

MARCH NEWSLETTER



*Save the
Date*

For

**KVCOG's 4th Annual Planning Day
&
General Assembly Meeting**

June 9th, 2026

Location and Agenda TBD

KVCOG is currently looking to expand our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Committee, and we believe your municipality has individuals who would be excellent candidates.

The RLF Committee plays a vital role in fostering economic growth across Kennebec, Somerset, and Western Waldo Counties by reviewing loan applications and making recommendations to support local businesses.

We are particularly interested in individuals with backgrounds in:

- Banking
- Law
- Accounting
- Real Estate Appraisal
- Industrial or business leadership
- Public administration

Committee members should reside in Kennebec, Somerset, or Western Waldo County.

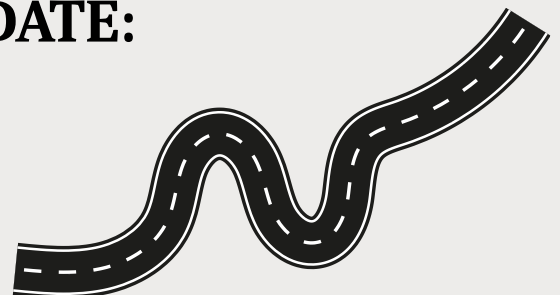
We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this opportunity with potential candidates and influential individuals within your municipality.

If you know of someone who possesses a strong financial background and a passion for community development, please encourage them to send a letter of interest or questions to Maggie Camden at mcamden@kvkog.org.

JOINT PURCHASING PROGRAM UPDATE:

Vendor solicitations have been issued for:

- Calcium Chloride
- Copy Paper
- Snowplow Cutting Edges
- Geotextiles
- Culverts



Awards for all categories, except snowplow cutting edges will be posted on **March 10th**. Looking ahead, solicitations for Snowplow Cutting Edges will be posted **March 31st**. Heating Oil and Road Salt will be released in May, with awards anticipated to be posted on **June 2nd**.

Maine Trails Program

The Maine Trails Program is a new statewide grant initiative created by the Maine Legislature and managed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Bureau of Parks and Lands. The program supports the design, construction, rehabilitation, and expansion of trails for outdoor recreation and active transportation - including motorized, non-motorized, and multi-use trail projects across the state.

Established with \$30 million in state funding through 2034, the program can award up to \$7.5 million per year to leverage public and private matching contributions. Eligible applicants include municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and trail clubs, and projects are evaluated for sustainability, community benefit, accessibility, and connection to existing trail networks.

The second round of funding is open now, with applications due June 26, 2026. Whether it's improving local hiking paths, expanding multi-use corridors, or enhancing access for all abilities, this program offers an exciting opportunity to invest in Maine's outdoor recreation infrastructure and support healthy, active communities.

Applications due Friday, June 26. [LEARN MORE.](#)



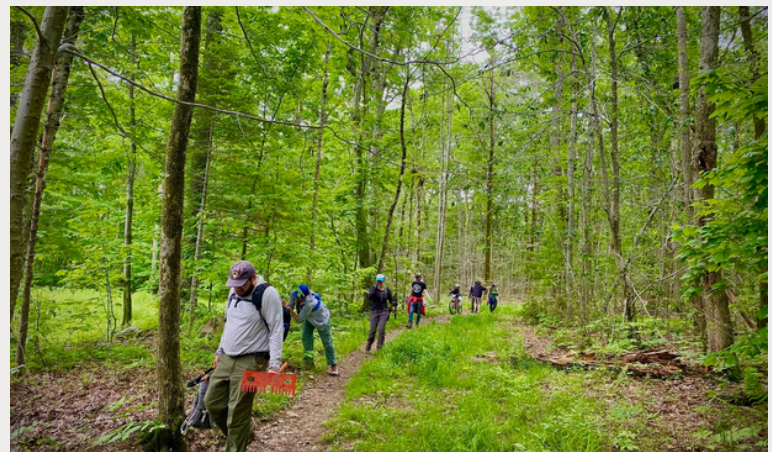
To support applicants during the application period, BPL will host a series of in-person and virtual workshops. Registration is required. Please use the links below to register.

