



Maine Community Development Association

January – March 2020

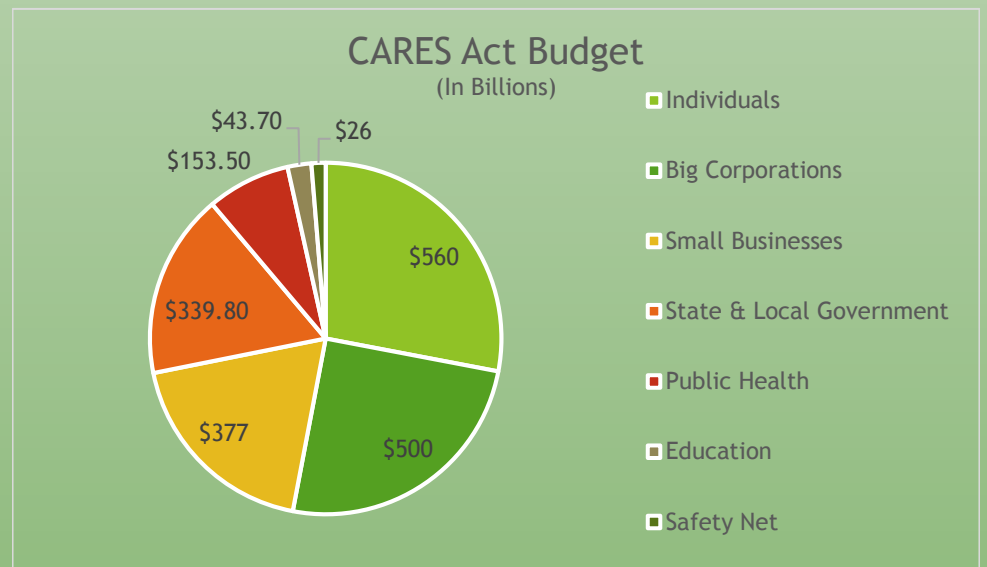
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CARES Act of 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act is a financial stimulus package designed to help the economy recover from the coronavirus pandemic. The Act is a \$2 trillion package with distribution to the following sectors:



Highlights of the Stimulus Package:

- Cash Payments of \$1,200 for earnings of less than \$75,000; increases by an additional \$500 for married couples and families
- Provides \$600/week of top of base amount a worker receives
- Emergency grants of up to \$10,000 to cover immediate operating costs for small businesses
- Foregiveable loans for small businesses (500 or fewer employees) to maintain payroll, keep workers on the books or pay rent, mortgage and existing debt could be forgiven provided workers stay employed through the end of June.
- Provides relief from existing SBA loan payments for up to six months
- Provides airlines with \$58 billion to help cover employee wages, salaries, and benefits for passenger and cargo carriers and airline contractors
- Provides financial assistance to state and local government for specific COVID-19 response efforts
- Additional information is available at congress.gov/116/bills/hr748/BILLS

MCDCA welcomes New Member -

Eric (EJ) Roach was hired in August of 2019 by the City of Old Town to serve as the Director of Economic and Community Development. Originally from Sidney Maine, EJ has lived in Old Town for the past 13 years. Having worked in public higher education for nearly 20 years he brings experience in grant writing, project management and community development to Old Town. As a former City Counselor from 2013 to 2017 he collaborated with City leaders to develop the Downtown Revitalization Plan, the City's Wayfinding Initiative and the Downtown Façade Program. EJ earned an undergraduate degree in business management and a master degree in higher education leadership both from the University of Maine. He is the Directing Manager for the Old Town Development, LLC., serves on the Big Gig Steering Committee and is Vice President on the Board of Directors for Old Town-Orono Fiber Corporation. EJ lives with his wife and three children who attend school in the RSU 34 school district.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEWS

MaineHousing has awarded \$14.5 million of the senior housing bond approved by nearly 70% of Maine voters in 2015. The bond, combined with MaineHousing resources and other funds, will generate over \$45.8 million to build 212 new affordable housing units for citizens aged 55 and older. The bond funds also included \$500,000 allocated to home repair and weatherization services for existing homes. Seven development projects were selected:

Project	Location	Units
The Uplands	Scarborough	39
Bessey School II	Scarborough	40
Hartland Senior Living	Hartland	30
Ellsworth Senior Housing	Ellsworth	29
Belfast Senior Housing,	Belfast	25
Belfast Acres Estate	Belfast	24
Willow Springs	Farmington	25

