

# **Q&A Summary**

## **Funding Opportunity CAG2026-7**

Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant Program

**Updated May 15, 2026**

### **Applicant Eligibility**

#### **Are communities who have active community action grant projects eligible round 7 grants?**

Yes. If a community is managing multiple grants, the grant application(s) should clearly describe how the town intends to manage all the grants, with clear roles and responsibilities defined.

#### **Can a town be a partner on two applications during the same grant round, e.g., an application on a single-town application and an applicant a joint application with other towns?**

A town may only submit one Community Action Grant proposal per grant round. The town may submit an individual proposal with one of the tasks being to work on a joint project with another community. In this case, we would like to see a letter of support from that other community and clear management structure.

#### **Can a community apply for both the Round 7 CAG and the Nature-based Design Technical Assistance Opportunity?**

Yes, enrolled communities are eligible to apply for both opportunities.

### **Project Scope**

#### **Can we apply for support for a project to last more than one year (given that road/culvert work is seasonally restricted)?**

Yes, a grant period can be 1- or 2-years. There is a section within the grant application where you will indicate your proposed timeline.

#### **Would projects in multiple strategy categories be allowed in one application?**

Yes, a community may apply for multiple actions within a single application.

### **Eligible Use of Funds**

**Does the grant have any requirements regarding the type of audit, such as ASHRAE Level I-III?**

All types of municipal energy audits are eligible for Community Action Grants and the community should select the type of audit that will position it best to make informed and prioritized energy efficiency improvements.

**If a shed is needed to house battery back-up storage, in the installation of a shed eligible for grant funding?**

If the shed is essential to the installation of the batteries, it may be eligible for grant funding under action C10. A few things to consider –

- The installation of a shed for battery storage is not directly aligned with the list of community actions, so a 10% match may be required (this can be in-kind time)
- The shed must be used for battery storage-only.
- The longevity of the building should be considered, installing a durable structure will better support the possible expansion of the battery storage in the future.

**Can two or more communities submit a joint application for a shared Sustainability Coordinator?**

Yes, shared capacity to support actions on the CRP List of Community Actions is eligible for grant funding. For proposals using CAG funds for capacity, we look for:

- A detailed scope of work for the individual(s) and specific outputs and outcomes that are aligned with the activities on the List of Community Actions. Applicants should be as explicit as possible with the scope of work and deliverables.
- Management structure with clear supervisory roles
- A strategy for how this increased capacity and/or the projects supported will continue past the grant period.
- For joint grant applications, a clear demonstration of how this role will benefit both communities equally and how the communities intend to work together to support this role and the proposed deliverables.

**We are looking into constructing a new sand and salt shed on a newly acquired property by our town office. This is due to our current sand and salt sheds location within proximity to wetlands and its aging/failing structure. Would this be eligible for grant funding?**

Construction of new buildings is not eligible for Community Action Grant funds, but I believe that there have been DEP programs in the past to assist with the cost of moving and covering sand and salt piles and I would suggest looking into those programs.

**Would acquiring modern, long-range radios critical for early warnings and efficient emergency response align with the grant's climate resilience focus?**

Developing or enhancing early warning systems, community communications plans, and community evacuation plans for before, during, and after disasters, especially for people who traditional channels may not reach, is eligible for grant funding and aligns with action F7 on our [list of community actions](#) eligible for no-match grant funding.

**I noticed the grant covers electric vehicle (EV) training. We'd love to pursue that, but also wonder if the grant might help fund EV fire blankets, essential safety tools for our rural team.**

Funding nationally accredited (NFPA) training and educational opportunities for local first responders to be prepared to safely handle fires involving EV batteries is also eligible for grant funding and aligns with action A6. Purchasing tools/equipment to fight EV fires is less aligned with our grant funding.

**Our community is interested in both planning and education activities for the entire watershed, but mainly we would like to begin work on roads/culverts - especially sites on Town roads.**

Watershed planning and education efforts would be eligible for Community Action Grant funding as long as there is a clear climate connection to the need for the activities. If the activities have a climate connection but do not directly align with our list of community actions, a 5% or 10% match may be required (depending on community size). In-kind time can serve as match.

Here is some general guidance for culvert projects, which is included in the program statement:

- The Community Resilience Partnership has a strong preference for proactive infrastructure resilience and energy efficiency projects over deferred maintenance projects. Design and engineering components of road and culvert improvement projects to address climate impacts align well with the List of Community Actions and max grant funding amount. The Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund is well positioned to support more complex or expensive infrastructure construction and improvement projects.

- Construction or improvement projects must be on publicly owned properties, buildings, or infrastructure.

