

Maine Agriculture, Food Forest Products Investment Fund Assessment

Private Sector, Philanthropy and Other	Scope	Sector	Grant/ Loan/ TA/Equity	Eligibility	Funding Limit	Terms	Racial Equity Lens?
GSE (Government Sponsored Entity) Co-op							
Farm Credit East (the largest lender to Maine farms, serving the ag credit and financing needs of ME producers)	AgDirect - Equipment financing available through equipment dealers, auctions, and private party equipment purchases. Supported by Farm Credit, AgDirect includes options to buy, lease or refinance.	Agriculture	Loan			2-7 years, variable or fixed	
Farm Credit East	FarmStart - Working capital investments to northeast agricultural ventures showing promise of success. Targets startup farmers and ag businesses with limited financial resources and who are not generally eligible for conventional lending programs. The investment functions the same as an operating line of credit and is intended to overcome the financial challenges that startup farming operations initially face in generating working capital.	Agriculture	Loan		Up to \$75K	Repayment: up to 5 years	
Farm Credit East -	Northeast AgEnhancement Grants - Annual grants program to help organizations promote awareness and strengthen agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products in New England states, NY and NJ.	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	Grant	Organizations	\$500-\$10,000		
Private Equity Investors							
CEI Ventures	A wholly-owned subsidiary of CEI that manages socially responsible venture capital funds, supporting growth-oriented businesses that create good jobs for people living in rural towns and small gateway cities across the Northeast		TA, Equity		Staged through multiple financing, equity investments generally range from \$250K to \$1 million		
CEI Catalyst Fund	Supports early stage food businesses in Maine and the Northeast by providing seed equity funding for food-based start-ups that are growing jobs and sourcing raw farm product locally	Food			Raising \$2 million		
CEI Tastemakers	The CEI Tastemakers Initiative helps established food and beverage companies expand and improve production capacity, create jobs, and meet targeted growth goals by offering funding for tailored consulting and access to financial resources and investor networking opportunities.	Food	TA/Equity		Up to \$20K for 5-7 companies annually.		
Fair Food Fund - Northeast	Mission is to "grow community health and wealth through food." Support food entrepreneurs who "can be the engine of a more equitable future." Provide "catalytic capital, business assistance, and networks with a focus on supporting BIPOC and women-led businesses."	Food	Loan, Equity, TA, Grant		50% of investments go toward women- and BIPOC-led businesses		Yes
Maine Angels	Accredited private equity investors who invest in and mentor early stage companies. Portfolio includes food-based businesses	Food	Equity, TA				
Dirigo Angel Fund I	The successor to Bangor Angel Funds I, II and III. Fund III closed in June, 2020. The goal of the fund is to stimulate entrepreneurial startups and economic development in Maine. The fund seeks to invest in 12-15 companies over the next 2-3 years of which: at least 50% are based in Maine and at least 25% are owned, founded, or led by women or minorities		Equity				Yes