U.S. Housing and Urban Developments' Public Housing Capital Fund Program -

Nineteen Maine housing authorities throughout Maine will receive a total of \$9.5 million through HUD's Public Housing Capital Fund Program. The money will help municipal agencies preserve and modernize homes and meet the needs of individuals and families who live in them. The funding will be allocated as follows:

Housing Authority	Award	Housing Authority	Award
Auburn	\$373,273	Mount Desert	\$38,573
Bangor	\$1,500,000	Old Town	\$184,020
Bar Harbor	\$262,459	Portland	\$2,500,000
Bath	\$232,353	Presque Isle	\$502,270
Brewer	\$328,834	Sanford	\$279,990
Brunswick	\$438,463	South Portland	\$715,001
Ellsworth	\$115,643	Southwest Harbor	\$110,004
Fort Fairfield	\$181,715	Tremont	\$47,281
Lewiston	\$982,254	Van Buren	\$239,767
		Waterville	\$528,890

HUD provides grants to public housing authorities annually for the development, financing and modernization of public housing properties and for management improvement.

News from Around the State:

The Towns of Monson, Skowhegan, and Lisbon will each get \$70,000 in grants from the National Maine Street Center Program. These towns were chosen through a competitive application process that is managed by the Maine Community Foundation. The towns will be provided with workshops and training to help build an environment of entrepreneurial to start and grow businesses. They will also receive a planning grant and implementation grants of up to \$25,000 in 2020 and 2021. **Congratulations!**

Apex Clean Energy, a renewable energy company is offering grants to organizations that serve people in Washington County. The grant's focus is on public health, economic development, environmental sustainability, and education. For more information, visit www.downeastwindfarm.com/grant.

Town of Ashland - In an effort to ensure the well-being of the older population and those in need in Ashland, first responders have taken it upon themselves to check in with those at risk in the community. Rather than go door-to-door, they formed a "phone chain".

Presque Isle - Galen Weibley, formerly of Pennsylvania was hired as Presque Isle's Director of Economic and Community Development in December, 2019. Weibley replaces **Kenneth Arndt** who retired after holding the position for two decades.

The **Piscataquis County Economic Development Council's** Executive Committee voted on February 5, 2020 to hire **John Shea**, replacing **Christopher Winstead** as Executive Director. Mr. Shea more recently served as Executive Director of the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission in Middletown, Rhode Island.

Judy East, former Executive Director of the Washington County Council of Governments, has been hired as the Executive Director of the **Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC)**. The LUPC serves as the planning and zoning authority for the unorganized and deorganized areas of the state, including townships and plantations.

Madawaska/Edmundston International Bridge Replacement Project

Despite efforts to maintain the 100-year-old bridge connecting the Town of Madawaska with the City of Edmundston, the rate of deterioration means the bridge has reached its useful service life. In October 2017, the bridge was posted at 5 tons, the equivalent of a passenger vehicle. In May 2018, a Feasibility Study was completed with MaineDOT, the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, and the U.S. General Services Administration. The study concluded that the substantial investments to upgrade the current bridge to meet the needs of today's communities and businesses because of width and load capacity is not cost-effective. A new international bridge will be constructed approximately 1,300 feet upriver from its current location on the St. John River. The project is scheduled to be advertised sometime during October-December 2020 with physical construction to begin in 2021.



The MaineDOT has estimated their share of funding to be \$84,600,000. They will be responsible for designing the bridge, administering contracts and overseeing construction. MaineDOT will be assisted by the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. There are three prequalified bridge contractors: Reed & Reed, Caldwell & Ross, and Cianbro.

Twin Rivers Paper Company owns mills in Madawaska, Maine and Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada. The Madawaska mill sits in the middle of the downtown and is located at one end of the international bridge connecting the community with the City of Edmundston. The Edmundston Twin Rivers facility is a pulp mill that delivers bleached softwood sulphite and groundwood pulp to the Madawaska paper mill for the manufacture of specialty packaging, technical, label, and publishing papers as well as softwood lumber. Between 1975 and 1980, a high-pressure steam pipeline was constructed across the St. John River from the Edmundston facility to Madawaska to deliver the sulphite and groundwood pulp.

