



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

HEATHER JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

January 14, 2022

Honorable Chip Curry, Senate Chair
Honorable Tiffany Roberts, House Chair
Committee on Innovation Development, Economic Advancement and Business
100 State House Station, Room 202
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: CY2021 The Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Annual Report

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and members of the IDEAB Committee:

Title 5 §13056-I directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to submit an annual report each year providing information on the Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant program, including the number of grants given and the results achieved.

The Department is working in partnership with the Leadership Maine cohort led by the Maine Development Foundation. The cohort at Leadership Maine has been working on collecting data and conducting interviews with communities and leaders in the targeted counties to ensure the designed program meets the goals of the law.

Once feedback is gathered, the Department, along with its partner, will enter the rulemaking process to implement the Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant. The initial grants under this program will then be issued prior to June 30th, 2022.

As of January 13th, 2022 no grants have been awarded.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Jonathan Poole, Large Business Development Manager, at jonathan.poole@maine.gov or (207) 624-9869.

Sincerely,

Heather Johnson
Commissioner