



Funding Sources for Climate Resilience/Drinking Water (February 2024)

Maine Drinking Water Program Capacity Development Grant

Program Name and Contact Information: The Maine Drinking Water Program is part of the Division of Environmental and Community Health at the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention. For questions related to Capacity Development Grants, contact Christina Trufant, Grants and Outreach Specialist at Christina.Trufant@Maine.gov or (207) 441-9230.

Grant or Loan? Reimbursement Grant

Who's Eligible? All Community and non-profit non-community public water systems are eligible for grant awards e.g., water utilities, mobile home parks, apartment buildings, nursing homes, and schools.

What Types of Projects are Fundable? This grant is for creating a plan/document that will improve a water system's technical, financial, or managerial capacity. For example, Hydrogeologic Investigation Reports for locating new groundwater well locations, Hydraulic Modeling Studies, Risk and Resilience Assessments, System Consolidation Studies, GIS Infrastructure Mapping, Asset Management Plans, Capital Improvement Plans, Operations and Maintenance Manuals, etc.

Funding Range: Maximum grant amount of \$30,000. Grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis.

Match Requirements: Applicants must provide a match of 25% of the requested funds (ME DWP grants are for 75% of the documented costs up to the \$30,000 max).

Reporting Requirements: Unknown - contact Christina Trufant (info above)

When is Funding Available? Applications are accepted annually on a rolling basis until funds are fully disbursed (\$300,000 available in 2024). The 2024 Capacity Development Grant Application can be accessed here: www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/imt/documents/2024-CapacityDevelopmentGrantApplicaition.pdf

Additional Maine Drinking Water Program funding sources can be found here:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/financialResources.shtml

Relevant Past Projects: The Town of North Haven Water Department received a 2022 Capacity Development Grant to do a survey of island wells, a risk assessment of Fresh Pond to understand the risk of saltwater intrusion due to sea level rise and storm surge, and a resistivity transect to identify potential locations for municipal water supply wells if the Town ever needed a new drinking water source. These three assessments were conducted by Ransom Consulting and the results were compiled in a [2023 Hydrogeologic Water Supply Evaluation Report](#).



[GOPIF Community Action Grant](#)

Program Name and Contact Information: Community Action Grants are part of the [Maine Community Resilience Partnership](#) and are administered by the Governor’s Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future. Program contact: Ashley Krulik, Community Resilience Partnership Program Manager, ashley.krulik@maine.gov

Grant or Loan? Cash Grant

Who’s Eligible? Individual Communities, a municipal government, Tribal Government, plantation, township, or unorganized territory in Maine, who are enrolled in the [Community Resilience Partnership](#). Multiple Communities may apply jointly for projects that address mutual goals and have interrelated scopes of work.

What Types of Projects are Fundable? 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.

Funding Range: Individual communities are eligible for a minimum award of \$5,000 and a maximum award of \$50,000. Groups of communities applying jointly are eligible for awards of up to \$125,000.

Match Requirements: For no-match grants, applicants may choose from a [list of 72 eligible actions](#) to base their projects on. For projects not based on these actions but aligned with the [State’s Climate Action Plan](#), local match is required and will range from 10% to 20% depending on population size and tax assessed value.

Reporting Requirements: Quarterly and final reports. Templates provided.

When is Funding Available? Application periods are one to two times per year. Visit the [Community Resilience Partnership](#) website to learn more.

Relevant Past Projects:

- Westport Island: Climate change groundwater study: Well survey, water quality testing, well geodatabase; analysis of recharge, saltwater intrusion potential, land use guidance; Aquifer monitoring, salinity monitoring, long-term water supply planning; community engagement
- Chebeague Island: Groundwater sustainability study and monitoring, including recharge, saltwater intrusion, other climate impacts
- Long Island: Groundwater sustainability study

[Maine Coastal Program Coastal Community Grant](#)

NEW PROGRAM SET-UP (February 2024): In response to the significant impacts of recent storms experienced by Maine’s coastal communities, the FY2025 Shore and Harbor Planning Grant and the FY2025 Coastal Community Grant Program are being combined into one grant program. The matching fund requirement has been eliminated and the application process has been modified to include a Letter of Intent, followed by a Final Application, by invitation only. Letters of Intent are due by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29, 2024**. [Letter of Intent](#) Instructions. Visit [this website](#) for more information and application materials.

