FAQS: Housing Opportunity Program Municipal Ordinance Development Grants Round 3

Last Updated: October 23, 2026

Q: Will my municipality be required to return the funding to the Program if ordinance revisions do not pass at town meeting?

A: If ordinance revisions fail at town meeting, please reach out to the Housing Opportunity Program prior to returning the funds. The Program can help your municipality strategize about how to pass ordinances.

Q: Does this grant funding opportunity apply to towns, plantations, and townships overseen by the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC)?

A: No. The laws discussed in this funding opportunity are found in Title 30-A, which governs municipalities. Land use in the LUPC jurisdiction is governed separately under Title 12.

Q: My municipality would like to use the funds for activities related to housing, land use, and public meetings but I don't see my specific activity listed. Can my municipality use the funds for additional activities?

A: Grantees must first use the funds to comply with LD 2003, LD 1706, LD 1829, LD 997, LD 427, and LD 2173. If your municipality has leftover funds following the ordinance amendment process, your municipality may use the remaining funds for activities that support housing opportunities. Please reach out to the Program prior to end of the grant period of performance if your municipality would like to use the remaining funding for a housing related activity.

Q: My municipality would like to use the funds for municipal costs associated with property tax revaluations. Can we use this funding for that purpose?

A: After completing ordinance amendments related to LD 2173, LD 1829, LD 997, and LD 427, a municipality may use any remaining funds for housing related activities. This could include property tax revaluations as a result of the lot and density changes.

Q: Is there a volunteer rate that my municipality should use in the budget proposal portion of the application?

A: Maine's volunteer rate for 2025 is $32.99 (most current number). This amount is calculated on a yearly basis by Independent Sector. More information can be found here: Value of Volunteer Time -Independent Sector (https://independentsector.org/research/value-of-volunteer-time/).

Q: If my municipality applies for less than $10,000 in its application, but later realizes that it needs additional funding to complete ordinance revisions, can my municipality increase its funding amount to receive the full $10,000?

A: No. Additional funds will not be available to increase a municipality's awarded funding.

Q: Can my municipality be reimbursed for costs incurred prior the grant start date of November 9, 2026?

A: No. A municipality will only be reimbursed for costs incurred on or after November 9, 2026 through July 31, 2027.

Q: If a town had a difficult experience passing changes in compliance with LD2003, would they be prioritized in the grant rounds?

A: No. The Program will not prioritize municipalities for grant funding based on specific situations. All municipalities are eligible to apply for Round 3. The Program will award funds on a rolling basis until expended until February 28, 2027.

Q: In preparing for the grant, do we need to provide quotes for all potential expenses?

A: No. For purposes of filling out the application, the Program requires estimates of costs. Additional documentation, such as quotes, are not needed at the application stage.

Q: Are lawyer fees eligible expenses under the grant?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there a maximum for those towns who do not have public water and/ or public sewer?

A: The maximum award for all municipalities is $10,000.

Q: My municipality anticipates spending more than the maximum $10,000 award amount. Should I note that in my application?

A: For the application, please only request up to $10,000. However, at the end of the grant period of performance, you may notify the Housing Opportunity Program if your municipality spent over $10,000 to complete ordinance amendments. This information will be used to help determine funding amounts for future grants.

Q: May my municipality choose to amend ordinances to comply with some, but not all, of the listed legislation in the grant application?

A: The Program requires a municipality to amend ordinances to comply with all pieces of legislation that are applicable to a municipality.