

# PROGRAM STATEMENT

## Funding Opportunity CAG2026-7

Community Resilience Program Community Action Grant Program

### Issued by:

Maine Office of Community Affairs

[Community Resilience Partnership](#)

Marquardt Building, 3rd Floor,

32 Blossom Lane

Augusta, ME 04330

Issue Date: March 6, 2026

## PROPOSAL DUE DATE: FRIDAY June 5, 2026; 5:00 P.M.

All communication regarding this Program Statement should be sent to Ashley Krulik, Community Resilience Partnership Program Manager, [ashley.krulik@maine.gov](mailto:ashley.krulik@maine.gov).

### Informational webinar: March 18, 2026; 3:00 P.M.

Zoom Registration Link: <https://mainestate.zoom.us/meeting/register/vzptZ7gRQde4UpBuLcmYBQ>

A recording will be posted at: <https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership/grants>



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## SECTION 1. BACKGROUND

The [Community Resilience Partnership](#) (“the Partnership”) provides grants and technical assistance to municipal governments, Tribal Governments, plantations, townships, or unorganized territories in Maine (“Communities”) for projects that reduce energy use and costs, transition to clean energy and make communities more resilient to climate change impacts such as flooding, extreme temperatures, and public health risks.

Communities – those that have already taken significant climate action as well as those considering their early steps – are eligible for Community Action Grants upon completion of the [program’s enrollment requirements](#).

Communities that would like assistance completing enrollment activities and applying for Community Action Grants are encouraged to partner with [Service Provider Organizations](#). The [Service Provider Grant Program Statement \(SPG2026-7\)](#) is available to support this assistance to communities.

### 1.1 Definitions

<b>Community</b>	A municipal government, Tribal Government, plantation, township, or unorganized territory in Maine.
<b>MOCA</b>	Maine Office of Community Affairs
<b>Group</b>	Multiple communities submitting a single joint application for grant funding.
<b>Community Action Grant</b>	Upon enrollment in the Community Resilience Partnership, communities are eligible for Community Action Grants for projects that reduce energy use and costs, transition to clean energy, and make communities in Maine more resilient to climate change.
<b>Service Provider Grant</b>	Grant to a service provider to assist a Group of communities in Maine to prepare for and enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership, or complete a community vulnerability assessment, and then to apply for grant funds to implement priority climate and energy projects.  Please see <a href="#">SPG2026-7– Service Provider Grant Program Statement</a> for more information.

### 1.2 Eligibility

There are two (2) eligible types of applicants for the Community Action Grant:

- 1) Individual Communities, a municipal government, tribal government, plantation, township, or unorganized territory in Maine, who are enrolled in the [Community Resilience Partnership](#).

- a. Applicants may submit enrollment materials through the [enrollment portal](#) simultaneously with submitting their grant application. (Unorganized territories, townships, and plantations are eligible and are strongly encouraged to work with a Service Provider to complete the enrollment process).
- 2) Multiple Communities may apply jointly for projects that address mutual goals and have interrelated scopes of work.
- a. All communities participating in the application must be enrolled in the Partnership at the time the grant application is submitted or submit enrollment materials through the [enrollment portal](#) simultaneously with the grant application.
  - b. Service Providers may apply on behalf of communities. Letters of support must be provided from each participating community.
  - c. In a multi-community application, the communities are required to designate a lead applicant. The lead applicant is expected to receive the grant funds and manage the contracting and grant reporting on behalf of the partner communities. The communities may wish to have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that spells out the responsibilities of each community. If an MOU is established, the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) may request a copy of the document during the grant contracting phase.

A community may participate in no more than one (1) Community Action Grant application in a grant round. (Concurrent participation in a Track 2 Service Provider Grant application is allowed. [See SPG2026-7 Program Statement for more information](#)).

Communities that already have an active Community Action Grant from a previous round are eligible to apply in this round but may not apply for new funds to support a previously funded scope of work.