Maine Agriculture, Food Forest Products Investment Fund Assessment

Flexible Capital Fund (beginning to invest outside of Vermont)	The Flex Fund invests throughout Vermont in early and growth stage businesses within the following industry sectors: Sustainable agriculture and value-added food production, infrastructure and systems; Sustainable forestry and forest products, including green building	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	Equity	Business should have sales >\$500,000/yr. Sales growth forecast of at least 15-20% per year & profit margins that will support a revenue-share payment, a well-supported growth strategy with market opportunity & a mission that advances the Flex Fund's work	Investments range from \$100,000 to \$400,000, typically with co-investors, and include the flexibility to provide additional funding as needed.		
NH Community Loan Fund - "Vested for Growth"	Creating business opportunity through innovative financing. Offers flexible capital to grow more local food businesses - from producer to processor to consumer; and comprehensive assessment and customized advice from a diverse network of professionals	Food, Agriculture	Loan, Equity				
Potlikker Capital	A community-governed social justice charitable loan fund created to support BIPOC farmers. Potlikker provides a) capital to stabilize and grow existing businesses b) access to higher value markets c) access to cooperative ownership opportunities across the food-value chain d) educational opportunities and resources including assistance in implementing regenerative farming practices d) agroecology/agribusiness internship program to develop the next generation of American BIPOC farmer entrepreneurs.	Agriculture, Food	Equity, TA				Yes
Black Farmer Fund	An emerging community investment fund striving to create a more equitable food system for black food business owners. Provide an alternative to traditional financing.	Agriculture, Food	Loan, TA	Black business owner			Yes
Cooperative Fund of New England	A socially responsible lending institution that works for economic, social, and racial justice by advancing community based, cooperative, and democratically owned or managed enterprises with a preference to assisting cooperatives in low-income communities by: providing financial products at reasonable rates, and developing business skills	Agriculture, Food	Loan, TA, Equity	Cooperatives and land trusts, including BIPOC communities and New Mainers	Will loan up to \$2 million; \$600-700K more common.		Yes
Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)							
CEI	Mission is to grow good jobs, environmentally sustainable enterprises in Maine. Provides business development technical assistance and flexible project/enterprise financing.	Food, Agriculture	TA, Loan, Equity				
CEI Capital Management	A wholly-owned subsidiary of CEI that provides access to flexible capital through the Federal New Markets Tax Credits Program, and the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program	Forestry	Tax credit				
Four Directions Development Corporation	Mission is to improve the social and economic conditions of the Native American tribes in Maine through education and investment in affordable housing, tribal business ventures, and Native entrepreneurship		Loan, TA				Yes
MaineStream Finance	Helping all Maine home buyers, business owners and consumers secure advice and financing to grow and thrive.	Food	Loan, TA				
Credit Unions							

Maine Agriculture, Food Forest Products Investment Fund Assessment

<p>Maine Harvest Federal Credit Union</p>	<p>Maine Harvest FCU uses deposits to finance Maine's farms and food producers. MH's lending team works with all agricultural industries, local food producers and can work with start-up farms. It offers</p> <p>Loan products including term financing for Equipment Loans up to \$75,000 to purchase equipment, refinancing of equipment debt or refinancing of business term debt. Real Estate Loans are available up to \$225,000 to purchase real estate or refinance real estate debt. Financing available for both vacant and improved land. Interest rates, loan terms and custom payment schedules to meet the needs of the business.</p>	<p>Farm, Food Business</p>	<p>Loan</p>				
<p>Commercial and Community Banks</p>							
<p>Many community and commercial banks including Kennebunk, Androscoggin, Bath, Camden, Katahdin, Machias and others, all of which offer commercial loans</p>			<p>Loan</p>				
<p>Philanthropy and Other</p>							
<p>Sandy River Charitable Foundation</p>	<p>SRCF has a long history of innovative lending and investing endowment in food based businesses for years</p>						
<p>Elmina B. Sewall Foundation</p>	<p>The long-term goal of the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation is to improve the well-being and prosperity of all Maine people and the environment in which they live. Among the most pressing issues currently facing Maine and negatively impacting the well-being of both people and the environment are: limited economic opportunity, environmental degradation, and the existence of barriers that create inequities and separate people. Food systems are among its topical focus areas.</p>	<p>Food</p>	<p>Grant, and targeted impact investments</p>		<p>Loans: \$50-250K</p>	<p>Loans: 12-36 mos</p>	
<p>MOFGA Organic Farmer Loan Fund</p>	<p>The loan fund will provide loan guarantees to small and medium-sized businesses seeking to expand or enhance their farm or processing operations through business planning, marketing, aggregation, or other business enhancement. Funds in this program may also be used as a working capital line of credit or for equipment purchases.</p>		<p>Loan</p>		<p>Loans from the Organic Farmer Loan Fund are in the range of \$2,000 to \$20,000.</p>	<p>Loan program interest rates determined by Bangor Savings at the time of loan application.</p>	
<p>Henry P. Kendall Foundaton</p>	<p>The Foundation's goal is to create a resilient and healthy food system in New England by increasing the production and consumption of local, sustainably produced food.</p>	<p>Food</p>	<p>Grant, and targeted impact investments</p>		<p>\$200,000-\$400,000 grants generally</p>		
<p>John Merck Fund</p>	<p>Support a regional food system by channeling demand from the region's largest food purchasers such as schools, colleges and universities, and hospitals to increase the economic success of sustainable agriculture; focusing on supply chains to expand and streamline the supply and demand of regionally and sustainably produced food; and strengthening food production and distribution systems so they can meet the growing demand. By impact investing, they contribute to entities such as the Fair Food Fund - Northeast as a way to support food-based businesses.</p>	<p>Food</p>	<p>Grant</p>				<p>Yes</p>

