

Maine Connectivity Authority

**Presentation to Joint Standing Committee
on Energy, Utilities, and Technology**

August 17, 2021

Agenda

- I. Introduction
- II. Statutory Goals
- III. MCA Board
- IV. Overview of State and Federal Funding Sources
- V. First 180 Days
- VI. Key Dates and Obligations

Statutory Goals

35-A MRS § 9403

High-speed connectivity be universally available in the State, including to all residents, businesses and community anchor institutions;

There be secure, affordable, reliable, competitive and sustainable forward-looking advanced communications technology infrastructure that can meet current and future needs;

All residents, businesses and institutions in the State be able to take full advantage of the economic, health, educational and other opportunities available through connectivity services; and

Existing public and private infrastructure be used effectively and efficiently in the public interest to provide advanced communications technology infrastructure in all areas of the State.

Board

Appointed:

Carlos Barrionuevo

John Chandler

Danielle Louder

Michael Reed

Tim Schneider

Rob Souza

Ex Officio:

Fred Brittain - Chief Information Officer, State of Maine

Carlos Mello - Acting Chief Executive Officer, FAME

David Demers - Chief Information Officer, Umaine System

Heather Johnson - Commissioner, DECD

MCA Funding Sources

Source	Amount	Timing
Unallocated American Rescue Plan (ARP)	\$21 M	October 2021 (\$10M) October 2022 (\$11 M)
ARP Capital Projects Fund – State Block Grant	\$128 M	January 2021
2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act		
Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program	\$100M minimum, additional funds based on Maine’s proportional share of unserved locations	TBD, NTIA to establish program w/in 6 months of enactment
Digital Equity Capacity Grant and Planning Grant Programs	Funding, amount to be calculated by NTIA by formula, for states to develop and implement	October 2022

Also:

- Emergency Broadband Benefit/Affordable Connectivity Program
- Middle Mile Competitive Grants (\$1B)
- Digital Equity Competitive Grants (\$1.25 B)

First 180 Days

- Startup
- Staffing
- Strategy

Meetings

- August 17 – Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Policy
- September 22 – ConnectME
- October 7 - Treasury Capital Projects Fund Guidance
- October 22 – Mapping
- November 12 – Strategic Planning Session, Procurement Policy
- *December 3 – INVEST Act, Strategy Discussion*
- *December 15 - TBD*

Upcoming Tasks and Dates

- December 27, 2021 - Capital Projects Fund – Grant Plan submission
- January 15, 2022 – Annual Report
 - Budget, activities, investments, analysis of availability of communications resources
- January 15, 2022 – ConnectME Authority recommendation to EUT Committee
- February 1, 2022 – Financial policies and procedures (5 MRSA 12022)
- “The new Maine Connectivity Authority will collaborate with organizations representing marginalized and historically disadvantaged groups when making determinations regarding the distribution of these funds.”