School districts, water and sewer districts, neighborhood associations, and similar entities are not eligible to be primary applicants and are encouraged to partner with a municipality or other eligible entity described above.

### **1.3 Grant Size and Duration**

The Community Resilience Partnership plans to allocate approximately \$4,600,000 for Community Action Grants during this grant round. MOCA may award all, part, or none of this allocation at its discretion. A portion of this funding derives from federal sources and may carry additional federal requirements, such as environmental review. Successful applicants will be notified if their award contains federal funding.

Individual communities are eligible for a minimum award of \$5,000 and a maximum award of \$75,000. Groups of communities applying jointly are eligible for awards of up to \$175,000.

Up to \$5,000 of additional funding may be made available at MOCA's discretion to federally funded grant awardees to administer the grant in compliance with federal guidelines (see Section 2.2).

Grants are anticipated to be awarded in August 2026, with an expected start date on or after September 15, 2026. Contract terms will be up to two (2) years, as specified by the applicant's proposal.

#### **1.4 Future Grant Rounds**

The next Community Action Grant round is anticipated to have a deadline in May 2027, subject to change with availability of funding.

#### **1.5 Cancellation Notice**

The Community Resilience Partnership reserves the right to cancel this Program Statement at any time.

#### **1.6 Final Action on Grant Awards**

Awards made through this program are considered final and are not subject to internal agency appeal. Any person aggrieved by a decision may pursue judicial review according to the provisions of 5 MRS§§ 11001 – 11008 within 30 days of the award announcement.

#### **1.7 Contact information**

Questions about this Program Statement should be sent via email to [ashley.krulik@maine.gov](mailto:ashley.krulik@maine.gov).

#### **1.8 Information Sharing**

The Community Resilience Partnership may share enrollment materials, grant applications, and related community information with other state agencies and contracted entities for program evaluation and to improve awareness of community needs, priorities, and opportunities to provide assistance.

## **SECTION 2. GRANT PROGRAM DETAILS**

### **2.1 Description**

The Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) is seeking applications for Community Action Grants as defined in this Program Statement. This document provides instructions for submitting applications, the procedure, and criteria by which the awarded Applicants will be selected.

## 2.2 Eligible Uses of Funds

There are two types of Community Action Grants:

- i. No-match grants to support implementation of one or more activities in the [List of Community Actions](#), a list of climate mitigation and adaptation activities that align with the strategies in the state’s climate action plan, [Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action](#). If an applicant is unsure of whether a project fits within the list of community actions, please contact Ashley Krulik, [ashley.krulik@maine.gov](mailto:ashley.krulik@maine.gov) for guidance. Applicants may apply to complete multiple activities within one proposal.
- ii. Grants to support other community-defined climate and energy capacity building, planning, and implementation priorities. A cost-share (match) will apply, as described in the Table below.

Reasonable project-related expenses may include personnel costs, contractual expenses, supplies, travel, indirect costs, and venue rental fees for meetings. Community Action Grant funds may not be used for computer equipment, permit fees, or unrelated personnel expenses.

Applicants are encouraged to utilize Community Action Grants as match to leverage other federal, state, or philanthropic grant funds as allowed by those programs. Community Action Grants may also be used to close project funding gaps for other state funding programs, in accordance with (i) or (ii) above. It is the applicant’s responsibility to consult the rules for the federal or state funding programs if the Community Action Grant will be designated as cost-share or match. If applicable, applicants should explain any anticipated use of Community Action Grant funds as match for another funding program.

Applicants with clean energy projects may wish to consider incorporating the federal Direct Pay tax credit (also known as “Elective Pay”) in their application. See Section 2.5, Subsection F. for more information.

Certain eligible activities from the [List of Community Actions](#) carry special instructions or limitations. **It is the applicants’ responsibility to review the list and ensure that the proposed activities meet all eligibility requirements. Please see Appendix for activities with special instructions and guidance.**

## 2.3 Cost-Share (or Match)

There is no local cost share for Community Action Grants that implement activities from the [List of Community Actions](#).