Maine Agriculture, Food Forest Products Investment Fund Assessment

Quimby Family Foundation	<p>One of the Foundation's focus areas is Nourishment: Empowering people to consistently choose regional and plant-based foods that restore human and environmental health.</p>	<p>Agriculture, Food</p>	<p>Grant</p>	<p>NGOs, by invitation only</p>	<p>Up to \$35,000 grants</p>		
Onion Foundation	<p>Part of the Foundation's Vision is to "Support organizations that empower people in their communities to lead healthy and vibrant lives by...building healthy food systems by providing access to locally produced food."</p>	<p>Food</p>	<p>Grant</p>	<p>NGOs</p>	<p>Grants in the \$5,000 - \$15,000 range</p>		
SeedMoney	<p>Offers financial and technical support to a wide variety of public food garden projects, including community gardens, school gardens, food bank gardens, homeless shelter gardens and senior gardens.</p>	<p>Agriculture, Food</p>	<p>Grant</p>		<p>\$200-600/garden</p>		
FocusMaine	<p>FocusMaine supports small and medium food businesses in production, sales & marketing, finance and planning while building a national reputation for high-quality Maine food from our agriculture and aquaculture bounty. This program fosters job growth through workforce development, business attraction, and by helping Maine companies sell more of their products outside of the state.</p>	<p>Agriculture, Food</p>	<p>TA</p>				
Maine Center for Entrepreneurs Food Accelerators Programs (Top Gun, Cultivator, and MarketShare)	<p>The Top Gun program partners with startup, early stage companies in any sector. Offers business basics: marketing, sales, finance, legal, company culture, and pitching. The Cultivator program partners with established food, beverage, and agriculture businesses to overcome the strategic challenges they face as they attempt to grow and scale. Provides participants with hands-on strategic assessments and planning sessions, tailored professional resources, and access to interactive development forums. The MarketShare program partners with more mature, value added food, beverage and agriculture businesses to successfully sell their products regionally and nationally. The program provides participants with a tailored marketing & sales assessment, professional coaching by food industry experts, and access to industry & market data.</p>	<p>Food</p>	<p>TA</p>				

