

Home. It's more important than ever.



Throughout the month of June, MaineHousing staff have worked hard on a number of initiatives. Our COVID-19 response continues with our COVID-19 Rent Relief Program extended to cover June rent (see below for more information). We continue to work closely with municipalities, homeless shelters, the Maine Department of Health and

Human Services, and others on a number of initiatives to make sure people who are homeless, immigrant families, agricultural workers, and other individuals in congregate living situations have a place to shelter or quarantine.

Our Qualified Allocation Plan, MaineHousing's competitive process to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), was approved by our Board of Commissioners and signed by Governor Mills. We will release it soon – keep an eye out. Our Board of Commissioners also agreed to allow our new State Low Income Housing Tax Credit rule to proceed to official rulemaking. The \$10 million/year state tax credit for the development and preservation of affordable housing was passed during the last legislative session. We've continued through the pandemic to develop a rule governing its use. We'll have a public hearing on that rule in August and seek our Board's approval in September. If all goes according to plan, we'll begin allocating the credit this fall.

In addition to our "regular" work, we are officially moved into our new office at 26 Edison Drive in Augusta! While we continue to provide MaineHousing's full range of services, our office remains closed to the public. We look forward to the time when we can welcome the public and our partners to our new home.

We hope you and yours are happy and healthy and that you are enjoying the beauty of Maine in the summer! As always, please be in touch if you have any questions or comments about our work.

**MaineHousing Receives Additional HEAP Funds**

Why might one apply for heating assistance when it's 80 degrees out? Because we have more funding!

Thanks to CARES Act funding, Maine received \$3 million additional Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) funds for this program year, which ends on July 15, 2020. With limited time to spend the funds, MaineHousing has engaged in a big marketing push to get the word out about the looming deadline, so please share this information with anyone who may find it helpful!

We've updated our income guidelines to help more people whose income has dropped due to COVID-19 circumstances. This includes looking at the current income of the household versus a 3-month or 12-month review of income. Those who already received a HEAP benefit this year are not eligible to apply until the next program year, which starts on August 24, 2020.

For more program information, including how to apply, visit our HEAP page on our website.

**COVID-19 Rent Relief Covers June Rent - New Program in the Works**

Earlier this month, Governor Mills and MaineHousing announced an extension of the COVID-19 Rent Relief Program, the program for Mainers who cannot pay their rent due to COVID-19. The program now covers April, May, or June rent.

"We know that COVID-19 has highlighted the significant range of Mainers' housing challenges," said Daniel Brennan, Director of MaineHousing, in a release. "We're happy to continue providing support to those who need it most."

To date the program has contributed to the rent of more than 5,550 families and is on pace to exceed 9,000 in the coming weeks.

MaineHousing is currently working with our partners at the Department of Economic and Community Development on a similar program, which we plan to announce soon. For more information about the current program and application materials, please click here.

**June is Homeownership Month!**



June is Homeownership Month, and although the market has changed somewhat due to COVID-19, our First Home Loan program is performing well. With 455 loan purchases and over 300 more currently in the pipeline, the total value of the loans purchased is up 30% what it was this time last year.

We are glad we continue to be in a position to help Mainers buy their first home. We are here whether home searches as paused because of COVID-19 or if people are moving forward with their purchasing plans. For information about our First Home Loan program, check out our website.



MaineHousing's Board of Commissioners will meet on August 18, 2020 at 9 am via teleconference. For more information about how to listen in on the meeting, please contact us.



MaineHousing Homeownership:  
As of June 22, 2020

**Purchases: 455**  
This is up 12% over June 2019.

The total value of the loans purchased in 2020 is \$68,526,214, which is up 30% from the same period in 2019.

There are 303 homes in the pipeline at \$43,283,433 in value.



Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

As of June 22, 2020:

Total applications: 44,985  
Pending: 5,093  
Confirmed Eligible: 34,844



MaineHousing  
26 Edison Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 626-4600 • (800) 452-4668  
Maine Relay 711



Share this email:



[Manage your preferences](#) | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
[View this email online](#).

353 Water Street  
Augusta, ME | 04330 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.