Program Name and Contact Information: Awarded and administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Municipal Planning Assistance Program. The [Maine Coastal Program](#), Department of Marine Resources, provides funding through Maine’s federal coastal zone management award from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Municipal Planning Assistance Program

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- vacant, Program Director
- [Tom Miragliuolo](#), 207-441-1288
- [Joan Walton](#), AICP, 207-419-8661
- [Abe Dailey](#), 207-458-8860
- [Ashley Gamache](#), 207-816-0032

Grant or Loan? Reimbursement Grant

What Types of Projects are Fundable? Since 2012, this grant program has provided over \$2 million for 74 projects throughout coastal Maine. [List of Coastal Community Grant Awards \(XLSX\)](#). [Coastal Community Grant Case Studies](#) webpage.

Who’s Eligible? Eligible applicants include counties, municipalities, unorganized territories, tribal governments, and Regional Councils in [Maine’s Coastal Zone](#). The combined FY2025 grant is intended to fund local or regional planning projects that support [Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action](#) and enable communities to become more resilient to unprecedented coastal storm impacts. Successful applications must address one of the following Priority Categories:

- Conduct climate vulnerability assessments including sea level rise, storm surge, and flooding at critical public facilities.
- Evaluate existing waterfront infrastructure resilience plans and design resilient infrastructure for vital waterfront facilities.
- Identify hazard-prone locations to integrate land conservation and public access planning, guiding development away from vulnerable areas.
- Develop a comprehensive inventory of public tidal access points and working waterfronts. Establish guidelines for responsible use and conservation.
- Review and recommend changes to municipal land use laws that address current and future coastal hazards.

Funding Range: \$20,000-\$50,000

Match Requirements: New! There is no match requirement for the FY2025 grant program.

Reporting Requirements: Semi-annual progress reports and a final report.

When is Funding Available? All questions regarding the Program Statement and Letter of Intent must be submitted by email to Ashley.Gamache@maine.gov by **5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2024**. Responses to all

questions will be compiled in writing and posted on the [Municipal Planning Assistance Program](#) and [Maine Coastal Program](#) websites by 5:00 p.m. on March 8, 2024. Only those answers issued in writing on these websites will be considered binding. Final Applications, by invitation only, are due on **May 31, 2024**, no later than 5:00 p.m. [Program Statement](#) Instructions. All Final Applications must be submitted electronically to Ashley.Gamache@maine.gov.

Relevant Past Projects:

- Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission - Boothbay Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant Coastal Hazard Resilience Project (Boothbay Harbor, Boothbay & Southport), \$20,000, 2016
- Monhegan Plantation: Monhegan Island Alternative Domestic Water Supply Feasibility Study, \$39,240, 2020
- Wiscasset - Waste Water Treatment Plant Coastal Hazard Resilience Project, \$20,000, 2016
- Ogunquit - Addressing the Effects of Land Use on Water Quality in Ogunquit Watershed (in partnership with Wells, York, and South Berwick), \$28,599, 2016

Maine DOT Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund

Program Name and Contact Information: The Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund is a program of the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). Program contact: Taylor LaBrecque, Environmental Office, Maine Department of Transportation, Adaptation.DOT@maine.gov

Grant or Loan: Reimbursement Grant

Who's Eligible? Currently, public entities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP), including municipal and tribal governments, and infrastructure districts.

What Types of Projects are Fundable? Eligible projects include the scoping, design, and/or construction of specific public infrastructure, including stormwater, wastewater, drinking water, public lands, working waterfronts, or transportation infrastructure.

Funding Range: Currently, up to \$50,000 to support scoping and/or design, and up to \$125,000 to support match for construction (cannot be more than 30% of total project cost).