State Funding Resources	Specific Funding Program	Scope	Sector	Grant/ Loan/ Equity/ TA/ Tax Credit	Eligibility	Funding Limit	Terms	Racial Equity Lens?	Potential Next Steps	Statute & Rule Authority
Administering Entity										
FAME	Direct Loan	Formerly Economic Recovery Loan program, it provides flexible gap financing.	Food, Forestry	Loan	Maine-based businesses that have exhausted other lending avenues	Generally less than \$500,000, 5 year terms	2% above prime	No		
FAME	Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program	FAME disburses funds to Maine's regional development agencies which makes loans to eligible borrowers, to create or retain jobs.	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	Loan	Businesses with sales <\$10 million or <100 employees. One of the eligible fields is advanced biological/natural resource techniques			No		
FAME	Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program (New Markets Tax Credits)	Attracts investment capital to low-income communities by providing a state tax credit on equity investments they make in Community Development Entities (CDEs).	Forestry	Tax credit	Example: Was used for ND Paper Old Town mill investment	Refundable state income tax credits of up to 39% of the eligible investment, taken in increments over 7 years.		No		
FAME	Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program	Designed to attract equity investments in ME businesses. State income tax credits can be authorized to investors by FAME for up to 50% of the cash equity provided to eligible Maine businesses, both directly and through venture capital funds.	Food, Forestry	Tax credit		Tax credit up to 50% of the cash equity		No		
Maine Revenue Service	Biofuel Commercial Production Tax Credit	A taxpayer engaged in the certified production of biofuels is allowed a tax credit on income derived during the taxable year from the production of biofuel in the amount of 5¢ per gallon of liquid biofuel or gaseous biofuel with a BTU equivalent to that of one gallon of gasoline that replaces the use of petroleum or liquid fuels derived from other fossil carbon sources.	Forestry	Tax credit	A taxpayer engaged in the certified production of biofuels	5¢ per gallon of liquid biofuel or gaseous biofuel with a BTU equivalent to that of one gallon of gasoline		No		
Maine Revenue Service	Renewable Chemicals Tax Credit	A taxpayer engaged in the production of renewable chemicals in the State is allowed a tax credit of 8¢ per pound of renewable chemical as long as the taxpayer demonstrates to DECD that at least 75% of the employees of the contractors hired or retained to harvest renewable biomass used in the production of the renewable chemicals meet the eligibility conditions specified in the Employment Security Law.	Forestry	Tax credit	A taxpayer engaged in the certified production of renewable chemicals	8¢ per pound of renewable chemical		No		
Maine Venture Fund	Maine Venture Fund	Offers venture funding to select Maine companies, some of which have historically been food-based companies	Food, Forestry	Equity/TA	Must operate primarily in Maine, have under 50 employees and generate < \$5 million in annual revenue	typical initial investment is \$100,000-\$300,000 per company, with additional capital available for continued support.		No		
Maine Technology Institute (MTI)	Maine Technology Institute's Core Funding Program	MTI receives an annual legislative appropriation to award R&D grants (and loans and equity investments) to companies to support the commercialization of new technologies and services that create and support sustainable, high-quality jobs for Maine people. Forestry, agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology are among the prioritized industries.	Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture	Grant, Loan, Equity	Eligible only to entities doing business in Maine. Focus is on innovation, developing new technologies, processes, or products.	Approx. \$58 million available annually across the seven prioritized industry areas. Typical starting grant: \$10-25K; max grant: \$100K; max investment \$500K	Requires 1:1 match.	No		
MTI	ARPA Funding	A developing funding opportunity with \$40 million of American Recovery Plan funds, to be administered in a similar manner as MTI's core funding program, but with a focus on helping existing businesses respond to pandemic-related challenges. Can support planning, development of new markets, etc.	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	Grant						
MTI	Maine Technology Asset Fund	Approved by Maine voters in June 2017, the Maine Technology Asset Fund 2.0 (MTAF 2.0) is one of several state bond funds administered by MTI. MTAF 2.0 provided for \$45 million to be distributed in a competitive process to Maine-based public and private companies to support infrastructure, equipment, and technology upgrades in MTI's seven targeted sectors.	Food, Forestry	Grant		\$46 million was distributed to 18 projects, including Verso and Good to Go		No		

