

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **\$500 Million in Clean School Bus Rebates (CLOSES AUG. 19)**

EPA's new Clean School Bus Program is providing \$500 million in funding to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. Beginning June 8 through August 10, EPA will be hosting a [series of webinars](#) on who is eligible, who is prioritized, and how to apply for the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates. State and local governmental entities that provide bus service, including public school districts, eligible contractors, nonprofit school transportation associations, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or tribally controlled schools are eligible.

Details:

- \$250-375k per EV bus depending on priority
- Can use other grant funds too, i.e GOPIF
- +\$13-20k for charging infrastructure
- Apply for up to 25 buses
- Bus orders must be placed by April 2023
- Must be replacing > 2010 model diesel buses
- Propane and CNG qualify too at lower rebate

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### **Community Resilience Partnership Service Provider Grants (CLOSES AUG. 31)**

The [Community Resilience Partnership Service Provider Grant](#) is intended to enable organizations to provide assistance to communities to prepare for and enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership and then apply for grant funds to undertake priority projects.

The Request for Applications (RFA# 202206101) and embedded application is available [here](#).

An informational webinar was held on July 20. The webinar recording is posted on the Community Resilience Partnership [website](#).

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### **Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grants (CLOSES SEPT. 20)**

The [Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant](#) is intended to enable communities (municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories) to undertake priority projects that reduce energy use and costs, transition to clean energy, and make communities more financially, socially and environmentally resilient. Choose from [72 projects](#) that require no match.

Communities must be enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership to be eligible to apply (or may submit enrollment materials simultaneously with a grant application). Visit the Partnership [website](#) for more information on how to enroll and how to get assistance with enrolling.

*Credits to the [Community Resilience Partnership](#) Region 1 Coordinator Collaborative for compiling this information and allowing its distribution. Additional region-specific contributions by AVCOG.*

The Request for Applications (RFA# 202207107) is available on the State of Maine's grants website [here](#). The application is embedded at the end of the RFA.

An informational webinar will be held on August 3 at 3pm. Details and the webinar link are on the RFA cover page. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the [Community Resilience Partnership website](#).

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## Two Federal Emergency Management Funding Opportunities

### Hazard Mitigation Grant (CLOSES OCT. 1)

The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) administers Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mitigation Grant Programs.

#### DR-4522

Almost \$4 million in hazard mitigation funding is available for Maine as a result of the disaster declared for the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are due to MEMA by October 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

### Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Funding (CLOSES DEC. 1)

The BRIC program is a hazard mitigation assistance program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that provides funding for proactive investment in community resilience and projects that seek to mitigate the impacts of hazards and climate change before a disaster occurs. The BRIC program includes a national-competitive grant program and a state allocation for state-competitive grants. For the coming year, \$1.5 million in funding is available for state-competitive grants. The amount available for national grants will be announced in August.

For more information about FEMA funding opportunities, please contact Heather Dumais, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, for application and eligibility criteria at (207) 441-9510 or [heather.dumais@maine.gov](mailto:heather.dumais@maine.gov).

#### [LEARN MORE](#)

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### Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (ANTICIPATED OPENING FALL 2022)

*Deadline for the spring grant round is closed. Prepare now for the fall grant round.*

Maine DOT is now accepting applications for the new [Infrastructure Adaptation Fund](#), a \$20 million grant program that will provide direct funding to municipalities for stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater infrastructure projects that address climate effects, such as flooding and vulnerability to extreme weather, and support public safety. Stormwater projects may include road repairs and upgrades that interact directly with an eligible stormwater project.

Applicants may request up to:

- \$10,000 to support scoping (problem definition) of eligible adaptation projects
- \$75,000 to support the design of eligible projects
- \$4 million to support implementation and construction of eligible projects that have a complete design

The match requirement or cost share for this grant is only 5% (cash and/or in-kind), with an exception for communities demonstrating affordability as a hardship. Match is reduced to 2% for communities enrolled in the [Community Resilience Partnership](#).