**Our community is building a new town garage. This new facility will be a more modern building that will significantly improve operational efficiency and reduce environmental impact. Do you think this project is one that would qualify for this type of grant? I'm happy to give more information if needed.**

- New construction is not eligible for building energy efficiency improvement actions (weatherization, insulation, heat pumps, appliances). The installation of a solar array, battery storage, or EV chargers at the new building would be eligible for grant funding.

**We would like to install at least 2 cisterns in remote parts of our town for wildfire mitigation purposes. We think there could be a link to the CRP strategy "Build Healthy and Resilient Communities F1." We would appreciate your thoughts on how our project fits into this category or any other, for that matter.**

Installing fire-fighting cisterns is somewhat-aligned with Action F1. Demonstration of the role that climate impacts are playing to increase the need for this action and how the cistern will serve as a component of a larger wildfire management plan could help to strengthen the proposal. Match of 10 of 20% would be required given that this action doesn't directly align with the CRP list. This can be in-kind time.

**Would the County be eligible to apply for a Community Action Grant if their multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan includes CRP members?**

County governments are not eligible to enroll in the Partnership or directly receive funds, but may serve as a "service provider" and apply on behalf of enrolled communities or partner with an enrolled community on a project, see [Section 1.2 in the program statement](#) for more guidance on the eligibility requirements.

Updating the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan to address changing and future conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts is an eligible action for no-match grant funding. Please note that if a community partners with a county EMA to update their hazard mitigation plan, that community would not be able to apply for funding for another project as well.

**Do building envelope improvements include replacing and insulating a roof, or only insulating?**

Roof replacement/repairs are not eligible for grant funding. Attic insulation in a publicly-owned building would be eligible. There is some more guidance on this within the program statement appendix.

**If a town wants to install LEDs and heat pumps, but needs to update their electrical panel and wiring to do so, can the electrical updates be included?**

Yes, electrical upgrades to support the transition to LED lighting or heat pumps or installation of EV charging are eligible for grant funding.

**Our town has several failing culverts in that watershed, and I saw in the List of Community Actions that the design, engineering, and permitting of culverts. Would that be something we could use the CAG grant to help with?**

This is a frequently asked question and therefore we added some guidance to the Program Statement Appendix –

Action F18: Improve and protect drinking water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater facilities and related infrastructure, such as culverts and sewers, to anticipate future climate impacts and reduce physical damage and sustain function during extreme weather events.

- The Community Resilience Partnership has a strong preference for proactive infrastructure resilience and energy efficiency projects over deferred maintenance projects. Design and engineering components of road and culvert improvement projects to address climate impacts align well with the List of Community Actions and max grant funding amount. The Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund is well positioned to support more complex or expensive infrastructure construction and improvement projects.
- Construction or improvement projects must be on publicly owned properties, buildings, or infrastructure.

**Can our community apply for grant funding to install heat pumps to replace an inefficient heating system and add cooling in publicly-owned housing?**

Yes, a publicly-owned and operated housing complex would be eligible for community action grant funding to make energy efficiency improvements, included installing heat pumps, as long as they are replacing a less efficient or fossil fuel-powered heating/cooling system.

The town would still be required to utilize any applicable Efficiency Maine rebates/incentives to the project cost, and grant funds can be requested for costs above and beyond the EMT rebates/incentives.

**Is the establishment of a community wood bank eligible for grant funding?**

Yes, the establishment of a wood bank and development of a management plan would be eligible for grant funding. This does not directly align with any actions so we would require match, which can be in-kind time or could possibly include donation of wood to the wood bank in this case. Purchasing wood for the wood bank would not be eligible for funding.

**If a town is really low capacity, could a part-time town clerk ask for a small amount of CAG funds for grant management?**

Yes, communities can request funds for staff or consultant time to manage the project

**Is it okay for a resident in a town who is not town staff or an elected official be the lead point of contact for the application?**

Yes, but it would be good to have a staff member or elected official as a back up point of contact in the Project Management description

**Can a town that wants to build up a volunteer waste diversion program create and pay for a staff person to manage this project for a year with CAG funds?**

Yes. The inclusion of a plan for how the program will be funded/managed after the grant period has ended will strengthen the application.

**Can communities include 5%-10% contingency with requested funds?**

Yes, communities may include contingency funds in their budget to account for any changes in cost between application submission and award.

**Would it be possible to hire a consultant with a clearly defined list of projects, deliverables and outcomes to assist the local citizen health Committee to create a health plan to address the effects of climate under Strategy Area F: Building Healthy & Resilient Communities: Strengthen Public Health?**

The hiring of a consultant to develop a plan or provide services to address public health challenges related to climate change would be eligible for no-match grant funding and aligns with the public health actions in Strategy F. The services funded by the grant would need to specifically address public health concerns connected to climate change, but if

the City has any matching funds, those funds could be used to expand the project/plan to include non-climate change related public health planning/services as well.