A cost share will apply for Community Action Grants that implement community climate and energy priorities in alignment with *Maine Won’t Wait* recommendations other than those listed

in the List of Community Actions. The cost-share is structured in a tiered approach. In-kind match is permitted.

Tier	Description	Cost-share for activities <u>not</u> listed in the List of Community Actions
Tier 1	Communities with populations less than 4,000	10%
Tier 2	Communities with EITHER populations between 4,000 and 10,000 OR tax assessment less than \$25 million (according to State Revenue Sharing data).	10%
Tier 3	Communities with populations greater than 10,000 AND tax assessment greater than \$25 million (according to State Revenue Sharing data).	20%

## 2.4 Community Access and Engagement

The state's climate response should benefit all Maine people. Applicants should include robust community engagement in their action grant proposals (for example, planning processes that include underrepresented and at-risk community voices, and partnerships with community-based organizations).

Climate change impacts will create the greatest hardships for already underserved communities, and therefore it is important to identify and promote solutions to help the people who are most vulnerable to climate impacts. Applicants should consider the potential benefits of their proposed climate action projects and describe how the project promotes access to those benefits.

The Maine Social Vulnerability Index is used by this grant program to understand socio-economic vulnerabilities that may be unique to a community. Applicants should reference the [Maine Social Vulnerability Index](#) to determine the current community vulnerability categorization.

Community access and engagement considerations are incorporated into the scoring criteria for the Applicant's Scope of Work, see Section 2.5, E. Scope of Work, for more information.

## 2.5 Application Guidelines and Required Format

A complete and scoreable application for funding will include the following components. Applicants should use the MOCA Grant Portal to access the application form to address each component. See Application Submission instructions on page 13.

#### **A. Criteria 1: General Information, Eligibility, and Application Information**

Applicants must complete the following documents as part of their application:

- Application Cover Page & General Assurances
- Eligibility and Applicant Information (see Section 1.2 above)

#### **B. Criteria 2: Previous Community Action Grant status**

If applicable, Applicants must provide information on previously received Community Action Grants including the status of active Community Action Grants from previous rounds and whether the project is meeting the proposed timeline, outcomes, compliance, and reporting requirements. Applicants who are not meeting the requirements of their current grant agreement may not be eligible for an additional grant.

#### **C. Criteria 3: Community Characteristics**

Additional application scoring points are available for communities with small- and medium-sized populations and communities with high and medium social vulnerability.

Applicants should refer to the [Maine Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\) categorization information](#) to complete the Community Characteristics section of the application form.

#### **D. Criteria 4: *Maine Won't Wait* Strategy and Action(s)**

For no-match grants, the Applicant must identify the action(s) from the [List of Community Actions](#) that the project will implement.

For grants to support other community-defined climate priorities, Applicants must describe the project and how it aligns with the strategies of [Maine Won't Wait](#), and must complete the cost-share table in the budget worksheet.

#### **E. Criteria 5: Scope of Work**

- Project Description - Describe the proposed project. Specific tasks must be numbered and broken down to describe the steps needed to achieve each task, and a list of final deliverables must be provided (for example, number of heat pumps installed or the components of a plan to be developed) resulting from the work.
- Project Timeline - Describe the timeline for completing each task or deliverable and the expected completion of the project.