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### **USDA RD Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant (OPEN)**

This program provides affordable funding through low interest direct loans, grants and a combination to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

What can the funds be used for?

- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements
- Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses.

What are the funding priorities?

- Priority point system based on population, median household income
  - Small communities with a population of 5,500 or less
  - Low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income.

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### **Workforce Transportation Funding Opportunity (NO DEADLINE)**

The Workforce Transportation Pilot program, an initiative of Governor Mills' Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, to pursue and develop transportation solutions that connect workers with employers across Maine. The \$5M program will provide competitive grants of up to \$750,000 to local and regional partnerships to pilot ways to connect workers and employers through ridesharing, vanpools, and other subsidized transit options.

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### **Village Partnership Initiative (NO DEADLINE)**

The Village Partnership Initiative is designed to be available to all willing communities that have or can agree upon a local vision. Village projects can vary from small, spot improvements to large, once-in-a-lifetime investments if we can successfully partner to access federal discretionary funds through earmarks or BIL grants. Depending upon the vision of each individual municipality, we can look to make investments in the lower-speed areas where people

meet, shop, and do business. These village areas need to be built on a human scale: walkable, bicycle-friendly, and business-friendly.

These projects can range from gateway treatments, marking the beginning of a village area to help slow traffic, to improving pedestrian crossings and ADA compliance. They may also be used to enhance on-street parking, improve sidewalks, etc.

- Municipal Property Valuation less than \$150M, 70% State, 30% Municipal
- Municipal Property Valuation a\$150M to \$350M, 60% State, 40% Municipal
- Municipal Property Valuation >\$350M, 50% State, 50% Municipal

The maximum amount of the agreement will be dependent on the complexity of the project and the amount of design needed to be competitive on the federal level. These are complex projects and will take several years to develop.

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### **Maine Jobs and Recovery Funding Opportunities**

Below are some highlights of [Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan](#) which fund state grant programs to build more resilient communities. Please visit their website to learn more.

What to watch for:

#### **Energy Efficiency and Weatherization for Local Governments (ANTICIPATED MID AUG)**

[Efficiency Maine Trust](#) will invest \$25 million to expand incentives for energy efficiency upgrades in municipal, county, and school buildings. Visit Efficiency Maine Trust. [School retrofit program](#) now available with municipal program to roll out in mid August.

#### **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (TBD)**

Allocation: \$8 million. These funds, through the Department of Transportation and Efficiency Maine Trust, will support the continued expansion of electric vehicle charging stations at town buildings, school buildings, State facilities, and public locations.

#### **Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Program (RFA ANTICIPATED AUG 18 & DUE NOV 2)**

Allocation: \$3 million. Funds from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan will expand the Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Program, which provides local governments and organizations competitive grants up to \$125,000 towards the upgrade of undersized and failing culvert stream crossings on municipal roads. Administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, this program will help more communities upgrade municipal culverts at stream crossings to cost-effectively improve fish and wildlife habitats, reduce flooding, and increase community safety.

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## **EVENTS**

## **GOPIF Community Action Grant Webinar**

Wednesday, August 3 from 3-3:30 pm

Zoom: <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/84507393607?pwd=4uI-D1VoQFi5WloHju4u6tm0dpKDiO.1>

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Learn about any new changes to the grant and get your questions answered.

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## **EPA Clean School Bus Program: 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates**

Wednesday, August 10 | 1:00 PM Eastern

Zoom: [https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_oxJTzG2TRbKnVPqyZ8P8KA](https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_oxJTzG2TRbKnVPqyZ8P8KA)

\$500 million is now available for 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates! Attend a webinar to learn how to apply for this amazing opportunity. Applications for the first round of [EPA's Clean School Bus Program](#) closing on August 19th.

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## **RESOURCES**

### ***Communities Leading on Climate Materials***

View helpful materials from panelists and workshops from the June 17th Maine Climate Council – Communities Leading on Climate conference.

[VIEW MATERIALS HERE](#)

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