**Would development of a community wildlife protection plan — designed to reduce the risk of wildfire — qualify for no-match CAG 2026-7 funding?**

The development of a community wildfire plan would be eligible for no-match grant funding and is most closely aligned with F3, but also aligned with F22.

**Could a municipality apply for a municipality-wide wildfire risk reduction plan that includes a study of land that controlled by non-profit land trusts?**

Yes, a municipality may apply for a municipality-wide wildfire risk reduction plan that includes a study of land that controlled by non-profit land trusts.

**Can grant funding be used to purchase Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units? They would be purchased by the town and placed in municipal buildings (town hall, library, community center, etc.) to support public health and emergency care as needed.**

The purchase of AEDs is minimally aligned with our list of community actions eligible for no-match grant funding. There is a narrow window of eligibility if the AEDs were a necessary component to stand up an emergency shelter or warming/cooling center.

**Should we be going through a bid process and present a budget based on those bids? The contractors may not guarantee their pricing if the project will not start until some time in 2027. Would formal bids be stronger than estimated costs, to be confirmed through a bid process after an award?**

While not required, the inclusion of vendor estimates do help to support the estimated costs and can strengthen the application. Efficiency Maine incentives/rebates should be factored into the estimated costs.

We understand that costs can change between application and grant award, and Towns may include a contingency fund within the budget proposal to cover potential increased costs.

**Is the installation of dry hydrants eligible for grant funding?**

The installation of dry hydrants is somewhat-aligned with the CRP list of community actions. The proposal would need to include a clear climate connection, such as increased wildfire risk due to changes in precipitation, to support the need for the hydrants and may

require a 10% or 15% match (depending on the community size) given that it doesn't directly align with our list of actions. In-kind time can serve as match.

While no community has received funding to install new dry hydrants, awards have been made to related efforts including:

- The completion of a vulnerability assessment of existing dry hydrant infrastructure to identify improvements and increase resilience
- The installation of fire-fighting cisterns in an area where dry hydrants and other water supplies are no longer reliable for fire-fighting
- The improvement of existing fire ponds to increase reliability and access for fire-fighting

**Is emerald ash borer inoculation for ash trees in significant public spaces, like city parks and along some streets eligible for grant funding?**

The development of a comprehensive invasive management plan that includes the removal of invasive plants and planting of native species, may be eligible for grant funds as it broadly aligns with Strategy Area E: Protect the Environment & Promote Natural Climate Solutions. It is not directly-aligned with any of the community actions, so that Town may be required to commit a 10-20% match, and I would encourage you to incorporate this into the application. In-kind match is permitted. A strong climate connection and long-term strategy for continued maintenance (knowing that invasives require years to control) would strengthen the proposal. A request to complete one-off invasive treatment without the completion of a plan would be unlikely to receive funding.

**The town is also interested in using grant funds to purchase additional recycling barrels to distribute to new participants in the recycling program. Is this an eligible activity, or do you have guidance to share on what information you would like to see for something like that to be included in the budget of a CAG?**

The purchase of recycling barrels for resident use as one component of a waste reduction strategy is eligible for grant funding. A note in the proposal that the barrels will be owned by the municipality and that residents will be asked to return them if they do not participate in the program, would help to strengthen the application.

**Are regionally-owned schools eligible to receive grant funding for energy efficiency improvements?**

Regionally-owned school buildings are not eligible for community action grant funding for construction activities, including energy efficiency updates. CRP funds can only be used to make improvements to municipally-owned buildings, which does not include regionally-

owned schools. Regional schools are eligible to partner with the municipality they serve to apply for funding for planning activities, such as completing a district climate action plan, vulnerability assessment or greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

**Our community's #1 priority is to address the severely invasive swollen bladderwort plant in Tilton Pond, which is located at the top of their watershed. The Town is very concerned about the potential for this invasive to spread downstream into additional water bodies throughout the watershed and negatively impact aquatic ecosystems, water quality, recreation, and long-term ecological resilience. Would this be eligible for grant funding?**

An invasive management plan that includes the removal of invasive plants and planting of native species, may be eligible for grant funds as it broadly aligns with Strategy Area E: Protect the Environment & Promote Natural Climate Solutions and can be related to all three of the actions that you cited. It is not directly-aligned with any of the 95 community actions, so that Town may be required to commit a 10-20% match, and I would encourage you to incorporate this into the application. In-kind match is permitted. A strong climate connection and long-term strategy for continued maintenance (knowing that invasives require years to control), as well as a community education and engagement component (G2, G3, G4) would strengthen the proposal.