Town of Houlton

In February 2020, Nancy Ketch, Houlton's Community Development Director and Scott Dionne of Southern Aroostook Development Corporation collaboratively updated the Houlton Rotary Club about Houlton's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) programs. Houlton currently has three TIF Districts: Downtown, Airport Industrial Park, and North Street Zone. The Downtown TIF includes three programs:

- Downtown Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) established to encourage investments that improve the longevity of buildings, such as upgrading and improving roofing, mechanical systems, fenestration, ADA and life safety compliance. Loans of up to \$100,000 at 3% fixed interest rates for the term of the loan. The program provides gap funding with a preferred financing structure of 60-30-10 (60 from lender/banks – 30 from Downtown RLF – 10 from owner/borrower).
- This Micro Loan Program assists downtown businesses with working capital of between \$500 and \$5,000 in loans with interest rates being prime and fixed for the 5-year maximum term of the loan.
- The Funding Initiative/Façade Grant Program encourages private investment in improving historic facades in the downtown by making available grants to reimburse 50% of the total cost of the improvement project. The maximum matching grant amount is \$5,000.



Jobs & Classifieds

Code Enforcement Officer

The Town of Brunswick's Planning and Development Department is accepting applications for a full-time Code Enforcement Officer. Employment application and position description is available on-line at www.brunswickme.org. Applications are accepted until the position is filled.

Code Enforcement Officer

The Town of Chesterville seeks a Part-time Code Enforcement Officer. If interested, submit a job application, available at www.townofchesterville.me and mail to Town of Chesterville, 409 Dutch Gap Road, Chesterville, ME 04938. For more information, contact Chesterville.me@gmail.com.

Assistant City Planner

The City of Sanford's Planning and Development Department seeks an Assistant City Planner. Application packets are available at www.sanfordmaine.org.

Office Manager/Planner

Androscoggin County's Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications to fill the position of Office Manager/Planner. Applications are available at www.androscoggincountymaine.gov.

Urban Development Specialist

The City of Auburn's Economic and Community Development Office has an opening for an Urban Development Specialist. Email emumau@auburnmaine.gov for more information.

Town Manager

The Town of Rangeley seeks to fill the position of Town Manager. For more information, contact managersearch@maine.rr.com.

Director of Finance

The Town of Madawaska has an opening for Director of Finance. If interested, please contact Gary Picard at gmpicard@madawaska.me.

Transportation Planner

The Greater Portland Council of Governments seeks a Full-Time Regional Transportation Planner. For more details, contact vpelletier@gpcog.org

Assistant Residential Property Manager

The Auburn Housing Authority is currently accepting applications for an Assistant Residential Property Manager. Pick up an application at Auburn Housing Authority, c/o Bruce Merrill, 20 Great Falls Plaza, Auburn, ME 04210.

Code Enforcement Officer

The Town of Embden is seeking a Code Enforcement Officer. For an application and job description, go to <http://embden.maine.gov/town-job-descriptions>.

Communications Manager

Franklin County is accepting applications for a Full-Time Communications Manager. If interested, contact jmagoon@franklincountymaine.gov.

For more jobs listing, visit www.memum.org.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Event	Dates	Location
2020 Technology & New Energy Municipal Conference	April 28, 2020 Canceled	Augusta Civic Center
American Public Works Association 29 th Annual Highway Congress	June 4, 2020 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Skowhegan Fair Grounds
MCDA General Membership Meeting	June 11, 2020	Via Conference Call
6 th Annual Municipal HR & Management Conference	June 26, 2020	Thomas College, Waterville
Maine Development Foundation - Annual Meeting & Champions of Economic Development Champion	September 18, 2020	University of Maine at Orono Hannaford Hall
MMA 84 th Annual Convention	October 7 & 8, 2020	Augusta Civic Center
Northern New England Planning Conference	October 13-15, 2020	Hilton, Burlington, VT

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program News...

