

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FOUR-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

DECEMBER 2025



MAINE

JOBS AND RECOVERY

PLAN

[MAINE.GOV/JOBSPLAN](https://www.maine.gov/jobsplan)

ABOUT THE MAINE JOBS AND RECOVERY PLAN

The Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan uses Maine’s nearly \$1 billion in State Fiscal Recovery Funds provided by the federal American Rescue Plan Act for strategic investments to relieve the significant toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on Maine’s people, communities, and economy while addressing known, systemic challenges that have constrained our state’s ability to grow and thrive for years.

Governor Mills identified three goals when she introduced the Jobs Plan in 2021:

1. Immediate economic recovery from the pandemic: Ensure Maine businesses stay open, their workers are safe and remain on the job, and our economy is secure in the short term.
2. Long-term economic growth for Maine: Strengthen Maine’s workforce, spur innovation, and draw new people and their families to Maine.
3. Infrastructure revitalization: Revitalize the support systems and community infrastructure that ensure people and families can live healthy and productive lives in Maine.

The plan accomplishes these goals by investing in programs organized across three domains:

- Business Supports that sustain and grow Maine’s small businesses and heritage industries by keeping employer doors open, reducing the costs of doing business, and supporting innovation.
- Job and Career Programs that help Maine workers and students improve their career opportunities by enhancing job training, credential attainment, and experiential learning.
- Investments in Maine People & Communities that strengthen traditional infrastructure and community infrastructure to help create jobs and support Maine workers, families, and employers.

WHAT IS IN THE MAINE JOBS AND RECOVERY PLAN?

BUSINESS SUPPORTS		Small Businesses	New Businesses	Economic Development
Regulatory Reform	Worker Attraction Development + Retention	Heritage Industry + Sector-Specific Supports <i>Agriculture • Commercial Fisheries • Forestry • Innovation Economy • Clean Energy</i>		
JOB + CAREER PROGRAMS		Apprenticeships	Education + Job Training	
Career Exploration	Career Counseling	Health Sector Careers	Clean Energy Careers	
INVESTMENTS IN MAINE PEOPLE + COMMUNITIES				
Broadband	Clean Water	Climate + Energy Efficiency	Early Childhood + Family Caregiving	
Government Services	Housing	Legal Assistance	Outdoor Rec	Public Health + Safety

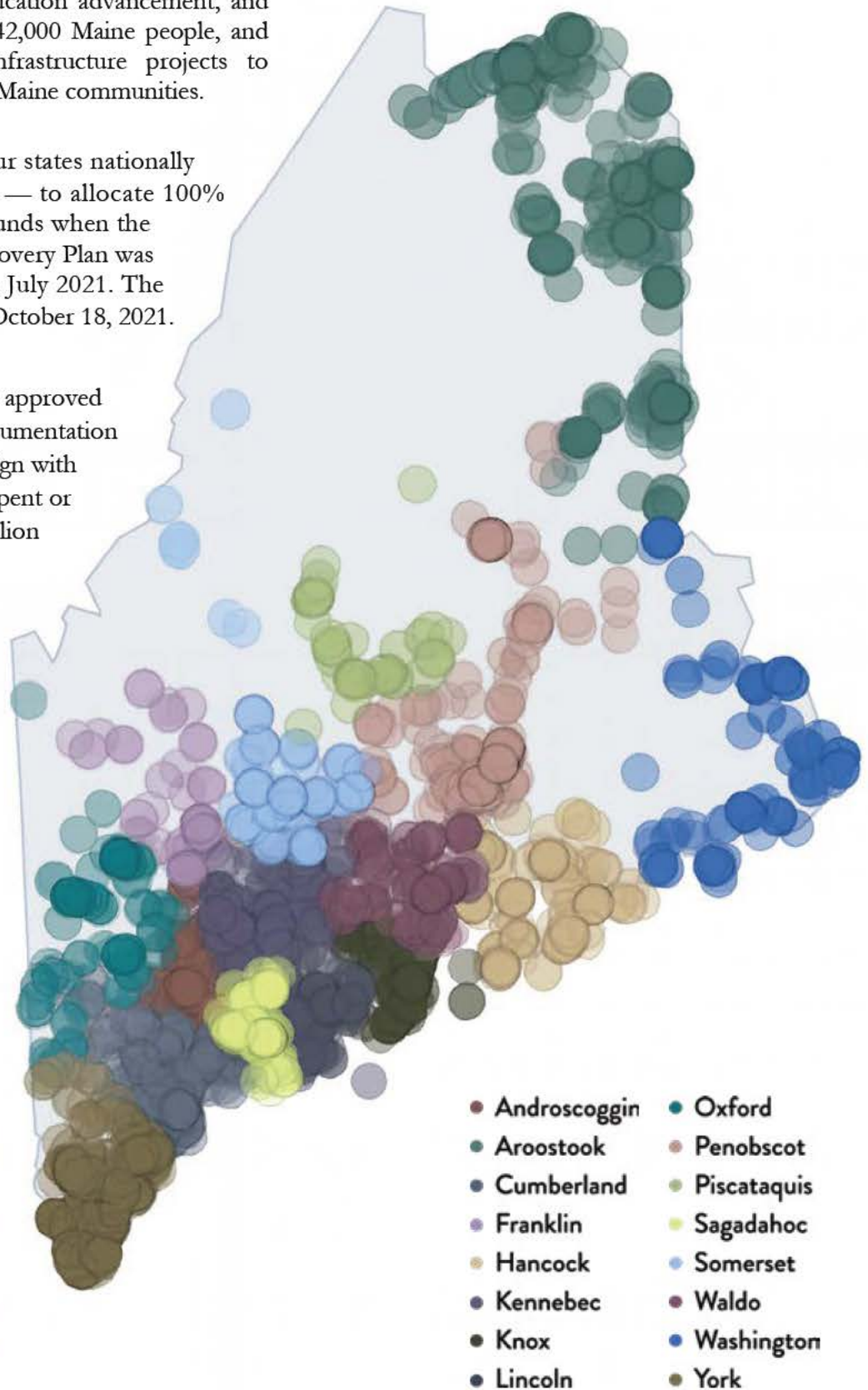
Since the Jobs Plan took effect in October 2021, the Mills Administration has delivered over \$220 million in direct economic relief to thousands of Maine small businesses, invested in workforce programs to offer apprenticeship, career and education advancement, and job training opportunities to 42,000 Maine people, and catalyzed more than 820 infrastructure projects to support families and revitalize Maine communities.