MTI/DECD/DACF	Forest Products Industry Grants	Funded with American Rescue Plan funds, MTI/DECD will provide grants and loans for R&D, new products and market opportunities, and job growth in innovative forest products industries. The funding program is still in its design phase, with proposals likely to be solicited Winter, 2022	Forestry	Grant		\$10 million available for each of two years; \$25K - \$250K awards		No		
MTI	Cross Laminated Timber Challenge	A developing opportunity to be funded with approx. \$2 million from DECD to attract or grow a cross-laminated timber business in Maine	Forestry	Grant						
DECD	Maine Economic Recovery Grants	Part of Maine's Jobs and Recovery Plan and funded by American Rescue Plan funding. Provides funding for additional economic recovery grants for businesses and organizations struggling to recover from economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	Grant		\$20 million federal allocation				
DECD	Pine Tree Development Zones (PTDZ)	The PTDZ Program offers eligible businesses the chance to greatly reduce (up to 80%), or virtually eliminate, state taxes for up to ten years when they create new, quality jobs in certain business sectors, or move existing jobs in those sectors to Maine. Eligible sectors include aquaculture and marine technology, composite materials technology, and advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture		Tax credit						
DECD	Opportunity Zones	The Opportunity Zones incentive is a community investment tool established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide. Opportunity Zones provide a tax incentive for investors to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into dedicated Opportunity Funds.	Forestry	Tax credit						
DECD	Community Development Block Grant Program	CDBG provides communities with gap funding to assist businesses in creating/retaining jobs for low-moderate income persons. Grants are awarded to municipalities to be used where alternative sources of public and private funding for a project are inadequate.		Grant						
DECD	Employment Tax Increment Financing	Helps new and established businesses hire new employees by refunding 30-75% of the state withholding taxes paid by the qualified employees for up to 10 years.		Tax credit			Business must plan to hire 5 or more net-new FT qualified employees over a 2 yr period. Retail-only and NGOs ineligible.			
DECD	Major Food Processing, Manufacturing Expansion Program	Encourages the location and expansion of food processing and manufacturing facilities in Maine. [legislation written for Penobscot McCrum LLC specifically]	Food	Tax Credit			Businesses must have been in Maine for the last 5 years and be planning to invest \$35 million in the facility over the next 5 yrs. Must employ at least 40 FT employees above a livable income threshold	No		
Partnering with DECD	Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership	A partner organization of DECD that works with any and all small to medium-sized manufacturers including local food companies	Food, Forestry	TA						
Maine Development Foundation	Forest Opportunity Roadmap/Maine (FOR/Maine)	FOR/Maine is working to diversify the state's wood products businesses, attract capital investments, and develop greater economic prosperity for communities impacted by recent mill closures.	Forestry	TA						
Maine Rural Development Authority	Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program	The Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program is intended to provide grants for technical assistance, planning or implementation related to the rehabilitation, revitalization and marketing of manufacturing and industrial sites in rural communities.								
Regional Planning Organizations (COGs, regional and municipal EDCs, Planning Commissions)	Examples include Eastern Maine Development Corp.'s revolving loan funds, or Northern Maine Development Corp's targeted revolving loan funds for certain municipalities	These organizations offer microloans, business loans and certain micro-enterprise grants as well as significant technical assistance. Loan funds are generally structured as revolving loan funds to promote economic growth and/or downtown revitalization.	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	Loan, grant, TA						
A program of U.S. SBA, Maine DECD, and USM	Maine Small Business Development Center	Assists entrepreneurs and small businesses through no-cost confidential business advising and training.	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	TA						

