

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 16, 2023

10:00 a.m.

In person at KVCOG- 17 Main Street, Fairfield, ME 04927

[Zoom Link](#) for those unable to attend in person

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes from 08/17/23
3. Presentation by [Maine Connectivity Authority](#)
(Broadband accessibility was identified at the 8/17/23 meeting as a barrier)
4. Review and Discussion of Action Plan & Status Updates (page 27)
[Link](#) to CEDS Document
 - a. Industry Clusters (page 30)
 - b. Entrepreneurship and Innovation (page 33)
 - c. Workforce Development and Higher Education (page 35)
 - d. Access to Capital (page 37)
 - e. Infrastructure (page 39)
 - f. Environment (page 41)
 - g. Leadership (page 44)
 - h. Resiliency (page 45)
5. Round Table discussion:
What do you see in your respective industries that are moving in the right direction and what is being met with roadblocks?
6. Next Meeting Agenda Items/Topics/Guest
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

17 Main Street, Fairfield, ME 04927

1. Attendance

In person:

Jessie Cyr-KVCOG • Joel Greenwood-KVCOG • Kathe Bolster-Town of Benton

Jeff Hewett-Town of Skowhegan • Melissa Lindley-City of Gardiner

Kimberly Lindlof-Mid-Maine Chamber • Stephanie Thibodeau-Town of Fairfield

Courtney Yeager-United Way of Kennebec Valley•

Via Zoom:

Jim Dinkle-First Park • Joy McKenna-Maine General • Brian Eng-Developer

Members in attendance introduced themselves and their background area of expertise, many noting that they were on the CEDS Committee for the 2022-2027 re-write. The printed copy of the final CEDS was distributed to all in attendance.

2. Meeting frequency & future dates

Future meetings will be in person and zoom for attendees to chose what format works best for them. The preference was that meetings be hosted quarterly as opposed to monthly and a calendar invite will be sent out for meetings at 10am on the 3rd Thursday in November, February, May and August.

3. Review of Goals

The previous CEDS goals were reviewed as well as the new goals from the 2022-2027 Plan that reflect the Region's aim for economic recovery, stability and growth.

4. Review and Discussion Regarding the Status of Identified Projects

The eight drivers of success that are identified in the CEDS are the foundation of our regions economy. The success of the projects identified by the Committee under each driver is what will help us meet our 5 year goals. These are: Industry Clusters, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Workforce Development and Higher Education, Access to Capital,

Infrastructure, Environment, Leadership, and Resiliency. Industry Cluster, and Entrepreneurship & Innovation and the identified projects under both of those were reviewed. Due to time constraints today, the remaining drivers of success will be reviewed at the next meeting.

It was suggested that for future meetings we bring in a guest to speak on topics where we are meeting roadblocks, such as Maine Department of Labor and Maine Broadband Coalition.

5. Round Table discussion

It was noted that: employees, lack of available commercial space, and the cost of the infrastructure needs are the roadblocks being met in our region and outside our region.

6. Other Business

None.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

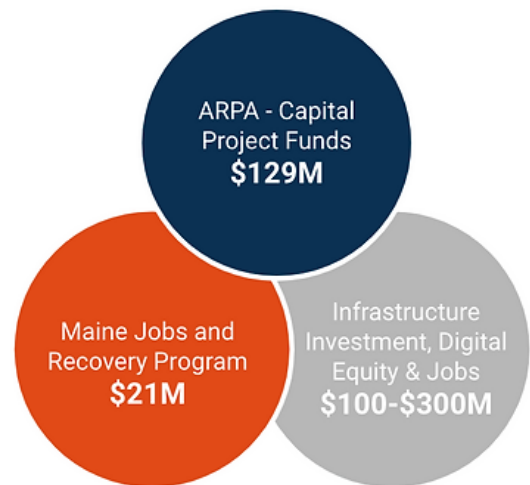
Jessie L. Cyr
Economic and Community Development Specialist
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments

All-In Programs & Funding

Maine is ALL IN to get Internet for all!

We can get there from here through the deployment of \$150 million from the American Rescue Plan’s Capital Projects Fund and the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan. Funding through the Maine Connectivity Authority is designed to reach the last mile in the most rural places, connect communities ready to scale their infrastructure, prepare communities for investment, ensure affordable options for everyone, and invest in partnerships to build a modern broadband infrastructure for Maine.

MCA estimates that the **All-In Program will bring high-speed broadband to over 30,000 homes and businesses in rural and remote areas.** The programming will be grounded in MCA’s parallel work developing a statewide Digital Equity Plan and 5-Year Broadband Action Plan.



[Read the Press Release](#)

[Read the Program FAQs](#)

[Enter MCA’s Grant Portal](#)

\$70M

Connect The Ready
Capital Projects Fund

A proactive partnership and collaborative effort to design, fund and build projects in eligible areas with competitive grants

- Minimum amount
- \$20M+ for first projects
- Remaining for 2nd set
- Augmented with future federal funds awarded

\$30M

Get Ready
MJRP + CPF

Competitive grants to support community driven efforts through technical assistance and capacity for regional partnerships.

- Standardized planning + data analysis
- Regional partnerships
- Leverage Anchor Institutions

\$23M

Partnerships Enabling Middle Mile

Funding and public private partnership development to expand middle mile infrastructure to enable last mile broadband.

- Prioritize areas with large clusters of unserved premises
- Maximize value and impact

\$20M

Reach Me
Capital Projects Fund

Line extension incentives for owners of existing networks to “complete” service to the last mile.

- Proactive area id
- Simple administration
- FTTP 100/100 Mbps*
- Cost share / premise

Learn More

Learn More

Learn More

Learn More

Program Goals:

- . Funding for all unconnected locations confirmed by the end of 2024
- . High speed internet must be affordable for all
- . Community-driven solutions at a regional scale ensure sustainable investments
- 4. Scale and public benefit through public private partnerships
- 5. Consistent and clear processes through data-driven decision making

Program Principles:

- . **Leverage Investments:** Work across silos and sectors to correct market failures due to low premise density
- . **Seek Regional Equity:** Emphasize geography that enables network approach; Scale for speed of connecting as many as possible
- . **Favor Future-Proof Networks:** Enable innovation and new value from public-private partnerships



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