Maine was among the first four states nationally — and first in New England — to allocate 100% of its State Fiscal Recovery Funds when the Governor’s Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan was approved by the legislature in July 2021. The Jobs Plan went into effect on October 18, 2021.

All Jobs Plan funding has been approved through the state’s internal documentation process to ensure these uses align with federal eligibility rules. Maine spent or committed more than \$997 million in Jobs Plan funding to deliver results on behalf of Mainers, as of the federal deadline of Dec. 31, 2024.

Announced grants include support for Maine small businesses and heritage industries, grants to job training organizations, and investments in communities through expanding child care, affordable housing, broadband, and other critical infrastructure. Map data as of December 3, 2025.

Grants Funded Through the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan



MAKING AN IMPACT FOR MAINE

\$220+ MILLION

IN DIRECT ECONOMIC RELIEF TO THOUSANDS OF MAINE SMALL BUSINESSES



Health Insurance Relief



Economic Recovery Grants



Energy Cost Relief

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 42,000 MAINE PEOPLE



Job Training



Apprenticeships



Credential Attainment



Experiential Learning

820+ INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO SUPPORT MAINE PEOPLE, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES



Drinking Water



Wastewater



Climate + Energy Efficiency



Early Education + Childcare



Affordable Housing

JOB AND CAREER PROGRAMS

The Jobs Plan makes historic investments in the development of Maine’s workforce to help Maine people achieve their full potential. Paid work experiences for young people and upgrades to Career and Technical Education programs are strengthening students’ early foundations for rewarding work. Apprenticeships, no- and low-cost job training, and tuition support for credential attainment are providing workers with job skills that unlock well-paying careers. Industry talent partnerships, community-based career counseling, and peer supports are connecting more Mainers to quality jobs and equipping them for success.

JOBS PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

SKILL DEVELOPMENT: Over 11,000 workers enrolled in a job credential or training program

CAREER EXPLORATION: Over 14,000 young people participated in an internship, apprenticeship, or career exploration experience

WORKFORCE OUTREACH: Over 17,000 Mainers received career advancement or navigation assistance

TECHNICAL EDUCATION: 23 schools built out new career and technical education facilities or job training equipment

HELPING MAINE STUDENTS ENTER THE TRADES

Maine needs more plumbers, electricians, builders, and trade professionals. Through the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, Maine has invested \$20 million to expand career and technical education (CTE) across the State, including \$4.5 million in awards to 23 CTE programs to purchase and upgrade equipment to enhance student learning experiences and career preparation for high-skilled, in-demand industries. Nearly 11,000 students, a record high, enrolled in CTE programs across the state this year.