[In-Person Registration](#)

- Ellsworth City Hall — Wednesday, Feb 25 — 2:00 PM
- Houlton Town Office — Thursday, Feb 26 — 2:00 PM
- Lewiston Amory — Wednesday, March 18 — 1:00 PM

[Virtual Workshop Registration](#)

- Thursday, March 19 — 6:30 PM
- Monday, March 23 — 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, March 25 — 10:00 AM
- Monday, March 25 — 2:00 PM



Questions about the program or application process?

Contact:
Adam Fisher at adam.c.n.fisher@maine.gov

REGIONAL CEO PROGRAM IN KENNEBEC COUNTY



Requirements to Participate in Kennebec County:

- Population of less than 4,000 residents
- Need CEO services for roughly 12 hours (or less) per week

Cost to Municipalities:

For the first year while we gauge the number of hours a municipality needs in addition to any optional services, the fee for service from KVCOG will not exceed what the municipality currently has budgeted for Code Enforcement.

KVCOG's Regional Code Enforcement Officer Program services are now available to its member municipalities in Kennebec, Somerset, & Western Waldo County. Monday, March 2nd, we discussed the details of the 1st Regional Code Enforcement Officer program in the State of Maine, the success we are having thus far, the different components of the program, & the benefits this program will provide to your municipality & the region.

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**Missed the session and
interested in hearing more?
[View the fact sheet for
program details here](#)**

Or contact:
Jessie Cyr, Economic and
Community Development
Director
jcyr@kvkog.org
(207) 453-4258 x 220

2026 MAINE INFRASTRUCTURE ADAPTATION FUND

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) will be seeking applications for the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund. **The purpose of this fund is to provide one-time funding to municipal, tribal, and infrastructure districts to adapt their critical infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate change.** The goal of this program is to reduce the existing infrastructure risk to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, increased precipitation, and other related climate risks, and provide increased resilience. All projects are encouraged to utilize nature-based solutions (NbS) and/or a combination of green (natural) and gray (structural) solutions (hybrid) where applicable; however, NbS is not a requirement for this program.

Eligible properties include publicly owned infrastructure in municipalities, tribal communities, and infrastructure districts. This grant is federally funded, and therefore, privately or state-owned infrastructure are not eligible to apply.

Eligible projects include stormwater systems upgrades, water system upgrades, and other interventions that support public infrastructure repair to reduce or eliminate climate impacts.

Additional eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Stabilizing coastal or inland shoreland through the use of vegetation and biodegradable materials (the construction of hard shoreline stabilization structures are not eligible for funding unless they are part of a hybrid green and gray adaptation action);
- Replacing existing stream crossings with structures that comply with MaineDOT's 100-year flood standards and ensure habitat connectivity

- Adapting stormwater infrastructure to accommodate the increase in extreme precipitation events;
- Scoping and design, and/or construction of wastewater treatment plants upgrades for increased resilience to climate change stressors;
- Transportation resilience projects;
- Upgrading, retrofitting, or relocating existing infrastructure to reduce risk from weather and climate impacts (construction of new facilities is not an eligible activity under this grant opportunity).

All projects are subject to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) environmental compliance review prior to the release of funds. **Projects must be completed by September 30, 2029.** The State anticipates awarding up to \$13.8 million to eligible proposals through Maine's NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge award.

The Request for Applications (RFA) will open in late March 2026 and is expected to remain open for approximately six weeks. **The RFA will be posted here:**

<https://www.maine.gov/dot/programs-services/environmental-efforts/climate-initiative/adaptation> in late

March 2026. Please note that the requirements for the grant application are subject to potential modifications. In the event of any discrepancies between this document and the RFA, the RFA will be considered the final document.

The State Anticipates Awarding up to:

\$13.8 Million

Eligible Activities Include: Scoping and Design

Applicants may request up to

\$75,000

Construction Projects

Applicants may request up to

\$3,000,000

A Combination of Scoping, Design, and Construction

Applicants not to exceed

\$3,000,000

Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 5% local match (cash or in-kind) of the total project costs.

All local match must be raised or appropriated by the entity applying. All local match amounts must be directly related to the proposed project and tasks. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement, including application preparation costs, will not be considered as part of the match requirements.

This grant program is reimbursement only.

Contact Info:
Lirella Jaen, Transportation Planning Specialist
Maine DOT
Adaptation.DOT@maine.gov



MAINE DEP 2026 SOLID WASTE DIVERSION GRANT – ROUND I NOW OPEN

This grant program provides funding to support the development, implementation, or expansion of projects that increase solid waste diversion, with a strong emphasis on organics management.

