

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2021-2022



MAINE

JOBS AND RECOVERY

PLAN

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

The Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan is Governor Mills' plan, approved by the Legislature, to invest nearly

\$1 BILLION

in federal funds to help Maine recover from effects of the pandemic.

BUILD
an Economy
Poised for Future
Prosperity

IMPROVE
the Lives of Maine
People and Families

HELP
Small
Businesses

CREATE
Good Paying
Jobs

Circles represent recipients of Jobs Plan grant programs. View the complete investment dashboard at maine.gov/jobsplan

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>		
JOBS + 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

Investing in the right solutions for Maine’s long-term growth

Maine was highlighted by the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities as a national leader in deploying American Rescue Plan recovery funds towards talent, jobs, and innovation. The report ranked Maine in the top three states for share of funds allocated towards workforce development, higher education, and business assistance.

The White House has also cited three of Maine’s initiatives in describing American Rescue Plan workforce best practices and the US Department of Treasury, the federal agency charged with overseeing the American Rescue Plan Act, recognized Maine as the lead example of a state investing in job training with federal recovery funds.

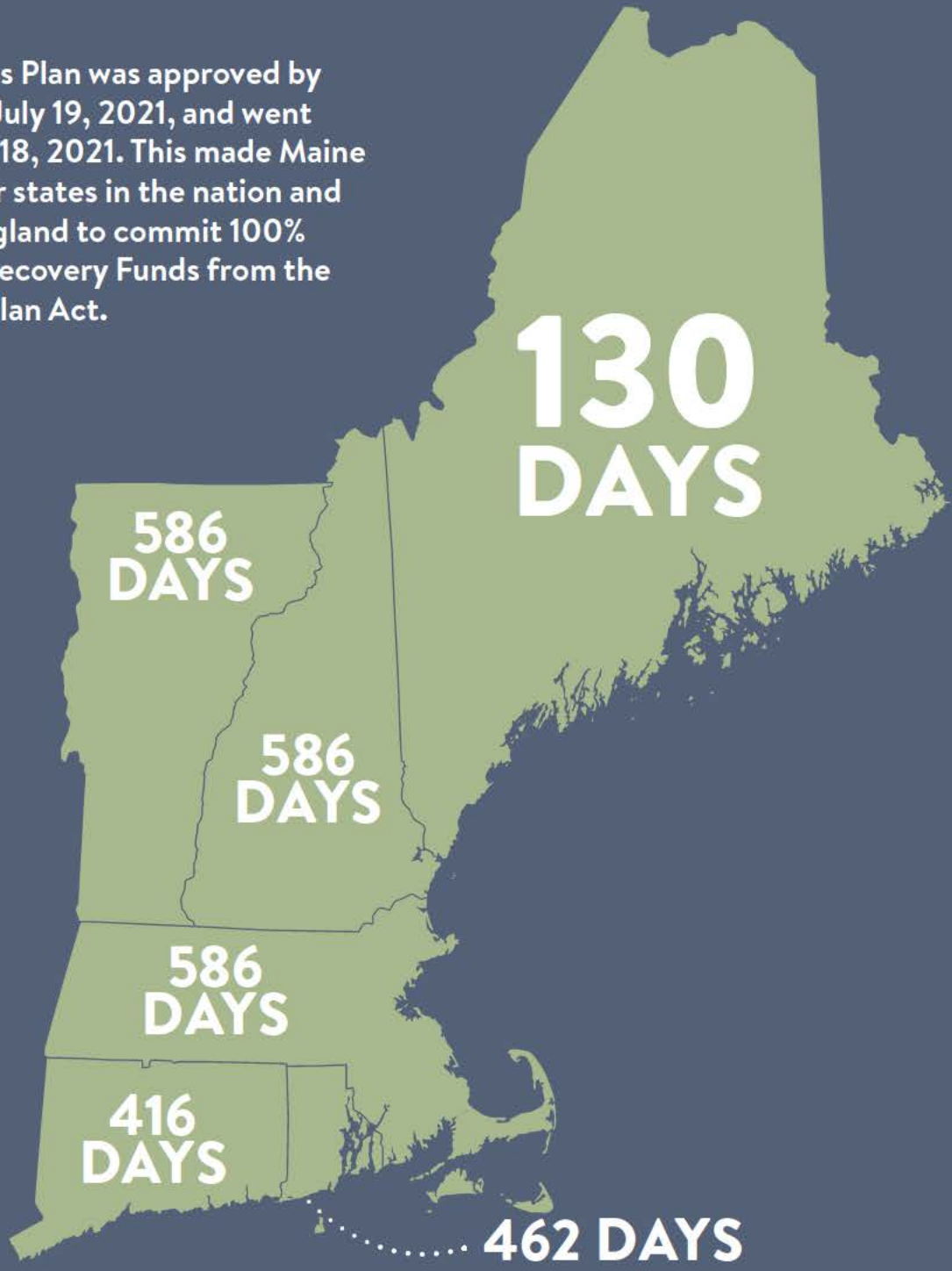


Lydia Worster

EASTERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JOB TRAINING: PHLEBOTOMY

“I never worked in health care before so I was nervous but the learning experience was absolutely amazing. I definitely want to look into more advanced healthcare careers, this training has help me to put my feet into the health-care industry. Three days after my exam I got a job offer. I absolutely love my job and the environment I am in.”

The Governor's Jobs Plan was approved by the Legislature on July 19, 2021, and went into effect on Oct. 18, 2021. This made Maine one of the first four states in the nation and the first in New England to commit 100% of its State Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.



Christopher Fleming

PRESIDENT & COO OF BOURGEOIS GUITARS

“Governor Mills’ continued support of the river of talent running through the veins of Maine’s Maker’s Economy is central not only to the health of organizations like ours, but to the continued vitality of the Maine brand. The support we are receiving from the PRIME Fund will go a long way toward caring for our workforce, buttressing our growth, and helping us as we work to bounce back from the impacts of the pandemic.”

MAKING AN IMPACT FOR MAINE

DIRECT ECONOMIC RELIEF TO NEARLY **1,000 SMALL BUSINESSES**



Health Insurance Relief



Mitigating Unemployment Tax Increases



Economic Recovery Grants

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR **22,000 MAINE PEOPLE**



Job Training



Apprenticeships



Credential Attainment



Experiential Learning

100+ INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO CREATE JOBS AND REVITALIZE MAINE



Drinking Water



Wastewater



Climate + Energy Efficiency



