



# Maine Community Development Association

January-March, 2007

Volume 4, Issue 1

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## NEWS FROM CEI



### FREE Technical Assistance Available

The Maine Housing Technical Assistance Consortium , funded by a grant from HUD, was formed to enhance the ability of organizations and communities to develop and manage affordable housing and community development initiatives benefiting people with low incomes. The Consortium provides an array of technical assistance in the form of one on one consulting, predevelopment grants, workshops and a resource library with over 1000 useful publications. If you have a particular training need contact Cyndy Carney, Technical Assistance Coordinator at 882-7552. Applications for technical assistance can be downloaded from the Consortium’s website at [www.mainehousing.org/metac](http://www.mainehousing.org/metac) or e-mail [cwc@ceimaine.org](mailto:cwc@ceimaine.org).

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 Don Keiser, Town of Houlton

## YOUTHBUILD

On February 13, 2007, HUD announced a \$400,000 grant to Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) to be used to continue their successful YouthBuild Program. YouthBuild program provides education and employment opportunities while producing affordable housing. The grant is part of \$45.5 million in funding nationwide to help thousands of low-income young people who never finished high school return to school to earn their diplomas, while training them for a future in the construction trades and other careers. YouthBuild grants will provide needed funding to offer job training and leadership skills to young adults between the ages of 16 and 24. Since 2001, Coastal Enterprises has received a total of \$1.6 million in HUD funding for its YouthBuild Program. A total of 58 people who lacked basic education skills have benefited from this program. CEI partners include the City of Lewiston, Central Maine Technical College, and Job for Maine



## Town of Houlton *“Planning for the Future, Valuing the Past”*

### Town of Houlton Gearing Up For A Banner Year

Don Keiser – Houlton Planner and Grant Writer

The new Downtown Banners have arrived, the light poles are being painted prior to hanging the banners, and numerous other activities are in progress as Houlton prepares for its gala Bicentennial Celebration this summer. The Celebration climax will be the weekend of August 17-19 with a parade, fireworks, the annual Chamber-sponsored Potato Feast Days, a quilt show, special matinees at the Temple Theatre and other activities for children, and plenty of food and entertainment.

However, even before August, Houlton will be the scene of many other events of interest. Houlton will proudly host the **Maine Downtown Center 2007 Conference** on June 1<sup>st</sup> with Kennedy Smith as the keynote speaker. This annual event has, in past years, been held in designated Downtown communities which were all located downstate. This year, however, the Maine Downtown Center, in keeping with its desire to serve the entire state, choose to come to “The County,” giving this part of the state the opportunity to learn more about what is making downtown revitalization a reality in other

communities. Check out the Main Downtown Center at [www.mdf.org/downtown](http://www.mdf.org/downtown) for up-to-date information about the Downtown Conference and other events.

Of course, with mud-season nearly over and summer on its way, there will be the usual summertime activities including Midnight Madness (July 3<sup>rd</sup>), the Agricultural Fair (4-8 July) with its biggest ever Fireworks Display, and a production of “Our Town” from July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup>. The McGill’s Community Band concert series every Thursday evening in Monument Park resumes June 14<sup>th</sup>. In short, there is plenty to do around Houlton when you need to do something besides laze around the lake or go 4-wheeling.

Of course, all this fun activity on the surface tends to obscure the real progress being made on the economic development and job creation front. Besides the nearby Louisiana-Pacific major expansion and other activity just beginning to see the light of day, there are several other projects bubbling just under the surface. The visible evidence is there if you look for it: real estate sales (home and land) and business expansions and acquisitions, just to name a couple of areas. Our planning efforts of 2003-2005 are beginning to show dividends,

# Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs

and so 2007 figures to be a BANNER year for Houlton.

Come Celebrate Houlton!

*Article Provided by:  
Don Keiser, Planner and Grant Writer*

*Town of Houlton*

## Did You Know.....

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program celebrates 25 years of improving communities and the quality of life for low-to-moderate income citizens. Showcased in a booklet developed by COSCDA and funded by HUD are two of Maine's communities.

### MARS HILL FIRE STATION

The Maine CDBG Public Facilities Program matched local funding to construct this new facility, which serves 3,000 people living in three towns in rural Aroostook County.



Other recent Maine projects include:

- Construction of a new center for people with developmental disabilities
- Construction of a salt/sand storage facility in Milbridge
- Renovation of a former school building as a community center in Van Buren County
- Construction of a fire training facility to serve unorganized communities in Van Buren County
- Downtown revitalization grant for Van Buren

started as part of a pilot project to demonstrate the benefits of



June 1. Please visit the Center's website at [www.mdf.org/downtown](http://www.mdf.org/downtown) for further details.

Please watch for updates in the next issue of the MCDA Newsletter!

## MCDA-Workshop Topics

Discussed at the February 16, 2007 meeting were potential workshop topics; such as New Market Credits Program, Municipal Investment Trust fund, and Maine Downtown Center.

The *New Markets Tax Credit Program* was established in 2000 to give individual and corporate taxpayers the opportunity to receive a credit against income taxes. The program is very flexible. It allows the tax credits to be structured in such a way that it will be beneficial to meet the needs of the investors, borrowers, and the sponsor. Types of business investments eligible under the program are very broad. Projects can be undertaken by either for profit or nonprofit entities.

*LD 747 – An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Municipal Investment Trust Fund.* If passed, funds would be received by the Office of Community Development. The purpose of the \$5,000,000 Trust Fund is to provide funds so that an eligible municipality or group of municipalities may apply for a public service infrastructure grant or loan.

MCDA and the *Maine Downtown Center* will hold a joint meeting in Houlton on May 31, 2007. The 2007 Annual Conference of the Maine Downtown Center will begin on



### MCDA EVENTS

**May 10 and 11, 2007**

**April Training Workshop at  
Lucerne Inn in Holden**

**May 17, 2007**

**CDBG Implementation Workshop  
At American Legion Post  
Augusta**

**May 31 and June 1, 2007**

**Meeting in Houlton  
In Conjunction with 2007 Annual  
Downtown Conference**

**August 16, 2007 (Tentative)**

**General Membership Meeting  
In Conjunction with CD  
Appreciation Day in Augusta**

**October 3 and 4, 2007**

**MMA Convention**

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**Maine Downtown Center  
2007 Annual Downtown Conference  
Friday, June 1, 2007**

**Maine Community Development  
Association**

Local Government Center

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