# Seeking Comments on REvitalizeME Downtown Applications

The Maine Development Foundation (MDF) and its partner, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission are administering a grant program for historic preservation and economic development entitled REvitalizeME Downtown. REvitalizeME Downtown is supported through a grant from the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant as administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The following is a summary of all the complete applications to the REvitalizeME Downtown program received by the August 14, 2025 deadline.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed projects. Comments received by September 11, 2025 will be forwarded to the members of the grant review team in advance of their meeting on September 25, 2025 during which time applications will be evaluated for grant selection.

To request a copy of one or more of the applications, or to submit comments for consideration, please contact Kirk Mohney by telephone at (207) 287-3811 or by email at [kirk.mohney@maine.gov](mailto:kirk.mohney@maine.gov). For more information on the program, or to obtain a copy of the grant manual, which includes funding priorities and selection criteria, please go to https://www.mdf.org/programpartnerships/maine-downtown-center/funding-opportunities/revitalizeme-grant-program/ .

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**Project Name:** Center Theater

**Property Name:** Center theater, as part of the Dover-Foxcroft Commercial Historic District

**Location:** Dover-Foxcroft, Piscataquis County

**Applicant:** Center Theater, Inc.

We are asking for the support of the REvitalizeME program to (finally) complete work on one of the columns supporting the Center Theatre for the Performing Arts. We first began work on the column in 2021. Because of complications to the project it has dragged on since then. While the building is stable, the project needs to be completed before the column deteriorates further. We have commitments for $78,000 towards the project and $77,280 from REvitalizeME would mean that we could complete the work in the summer of 2026.

**Amount requested** $77,280 **Total Project Cost** $155,280

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**Project Name:** Masonry Repair and Storm Window Replacement on the 1881 Gardiner Public Library

**Property Name:** Gardiner Public Library

**Location:** Gardiner, Kennebec County

**Applicant:** Gardiner Library Association

The Gardiner Library Association seeks a grant of $126,176 to repair the brownstone watertable (bottom course) trim blocks of the original 1881 portion of the Gardiner Memorial Library to preserve structural and visual integrity and to install replacement storm windows on that portion of the structure to protect previously repaired windows and increase energy efficiency, with all work meeting The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

**Amount requested** $126,176 **Total Project Cost** $151,411.60

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**Project Name:** The Old Hancock County Sheriff's Home and Jail Exterior Carpentry Rehabilitation

**Property Name:** Hancock County Jail, Ellsworth Historical Society

**Location:** Ellsworth, Hancock County

**Applicant:** Ellsworth Historical Society

The Ellsworth Historical Society seeks $200,000 to complete the Exterior Carpentry Rehabilitation Project at the Old Hancock County Sheriff’s Home and Jail. This project focuses on rehabilitation work performed by the carpentry trades, and includes rehabilitation of the deteriorating front porch landing, railings, and stairs; the decaying jail cell barred windows and the double-hung windows of the residence; and building a functional replica of the missing landing and stairs at the South-façade kitchen door. Completing this exterior rehabilitation is essential to the transformation of the Old Jail into a regional cultural heritage center and destination in historic downtown Ellsworth.

**Amount requested** $200,000 **Total Project Cost** $240,000

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**Project Name:** J. Palmer Merrill

**Property Name:** J. Palmer Merrill Block

**Location:** Skowhegan, Somerset County

**Applicant:** JPM, LLC

We are seeking $200,000 to replace the failing roof of 48 Water Street, a contributing structure in Skowhegan’s historic downtown. The project will remove the deteriorated built-up roof, install a new EPDM membrane over tapered insulation, retain and restore original copper flashings, and reopen historic skylights to restore natural daylighting. This work is a critical first step in the building’s full rehabilitation into mixed-use space with ground-floor retail and five upper-floor residential units, including affordable housing. Completion of the roof replacement will stabilize the structure, protect historic features, and enable the long-term preservation and productive reuse of this community landmark

**Amount requested** $200,000 **Total Project Cost** $200,000

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**Project Name:** Johnson Hall Opera House - Marquee

**Property Name:** Johnson Hall, Inc- Gardiner Historic District

**Location:** Gardiner, Kennebec County

**Applicant:** Johnson Hall, Inc.

As part of our continued efforts to preserve and enhance the historic character of Johnson Hall Opera House, we are seeking funding to install a traditional-style marquee above our main entrance. This final architectural element will complete the exterior restoration of our recently renovated building, aligning with its original historic design.  
With three entrance doors at the front of the building, the addition of a marquee will also provide much-needed clarity and visual direction for patrons, guiding them to the appropriate entry point and enhancing the overall visitor experience.

**Amount requested** $55,592.80 **Total Project Cost** $69,491

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**Project Name:** Olde Federal Building Roof & Gutter Project

**Property Name:** Olde Federal Building

**Location:** Augusta, Kennebec County

**Applicant:** Uncommon Augusta LLC

The project proposed for this grant application is the rehabilitation of the historic roof at the Olde Federal Building in Augusta. Costs associated with this project include repairing and replacing slate and copper roofing elements ($114,685), adding insulation underneath ($49,300), repairing and replacing copper flashing and gutters ($99,150), the community engagement project ($7,500), and donated time for the developers to manage the sub-project ($33,600). We are seeking a $200,000 Grant.  
  
This is a sub-project of a larger master-project that will rehabilitate the entire building and convert it into a boutique hotel with café, lounge, bathhouse, and meeting/event spaces.

**Amount requested** $200,000 **Total Project Cost** $304,235

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**Project Name:** Waldo County Superior Courthouse

**Property Name:** Belfast City Hall 2 Building Masonry Repairs

**Location:** Belfast, Waldo County

**Applicant:** City of Belfast

The Belfast City Hall 2 Masonry Repair project will support the repair of masonry facades on three sides at City Hall 2 (former Waldo County Superior Courthouse). The north, east, and west facades are included in this project. The Masonry repairs are a stand-alone project as part of the larger phase 1 redevelopment to fit out the first floor for municipal office and meeting spaces, as well as exterior repairs.  
  
The City is requesting $200,000 from REvitalizeME and will provide $89,789 match for a total project cost of $289,789. Grant funding will support the construction (masonry repairs) of the project.

**Amount requested** $200,000 **Total Project Cost** $289,789