

Maine Trails Coalition

Government-Based Funding Sources

This document lists federal and state funding sources that could apply to multi-use path and trail projects in Maine. The list has a focus on trail funding for nonprofits and municipalities. Aside from general operating/municipal budgets, MaineDOTs State Transportation Improvement Program, and private fundraising, the most common (and highly applicable) sources of funding for these projects are the **Recreational Trails Program, MaineDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Funding Program, Federal Earmarks, and RAISE grants.**

The table below is intended to provide a quick snapshot of potential funding options. State, and particularly federal, funding is very complicated and grant programs continue to evolve, so please use the provided websites to find detailed information and requirements for specific programs. Additionally, the Maine Trails Coalition, the East Coast Greenway Alliance, MaineDOT, Maine's Bureau of Parks & Lands, and your local planning organizations can provide recommendations and guidance on selecting and applying for various programs. Please reach out!

Program & Agency	Eligible Projects	Eligible Applicants	Key Details
MaineDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Funding Program Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program (Funded through FHWA) Website: https://www.maine.gov/mdot/pa/ga/funding/	Design & Construction Sidewalks Bike Lanes Multi-Use Paths Intersection Safety Improvements Bike/Pedestrian Crossing Improvements Traffic Calming Gateway Treatments Roadway width reallocation for bike/ped improvements	Municipalities	Talk to MaineDOT first. Projects must be ready for construction within 3 years. a 20% match is required. Typically, awarded projects are between \$300K & \$1 million.
Recreational Trails Program Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry - Bureau of Parks & Lands (Funded through FHWA) Website: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/grants/recreational_trails_program.shtml	Acquisition, Design, Construction, Maintenance: Restoration of Existing Trails Trailheads, trail side facilities, connecting trails. New trails Land acquisition and easements.	Municipalities Nonprofits	20% match required.

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Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Maine DACF (Funded through NPS). Website: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/grants/land_water_conservation_fund.html	Acquisition & Redevelopment: Public Outdoor Recreation Areas ADA Access Improvements for Public Outdoor Rec. Areas.	Municipalities Tribes School Districts	Covers up to 50% of eligible costs. Max grant award \$1 million.
ATV Grants Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry - Bureau of Parks & Lands Website (Municipal Grants): https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/grants/atv_grants/municipal.html Website (Club Grants): https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/grants/atv_grants/club.html	Design: Trail Bridges Construction & Maintenance: Trails Portable Toilets Park & Rides	Municipalities ATV Clubs	Municipal grants are larger amounts (for larger projects) and require a match. Club grants are smaller amounts and do not require a match. Maintenance is prioritized over the expansion of new trails.
Village Partnership Initiative MaineDOT Website: https://www.maine.gov/mdot/pa/cbi/village/	Planning: Bike, pedestrian, and connectivity improvements within a village center. Intersection improvements Streetscapes	Municipalities	Large Transformative Track: Placemaking and village-wide improvements and investments. Small Spot Track: Gateway treatments, crossing improvements, ADA improvements.
Planning Partnership Initiative MaineDOT Website: https://www.maine.gov/mdot/pa/pi/	Planning: Active transportation alternatives Multi-modal planning Renderings Cost estimates	Municipalities	Covers time-sensitive, locally-initiated planning and feasibility studies.

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Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainability and Equitably (RAISE) USDOT - FHWA. Website: https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants	Planning, Design & Construction: Bike/Ped. Facilities Bridges	Municipalities Tribes	Large projects that must have a significant local/regional impact. Typical urban project min: \$5 Million Typical rural project min. \$1 Million.
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) USDOT Website: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A	Planning: Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Planning, Design, & Construction: Projects resulting from safety/action plan including Multi-Use Paths, Complete Streets, and Intersection Improvements	Municipalities Tribes Partnering with schools or nonprofits is encouraged	In order to get implementation funding, the applicant needs a comprehensive safety action plan (can be funded through this grant) or have a comparable plan in place that covers the entire jurisdiction.
Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program Department of Energy Website: https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program	Design & Construction Bike Lanes Pathways Pedestrian Walkways Micro Mobility programs (Bike/Scooter shares).	Municipalities Tribes	Projects must reduce fossil fuel emissions. Eligible projects fall under "Category 7, Conservation of Transportation Energy."
Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods Program USDOT Website: https://www.transportation.gov/reconnecting	Planning, Design, Demolition, Construction: Removing, Retrofit of an existing eligible facility that 'divides' communities. Replacement of eligible facilities. Access improvements Complete streets.	Municipalities Nonprofits (Planning only - unless Construction is a partnership w/ facility owner)	Projects must involve a road, street, rail line or other transportation facility that creates a barrier to community connectivity. Planning: 80% Federal, 20% Local Match Capital Construction: 50% Federal, 50% local.

