

UPDATED: Fiscal Year 24-25 Supplemental Budget

The supplemental budget represents \$127.4 million in appropriations and would result in a \$10.47 billion budget. The current budget is \$10.34 billion, including more than \$285 million in [tax relief](#) per year.

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

- **Establishes an Office of Violence Prevention at the Maine CDC:** \$3.2 million (\$2.9 million in General Fund) to establish an Office of Violence Prevention at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to coordinate and promote efforts to reduce violence, including through the creation of 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 inform public health and prevention measures to reduce suicides and homicides in Maine. This investment supports the Governor’s public safety legislation.
- **Builds More Crisis Receiving Centers:** \$4.4 million to establish crisis receiving centers in Lewiston, Penobscot County, and Aroostook County. 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 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to create a statewide network of crisis receiving centers. The budget also adds \$550,000 to increase one-time start-up funding for a substance use disorder treatment center in Kennebec County. This investment supports the Governor’s public safety legislation.
- **Supports Mobile Crisis Teams:** \$5.3 million (\$1.7 million in General Fund) to strengthen mobile crisis response through a comprehensive MaineCare (Medicaid) payment model. This model will support teams comprised of specially trained behavioral health responders including peers who de-escalate mental health and substance use crises, assess needs, and provide an appropriate level of care in the least restrictive setting. These teams, which are dispatched to the location of a person in crisis through the 988 – Maine’s 24/7 centralized crisis lifeline – are a critical safety-net service that the Mills Administration has effectively worked with providers and national experts for the past two years to improve. This budget initiative complements the Governor’s public safety legislation.
- **Promoting Safe Firearm Storage:** \$100,000 enhance the promotion of Maine’s [Safe Homes Program](#), which encourages Maine people to safely store firearms and highlights programs that make safe storage more affordable, like the tax exemption, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, for devices specifically designed to secure firearms. The Safe Homes Program was created by

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the Legislature and Governor in 2022. This budget initiative complements the Governor's public safety legislation.

- **Hiring More State Troopers:** \$1.7 million in General Fund to establish 8 State Police Trooper positions, 2 State Police Corporal positions, 1 State Police Detective positions, 4 State Police Sergeant positions and one State Police Major position to allow Maine State Police to support Resource Coordination Agreements with counties and municipalities and continue rural policing throughout the state, providing for 24/7 operations. This budget initiative complements the Governor's public safety legislation.
- **Enhancing Funding for Extreme Risk Protection Order Assessments:** \$422,400 to support the surge in mental health assessments under the extreme risk protection order law since the tragedy in Lewiston. The Governor announced in her State of the State Address that the law has been used 15 times more in the three months after the shooting in Lewiston than it had been used for the three years it was on the books before. This budget initiative 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 invested 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.
- **Funding Victims' Services:** \$6 million in one-time funding to address a Federal funding shortfall from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The State funding will support community-based domestic violence and sexual assault services, civil legal representation for victims, government-based victim witness advocates, and housing and supportive services for elder abuse victims.

Responding to and Preparing for Extreme Weather:

- **Rebuilding Following Severe Storms:** \$60 million to help communities rebuild infrastructure and increase resiliency following the severe storms in December and January, including \$50 million through the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund and \$10 million for small businesses through the Business Resilience and Recovery Fund.
- **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 226 communities now participating in the program. The Governor [announced this funding](#) in her State of the State Address.

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- **Funding Disaster Recovery:** \$15 million for the Disaster Recovery Fund within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to fund the State's share of estimated disaster recovery costs.
- **Rebuilding Maine State Parks, Historic Sites and Public Lands:** \$3 million to repair damage to Maine State Parks, Historic sites, and public lands caused by the recent storms.

Addressing Homelessness and Building More Housing:

- **Funding Emergency Housing:** \$21 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. This also complements an initiative providing \$10 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.
- **Building More Housing:** \$30 million to build more housing in Maine, including \$10 million to the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program, \$10 million to leverage Federal low-income housing tax credits, and \$10 million to bolster the Affordable Homeownership Program, which in total is estimated to help build more than 260 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.
- **Protecting Residents of Mobile Home Parks:** \$5 million in one-time funds to MaineHousing to establish a housing preservation fund to support the purchase of mobile home parks by their residents. Mobile home parks provide affordable housing for thousands of Maine people, including many who are older, disabled, or living on fixed incomes, who are vulnerable to housing displacement from a change in park ownership. This fund will provide low or no-interest financing to entities, such as resident cooperatives, to complement other financing options to support mobile home park purchases in Maine.
- **Establishes Pilot Rent Relief Program:** \$18 million in one-time General Fund money to establish a pilot program designed to provide eligible persons with up to \$800 per month in rental assistance paid directly to the person's landlord for a period of up to 24 months and \$2 million for a subsidy program under the Maine State Housing Authority in coordination with the Department of Education and

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the Department of Health and Human Services for students experiencing homelessness who have not yet attained 18 years of age.

