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Proposed 2011 CDBG Program Statement

The Maine Community Development Association (MCDA) met with the Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Community Development staff on Friday, April 30, 2010 to discuss proposed changes to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The following recommendations were made by MCDA:

- ✓ Support increasing the maximum Housing Assistance grant amount to \$300,000, but do not support discriminating against communities with populations either below or above 1,000.
- ✓ Support the elimination of the 10% matching funds requirements for the Housing Assistance program.
- ✓ Support increasing the economic development program minimum amount to \$100,000.
- ✓ Recommend reducing the community evaluation factor for housing to 10 points rather than 20 points and reallocating the remaining points.
- ✓ Support the clarification regarding Pine Tree Zones, which is to certify Pine Tree businesses and not the area.

MCDA President James Gulnac urges communities, non-profit organizations, engineering firms, and other interested agencies to join MCDA to come together as a unified voice when discussing important proposed changes to programs that could affect your region.

For more information on joining MCDA, please visit our website at www.maineecda.org.

2010 CDBG Funding Disbursement

Town	County	Program	Funding Award	Project
Aroostook County	Aroostook County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Housing Rehabilitation
Madawaska	Aroostook County	Development Fund	\$90,000	Pierrette Florist
Madawaska	Aroostook County	Community Enterprise	\$150,000	Microenterprise
Madawaska	Aroostook County	Public Facility	\$350,000	Renovation of Medical Center
Mars Hill	Aroostook County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Water/Sewer Hook-ups
Van Buren	Aroostook County	Public Facility	\$150,000	Senior Citizen Addition
Farmington	Franklin County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Rehabilitate Mobile Homes
Bucksport	Hancock County	Public Infrastructure	\$385,000	Replace Drainage System
Ellsworth	Hancock County	Public Facility	\$150,000	Microenterprise/Facades
Gouldsboro	Hancock County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Well & Sewer Replacement
Winter Harbor	Hancock County	Public Infrastructure	\$309,000	Water/Sewer Line Replace.
Augusta	Kennebec County	Public Infrastructure	\$500,000	Sewer Project
Monmouth	Kennebec County	Non-Profit Development	\$250,000	Monmouth Grange Building
Waterville	Kennebec County	Public Facility	\$350,000	Opera House Renovation
Camden	Knox County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Housing Rehabilitation
Rockland	Knox County	Downtown Revitalization	\$600,000	Streetscape
Canton	Oxford County	Public Infrastructure	\$500,000	Remove/Replace Dam
Norway	Oxford County	Public Facility	\$150,000	Norway Opera House
Dexter	Penobscot County	Community Enterprise	\$42,000	Microenterprise/Façade
Dexter	Penobscot County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Housing Rehabilitation
Millinocket	Penobscot County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Housing Rehabilitation
Dover-Foxcroft	Piscataquis County	Non-Profit Development	\$237,214	Moosehead Manufacturing
Dover-Foxcroft	Piscataquis County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Housing Rehabilitation
Parkman	Piscataquis County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Housing Rehabilitation
Bath	Sagadahoc County	Public Infrastructure	\$500,000	Sewer/Water
Skowhegan	Somerset County	Community Enterprise	\$150,000	Facades
Addison	Washington County	Community Enterprise	\$52,614	Streetscape/Park
Calais	Washington County	Housing Assistance	\$250,000	Housing Rehabilitation
Cherryfield	Washington County	Community Enterprise	\$150,000	Streetscape
Eastport	Washington County	Community Enterprise	\$150,000	Streetscape
Jonesport	Washington County	Public Facility	\$350,000	Fire Station
Lubec	Washington County	Public Facility	\$50,000	Drainage Ditch
Kennebunk	York County	Community Enterprise	\$115,000	Facades
Sanford	York County	Community Enterprise	\$123,000	Streetscape
Total			\$8,353,828	

The 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program awarded housing assistance funds to 10 communities throughout the state. These funds represent approximately 30% of the overall budget and will be used to repair and/or replace malfunctioning septic systems and contaminated or dry wells; perform housing rehabilitation and energy efficiency improvements; and water and sewer hook-ups. Over 26% of the CDBG funds were awarded to communities requiring improvements with public sewer and water, removal and replacement of dam, and drainage system improvements. With antiquated systems, lack of local funding, and high cost of replacements, the demand for public infrastructure grant funds far exceeds the available funding limitations. Nearly 19% of the CDBG budget is expended for public facility projects such as opera house renovations, construction of a fire station and renovations to a medical center.

Results of the June 8 Bond Issues

The following bond issues were approved by the voters of the State of Maine on June 8, 2010

- **Question 2: \$26,500,000 to create jobs through investment in off-shore wind energy demonstration site and related manufacturing to advance Maine's energy independence from imported foreign oil, that will leverage \$24,500,000 in federal and other funds and for energy improvements at campuses of the University of Maine System, Maine Community College System, and Maine Maritime Academy in order to make facilities more efficient and less costly to operate.**
- **Question 3: \$47,800,000 to create jobs in Maine through improvements to highway, railroads and marine facilities, including port and harbor structures, and specifying the allocation of \$4,000,000 of the transportation bond approved by voters in November, 2009 to be used for capital rail purposes.**
- **Question 4: \$23,750,000 to provide capital investment to stimulate economic development and job creation by making investments under the Communities for Maine's Future Program and in historic properties; providing funding for research and development investments awarded through a competitive process; providing funds for disbursements to qualifying small businesses; and providing grants for food processing for fishing, agricultural, dairy and lumbering businesses within the State and redevelopment projects at the Brunswick Naval Air Station that will make the State eligible for over \$39,000,000 in federal and other matching funds.**
- **Question 5: \$10,250,000 to improve water quality, support drinking water programs and the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and to assist farmers in the development of environmentally sound water sources that will leverage \$33,250,000 in federal and other funds.**

Department of Environmental Protection – Small Communities Grant Program

The passage of the \$10,250,000 bond issue allowed the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to reinstate its Small Community Grant Program to fund water pollution problems. The 2010 Small Community Grant Program funding was disbursed as follows:

Priority 1 – Public Drinking Water Supply Protection, 1 applicant received \$11,000;

Priority 2 – Shellfishery Protection, 5 applicants received \$82,500; and

Priority 3 – Water Quality Protection, 47 applicants received \$727,000

Contingency Fund for emergency circumstances is \$179,500

Total Funding Availability = \$1,000,000

Featured Story:

City of Bath: Office of Community Development

The Office of Community Development's purpose is to engage Bath residents in the oversight of community based programs which strengthen and enhance neighborhoods and small businesses while contributing toward the maintenance of a thriving area to work and live. Al Smith has directed the program for 15 years. In that time, millions of dollars have been secured to improve Bath's housing stock and downtown business façades, allocate small business loans, conduct environmental assessments and clean-ups, and improve and repair areas of infrastructure, including water and sewer systems. An additional responsibility of this office is to help facilitate home ownership.

The City has been operating a Housing Improvement Program (HIP) since 1997 with funds furnished through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) supplied from U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. The HIP program addresses the repair of substandard housing conditions through various types of loans to help upgrade, rehabilitate and preserve Bath's older housing stock, particularly for low to moderate income families.

Since the inception of HIP, the City of Bath has received five rounds of grants for this loan valued at \$1,365,000. The funds enabled the city to establish a Housing Revolving Loan Fund for housing improvements. An additional \$200,000 was received from the Maine Housing Authority. These combined funds were used to offer budget counseling services,



homeownership classes and housing improvements. Over 150 units of housing have participated in various levels of these programs. Most of these units are single family homes, but many are multi-units and one structure is Bath's first housing cooperative, a five-unit residence.

These housing improvements have created thousands of dollars of work opportunities for area carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and weatherization contractors while enhancing the quality of life for Bath residents. The Housing RLF is replenished as homeowners pay back their loans and funds are further distributed to other qualified homeowners in need of home repair. Home improvement programs create local job opportunities while improving the City's housing stock and strengthening our neighborhoods. We all gain from these federally funded programs.

Maine Rural Partners

Maine Community Development Association is a sponsor of Maine Rural Partners. This non-profit organization was incorporated in 2003 for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of rural communities to secure quality of life. Maine Rural Partners recently completed a report entitled, *Realizing Maine's Worth*, which reveals intergenerational investment opportunities and identifies steps to secure a vibrant future for each of Maine's communities. The report outlines a scenario whereby all Mainers invest 5% of their estates in community endowment funds. Assuming that these endowment funds generate 5% returns, then by 2020 an additional \$74 million generated each year would be available for community economic development projects. You can access the full report at www.mainerural.org.

ABOUT MCDA

MCDA's Purpose

TO PROVIDE FORUMS TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND FOSTER COMMUNICATION RELATING TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS, AND TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING THROUGH WORKSHOPS.

MCDA Meetings

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION TAKES PLACE AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION. FOUR (4) REGULAR MEETINGS FOR THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE HELD ANNUALLY THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MAINE. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE CALLED BY THE PRESIDENT OR MAJORITY OF OFFICERS ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS.

MCDA Newsletters

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS HIGHLIGHTING COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLES OF SPECIAL INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MAINE ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.

Benefits to Becoming a Member. . .

MCDA Funding Directory

Training and Workshops

Legislative Advocacy

Affiliation with Other Agencies and Organizations

Links to Funding and Business Agencies

MCDA's ability to network with multiple partners

Who's Invited to Join????

ANY PERSON, MUNICIPALITY, OR FIRM EMPLOYED BY OR INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC AND/OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

THE COMPOSITION OF MCDA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OFFERS NEW MEMBERS AN EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND AVAILABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES. THE TENURE AND EXPERIENCE OF THIS ASSOCIATION CAN PROVIDE NEW MEMBERS WITH A MULTIPLE RESOURCE BASE ON A VARIETY OF PROPOSED PROJECTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY. I AM/AM NOT INTERESTED IN SERVING ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- ✓ ADVOCACY
- ✓ COMMUNICATIONS
- ✓ FINANCE
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- ✓ MEMBERSHIP

NETWORKING

What is a Networking List?

Membership

It is an e-mail networking list that permits you to:

- *Network with colleagues*
- *Quickly resolve problems and seek solutions*
- *Seek advice or answers and get responses quickly*

Actively participate in discussions or simply monitor news or developments

- *Stay involved with the organization*

How does it work?

Think of it as a bulk mailing system. You send out a message for your colleagues to read and/or respond to. All messages to the list are received by everyone on the list. Messages are posted in response to yours, and everyone on the list gets to see the answers. Participation is limited to current MCDA members. Messages to the group can only be sent or received at your subscribed e-mail address. Once you are subscribed to the list, to send a message to the listserv, simply send an e-mail to: MCDA-Networking@imail.memun.org.

How do I sign up?

The MCDA list is managed by the Resource Center at MMA. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list, contact the Resource Center. The Resource Center updates the list as members join the organization or change jobs or change their e-mail address. Members should contact the ResourceCenter@memun.org or 1-800-452-8786 if changes need to be made to your list information or if you are having problems using the list.

MAINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

<u>APRIL 29-30, 2010</u>	<u>JOINT DECD/MCDA MEETING AT LUCERNE INN</u>
<u>JUNE 11, 2010</u>	<u>GENERAL MEETING IN SANFORD</u>
<u>AUGUST 20, 2010</u>	<u>JOINT DECD/MCDA MEETING IN AUGUSTA AT CDBG APPRECIATION DAY</u>
<u>OCTOBER 6 & 7, 2010</u>	<u>ANNUAL MEETING AT MMA CONVENTION IN AUGUSTA</u>

Economic and Community Development Resources

Federal

*U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development*
www.hud.gov

USDA Rural Development
www.rurdev.usda.gov

U.S. Small Business Administration
www.sbaonline.sba.gov

ALPHA ONE
www.alphaone.now.com

Maine State Housing Authority
www.mainehousing.org

Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
www.ceimaine.org

Finance Authority of Maine
www.famemaine.com

State

*Maine Department of Economic and
Community Development*
www.meocd.org

USDA Rural Development in Maine
www.rurdev.usda.gov/me

Small Business Development Centers
www.mainesbdc.org

Maine Community Development Association

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330-9486

(207) 623-8428 or
1-800-452-8786

www.maineccda.org

MCDCA Subcommittee Members:

Advocacy

Daniel LaPointe (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Ron Harriman
Al Smith
Jamie Francomano

Communications

Joella Theriault (Chair)
Mike Baran
Mary Walton
Ken Arndt

Finance

Ron Harriman (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development

Jim Gulnac (Chair)
Rodney Lynch
Steve Dyer
Wade Hanson
Mathew Eddy

Membership

Steve Dyer (Co-Chair)
Jim Gulnac (Co-Chair)
Suzie Paradis
Tony Levesque

Nomination

Al Smith (Chair)
Wade Hanson
Paul Bernier
Tony Levesque

2009-2010 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

James Q. Gulnac, AICP
Town of Sanford
919 Main Street
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(207) 324-9150

Term Expires: October, 2010

Vice President:

Rodney Lynch
City of Rockland
270 Pleasant Street
Rockland, ME 04841
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Term Expires: October, 2010

Treasurer:

Ron Harriman
Ron Harriman Associates
61 Main Street, Suite 62
Bangor, ME 04401
1-800-648-8335

Term Expires: October, 2010

Secretary:

Joella R. Theriault
Northern Maine Development Commission
11 West Main Street, Suite 104
Fort Kent, ME 04743
(207) 834-5298

Term Expires: October, 2010

Past President:

Tony Levesque
Town of Fort Fairfield
18 Community Center Drive
Fort Fairfield, ME 04742
(207) 472-3805

Term Expires: October, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS

Wade Hanson

Town of Houlton
21 Water Street
Houlton, ME 04730
(207) 532-7111

Term Expires: October, 2010

Gail Chase

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments
17 Main Street
Fairfield, ME 04937-1119
(207) 453-4258

Term Expires: October, 2011

Steve Dyer

Ransom Environmental Consult.
400 Commercial Street, Suite 404
Portland, ME 04102
(207) 772-2891

Term Expires: October, 2010

Darryl Sterling

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Richmond, ME 04357-0159
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Term Expires: October, 2011