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Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) FHWA Website: https://www.transportation.gov/rural/grant-toolkit/active-transportation-infrastructure-investment-program-atiip	Planning, Design, Construction: Connections using active transportation facilities.	Municipalities Tribes	Highly competitive depending on annual funding. Planning minimum: \$100K Construction minimum: \$15 Million.
Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grant Funding Track 1 - Community Driven Investments for Change EPA Website: https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program	Design & Construction: Protected Bike Lanes Walking Paths Bike shares	Partnerships Between: Two community based non-profit organizations. A community based organization and a tribe, a municipality, or a higher ed. institution.	Projects must be in Environmental Justice Communities. Target Investment Areas include tribes and disadvantaged unincorporated communities.
National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Megaprojects) USDOT Website: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/rural-surface-transportation-grant-program	Construction: Highway, bridge Freight rail Intercity passenger rail Railway-highway grade crossing or grade separation project	Municipalities	Funds large, multi-million dollar, complex transportation infrastructure projects that can include multi-modal or bike/ped. improvements
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program	Construction, Rehab, & Acquisition: At-risk coastal infrastructure including bridges, roadways, pedestrian walkways, bike lanes, culverts.	Municipalities	Focuses on strengthening transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards. Can also fund conservation, restoration and riparian projects.

Program & Agency	Eligible Projects	Eligible Applicants	Key Details
<p>FHWA</p> <p>Website: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/discretionary/</p>			
<p>Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development</p> <p>Federal Transit Administration.</p> <p>Website: https://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot</p>	<p>Planning: Improve access to transit hubs for bike/ped traffic.</p>	<p>Local Government Authority</p>	<p>Planning work must be associated with a new fixed guideway or core capacity transit project.</p>
<p>Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program</p> <p>EDA</p> <p>Website: https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/recompete-pilot-program</p>	<p>Planning: Strategy Development</p> <p>Construction: Infrastructure</p>	<p>Municipalities</p> <p>Economic Development entities.</p> <p>Non-Profit</p>	<p>Focuses on creating and connecting workers to good jobs in geographically diverse and distressed communities</p>
<p>Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)</p> <p>USDOT</p> <p>Website: https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/financing/tifia</p>	<p>Construction</p> <p>Surface Transportation Projects</p>	<p>Municipalities</p> <p>Private Entities</p>	<p>Financing Program - Not a Grant.</p> <p>Large Scale Projects</p>

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Recreation, Economy for Rural Communities EPA Website: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/recreation-economy-rural-communities	Planning: Trail Connections to Outdoor Assets Developing/Expanding Trail Networks Equitable Outdoor Access	Municipalities Tribes Non-Profits	Prioritized regions/towns: Small/rural towns, economically disadvantaged areas, tribal communities, the Northern Border Region of Maine.
Federal Lands to Parks Program NPS Website: https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1508/index.htm	Planning & Acquisition: Park and recreation facilities on surplus federal land.	Municipalities	Requires local surplus federal land.
Federal Earmarks			
Community Projects Funding & Congressionally Directed Spending US House of Representatives US Senate Website: https://www.transit.dot.gov/grant-programs/community-project-fundingcongressionally-directed-spending	Planning, Design, & Construction: Public Infrastructure	Municipalities Non-Profits	Community support for the project and coordination with your local congressional office is critical. Highly discretionary Earmarks are not consistently available every year. Availability and timing of applications varies by year.
Technical Assistance Programs			

Program & Agency	Eligible Projects	Eligible Applicants	Key Details
River, Trails, & Conservation Assistance NPS Website: https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm#:~:text=NPS%20RTCA%20assists%20communities%20and.financial%20assistance%20or%20monetary%20grants.	Technical Assistance & Planning: Park, Conservation area, river, and wildlife restoration. Outdoor recreation opportunities	Municipalities Non-Profits Tribes "Citizens Groups"	Provides planning, design, technical expertise, and community engagement assistance.
Thriving Communities USDOT Website: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities	Technical Assistance & Planning: Infrastructure Projects that address transportation, climate, equity, housing, and economic benefits	Thriving Communities-N Nonprofits Philanthropic Entities Thriving Communities- R Municipalities Tribes	Focuses on disadvantaged communities that are adversely affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes.