

MaineHousing Summer/Fall 2024



It's been a busy summer season for MaineHousing but that doesn't mean our team didn't find time to relax and enjoy the summer a little bit. As the saying goes, "Work hard, play hard." Or is it "rest hard"? The photo above is just one of many shared by MaineHousing staff members as they checked off items from their summer bucket lists as part of the agency's ActWell Summer Challenge. (Photo by MaineHousing Planning and Research Coordinator Tracey Anderson.)

Mr. Director Goes to Washington, D.C.



MaineHousing Director Dan Brennan, right, joined Genesis Community Loan Fund Executive Director Liza Fleming-Ives, center, and USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Dr. Basil I. Gooden, Ph.D., for a photo following a White House Round Table on Rural Housing in late July. (Photo courtesy the Genesis Community Loan Fund)



Genesis

COMMUNITY LOAN FUND

MaineHousing's Director Dan Brennan has been representing the agency's good work far and wide this summer including a meeting at the White House in late July.

Brennan joined a specially convened Round Table to discuss what was working and how Maine was making progress in expanding available affordable housing in the more rural parts of the state. Dan was joined by Liza Fleming-Ives, Executive Director of the Genesis Community Loan Fund, a key partner and player in Maine's efforts to expand rural affordable housing.

The gathering, which was hosted by the White House Domestic Policy Council and Office of Public Engagement, included USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Dr. Basil I. Gooden, Ph.D., HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development Marlon Mollesan McEadden, USDA Rural Housing Service Administrator Joaquin Altoro, and other officials.

The discussion highlighted programs from around the country that are aimed at building more housing and lowering housing costs in rural communities. Dan and Liza were honored to share insights on rural affordable housing progress being made in Maine, noting the support and enthusiasm for new housing initiatives that have been championed by Governor Janet Mills and the Maine Legislature.

Dan also shared information about the success Maine has seen with MaineHousing administered development programs resulting from that support and enthusiasm.

One example is the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program, which continues to help add affordable homes to areas of the state where other subsidy programs are less likely to be utilized.

The invitation and Dan's featured role in the discussion are an honor for MaineHousing, and another example of how the work done here is being recognized and replicated around the country, reaffirming Maine's motto: Dirig'ol

Dan also participated, along with MaineHousing's Senior Director of Homeless Initiatives Lauren Bustard, in a New England Homeless Summit called together by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Worcester, Massachusetts. The summit featured homeless response leaders from around New England as they swapped challenges and success stories and shared ideas for improving the housing opportunities for those experiencing homelessness across the region.

In July, Director Brennan traveled to Kansas City, Missouri to participate in an annual Executive Directors Forum hosted by the National Council of State Housing Agencies.



First Supportive Housing Units Open in Presque Isle

MaineHousing Director Daniel Brennan and Development Director Mark Wiesendanger joined in the opening celebration of a new 13-unit supportive housing complex developed by Aroostook County Community Action Program (ACAP) in Presque Isle.

The development is the first of its kind north of Portland and will help stabilize the lives of those experiencing homelessness in the Presque Isle area.

The new development was named for ACAP's first director, Norman Fournier, who is pictured cutting the ribbon above. Fournier is also an Aroostook County Commissioner.

"Norman L. Fournier Place, much like the man for whom the building is named, will serve as a beacon for the most vulnerable among us," said ACAP Executive Director Jason Parent. Parent is in the photo above at far right.

Several Maine news outlets covered the opening ceremonies, including the [Presque Isle Star Herald](#) and [WCSH-6 NewsCenter Maine](#).

Celebrating First Home Lenders and Homeownership with the Portland Sea Dogs in June



Sunday, June 23rd was a first for MaineHousing as we joined with our top lending partners, Bangor Savings Bank and CMG Financial Services to celebrate homeownership during a Portland Sea Dogs' game at Hadlock Field.

The event was a hit by every measure, with even the weather cooperating, as predicted thunderstorms and threatened tornadoes held off for the Dogs' contest against the Flying Squirrels of Richmond, Virginia.

As a way to "get outside of the digital marketing footprint" and meet potential home buyers in person in a fun, family-friendly environment, MaineHousing sponsored the game and invited our top lending partners to join us.

More than 3,500 fans were in attendance for the game and MaineHousing distributed all 1,000 of its tiny baseball bat key chains with our logo. The take-away item was meant as fun way to remind people that when they want to hit a "home" run they should turn to MaineHousing!

During the 2nd and 3rd Innings, MaineHousing's Director Daniel Brennan joined Bangor Savings Bank's Senior Loan Officer David Roberts in the radio broadcast booth, high above the game in the press box, for an in-game interview. Dan and Dave spoke on how home ownership is KEY in building financial stability and how BSB (our top lender) and MaineHousing work together to help Mainers find their way home.

"At first, home ownership is an achievement and it makes sense financially for you to do that, but I think it's more about family and setting up your family and what a home means. A home is a gathering place and when you can buy your first home, it's just so meaningful, for you, your family, your future."
- Daniel Brennan, MaineHousing

"Homeownership is a major milestone. And it can unlock financial independence, stability. It can help build wealth and equity and it fosters a sense of community."
- David Roberts, Bangor Savings Bank



Eviction Prevention Pilot Program, Maine EPP Set to Open in the Fall

MaineHousing and a host of partners have been hard at work developing and designing a new Eviction Prevention Program to open later this fall.

The \$18 million Maine Eviction Prevention Pilot Program will officially begin in October and is funded through a one-time appropriation in the state supplemental budget bill passed into law in June of 2024.

MaineHousing has been directed to use these monies to help tenants who are facing an eviction proceeding and are at risk of losing their housing.

News of this new funding and program has prompted understandable interest from advocates and especially tenants who may be struggling to pay their rent.

That interest has resulted in a steady wave of calls to the agency and to partners that help with rental and housing programs across the state.

Here's what you need to know about the Maine Eviction Prevention Pilot Program.



Key Eligibility Requirements

- A household must be at risk of eviction, such as having past due rent notices, other correspondence from a landlord indicating past due rent, or eviction notices due to rent owed.
- The household's past due rent amount is at or below \$19,200 in total.
- The household's income is below 60% of area median income (AMI) for the area where they live. This includes all household income, not just the applicant's income.
- The household, at the time of the application, is neither using a federal housing voucher to pay rent, nor is living in a subsidized housing unit. Households living in a LIHTC property are eligible.
- The household has a current landlord-tenant relationship supported by a lease or other documentation sufficient to demonstrate a landlord-tenant relationship.
- The household has a rental payment that is no more than 125% of the fair market rent of the area in which they live.
- Additional eligibility requirements may also apply, and they will be available in the final program guide upon its publication before the program launches.



[Click here to read more about the Eviction Prevention Pilot Program](#)



Have you had a lobster roll yet this summer? Here's one with fries from McLoons Lobster Shack in South Thomaston, that MaineHousing User Interface/User Experience Designer Amanda Ouletta added to the summer bucket-list photo album. Get one while it's still summer out!

Join MaineHousing's team



You can find a list of MaineHousing's open positions by visiting the [CAREERS PAGE](#) on our website.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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MaineHousing is a mission-driven, independent, quasi-state agency created in 1969 by the Maine State Legislature to address the problems of unsafe, unsuitable, overcrowded, and unaffordable housing. A \$2.5 billion financial institution with a staff of over 190 people, MaineHousing is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor. Each year MaineHousing assists more than 90,000 Maine households to buy, heat, rent, and repair their homes while also investing more than \$750 million in the Maine economy.