The 2020 CDBG Proposed Program Statement is now available at www.meocd.org. The following programs, program timeframe and budget are as follows:

Program	Letter of Intent	Application Deadline	Extended Deadline Dates	Program Budget
Administration				\$331,332
Technical Assistance Administration				\$115,666
Downtown Revitalization	January 24, 2020	March 27, 2020	May 1, 2020	\$300,000
Home Repair Network				\$2,700,000
Housing Assistance Grants	March 6, 2020	May 1, 2020	June 5, 2020	\$1,000,000
Public Service Grants	May 1, 2020	June 19, 2020	June 19, 2020	\$250,000
Public Infrastructure Grants	January 17, 2020	March 27, 2020	May 1, 2020	\$3,400,000
Regional Council Planning Assistance				\$114,000
Small Business Development Centers				\$50,000
Maine Downtown Center Assistance				\$200,000
Urgent Need Grants				\$0
Special Projects	N/A	TBD		\$5,647
Community Enterprise Grants	January 31, 2020	April 10, 2020	May 1, 2020	\$600,000
Economic Development Grants	February 21, 2020	May 22, 2020	May 22, 2020	\$2,000,000
Micro-Enterprise Assistance Grants	February 7, 2020	April 24, 2020	June 5, 2020	\$500,000
				\$11,566,645

U.S. Housing and Urban Development

As part of the CARES Act, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will allocate \$3.064 billion to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS programs. Using the existing formula for allocations of the CDBG program, the additional allocation will result in Maine receiving approximately \$7 million. The 2019 CDBG Program will be amended to receive the funds to be used for COVID-19 related issues. The distribution is as follows:

- \$2 billion to help states, communities, and non-profits construct medical facilities for testing and treatment and acquire hotel/motel buildings to expand hospital capacity;
- \$1 billion to keep America's Homeless Citizens safe; and
- \$63.7 million to help Americans with compromised immune systems

The additional allocation cuts red tape to allow for targeting funding for COVID-19 response

2020 CENSUS

The U.S. Census 2020 will be the 24th U.S. Census. This is the first U.S. Census to offer options to respond online or by phone in addition to the paper form as with previous censuses.

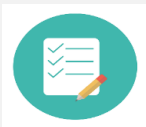
WHY ARE CENSUS SURVEYS IMPORTANT!

Census information helps determine how billions of federal funding will be distributed to states and communities. Census results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets. *And responding to census surveys is mandated by the U.S. Constitution.*

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

- ✓ **Mid-March** – Invitations to complete the 2020 Census will be sent out

Three ways you can respond!



- ✓ **March 30-April 1** – Count of people in homeless shelters, soup kitchens, mobile food vans, on the streets, and at outdoor locations
- ✓ **April** – Census takers will visit college students living on campus, people living in senior centers, and other people living among large groups
- ✓ **May-July** – Census takers will visit homes that haven't responded to the March invitation
- ✓ **December** – Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress
- ✓ **March 31, 2021** – Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

UPDATE: MAINERS ARE AMONG THE WORST IN PROVIDING ANSWERS TO THE U.S. CENSUS. ONLY 35.7% OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE RESPONDED. FAILING TO PROVIDE THE DATA COULD RESULT IN REDUCED FEDERAL AID TO MAINE. RESPONSE RATES:

1. Cumberland - 43.2%	9. Aroostook - 32.7%
2. Sagadahoc - 42.8%	10. Somerset - 30.5%
3. Androscoggin-41.2%	11. Oxford - 29.2%
4. Kennebec - 37.6%	12. Washington- 27.8%
5. Waldo - 37.4%	13. Lincoln - 26.7%
6. Penobscot - 37.2%	14. Hancock - 22.6%
7. York - 37.1%	15. Franklin - 21.8%
8. Knox - 32.9%	16. Piscataquis- 20.8%

News from the 129th Legislature Second Regular Session

A March 2020 Revenue Forecast by the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission was presented to the 129th Legislature and Governor Mills. To summarize -

- The General Fund revenue estimates were revised upward by \$40.0 million for FY2020 and \$34.1 million for FY2021.
- The Highway Fund revenue estimates were also revised upward by \$0.9 million for FY2020 but \$83,605 decrease in FY2021.
- The Fund for a Healthy Maine estimates is projected to increase by \$73,576 in FY2020.
- Medicaid/MaineCare Dedicated Revenue taxes are revised upward by \$1.1 million for FY2020 and \$1.1 million for FY2021.

While the Commission did discuss the potential for economic impacts from COVID-19, it did not make specific modifications to its economic forecast.

For a more detailed look at the Revenue Forecast, please visit <http://legislature.maine.gov/doc/3969>.

FY 2020 Funding Appropriations – A two-part spending package was signed into law on December 20, 2019. This spending package fully funds the government for the remainder of FY 2020.

