The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded a series of grants to organizations in Maine for affordable housing services and efforts to reduce homelessness in the state.

Six programs in Maine will share $13.1 million aimed at reducing homelessness, while nine housing agencies in five Maine counties will split about $500,000 in federal aid to help pay for service coordinators to connect residents with affordable housing programs and services.

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican, announced the grants in two separate statements issued Thursday.

“This important funding supports our state’s efforts to help the most at-risk Mainers by providing them with additional resources to promote their health, independence, and overall well-being,” Collins said in a statement about the homelessness reduction grants. She added that the affordable housing grants will help connect Mainers with the resources they need to achieve economic independence.

The largest share of the $13.1 million in homelessness-reduction funds – about $9.9 million – will go to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. The city of Bangor and Portland-based social services nonprofit Preble Street each will receive more than $1 million, and lesser amounts will go to the Maine State Housing Authority, Through These Doors family crisis center in Portland and Community Housing of Maine.

The money will be used for a variety of programs designed to address the problem of homelessness, according to Collins’ office.

According to HUD, an estimated 2,100 people experienced homelessness in Maine on a single night in January 2019, a decrease of 16 percent from the same night in 2018. HUD conducts an annual one-night survey in which participating planning agencies and volunteers seek to identify the number of individuals and families living in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and in unsheltered settings.
In Maine, most of the homeless people counted as part of the 2019 survey – roughly 2,000 – were located in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs, while about 100 were unsheltered, according to HUD.

The second group of grants, totaling of $509,826, are from HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency Program, which aims to help residents find jobs, increase their income, reduce or eliminate the need for housing aid or welfare, and move toward economic independence and housing self-sufficiency, it said.

The agencies receiving funds include the Maine State Housing Authority, the city of Caribou and housing agencies in Portland, Westbrook, Lewiston, Old Town, Augusta, Brewer and Bangor.

Invalid username/password.
Success. Please wait for the page to reload. If the page does not reload within 5 seconds, please refresh the page.

Enter your email and password to access comments.

Forgot Password?

Don't have a Talk profile?

Hi {SUB NAME}, to comment on stories you must . This profile is in addition to your subscription and website login. Already have one?

Invalid username/password.

Please check your email to confirm and complete your registration.

Create a commenting profile by providing an email address, password and display name. You will receive an email to complete the registration. Please note the display name will appear on screen when you participate.

Already registered? Log in to join the discussion.

Only subscribers are eligible to post comments. Please subscribe or login to participate in the conversation. Here's why.

Use the form below to reset your password. When you've submitted your account email, we will send an email with a reset code.

« Previous
Facebook refuses to ban or fact-check political ads, even false ones