Early Education + Childcare



Affordable Housing

JOBS PLAN UPDATES

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Jobs Plan is helping individuals become employed and improve their careers through job training, credential attainment, education programs, and experiential learning. Workforce investments are focusing on sectors hardest hit by the pandemic and critical to Maine's long-term growth, such as construction, education and child care, health care, heritage industries (agriculture, fishing, forestry), technology, energy, and manufacturing.

To date, the Jobs Plan has enabled Maine's community colleges to enroll 1,000+ students into free and low-cost training programs, with 206 courses planned or underway. State agencies have engaged more than 25 community-based outreach workers to help populations overcome barriers to enter the workforce.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Jobs Plan is providing grant funds to help communities address critical infrastructure needs quickly by leveraging other funding without assuming additional debt.

More than \$54 million in debt-free infrastructure funding across 75 communities for 111 drinking water, sewer, septic system, and infrastructure climate adaptation grants has been awarded to date.

HOUSING

The Jobs Plan is investing \$50 million to support development of approximately 550 homes and rental units across the state through MaineHousing, which is currently reviewing applications and entering into financing agreements for projects.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Jobs Plan is deploying economic recovery grants and forgivable loans to help Maine businesses cover added costs and lost revenues from the pandemic.

These supports provided more than \$169 million in recovery support for Maine's small businesses, including: grants to heritage industries such as fishing, farming, and forestry; investing \$80 million into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to mitigate increases to business taxes and offering \$20 million in health insurance premium relief to help 5,700 small businesses provide health insurance to 44,500 employees and family members.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Jobs Plan is investing \$50 million to expand energy efficiency programs for Maine homeowners and renters, businesses, and public buildings through Efficiency Maine.

To date, Efficiency Maine has accelerated weatherization projects, and opened programs with incentives for hospitality businesses, schools, and municipal buildings to convert to high-efficiency heat pumps for heating and cooling, as well as improve energy efficiency through lighting and refrigeration upgrades.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Jobs Plan is investing \$25 million to expand pre-kindergarten (\$10m) and provide grants to child care centers (\$15m). To date, \$2 million has been utilized by 10 districts to offer new or expanded Pre-K programs to 300 students with further Pre-K and child care grants to be awarded later this year.

To date, the Jobs Plan has enabled Maine's community colleges to enroll 1,000+ students into free and low-cost training programs, with 206 courses planned or underway.