Governor Mills visits with students at Sanford Regional Technical Center, which received a grant of nearly \$117,000 to purchase equipment for its Engineering Architectural Design and Machine Tool Programs in September 2025. Credit: Governor’s Office

BUSINESS SUPPORTS

Jobs Plan business support initiatives are sustaining and growing Maine's small businesses and heritage industries by keeping employer doors open, reducing the costs of doing business, and supporting innovation. These investments have provided direct economic relief to thousands of businesses in every sector of Maine's economy through recovery grants and loans, energy cost support, and health insurance cost relief. Jobs Plan funding also catalyzed business assistance resources for Maine entrepreneurs, expanded the state's domestic trade program to help Maine's small businesses grow sales across the United States, and invested \$80 million into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to mitigate increases to business taxes.

JOBS PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

RECOVERY INVESTMENTS: More than 2,300 Maine small businesses received over \$172 million in recovery and growth financing

ENERGY COST RELIEF: Over 2,900 small businesses received electric utility credits to reduce the burden of elevated energy costs

HEALTH INSURANCE SUPPORT: Approximately 5,700 small businesses were able to more affordably offer health insurance to over 45,000 employees and dependents

GROWING MAINE'S LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR

Maine's life sciences industry is one of the state's fastest-growing sectors. It accounts for nearly 10,000 good-paying jobs and \$2.3 billion in economic activity, fueled by nearly 600 organizations spanning biotechnology, diagnostics and medical devices, marine and aquaculture science, health care innovation, and fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), data science, and bioinformatics.



The Roux Institute and the University of Southern Maine host three life sciences companies in a shared BioPILOT scientific lab. The MJRP-funded Maine Life Sciences Incubator will expand access to spaces like this one for emerging companies in Maine's life sciences industry. Credit: Roux Institute

In September 2025, Governor Mills announced \$2.7 million in Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan grants by the Maine Technology Institute to establish the Maine Life Sciences Incubator, a state-of-the-art laboratory to provide space, equipment, and resources to support emerging companies in the burgeoning life sciences industry. This initiative builds on Governor Mills' creation of the Maine Life Sciences Center, also at MTI, which will attract investment and foster innovation in life sciences by coordinating training, recruitment, and investment strategies across the state.

ADVANCING MAINE'S FARMING ECONOMY

Maine is home to 7,600 farms of all sizes, scales, and agricultural practices. Maine's \$1.3 billion potato industry is deeply rooted in Aroostook County, with 90 percent of the state's 54,000 farmed acres located there, according to the Maine Potato Board. Through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan's \$20 million Agricultural Infrastructure Investment Program and other initiatives, investments in agricultural innovation and manufacturing are advancing cutting-edge research, expanding processing capacity, and supporting hundreds of jobs across The County.



In July 2025, Governor Mills joined the University of Maine to open UMaine's modernized Aroostook Farm, an advanced potato research facility supported by her Jobs Plan. It will drive innovative agricultural research and development, such as new potato varieties like the Caribou Russet, to strengthen Maine's agricultural economy and grow its workforce for the future. Credit: Governor's Office

INVESTMENTS IN MAINE PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

Jobs Plan investments in Maine people and communities are revitalizing the support systems and community infrastructure that ensure people are able to live healthy and productive lives in Maine. Many of these grant funds are helping communities address critical water and climate infrastructure needs without assuming additional debt. Others focus on building out early childhood programs, housing, and broadband. Efficiency programs help reduce the energy cost burden for residents and businesses.

JOBS PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

HOUSING: 566 units under development across 20 projects

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Over 5,500 new or newly full-time child care and pre-kindergarten slots at nearly 300 programs

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Over 3,600 energy efficiency upgrades to businesses, communities, and low-income homeowners

WATER AND CLIMATE: More than 180 investments to upgrade drinking and wastewater systems, or increase infrastructure resilience to climate change

EXPANDING CHILD CARE IN MAINE

The first years of life are critical to forming the basis for learning and social interaction. The pandemic heightened the difficulty that many Maine parents already faced in locating pre-kindergarten or child care during this developmental time, with access gaps especially acute in Maine's rural communities.

With \$25 million from Governor Mills' Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, Child Care Infrastructure and Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grants have added over 5,500 new or newly full-time child care and pre-k slots at nearly 300 programs around the state. These grants enabled existing providers to renovate facilities and increase enrollment, and assisted new providers with startup costs, curriculum development, licensing, and quality ratings.



Left: Governor Janet Mills cuts the ribbon at Space to Thrive, one of nearly 300 child care facilities and family child care providers to receive a grant through her Jobs Plan, in September 2025. The new 6,000-square-foot facility in Windham includes five classrooms for infant, toddler, and preschool age children. Right: Governor Mills cuts the ribbon on a Sanford Child Care Center expansion, funded by her Jobs Plan, in July 2024. The Sanford-Springvale YMCA constructed three new classrooms to accommodate 46 additional children in its child care program and offer full-day Pre-K in partnership with the City of Sanford. Credits: Governor's Office



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