Eligible activities may include:

- Municipal or regional composting programs
- Organics recovery and recycling initiatives
- Food waste reduction and donation programs
- Reuse, repair, and upcycling projects
- Educational and outreach efforts
- Equipment purchases and infrastructure improvements



The Department anticipates making up to six awards, ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. A 25% match (cash or in-kind) is required.

Key Dates:

- Questions Due: March 10th, 2026 (4:00 PM)
- Proposal Submission Deadline: April 13th, 2026 (4:00 PM)
- Anticipated Contract Period: June 15th, 2026 – June 15th, 2028

All proposals must be submitted through the State's Vendor Self Service (VSS) portal.

If your municipality is considering applying, KVCOG is available to assist with project development and application preparation. **Please contact: Olivia Kunesh, Environmental Coordinator at okunesh@kvcog.org or (207) 453-4258 x 219.**



MAINE SUSTAINABILITY & WATER CONFERENCE - MARCH 26TH

The 2026 Maine Sustainability & Water Conference — an annual forum for professionals, municipal officials, researchers, students, and community stakeholders — will take place on Thursday, March 26th, 2026 at the Augusta Civic Center in Augusta, Maine.

Hosted by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine, this long-running conference (since 1994) brings together experts and practitioners to explore sustainability challenges, water resource issues, climate impacts, policy initiatives, and innovative practices that affect communities across the state.

The full-day event typically includes concurrent sessions, keynote presentations, poster exhibits, and networking opportunities, making it a valuable chance to share knowledge, learn about cutting-edge research, and connect with peers.

Registration and details: <https://umaine.edu/mitchellcenter/2026-maine-sustainability-water-conference/>

KVCOG RECYCLING MARKETS WORKSHOP

WITH GUEST SPEAKER: VICTOR HORTON, MAINE RESOURCE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION (MRRA)

April 1st, 2026
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

KVCOG Conference Room
17 Main Street, Fairfield

This workshop will provide an overview of current recycling markets in Maine and what those conditions mean for municipal recycling programs. The discussion will cover pricing trends, market volatility, contamination impacts, and common challenges municipalities are experiencing, with insight from the Maine Resource Recovery Association and time for open questions and discussion. This session is intended to be informational and collaborative, offering context and shared learning rather than prescribing specific program changes or solutions.

Who Should Attend:

- Transfer station managers & staff
- Public works directors
- Town managers & select board members
- Anyone involved in municipal recycling decisions



RSVP to: Olivia Kunesh, Environmental Coordinator -
okunesh@kvcog.org or (207) 453-4258 x 219 or use the QR code

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

In advance of the Round 7 Community Action Grants opening in March, the Community Resilience Partnership team is excited to offer a [Lunch and Learn webinar series](#) for prospective applicants!

This series is designed to help communities prepare strong, competitive applications by highlighting funded projects, sharing practical lessons from peer communities, and connecting participants with resources and state agencies. Sessions will focus on mobilizing volunteers for resilience projects, waste diversion and circular economy initiatives, flood resilience and vulnerability assessments, and energy efficiency in municipal buildings. Each session has its own unique registration link. All sessions take place from 12PM-1PM.

Schedule:

March 25 - Mobilizing Volunteers for Resilience Projects

Learn how communities engage volunteers and service fellows to expand capacity and deliver impactful resilience projects.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

April 1 - Waste Diversion & Circular Economy

Explore practical approaches to waste reduction, composting, recycling, and shared community resources.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

April 15 - Flood Resilience & Community Vulnerability Assessments

Understand flood risks, vulnerability assessments, and strategies for local planning and mitigation.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

April 29 - Powering Resilient Communities: Energy Efficiency in Municipal Buildings

See how communities are lowering energy costs, improving building efficiency, and investing in clean energy solutions.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

COMING SOON!: The Community Resilience Partnership offers Community Actions Grants (CAGs) to support local climate action projects that reduce energy use, transition to clean energy, and enhance resilience to climate impacts. Applications are expected to open mid-March and will be due early June. [LEARN MORE](#)



Housing Opportunity Program First Round of Funding Municipal Ordinance Development Grants

Issued by: Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA), Housing Opportunity Program

Purpose:

The program provides grants to Maine municipalities to update local land use ordinances to comply with recent state housing legislation and support new housing development, including affordable and workforce housing.