Match Requirements: Currently, minimum 5% of total project cost. In-kind match is permitted.

Reporting Requirements: Annual progress updates and a final project report.

When is Funding Available? This is a new program and is likely to receive more funding in the immediate future. [Check the MDOT website](#) for information about the next grant round and funding caps.

Relevant Past Projects: This is a new program so there are no current projects.

Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant

Program Name and Contact Information: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program is one of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants. BRIC is administered through the Maine

Emergency Management (MEMA) by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. Program contact: Heather Dumais, hmagrants@maine.gov

Grant or Loan? Reimbursement Grant

Who's Eligible? Local Governments, Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and State Agencies who have a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

What Types of Projects are Fundable? Building Code Activities, Promoting Partnerships, Project Scoping, Hazard Mitigation Plans, Managements Costs, Mitigation Planning & Planning Related Activities, Hazard Mitigation Projects

Funding Range: Varies depending on available federal allocation. FY23 allocation for the entire US was \$1,000,000,000. Maine project awards for FY22 ranged from \$13,000 - \$9,000,000.

Match Requirements: Generally, the cost share for this program is 75% federal / 25% non-federal. Non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities are eligible for an increase in cost share up to 90% federal / 10% non-federal.

Reporting Requirements: Quarterly Progress and Financial Reports. Final Closeout Report.

When is Funding Available? The annual application period opens in the fall and closes mid-winter.

Relevant Past Projects: [Review awarded BRIC projects on the FEMA website.](#)

Maine Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)

Program Name and Contact Information: The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) is part of the Division of Environmental and Community Health at the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention. For questions related to the [Drinking Water SRF](#), contact McKenzie Parker, Senior Environmental Engineer at McKenzie.Parker@maine.gov or (207) 557-2255.

Grant or Loan? Low interest reimbursement loan, with potential for partial principal forgiveness (i.e., grant) for disadvantaged community water systems.

Who's Eligible? Public water systems i.e., water districts, municipal water departments, manufactured housing communities, etc.

What Types of Projects are Fundable? Drinking water infrastructure improvement projects such as improving or replacing water system pipes, treatment plants, storage tanks, and sources of water. Funds are also newly available to deal with emerging contaminants including PFAS in drinking water and lead service line replacement. The DWSRF can also fund the construction of a new public water system to serve homes with contaminated individual wells, or to consolidate existing systems into a new regional water system.

Funding Range: The most recent list of projects approved for funding ranged from ~\$300,000 to \$6,000,000.

Match Requirements: There is no match requirement, however, as this is a loan program, the borrower must demonstrate the ability to pay back the funds borrowed over the loan term (up to 30 years or 40 years for disadvantaged communities). Typically repayment starts after construction is completed.

Reporting Requirements: Borrowers must submit planning documentation (engineering reports, facility plans, pilot studies, etc.) to DWP for review and approval prior to bid opening/start of construction. Additionally, this is a reimbursement loan where the borrower has to incur the costs first and then submit a reimbursement request to DWP.

When is Funding Available? DWP sends out a request for applications to all community public water systems during the summer of each year for projects that will be completed during the following year. The 2024 application form can be found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17bGxFzvy1h1TDR_QT-CnKFDZqDcqBoPEfLnZl2Rwgr4/viewform?edit_requested=true (Note DWP is no longer accepting 2024 general project applications, but continues to accept applications for emerging contaminants/PFAS and lead service line replacement projects).

Relevant Past Projects: A list of recent projects approved for funding by DWP can be found here: www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/imt/documents/2024_Primary_Project_List-02092024.pdf and includes a replacement well for the Brunswick & Topsham Water District, emergency generators for a Water Treatment Plant in Sanford, and a water main replacement in Milbridge.

Free SRF Technical and Financial Assistance! The [New England Water Infrastructure Network \(NEWIN\)](#), a program of the New England Environmental Finance Center, offers free financial, managerial, and technical assistance to help public water systems get to the point of applying for and securing SRF funding for project implementation. [Request assistance here!](#)