

Governor Mills' Affordability Agenda

In her 2026 State of the State Address, Governor Janet Mills unveiled her **Affordability Agenda** to deliver immediate financial relief and long-term cost stability for Maine people. Governor Mills' Affordability Agenda puts money back into the pockets of Maine people, proposes to build more homes to bring down housing costs, and proposes to make permanent free community college.

“From health care, housing, and utilities, to the price of a pickup truck, to everyday necessities like groceries and medications, the cost of everything seems to be going up — and Maine people, just like millions of people across the country, are feeling it,” said Governor Mills. “Tonight, I propose that we do something about it.”

Money Back into the Pockets of Maine People – Affordability Relief Checks

Governor Mills announced that her supplemental budget will include \$300 (\$600 for joint filers) Affordability Checks for approximately 725,000 Maine people to help offset rising everyday costs. The checks would be funded with \$218.5 million from Maine's record-high Rainy Day Fund, now at its statutory maximum of \$1 billion — nearly five times higher than when the Governor took office. Those eligible for an Affordability Check include full year Maine residents filing a 2025 Maine tax return, making up to \$75,000 for a single filer or married filing separately; \$112,500 for head of household; and \$150,000 for a married couple filing jointly.

Bold “American Dream” Initiative to Build More Housing

The high cost of housing and limited supply — made worse by the Trump Administration's tariffs on aluminum, steel, and other building materials — have put housing and economic security out of reach for too many young families. In direct response, Governor Mills has proposed a bold \$70 million investment from the Rainy Day Fund to support construction of 825 new homes statewide. The plan includes:

\$55 million for new housing production, including:

- \$15 million for the successful [Rural Affordable Rental Program](#) to create 83 new apartments in rural areas across the state.
- \$7.5 million for the [Affordable Homeownership Program](#), which helps lower the costs to developers building single-family subdivisions, expected to create 88 homes.
- \$10 million for a new pilot program at MaineHousing to create 100 new homes to be rented or owned by middle-income Maine people.
- \$7.5 million for a new pilot program at MaineHousing to create 429 affordable homes by helping existing mobile home parks finance expansion and infill.
- \$15 million to leverage federal housing tax credits, which will create 125 new rental apartments

\$15 to million support proven, existing housing programs, including:

- \$12 million for the [Emergency Housing Relief Fund](#), to provide short and long-term housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.
- \$2 million for the the [Community Aging in Place Program](#), to upgrade 645 homes so as to allow older Mainers to age in place rather than having to move from their current home
- \$1 million to the Maine Office of Community Affairs to help Maine communities implement recent zoning and land use reforms passed at the state level

Make Free Community College Permanent

Governor Mills' Affordability Agenda proposes to make her tuition-free community college program permanent, ensuring the cost of two years of community college – and the pathway to a good-paying career here in Maine – will not increase. The Governor's renewed attempt to make free community college permanent comes after the Legislature opted to make it free through the high school graduating class of 2025. The Governor's will propose \$2.5 million in her supplemental budget for the program.

Since launching in 2022, more than 23,000 students have participated in the program, with nearly 2,000 continuing their education through the University of Maine System and other four-year institutions, strengthening Maine's workforce pipeline.

Maintaining Commitments to Maine People

In addition to the Governor's three-pronged Affordability Agenda, her supplemental budget includes an additional \$46 million to maintain the state's commitment to pay 55% of the cost of K-12 education. This equates to \$3.6 billion over the biennium that would be otherwise collected through property taxes.