



New England
Environmental
Finance Center



Casco Bay Estuary
PARTNERSHIP

Building Strong Communities with Grant Funding

Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

5:30 - 5:40 p.m. Introductions and Overview by *Martha Sheils, New England Environmental Finance Center*

Funding for community resilience is everywhere these days, but what can that do for your community? Building strong, resilient communities can look like many things - expanding broadband access, upgrading road and culvert infrastructure, or workforce and economic development initiatives. Municipal capacity to unlock funds for these needs is often in short supply. This workshop will help build connections between technical assistance providers and municipalities to help get projects done.

5:40 - 6:10 p.m. Community Success Stories: Collaborating to Secure Funds and Implement Projects facilitated by *Victoria Boundy, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership*

We will learn how other inland communities have tackled funding needs and secured resources to get projects done from guest speakers *Jay Kamm, Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC)* and *Kelly Rehberg, Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)*, followed by Q&A.

- 2-question poll followed by short break -

6:25 - 7:05 p.m. Regional Breakout Groups: Connecting Communities and Partners facilitated by *New England Environmental Finance Center and Casco Bay Estuary Partnership*

Municipal representatives will be invited to speak to their needs and challenges moving projects forward, while technical assistance providers will share the types of expertise and services they offer (e.g., grant writing support, engineering services, community engagement, etc.). Participants will have a chance to discuss and network with others in their region.

- *Northern & Eastern Maine (with NMDC, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Sunrise County Economic Council)*
- *Central, Western & Midcoast Maine (with Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, Midcoast Council of Governments)*
- *Southern Maine A (with GPCOG)*
- *Southern Maine B (with Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)*



This workshop is funded by a grant from the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.



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7:05 - 7:25 p.m. Debrief & Discussion: Inland Community Priorities and Challenges

facilitated by *Chloe Shields, New England Environmental Finance Center*

Each regional breakout group will share key priorities, challenges, and other notable discussion items. Time permitting, the full group will discuss opportunities for further coordination and collaboration between multiple towns and state and regional partners to achieve common goals.

7:25 - 7:30 p.m. Wrap Up & Closing by *Chloe Shields, New England Environmental Finance Center*



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