



To: 131st Legislature Joint Standing Committee on Housing

From: Daniel Brennan, Director

Date: January 24, 2023

Subject: \$22M Appropriation to MaineHousing from State General Fund Supplemental Budget

Part WW of the State of Maine's Fiscal Year 2022/2023 General Fund Supplemental Budget appropriated \$22M of the State's General Fund unappropriated surplus to MaineHousing to specifically assist in addressing the emergency housing needs of people experiencing, or at imminent risk of experiencing, homelessness. The intent is to assist people more quickly than would be possible through the permitting and construction of new housing units, which typically takes 24-36 months.

MaineHousing and the Governor's Senior Advisor on Housing Policy jointly crafted a plan that has allocated the funding to:

- Serve at any one time up to 280 individuals experiencing homelessness in two hotels in South Portland, through contracts with Greater Portland Health, Spurwink, Preble Street, the City of Portland, and the City of South Portland;
- Provide additional emergency shelter space in Portland;
- House and provide services through Catholic Charities of Maine to 85+ asylum seeker families comprising over 300 individuals who would otherwise experience homelessness, for one year; Fund housing stability and rapid rehousing contracts in Bangor, Aroostook County, Waterville/Augusta, and York County to move households experiencing homelessness to permanent housing;
- Fund the rapid renovation of an extended stay hotel in Bangor into 36 units of permanent housing for individuals experiencing homelessness;
- Provide Rental Assistance and capital dollars to leverage other funding allowing for the conversion of 175 rental units to affordable housing for asylum seekers, who are at risk of homelessness, due to their delayed ability to work under federal immigration laws; and
- Fund targeted programs at the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project and Hope Acts that assist asylum seekers with legally attaining asylum, work permits, and other legal documentation needed in order to be self-sufficient and successful.

Allocation Summary

The following table shows the funds are allocated as of January 9, 2023. Some are subject to change as unused budgeted funds are returned for reallocation elsewhere.

\$ 278,000	Services for 7 months to prevent eviction of 280 individuals from hotels in South Portland
500,000	Funding for services to allow the opening of "Elena's Way" shelter in Portland for 40 individuals
1,515,000	Housing Stability and Rapid Rehousing (Bangor, Aroostook County, Augusta, Waterville, York County)
4,300,000	100 Hotel Rooms for 12 months in Saco serving approximately 85 asylum seeker families (>300 individuals)
823,000	Required Services (10 hrs/day 7 days/week) at Saco Hotel
1,050,000	Capital Grant for 60 Units of permanent housing in Brunswick
4,000,000	Capital Grant for 36 Units of permanent housing in Bangor
1,500,000	Capital Grant for 48 Units of permanent housing in Portland
6,325,000	Rental Assistance for 175 asylum seeker families for 48 months
850,000	Targeted programs at ILAP and Hope Acts to assist asylum seekers in more quickly entering the workforce
750,000	Reserved for Lewiston/Auburn/Brunswick (have had discussions with City and service providers about providing proposals)
<u>109,000</u>	Reserved for 16 units of Housing in Portland - with services
<u>\$ 22,000,000</u>	