DACF/FAME	Nutrient Management Program	Loans for nutrient management projects such as new manure or milk house waste containment facilities or repairs to existing facilities, composting facilities, certain irrigation systems. CAFOs ineligible.	Agriculture	Loan	Businesses that have been identified as having eligible agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement projects are generally eligible.	100% of an eligible project up to \$450,000.	2% fixed. Up to 20 years based on the useful life of the asset.	No		7 MRS § 4201 et seq
DACF/FAME	Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund (AMLF)	Provides low-cost financing for Maine farms, agricultural businesses and aquaculture operations to enhance production processes, or implement innovative marketing techniques or product improvements. For example, funds may be used to purchase new and innovative equipment and facilities such as commodity and storage buildings and packing and marketing facilities; or for the construction, renovation or acquisition of land, buildings, and equipment.	Agriculture, Food	Loan		Rules set cap at \$250,000.	Commitment of private funds of at least 5% of the total eligible project costs. 5% - set by statute (2% if a Farms for the Future business plan graduate, aka "Phase 2").	No	Legislative change to decouple AMLF and ADG to allow for better fund sustainability.	7 MRS §§ 434-437; 001 DACF c. 32 (Routine Technical)
DACF/FAME	Technical Loan (separate option within AMLF)	\$7,500 grants to applicants implementing new or innovating technology and needing tech. assistance to implement; also available to those considering implementing but need tech. assistance	Agriculture, Food	Grant		7500	No.	No	Rule change to increase cap on projects. \$7,500 is inadequate.	7 MRS § 436; 001 DACF c. 32 (Routine Technical)
DACF/FAME	Potato Marketing Improvement Fund	Provides long-term, fixed-rate loans at low interest rates for the construction or improvements to storage and packing facilities, as well as for improving the economic viability of the potato industry. Funds cannot be used for working capital, refinancing, or non-project related equipment.	Agriculture	Loan		\$50k - \$1.5M	No PMIF loan may be approved unless the applicant has demonstrated a commitment of private funds of at least 5%-10% of the total project cost. Federal prime rate on the date of loan commitment but may not be greater than 5%	No	None.	10 MRS §1023-N; 7 MRS §974-A; 001 DACF c. 31 (Routine Technical)
DACF/FAME	Dairy Improvement Fund	Loans to enhance the viability and vitality of dairy enterprises and improve the manufacturing, marketability and production of their products. Direct loans of up to \$250,000 at a 1% fixed interest rate for capital improvements.	Agriculture, Food	Loan		\$250K	Commitment of private funds of at least 10% of the total eligible project costs for projects under \$100K. If over, then 25%. Up to 30 years.	No	Definitional and procedural rulemaking changes needed. Also need to recapitalize fund.	7 MRS §2910-B; 10 MRS §1023-P, 8 MRS §1036(2-A)(M); 001 DACF c. 34 – Routine Technical
DACF	Agricultural Infrastructure Investment Fund	The Agriculture Infrastructure Investment (AII) Program is a Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan initiative created to help Maine farmers and food processors upgrade aging infrastructure. It's backed by \$20 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. All funding will be available for Maine farms, agricultural food producers, and food processing businesses.	Agriculture, Food	Grant		\$20 million				
DACF	Agricultural Development Grant (ADG)	Cost-share grants to conduct market promotion, R&D, and value added processing and new technology demonstration projects. Match is required depending on type of application. Funding is made possible through the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund.	Agriculture	Grant		None; traditionally set at \$50,000 by DACF; \$10K-\$50K most common	Yes	No	Decouple ADG from AMLF to create sustained funding. Modernize rules.	7 MRS §§ 306-A-309; 001 DACF c. 33 (Major Substantive)
DACF	Special Projects (part of ADG)	Grants to implement short-term research to resolve technical problems and/or to test new marketing or production technologies. No cap but traditionally less than \$20K.	Agriculture, Food	Grant		No cap but traditionally less than \$20K.	No.	No	None.	7 MRS §§ 36-A-309; 001 DACF c. 33 (Major Substantive)
DACF	Farms for the Future Phases 1 & 2	Grants for business plan development (Phase 1) and investment support implementing the plan (Phase 2) to improve "farm vitality." Phase 1: \$10k cap Phase 2: \$25k and/or AMLF loan at 2% interest.	Agriculture	Grant		Rules set cap at \$10,000 Phase 1 business plan (this includes fees for outside services). \$25,000 for Phase 2	Interest rate N/A for Phase 1. A graduate of Phase 1 can receive a 2% AMLF loan.	No	Find alternative ways for Phase 2 engagement that doesn't require land conservation (many applicants already have preserved their farms).	7 MRS §§ 317-320; 001 DACF c.36
DACF	Rural Rehabilitation Loan – Beef Cattle Breeding	Low interest loans to farmers for purchasing land, or feeder cattle. The fund also provides capital improvement loans to agricultural fairs.	Agriculture	Loan		\$50,000. Fund up to 90% of purchase price. 24 month term max.	0.05?	No	Assess viability and effectiveness of loan program.	7 MRS §2-B
DACF	Rural Rehabilitation Loan – Feeder Cattle	Low interest loans to farmers for purchasing land, or feeder cattle. The fund also provides capital improvement loans to agricultural fairs.	Agriculture	Loan		\$50,000. Fund up to 90% of purchase price. 24 month term max.	0.05?	No	Assess viability and effectiveness of loan program.	7 MRS §2-B