- Need for the Project - Describe the need for the project. Why is this project a community priority?
- Project Outcomes - Describe the expected outcomes from completion of this project. This may include expected energy efficiency outcomes such as cost savings, kilowatt-hours of reduced energy consumption or renewable energy generation, or gallons of fuel reduction. This could also include resilience outcomes, such as increased preparation for extreme weather events, increased ability to manage sea level rise, increased resources for vulnerable community members, etc. Provide explanations for how these outcomes were estimated.
- Project Management - Describe the roles and responsibilities that will be assigned to key staff, contractors, and project partners to ensure successful completion of this scope of work and achieving the expected outcomes.
- Approach to community access and engagement considerations - Describe specific actions that will be taken to increase access for community stakeholders to participate in the project during the grant period, including underrepresented populations and community members particularly vulnerable to climate impacts. (Any public engagement that led up to this application is appreciated. However, please focus the response here on engagement activities that will happen during the project timeline.) Who in your community will be the most affected by climate change impacts? Also describe specific project benefits and which members of the community will benefit most from them.

#### **F. Criteria 6: Budget Proposal**

Applicants must provide a Budget Narrative and Budget Worksheet. The Budget Narrative should include task numbers and break down the costs for each task and describe how the costs were determined. Estimated hours, hourly rate, and vendor estimates are encouraged. The Budget Worksheet (sample provided in Table 2) should list the costs for each task within the scope of work.

Eligible costs are limited to those incurred during the grant period. Expenses incurred prior to or after the grant period are not eligible to be included in the budget.

For grants to support other community-defined climate priorities not listed in the [List of Community Actions](#), applicants must complete the cost-share table in the budget worksheet. In-kind match is permitted. In-kind match is the value of any real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the grant that would have been eligible costs. Expenses incurred prior to or after the grant period are not eligible to be included in the budget as match.

*Table 1: Cost-Share Table (if applicable, only for projects supporting actions not listed on the List of Community Actions)*

<p>Which cost share applies to the lead applicant?                  What is the project cost share amount?</p> <p>A cost share <u>will</u> apply For Climate Action Grants that implement other community climate and energy priorities (i.e., activities not found in the Community Action Inventory).</p> <p>Tier 1: Communities with populations less than 4,000</p> <p>Tier 2: Communities with EITHER populations between 4,000 and 10,000 OR tax assessment less than \$25 million (according to State Revenue Sharing data).</p> <p>Tier 3: Communities with populations greater than 10,000 AND tax assessment greater than \$25 million (according to State Revenue Sharing data).</p>		
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
10% local match	10% local match	20% local match

*Table 2: Budget Worksheet Example*

<b>Budget Worksheet</b>			
<b>Project Task</b>	<b>Funds Requested</b>	<b>Other Funds (match, rebates, etc.)</b>	<b>Total Project Budget</b>
Task 1	<i>10,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>15,000</i>
Task 2	<i>25,000</i>		<i>25,000</i>
Task 3	<i>40,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>50,000</i>
Task 4			
(add additional tasks as needed)			
<b>Total</b>	<b><i>\$75,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$15,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$90,000</i></b>

**IMPORTANT:** The applicant’s budget narrative and budget worksheet must include any applicable incentives or rebates (for example, from Efficiency Maine) at the time of application, including for electric vehicles and charging equipment, heat pumps and VRF

systems, LED lighting, and water heaters. Applicable rebates or incentives should be included in the “Other Funds” column within the Budget Worksheet.

**Federal Direct Pay Clean Energy Tax Credits:** While the direct pay tax mechanism was preserved under recent federal legislation, and tax-exempt local governments remain eligible for federal tax credits for clean energy projects, the federal IRS has shifted project eligibility requirements significantly. Under updated IRS directives, electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure are no longer eligible for direct pay; solar, battery storage, and wind projects are subject to more stringent requirements. Specific project eligibility requirements, including placed-in-service and foreign entity of concern guidance, can be found on the [IRS Elective Pay and Transferability](#) webpage. The non-profit group Lawyers for Good Government maintains unofficial guidance on [accessing federal direct pay tax credits](#). Communities interested in accessing federal direct pay tax credits are highly encouraged to consult with a financial professional.

**G. Appendix**

The appendix may include:

- Letters of support from project partners, municipal and county officials, local civic leaders, state legislators, or partner communities.
  - If this is a collaborative application from multiple communities, all participating communities must include a letter of support.
- Pertinent maps, imagery or other essential (brief) supporting documents
- Vendor or consultant estimates for project costs.