Eligible Uses of Funds

Primary use: Amending ordinances to comply with these housing laws:

LD 2003, LD 1706, LD 1829,
LD 997, LD 427

If funds remain after ordinance adoption, they may be used for:
Housing-related ordinance updates (e.g., short-term rentals, tiny homes)
Public communication related to housing regulation changes
Housing planning work
Housing-related educational sessions

Applications must be submitted as one PDF under 20MB to housing.moca@maine.gov with the subject line "HOP_MUN2026-1 [Municipality]."

Funding

- Approximately \$750,000 available.
- Awards: \$5,000–\$15,000 per municipality.
- Performance period: Up to 1 year, expected April 2026– March 2027.
- No local match required.
- Future Rounds
- Round 2 (March–May 2026): Up to \$10,000, paid via simple invoicing, until funds run out.
- Round 3 (Summer 2026): Details to be determined. Municipalities may only receive funding from one round.

Application Requirements

Applications must include:

- General Eligibility Information
- Use of Funds – Explanation of amendment process, timeline, consultants (if any).
- Budget Proposal – Staff time, legal fees, consultant fees, public notices, etc.
- Invoice Form – Required for payment.

KVCOG planning staff will be available to help communities update their ordinances to come into compliance with the most recent housing laws produced by the State. The enactment of LD's 1829, 447, and 997 requires municipalities to align with prescribed parking guidelines, lots sizes, and housing allowances. Communities that operate with a town meeting style governance have a state required implementation date of July 1, 2027. To best serve our communities, KVCOG staff will assist communities on a first come, first serve basis. We will be asking communities to return the form linked below. to have your community placed in the queue. Please fill out this form and return it to Jessica Cobb, Senior Planner as soon as possible.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

T.A. SESSION AT KVCOG

KVCOG will be hosting an in-person Housing Opportunity Program Technical Assistance Session to support municipalities preparing ordinance updates and grant applications under the Municipal Ordinance Development Grants.

This session will provide:

- An overview of eligible uses of funds
- Guidance on ordinance amendment requirements
- Application tips and timeline planning
- Time for questions and discussion

 Thursday, April 2nd, 2026

 5:30 PM

 KVCOG Office – 17 Main Street, Fairfield

 Zoom option available for remote participants

Whether your municipality is preparing to apply in Round 1 or considering future rounds, this session is designed to help you navigate the process and ensure compliance with recent housing legislation.

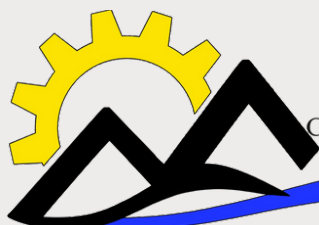
To RSVP or request the Zoom link, please contact:

Jessica Cobb

Senior Planner

jcobb@kvcog.org

(207) 453-4258 x 218



KENNEBEC VALLEY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional service, local results

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)

The following programs are available to Maine Communities and in certain instances, Counties through the Office of Community Development. For specific information on applications dates and program eligible activities, refer to the individual application packages and the current **Program Statement**.

Program	Letter of Intent Due By	Application Due By
Downtown Revitalization	January 23 rd , 2026	March 6 th , 2026
Economic Development	July 3 rd , 2025	Per Invitation
Housing Assistance	March 20 th , 2026	May 15 th , 2026
Public Infrastructure	January 16 th , 2026	March 13 th , 2026
Public Service	April 24 th , 2026	June 6 th , 2026
Community Enterprise	February 20 th , 2026	April 10 th , 2026
Special Projects/Urgent Need	TBD	TBD

Full program descriptions and application materials are available on the **Maine DECD website**.

Questions? Contact:
Jessie Cyr, Economic and Community
Development Director
jcyr@kvcog.org
(207) 453-4258 x 220





KENNEBEC VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

KVCOG remains committed to supporting our member municipalities through thoughtful planning, strong partnerships, and strategic investment in our region's future.

Regional service. Local results.

For questions or to discuss upcoming initiatives, please contact our office at (207) 453-4258 or info@kvcog.org. You can find our full contact information [here](#).

~ Joel, Diana, Grainne, Jeff, Jessica, Jessie, Maggie, Melanie, Olivia, and Turner ~