Improving Child Safety:

- **Adding Targeted Positions to Support Child Caseworkers:** \$1.3 million (\$1.1 million in General Fund) 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.
- **Supporting the Health of Children in State Care:** \$1.5 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.
- **Initiating a Reclassification 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.

Additional Initiatives:

- **Supporting Maine's Child Care Sector:** Authorizes full and effective investment of all of the \$12.9 million in General Funds previously appropriated for early care that could not otherwise be spent in FY24 due to the delayed effective date of the biennial budget and other reasons. Specifically, the budget authorizes one-time child care provider stability grants, Head Start costs, technology changes necessary to implement recent state and federal policy changes, and support for families. The budget also authorizes the use of appropriated funds in FY25 for a child care staff scholarship program to inform recommendations on how to design an effective and efficient permanent program.
- **Improving Transition to Nursing Facility Payment Reform:** Adds \$72.8 million (\$23.2 million from General Fund transfer) for a new Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund to support nursing facilities as MaineCare implements comprehensive rate reform. The Fund would serve as a source of the state share of MaineCare payments from 2025 to 2027, to support nursing facilities while rate reform is being phased in. It will support time-limited payment policies to all eligible facilities that reward quality or achieve permanent staffing targets, for example. The Legislature directed that \$15 million from this fund be distributed as one-time payments to be made as soon as is practicable. This investment, when added to the funds already proposed in the supplemental and biennial budgets, yields \$31 million in General Funds for nursing facility rate reform in this biennium and is expected to leverage Federal funding for a total of \$97 million.

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- **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, 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.
- **Increasing Pay for Ed Techs and School Support Staff:** Directs that effective July 1, 2025, the minimum hourly wage of educational technicians is 125 percent of the state minimum hourly wage and the minimum hourly wage for other school support staff who are paid hourly is 115 percent of the state minimum wage. It also directs that the first full year of this implementation is paid by the State. The first year is expected to cost approximately \$13 million. This will be supported by a \$15 million one-time transfer, as part of a larger \$30 million infusion, into the Education Stabilization Fund.
- **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 \$9 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; \$1 million to support an early childhood special education pathways pilot project; and \$11 million to cover additional costs for private special education schools.
- **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.
- **Improving Hospital Reimbursements:** \$96.4 million in Federal, State, and hospital revenue, with the support from [the Maine Hospital Association](#), to reform hospital reimbursement rates to improve the health of Maine people.
- **Supporting the Judiciary:** \$4 million to upgrade the Judiciary's computer systems.

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- **Supporting Dairy Farmers:** \$3 million one-time payment to Maine milk producers in recognition of increased production costs and implements ongoing changes to the dairy tier program resulting in an increase of \$4.1 million for Fiscal Year 2025 in funding for the Maine Milk Commission, consistent with the proposal advanced by the Legislature's Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.
- **Establishing an Office of New Americans:** Creates and provides for two positions for an Office of New Americans.
- **Streamlining, Simplifying and Modernizing Sales Tax Provisions:** a proposal to streamline, simplify, and modernize certain provisions of the sales tax to better align it with the practice of other states across the country.
 - eliminating the requirement that sales tax be paid up front by a business owner when purchasing property, like equipment, to rent out to consumers; instead allowing the tax to be paid over the use of the rental, which eliminates the upfront financial burden on these business owners when acquiring rentable equipment. Maine and Illinois are the only two states in the country not to approach the tax in this way. This move would bring Maine into alignment with all the remaining states with a sales tax.
 - simplify the sales tax exemption for nonprofits by making any nonprofit that is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) automatically sales tax exempt for the State of Maine. This move eliminates the need for the Legislature to pass a new statutory exemption for every nonprofit seeking tax-exempt status and is consistent with the treatment of nonprofits in most other sales tax states.