**2.6 Selection and Award Process**

An evaluation team will judge the merits of the proposals received in accordance with the criteria below:

Scoring Criteria	Points Available
<b>Criteria 1: General Information and Eligibility</b>	Pass/Fail
<b>Criteria 2: Previous Community Action Grant status</b>	Pass/Fail

<p><b>Criteria 3: Community Characteristics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>5 points</u> for a small (population less than 4,000) community or high social vulnerability.</li> <li>• <u>3 points</u> for a medium-size (population between 4,000 and 10,000) community, or medium social vulnerability, or tax assessment less than \$25 million (according to State Revenue Sharing data).</li> <li>• In a multi-community application, one qualifying community may earn points for the whole application</li> </ul>	<p>Up to 5 points</p>
<p><b>Criteria 4: <i>Maine Won't Wait</i> Strategy and Action(s)</b></p>	<p>25 points total</p>
<p><b>Criteria 5: Scope of Work</b></p>	<p>55 points total:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Description, Timeline, Need, Outcomes, and Project Management (35 points)</li> <li>• Approach to Community Access and Engagement (20 points)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Criteria 6: Budget Proposal</b></p>	<p>20 points total</p>
<p><b>Total Points</b></p>	<p><b>105 points</b></p>

For applications that demonstrate meeting the eligibility requirements in Criteria 1, the evaluation team will use a consensus approach to evaluate and score the remaining Criteria sections shown above.

**2.7 Proposal Deadline and Submission**

**A. Application Submission:**

Proposals are due by the time and date listed on page 1. Proposals must be submitted via the MOCA grant portal:

<https://maineofficeofcommunityaffairs.submittable.com/submit>. Directions on how to create an account and use the grant portal for application submission can be found [here](#).

For technical support, use the [Submitter Resource Center](#), or contact [Submittable Customer Support](#), your program lead at MOCA, or email [submittable.moca@maine.gov](mailto:submittable.moca@maine.gov).

Please plan ahead; CRP assumes no responsibility for delays caused by internet outages.

## **B. Submitting Questions about the Program Statement**

Questions about this program statement and the application process may be directed to [ashley.krulik@maine.gov](mailto:ashley.krulik@maine.gov). Include the subject line “**CAG2026-7– Questions**”.

Responses provided by program staff should be considered advisory and are not a guarantee of a successful application.

Any responses deemed substantive and binding will be summarized and posted on the [Community Resilience Partnership website](#) on a rolling basis until May 8, 2026. It is the applicant’s responsibility to consult this summary.

## **C. Informational Meeting**

MOCA will host a virtual Informational Meeting concerning the Program Statement. See the Program Statement cover page for the date, time, and web link for the meeting.

The purpose of the Informational Meeting is to answer and/or field questions, clarify aspects of the Program Statement requirements, and provide supplemental information to assist potential Applicants in applying. Although attendance at the Informational Meeting is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged that interested Applicants attend.

The meeting will be recorded and posted to the [Community Resilience Partnership website](#).

## **SECTION 3. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF GRANT AWARDS**

### **3.1 Grant Agreement**

Grant recipients must enter into a written agreement with the State of Maine.

### **3.2 Pre-Award Costs**

The Community Resilience Partnership is not liable for any cost incurred by the Grantee or any Grantee subcontractor(s) prior to the effective date in the agreement. The Community Resilience Partnership will not authorize any payments for work completed prior to the effective date of a fully executed agreement.

### 3.3 Reporting Requirements

Quarterly progress reports and a final report are required. Quarterly reports are due 15 days after the close of the preceding quarter (Quarters: 1/1–3/31; 4/1–6/30; 7/1–9/30; 10/1–12/31). A final report is due 30 days after the end of the grant period.

There may be additional reporting requirements for federally funded grant projects, and grant recipients will be notified of those requirements after the award is made.

