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**Maine Connectivity Authority**

**Presentation to Joint Standing Committee  
on Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

**December 7, 2021**

# Statutory Goals

## 35-A MRS § 9403

High-speed connectivity be universally available in the State, including to all residents, businesses and community anchor institutions;

There be secure, affordable, reliable, competitive and sustainable forward-looking advanced communications technology infrastructure that can meet current and future needs;

All residents, businesses and institutions in the State be able to take full advantage of the economic, health, educational and other opportunities available through connectivity services; and

Existing public and private infrastructure be used effectively and efficiently in the public interest to provide advanced communications technology infrastructure in all areas of the State.

# Board

## **Appointed:**

Carlos Barrionuevo

John Chandler

Danielle Louder

Michael Reed

Tim Schneider

Rob Souza

## **Ex Officio:**

Fred Brittain - Chief Information Officer, State of Maine

Carlos Mello – Acting Chief Executive Officer, FAME

David Demers – Chief Information Officer, Umaine System

Heather Johnson – Commissioner, DECD

# MCA Funding Sources

| Source  | Amount   | Timing  |
|---|--|---|
| Unallocated American Rescue Plan (ARP)                    | \$21 M   | October 2021 (\$10M)<br>October 2022 (\$11 M)             |
| ARP Capital Projects Fund – State Block Grant             | \$128 M  | January 2021  |
| <b>2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</b>        |  |   |
| Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program           | \$100M minimum, additional funds based on Maine’s proportional share of unserved locations | TBD, NTIA to establish program w/in 6 months of enactment |
| Digital Equity Capacity Grant and Planning Grant Programs | Funding, amount to be calculated by NTIA by formula, for states to develop and implement   | October 2022  |

## Also:

- Emergency Broadband Benefit/Affordable Connectivity Program
- Middle Mile Competitive Grants (\$1B)
- Digital Equity Competitive Grants (\$1.25 B)

# Upcoming Tasks and Dates

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- December 27, 2021 - Capital Projects Fund – Grant Plan submission
- January 15, 2022 – Annual Report
  - Budget, activities, investments, analysis of availability of communications resources
- January 15, 2022 – ConnectME Authority recommendation to EUT Committee
- February 1, 2022 – Financial policies and procedures (5 MRSA 12022)
- “The new Maine Connectivity Authority will collaborate with organizations representing marginalized and historically disadvantaged groups when making determinations regarding the distribution of these funds.”