

# Stabilize and Support Maine People

Investments in the safe operation of childcare and education, human services supports, and public health.

- We support making the safe operation of PK-12 and higher ed in the fall a stated priority for Maine's government.
- We propose human services supports for Maine's most impacted groups, including expanding state programs to resident non-citizens and housing assistance to keep Mainer's in their homes and support the solvency of small landlords.
- We propose strengthening Maine's public health infrastructure, to include fully staffing MEMA's local Emergency Management Directors from retired healthcare professionals, running public campaigns for mask wearing, investing in extensive contact tracing capability, and building and scaling a state buying group, working through commercial distribution serving all industries, for PPE and cleaning supplies, hosted by MEMA.

## Specific funding call outs:

- Childcare \$20MM from CARES Act (can also participate in business support program below)
- PK-12 safe operations \$300MM from CARES Act (Noting the lower range referenced in our first memo from Massachusetts was for PPE only)
- Higher ed \$75MM from CARES Act
- Human services support – Housing assistance: \$50 million. Immigrant supports: \$2-7 million.
- Public health support – funding needed, deference to DHHS and MEMA estimates

# Stabilize and Support Maine Employers

For many, many small businesses and non-profits, survival is impossible without immediate support this summer

- We propose that Maine DECD and the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) plan, execute and monitor an economic relief grant program totaling \$300MM (from CARES Act funds), largely through Maine's Banks, Credit Unions, and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) for small businesses and non-profits.
- Further, nonprofits need resources to help them meet important health, economic, and social needs. Support could be administered through a partnership among state agencies, philanthropic foundations and nonprofit entities.
- We also propose to help businesses to immediately access capital for innovation from FAME and MTI programs, to be funded by \$50MM in CARES Act funds.
- We also restate the need that Maine employers require technical and buying group support for engineered controls, PPE, and cleaning supplies.
- Finally, we recommend that Maine invest in workforce retraining through Maine's Community College System, Maine Quality Centers, other institutions of higher learning and targeted match making programs for high demand sectors and dislocated workers.
- Along with retraining, we recommend marketing Maine as an attractive place to live for remote workers, and invest in high demand skills training.

Specific funding call outs:

- Business aid \$300MM
- FAME and MTI innovation support \$30MM and \$20MM respectively
- Workforce development \$30MM

# Stabilize and Support Maine's Infrastructure

For Mainers adapting to the pandemic, lack of broadband is limiting their access to distance education, health, and remote work.

- Maine has a \$600 million broadband investment deficit, [according to ConnectMaine](#), and for Mainers adapting to the pandemic, this is limiting their access to distance education, health, and remote work. In our work, broadband investment quickly emerged as a cross-cutting issue across all subcommittees.
- We recommend funding ConnectMaine's Broadband Action Plan with \$60 million from the CARES Act, which is 30 percent of the state's proposed share under the plan, as a quick start that lays the groundwork for potential federal matching funds.
- We also recommend a \$100MM bond initiative to fund transportation (\$85M) and other digital infrastructure (\$15M) which would be available during the recovery period if we start now.

Specific funding call outs:

- Broadband \$60MM
- Transportation and other digital infrastructure \$85MM and \$15MM respectively (through bonding)