### 3.4 Public Records

Following announcement of an award decision, scoring and review notes for all submissions will be public records, available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) ([1 M.R.S. § 401](#) et seq.).

## APPENDIX

### Eligible Activity Special Instructions

Below is a list of community action eligibility notes in response to the most frequently asked questions. See the [List of Community Actions](#) for the full list of eligible no-match grant actions and corresponding eligibility notes.

Action A1: Purchase or lease light-, medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles, e-bikes, electric lawn or maintenance equipment, electric school buses, or electric boat engines for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets.

- A maximum of \$7,500 of a Community Action Grant may be applied to the purchase or lease of each vehicle or piece of equipment, including light-, medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles, e-bikes, electric lawn or maintenance equipment, electric school buses, or electric boat engines for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets. Where applicable, Efficiency Maine’s electric vehicle rebate must be included in the applicant’s project budget.
- Proposal must demonstrate a reduction of fossil-fuel powered vehicle miles traveled with the addition of electric-powered vehicles/equipment to the fleet.

Actions B1-B7 (Building energy efficiency projects):

- Energy efficiency projects such as heat pumps, VRF systems, LED lighting upgrades, water heaters, etc. must identify applicable Efficiency Maine incentives. The applicant’s project budget must include applicable Efficiency Maine rebates or incentives. In cases where energy efficiency projects are not eligible for Efficiency Maine incentives, applicants are expected to provide an explanation for why the equipment is not eligible.
- Existing heat pumps are not eligible for grants for replacement with new heat pump

technology, regardless of the age and operating condition of the existing heat pump.

- Energy efficiency projects must be located in a municipally, tribally, or publicly owned building.
- New fossil fuel-powered heating/cooling systems are not eligible for grant funding.
- Structural building improvements (repairs to roofing, siding, foundation, etc.) are not eligible for grant funding.
- Weatherization improvements eligible for grant funding include weather sealing windows and doors, new energy efficient windows and doors, building insulation, air sealing, and energy-saving window inserts.

Action C9: Enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA) or adopt a clean power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewable energy.

- Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA): Grant funds may be used to enter a PPA to install a new renewable energy project. Proposals to “buy out” an existing PPA are not likely to receive an award.

Action F2: Adopt a climate resilience plan that describes strategies for reducing risk and vulnerabilities (may be a standalone plan or included in a climate action or comprehensive plan).

- Grant funds may be used to incorporate resilience planning into a Comprehensive Plan, such as the consideration of policies, regulations, and practices that align with the goals and strategies of *Maine Won't Wait*. Routine Comprehensive Plan updates are not eligible for grant funding.

Action F18: Improve and protect drinking water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater facilities and related infrastructure, such as culverts and sewers, to anticipate future climate impacts and reduce physical damage and sustain function during extreme weather events.

- The Community Resilience Partnership has a strong preference for proactive infrastructure resilience and energy efficiency projects over deferred maintenance projects. Design and engineering components of road and culvert improvement projects to address climate impacts align well with the List of Community Actions and max grant funding amount. The Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund is well positioned to support more complex or expensive infrastructure construction and improvement projects.
- Construction or improvement projects must be on publicly owned properties, buildings, or infrastructure.

Action F23: Develop and implement an extreme temperatures emergency plan, including strategies that increase the use of warming and cooling centers by residents.

- Fossil fuel-powered generators are not eligible for grant funding. Battery storage as an alternative is eligible.

Action F28: Amplify public health advisories for climate-related health and weather events,

such as air quality advisories, extreme heat or cold events, extreme storms, power outages, waterborne disease outbreaks, harmful algal blooms, vector-borne disease trends, etc.

- Digital signage is not eligible for grant funding.

If applicants are unsure of whether a project is eligible for grant funding, please contact Ashley Krulik, [ashley.krulik@maine.gov](mailto:ashley.krulik@maine.gov) for guidance.