A commercial driver's license (CDL) training course at Eastern Maine Community College funded by the Jobs Plan.

JOBS PLAN SPOTLIGHT

Health Care Workforce

HEALTH CARE TRAINING FOR ME

Campaign launched in April 2022 to provide health care career navigation and tuition assistance for health care employees, individuals interested in careers in health care, and employers seeking to upskill their workforce.

MCCS TRAINING PROGRAMS

To date, 1,163 slots have been approved for no-cost health care training courses through the Maine Community College System, with a total of 678 enrollees.

TUITION REMISSION

To date, 160 healthcare workers are enrolled in free or low-cost training to advance in their careers, across sectors including behavioral health, dental, long-term care, and EMS.

CARING FOR ME

Campaign launched in April 2022 to recruit workers for direct care and behavioral health career opportunities through combination of digital outreach, website with current jobs and events including job fairs throughout the state.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

- Expanded the apprenticeship program at MaineHealth which will fund an estimated 45 apprenticeships and over 500 pre-apprenticeships.
- Partnered with local schools including Foster CTE, Somerset CTE, Gorham School District to expand existing and establish new EMT and CNA pre-apprenticeship programs for young adults.
- Established new pre-apprenticeship programs at Lewiston and Portland Adult Education, including a partnership with Northern Light to train up to 120 pre-apprentices in medical office staff and medical assisting.

HEALTH CARE RECRUITMENT

Campaign to market health care as a meaningful, rewarding career that provides opportunity for advancement and good pay and benefits, leading to more than 650 applications submitted for healthcare jobs to date.

Angela Levesque

CENTRAL MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRAINING: PHLEBOTOMY

“[My son] and I thought it would be a good experience to take a class together. I made sure he got accepted first as I did not want to take away from him getting one of the spots. Now it can also further my career and possibly open new doors and opportunities!”



Elizabeth Libby

EASTERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRAINING: REMOTE WORK IN HEALTH OCCUPATIONS

“The teachers were phenomenal, I was in transition from working to becoming a stay at home mom, often attending classes with a baby glued to me! That understanding and relationships helped make this a wonderful experience. I’d like to pursue a career in the health administration side, such as a paralegal.”



JOBS PLAN SPOTLIGHT

Heritage Industries

The Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan includes three initiatives to support the economic recovery of Maine’s heritage industries – forestry, fishing and farming – from impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the last year, the Governor’s Jobs Plan has awarded approximately \$41 million in economic recovery funds to 391 businesses in these heritage sectors across all 16 counties in Maine.

COUNTY	FUNDING
ANDROSCOGGIN	\$51,520
AROOSTOOK	\$2,378,475
CUMBERLAND	\$4,141,997
FRANKLIN	\$247,746
HANCOCK	\$3,154,081
KENNEBEC	\$119,303
KNOX	\$1,987,029
LINCOLN	\$1,454,698
OXFORD	\$487,920
PENOBSCOT	\$1,566,986
PISCATAQUIS	\$245,530
SAGadahoc	\$660,000
SOMERSET	\$615,429
WALDO	\$143,302
WASHINGTON	\$1,260,079
YORK	\$2,898,786

MAINE JOBS AND RECOVERY PLAN PROGRAMS		
	GRANT RECIPIENTS	FUNDING
Agricultural Infrastructure Investment Program	64	\$19,277,860
Maine Seafood Dealer and Processor COVID-19 Response and Resilience Grant Program	106	\$15,253,306
Forestry Recovery Initiative	221	\$6,159,574
TOTAL	391	\$40,690,740



Alex de Koning

OWNER, HOLLANDER & DE KONING

“We are extremely grateful to be awarded this grant which will make our small business more resilient. This funding enables us to purchase a machine that produces mussel packaging for retail. Because of this, we are proud to announce that, in partnership with our local distributor Maine Shellfish, we will be supplying over 150 Hannaford supermarkets with fresh, local mussels. Our family is ecstatic to continue supporting our local communities by providing high-quality local seafood to Mainers.”

Bill Kearns

VICE PRESIDENT, LACASSE & WESTON, INC.

“For over thirty years, LaCasse & Weston, Inc. has prioritized the pulp and paper industry in Maine, and this type of support from the state keeps us excited for the future. We’re excited to promote the growth of molded fiber as a reemerging industry in the state.”





Visit the award-winning Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan website for more details about investments, programs and upcoming opportunities.



See the
Dashboard



Search the
Programs



Sign Up for
Email Updates

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