required?

Including an estimate within your proposal to support the budgeted costs will help to strengthen your application. Additional estimates could help to further support the costs but are not required.

We are interested in applying for funding to install heat pumps at our library, which also serves as the community's heating/cooling center. Would the library be eligible for funding if the building isn't municipality-owned?

This is not likely to be eligible given the CRP's very strong bias towards public property and municipal functions. There may be a very narrow window of eligibility depending on the nature of the services provided through the property, the types of populations served when it is not functioning as an emergency center, the relationship of the nonprofit to the municipal government, and the nature of the proposed improvements.

Our community is interested in looking at whether solar would work to reduce electrical costs and improve efficiency at our water filtration/treatment facility. This action would fall under actions C8 and C10, but we were curious why wastewater treatment facilities are specifically called out in F21, and why water treatment facilities are not. If you have any additional information you can share, that would be great.

You are correct that the solar site assessment and installation would fall under C8 and C10. Please note that to be eligible for funds for C10, the community would need to include the specifications of the proposed solar array in their application (size, location, connection plan, etc.). If those specs are being developed as part of the site assessment, this may be a two phase project, applying for funds for the site assessment this round, and then applying for the funds for installation in a future round.

For F21, water filtration/treatment facilities would be eligible for assessing for clean energy potential within this action as well.

Are wildfire risk trainings for fire department members and volunteers an eligible activity under this grant?

This action would align with F6, hazard mitigation planning, as it includes increasing capacity for disaster planning and management. Including it as one component of a larger hazard mitigation or climate resilience strategy would strengthen the application.

Is the construction of a salt/sand shed eligible for grant funding?

New construction is not eligible for grant funding.

Our community is preparing a grant application that will collect and analyze data on the current state of its ground water and produce a handbook with steps to conserve water. Could this project be considered a Community Action under F24. Complete an assessment of drinking water quality and stressors, and implement a source water protection program?

Yes, it could fall under F24, F1 (Conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical community infrastructure), and G3 (Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program focusing on mitigation and adaptation for residents, businesses, and community partners.)

Are culvert replacements eligible for grant funding?

The Community Resilience Partnership has a strong preference for proactive infrastructure resilience and energy efficiency projects over deferred maintenance projects. Design and engineering components of road and culvert improvement projects to address climate impacts align well with the List of Community Actions and max grant funding amount. The Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund is well positioned to support more complex or expensive infrastructure construction and improvement projects.

Application Form/Scoring Criteria

How do you determine if it's a 12 month or 24 month project?

The applicant should determine the project duration based on the proposed scope of work and deliverables.

Our community is requesting funds to install heat pumps in the community center, which is also home to the food pantry, so there are clear community benefits. However, I'm not sure what engagement would be appropriate.

For community engagement and access, applicants can broaden their scope/message and not just focus on the activity that they are requesting funds to complete. For example, if the community is proposing heat pumps, there could be an outreach and engagement strategy about how these improvements are lowering carbon emissions while also saving taxpayer dollars, and information could be shared on how residents can take similar steps in their

own homes. It also may be helpful for you to reference a presentation that we gave last year on incorporating community outreach and benefits into proposals - [presentation slides](#) and [webinar recording](#).

May I sign the application with an e-signature? Or must it be a "wet" signature?

You may sign with any type of signature that is considered as binding by your town's policy.