

## ADDITIONS HIGHLIGHTED

## 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

[LEARN MORE](#)

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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.

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### **Federal Reconnecting Communities Program (CLOSES OCT. 13)**

Funded with \$1 billion over the next five years, this is the first-ever federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. If your town has a road, bridge, highway, rail line, or similar structure that isolates part of your community, this opportunity could be for you.

For planning grants: states, municipalities, MPOs, Federally recognized Tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations are eligible; for capital construction grants, owners of the facility proposed in the project must be included as an applicant or co-applicant. The grant amount varies; \$100k - \$2 million for planning; \$5 million - \$100 million for capital construction.

Read the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (PDF)

[Watch a webinar](#) on the grant

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### **Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Program (DUE NOV. 11)**

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.

Read the [Request for Application](#) (RFA)

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (CLOSES NOV. 17)**

Efficiency Maine is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) chargers that are available to the public in rural communities. The goal of this round of funding is to assist rural communities in the state's 14 northern counties (i.e., all counties except Cumberland County and York County), where public EV chargers are less common, to enhance those communities capacity to attract commerce and tourism as EVs become the dominant form of transportation. Developing comprehensive coverage of public EV chargers throughout the state will also encourage EV adoption in all parts of Maine.

This opportunity will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis and local governments, businesses, and nonprofits in eligible rural towns are encouraged to apply on the Efficiency Maine website. The deadline to apply for this funding opportunity is November 17, 2022.

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## **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).

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## **Solar Loans Now Available for Women-Owned Businesses (LIMITED FUNDING)**

**New Loan Program Promotes Sustainable Energy for Small Businesses**  
CEI is currently offering low interest loans for small businesses seeking to lower their carbon footprint through solar energy.

With the help of philanthropic funding, CEI is currently offering 2.75-3.5% interest loans for small businesses in Maine looking to go green. You do NOT need to be a current borrower of CEI to apply. Priority will be given to businesses that are BIPOC, women, or immigrant-owned.

Through this program CEI will provide approved solar installers and provide additional technical assistance about how solar energy can benefit your small business. For more information, please contact CEI Environmental Lending Specialist, Linnea Patterson at [linnea.patterson@ceimaine.org](mailto:linnea.patterson@ceimaine.org).

Please note that finding is limited and based on demand, loans may be capped in size.

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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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## **ANTICIPATED FUNDING:**

### **Coastal Community Planning Grants (Includes towns along Kennebec to Augusta)**

This grant is for municipal and regional projects that focus on building resiliency and adapting to climate change. Municipalities in [Maine's Coastal Zone](#) are eligible for up to \$50,000 in funding. There is a 25% Match Required (can use Community Resilience Partnership grants as a match). Next application round opens soon!

[LEARN MORE](#)

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### **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.

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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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## **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.

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## **EVENTS**

### **Maine Preservation Farmington Residency**

Wednesday & Thursday, August 24 & 25 in Farmington

Schedule your time slot by emailing: [info@mainepreservation.org](mailto:info@mainepreservation.org) or call Jonathan at 207-387-0541.

Executive Director, Tara Kelly, Preservation Manager, Brad Miller, and Field Services Manager, Jonathan Hall will be in Farmington to provide preservation outreach, advocacy, and consultation. Reach out with your preservation questions.

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### **NRCM 2022 Maine Electric Vehicle Owner Survey Results Webinar**

Thursday, August 25 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm

RSVP for Zoom link: <https://default.salsalabs.org/T41e99c1e-4259-4431-bbf5-667790efbb44/68d51442-25e9-4051-a307-3da40d909de2>

In 2022, the Natural Resources Council of Maine conducted a survey of every electric vehicle owner in Maine, receiving a record-breaking 1,230 individual responses from all 16 counties.

Join NRCM for a webinar to learn more about the survey results and what's in store for the future of electric vehicles in our state.

[Download their full report here.](#)

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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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### **Heat.Gov – the New Federal Heat Web Portal**

Heat-related illnesses and deaths are largely preventable with proper planning, education, and action. Heat.Gov is the newly-released web portal for the National Integrated Heat Health Information System – a Federal interagency collaboration including the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Centers for Disease

Control, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

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### **Advancing Watershed Protection Through Land Conservation: A Guide for Land Trusts**

There are >1,300 land conservation organizations across the US who can be key partners in helping achieve water quality restoration and protection goals. This guide, developed by the EPA Healthy Watersheds Program and the Land Trust Alliance, is aimed at helping orient staff within these organizations to EPA water programs, resources, and concepts relevant to watershed protection.

[LEARN MORE](#)