	FY 20 Budget	Above/Below 2019 Levels
Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$333 Million	\$29 million Above
USDA Rural Development	\$3.26 Billion	\$228 million Above
HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	\$3.4 Billion	\$60 million Above
Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA)	\$9.9 Billion	\$67.5 million Above
EPA Brownfields	\$89 Million	\$2 million Above
Department of Transportation BUILD (formerly TIGER)	\$1 Billion	\$100 million Above
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)	\$175 Million	\$10 million Above
Delta Regional Authority (DRA)	\$30 Million	\$5 million Above
Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)	\$25 Million	\$5 million Above
Denali Commission	\$15 Million	Level Funding
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SECRC)	\$250,000	Level Funding

Source: National Association of Development Organizations – January 10, 2020



Funding Opportunities

- **USDA Rural Development – Rural Energy Savings Program:** *Applications for energy savings will be accepted in a two-step process. Step 1 is a Letter of Intent that is immediately being accepted by USDA and Step 2 is a full application, which is due 90 days from the date USDA approves the Letter of Intent.*
- **USDA Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant:** *This is a grant program that provides funding to low and very low-income homeowners with repair or replacement of homes. The deadline for application is May 7, 2020*
- **Community Food Projects Program:** *Designed to meet the food needs of low-income households. The application deadline is June 3, 2020*
- **Maine Community Foundation:**
 - *Belvedere Historic Preservation and Energy Efficiency Grant Program – Preservation and restoration of historic buildings. Application deadline is June 1*
 - *Belvedere Traditional Handcrafts Fund – Supports projects and organizations that promote traditional handcrafts. Application deadline is June 1*

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. Beginning in December, general membership and executive committee meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month. 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 via the MCDA website.

Benefits to Becoming an MCDA Member –

MCDA Funding Opportunities
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. If interested in serving on one of the following committees, please signify by checking the subcommittee of choice on your membership application.

- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Membership
- ✓ Officer/Executive Committee

DID YOU KNOW!!!

- *On March 15, 1820, Maine became the nation's 23rd State. Three months later, Kennebunk became Maine's first incorporated town!*
- *Governor Janet Mills extends tax program deadlines to July 1, 2020*
- *Governor Janet Mills is considering postponing the scheduled June 9 primary election until July 14.*
- *Maine200 – the Bicentennial Parade is rescheduled to Saturday, August 15 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Lewiston and Auburn and the Bicentennial Statehood Day Ceremony rescheduled to Sunday, September 27 at 1:00 p.m. in Augusta.*

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

*MCDA Subcommittee
Members:*

Advocacy
Vacant (Chair)
Tony Levesque

Communications
Joella R. Theriault (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Stephen Dyer
Darryl Sterling

Finance
Mathew Eddy (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development
Scott LaFlamme (Chair)
Jennifer Peters
Tony Levesque
Linda Smith
Cary Tyson

Membership
Tony Levesque (Interim Chair)

Nomination
Tony Levesque (Chair)

2020-2021 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

		Term Expiration
President:	Tracey Desjardins City of Gardiner 6 Church Street Gardiner, ME 04345 (207) 582-4200	October, 2021
Vice President:	Scott LaFlamme Town of Yarmouth 200 Main Street Yarmouth, ME 04096 (207) 846-2401 Ext. 227	October, 2021
Treasurer:	Mathew Eddy City of Biddeford P.O. Box 586 Biddeford, ME 04005 (207) 282-7119	October, 2020
Secretary:	Joella R. Theriault Northern Maine Development Commission P.O. Box 779 Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 551-5812	October, 2020
Immediate Past President:	Stephen Dyer Ransom Environmental Consulting 400 Commercial Street, Suite 404 Portland, ME 04102 (207) 772-2891	October, 2021

Board Members

Darryl Sterling Economic Development Consultant 11 Corliss Street Bath, ME 04530 (207) 807-9062	October, 2021
Cary Tyson Kennebec Valley Council of Governments 17 Main Street Fairfield, ME 04937 (207) 453-4528 Ext 218	October, 2021
Nancy Ketch Town of Houlton 21 Water Street Houlton, ME 04730 (207) 521-5938	October, 2020
Jennifer Peters Sunrise County Economic Council 7 Ames Way Machias, ME 04654 (207) 255-0983	October, 2020