

Detailed Outline of Previously Announced Supplemental Budget Initiatives

The following budget initiatives fulfill commitments made by Governor Mills during her State of the State Addresses or announced by her Administration recently, including:

Saving for the Future: Recognizing that other states are facing budget shortfalls and that revenues in Maine are expected to plateau in the coming years, the Governor's supplemental budget proposes to save \$107 million in a new, temporary reserve for the 2026-2027 biennium to help the State maintain its strong fiscal footing and to provide for ongoing funding commitments and in anticipation of the funding needs to come. The Governor announced this in Part One of her State of the State Address.

Protecting Public Safety and Strengthening Maine's Mental Health System:

- **Establishing an Injury and Violence Prevention Program at the Maine CDC:** \$1 million to establish an Injury and Violence Prevention Program at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention as a central hub to bring together data about violence related injuries and deaths that is currently kept separate (such as in police reports, medical examiner files, and emergency department files) to allow Maine to identify patterns to inform public health and prevention measures to reduce suicides and homicides in Maine. This investment, which the Governor announced in Part Two of her State of the State Address, supports the Governor's public safety legislation.
- **Building More Crisis Receiving Centers:** \$950,000 in one-time funding to establish a crisis receiving center in Lewiston, supported by \$450,000 in ongoing funding while the Maine Department of Health and Human Services develops a plan to create a statewide network of crisis receiving centers that provide greater access to behavioral health services for people across the state. Crisis receiving centers are a proven model of behavioral crisis intervention, allowing any person experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis to get immediate, appropriate, and no-cost care. This proposal builds on the successful Portland center and the similar one being established in Kennebec County. This investment, which the Governor announced in Part Two of her State of the State Address, supports the Governor's public safety legislation.
- **Creating the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund:** \$5 million in one-time funding to create the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund to provide coverage for physical and mental health out-of-pocket expenses that are connected to a mass violence event in Maine and are not covered by insurance. The fund will be managed by the Office of the State Treasurer with eligibility determined and proceeds distributed by the Maine Crime Victims Compensation Board within the Office of the Attorney General. The Governor announced this in Part Two of her State of the State Address.

Responding to and Preparing for Extreme Weather:

- **Growing the Community Resilience Partnership:** \$5 million to help another 100 cities, towns, and tribal governments create local plans to address vulnerabilities to extreme weather through the Partnership, adding to the 175 communities who have participated in the program since it was launched. The Governor [announced this funding](#) in Part Two of her State of the State Address.

This is complimented by [standalone legislation](#) the Governor is proposing to invest \$50 million into the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund to help communities rebuild infrastructure and enhance climate resiliency.

Addressing Homelessness and Building More Housing:

- **Funding Emergency Housing:** \$16 million for the Emergency Housing Relief Fund to ensure that winter warming shelters, lower barrier shelters, longer term shelters and transitional housing programs can remain open, operating, and supporting the emergency housing needs of Maine people. This builds on \$55 million in previous investments by the Governor and Legislature through the fund to support more than 75 housing programs and 7,000 Maine people in need statewide. The Governor announced this in Part One of her State of the State Address. This also complements an initiative providing \$5 million for General Assistance that is connected to reforms to make the program more sustainable in the long-term. Both of these programs provide temporary assistance as affordable housing options expand.
- **Long-Term Home Ownership:** \$10 million to bolster the Affordable Homeownership Program, which is estimated to help build more than 130 new homes in Maine. Since 2019, the Governor and Legislature have authorized almost \$285 million to support the construction of more apartments and homes. These state and federal funds have resulted in more than 600 new homes so far, with more than 1,000 homes under construction, and more than 2,000 homes in the pipeline for construction – the most ever in MaineHousing’s history. The Governor announced this in Part One of her State of the State Address.

Improving Child Safety:

- **Adding Targeted Positions to Support Child Caseworkers:** \$1.4 million for targeted positions – such as legal aides and trainers – to expand teams for caseworkers so that they can focus their time and energy on engagement with children and families, on follow-up for services, on investigations, and on making sound decisions to protect children in need. The Governor announced this in Part One of her State of the State Address and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services has released [additional details](#).
- **Supporting the Health of Children in State Care:** \$1.3 million (\$747,000 in General Funds) to support services for children in state custody, including funding for room and board, clothing, activities, and respite, as well as funding for a new comprehensive foster child assessment service that provides timely,

comprehensive evaluations for youth entering foster care that aligns with the Child Welfare League of America and the American Academy of Pediatrics Standards. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services [recently announced](#) this investment.

- **Initiating a Review of Classification of Child Welfare Positions:** \$4 million (\$3.1 million General Fund) to support a reclassification of child welfare caseworkers and supervisors to ensure that the compensation properly reflects the difficulty and complexity of the work over the long run. The Governor announced this in Part One of her State of the State Address.

These investments build on [a recent announcement](#) by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services that it is delivering recruitment and retention payments to child welfare staff as directed by the Governor in Part One of her State of the State Address.

Addressing the Opioid Epidemic: \$4 million to expand Medication Assisted Treatment in county jails to help put more people battling addiction on a life-long path to recovery. This builds on the proven use of Medication Assisted Treatment in Maine prisons and other initiatives [announced by the Governor during Part One of her State of the State Address](#), including adding nine new recovery coaches to our OPTIONS teams statewide and further expanding the distribution of naloxone across Maine.

Investing in K-12 Education: \$22.6 million for Maine public schools through the General Purpose Aid (GPA) formula to ensure Maine continues to meet its obligations to schools, municipalities, and teachers. In 2021, the Governor and the Legislature met the State's requirement to provide 55 percent of education funding for the first time in Maine history and have maintained that commitment ever since. The Governor announced this in Part One of her State of the State Address.

Improving Child Development Services: \$25 million to support the implementation of the [Maine Department of Education's plan](#) to improve Child Development Services (CDS), including \$10 million for year one of the three-year phase-in of the oversight of educational plans for preschool-age children with disabilities from the CDS agency to public schools; \$4 million to fund infrastructure upgrades at those schools that voluntarily assume the education of children ages 3 through 5; and \$11 million to cover additional costs for private special education schools. The Governor urged the Legislature to fix CDS in Part One of her State of the State Address, and the Maine Department of Education recently unveiled its plan to do so.

Attracting and Retaining Health Care Workers: \$34 million (\$11.4 million in General Fund) for a MaineCare cost-of-living adjustment for behavioral health providers and an overhaul of nursing facility rates which improve quality, access to care, and the ability attract and retain high-quality health providers. The Governor announced this in Part One of her State of the State Address.

Improving Hospital Reimbursements: \$96.4 million in Federal, State, and new hospital revenue to reform hospital reimbursement rates to improve the health of Maine

people. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services [recently announced this proposal](#), which is supported by the Maine Hospital Association.