DACF, Maine Forest Service, and Maine Revenue Services	Farmland and Tree Growth Property Tax Law	Offers a reduction in assessed value by establishing value of assessed property at its "current use," rather than at market value. Farmland parcel must be at least 5 contiguous acres and must contribute at least \$2,000 in gross income from farming activities. Woodland must be at least 10 contiguous acres and used primarily for growing and harvesting commercial forest products, in accordance with an acceptable Forest Management and Harvesting Plan	Agriculture, Forestry	Tax reduction	Farm or woodland owner					36 MRS § 1101-1121
Maine Forest Service	Maine Forestry Direct Link Loan Program	A linked deposit financing mechanism to help a logging entity implement BMPs. Often used to purchase low-impact logging equipment	Forestry	Loan		\$800,000 limit, term up to 5 years	Interest rate subsidy of up to 2%	No		
Maine Forest Service	WoodsWise	Reimbursement of the cost of a Woodland Resource Action Plan (aka Forest Stewardship Plan) on woodlots	Forestry	Cost-share grant		Lands up to 50 acre: not to exceed \$250 or 50% of plan cost; Lands between 51 and 1,000 ac: \$5/acre up to 50% cost of plan		No		
Maine Forest Service	Invasive Plant Management Program	Funded with a \$370K USFS grant to control invasives in Maine's woodlands, this program will provide reimbursement of the cost of an woodland invasives plan on ownerships of 10-10,000 acres	Forestry	Cost-share grant		Likely same limits as WoodsWise		No		

Maine Agriculture, Food Forest Products Investment Fund Assessment

Federal Funding Resources - Administering Entity	Funding Program	Scope	Sector	Grant/ Loan/ TA	Eligibility: Farmer (F), Forestry business/ landowner (FO), Organization (O)	Funding Limit	Terms	Racial Equity Lens?
EDA	Economic Adjustment Assistance	EDA's most flexible grant program, providing \$500 million in Economic Adjustment Assistance grants to American communities		Grant			EDA grants generally require 20% match (EDA will cover 80% of a project's costs)	
EDA	Build Back Better Regional Challenge	The Build Back Better Regional Challenge is designed to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks. The \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge will provide a transformational investment to 20-30 regions across the country that want to revitalize their economies. These regions will have the opportunity to grow new regional industry clusters or scale existing ones through planning, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce development, access to capital, and more.		Grant				
Northern Border Regional Commission	State Economic & Infrastructure Development Investment Program (SEID)	The \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge will provide a transformational investment to 20-30 regions across the country that want to revitalize their economies. These regions will have the opportunity to grow new regional industry clusters or scale existing ones through planning, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce development, access to capital, and more.		Grant		Approximately \$4.6 M available in 2021. Infrastructure projects: \$1 million max grant. All other projects: \$350,000 max.		
Northern Border Regional Commission	Regional Forest Economy Partnership	The purpose of the program is to assist rural communities, institutes of higher education and research, and economic development support organizations in their efforts to transition the forest-based industry and its workforce to a focus on new technologies and viable business models across the 4-state NBRC region. NBRC's intention is to offer funding to rural communities through a competitive application process.	Forestry	Grant		\$4 million available in total. Grant range: \$250K - \$1 million		
Maine Small Business Development Centers	Small Business Administration Loans	7(a) Loan Program, SBA's most common loan program, includes financial help for small businesses with special requirements. This is the best option when real estate is part of a business purchase, but it can also be used for short and long-term working capital, and refinancing current business debt. Microloans up to \$50K (avg. is \$13K) to help small businesses start up or expand. CDC/504 loans provide long-term, fixed rate financing of up to \$5 million for major fixed assets that promote business growth and job creation - these are available through Certified Development Cos. (CDCs).		Loan				
Multiple Federal Agencies	Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs	SBIR and STTR programs encourage domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development with the potential for commercialization. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR and STTR enable small businesses to explore their technological potential and provide the incentive to profit from commercialization. Central to the STTR program is the partnership between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. The program requires the small business to formally collaborate with a research institution. STTR's role is to bridge the gap between performance of basic science and commercialization of resulting innovations.	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	Grant				N

Maine Agriculture, Food Forest Products Investment Fund Assessment

CEI Capital Management and other CDFIs	Federal New Market Tax Credits	The NMTC Program attracts private capital into low-income communities by permitting individual and corporate investors to receive a tax credit against their federal income tax in exchange for making equity investments in specialized financial intermediaries called Community Development Entities (CDEs). The credit totals 39% of the original investment amount and is claimed over a period of seven years. Can be helpful for capital intensive projects, for example: St. Croix Tissue investment in Baileyville	Forestry	Tax Credit				
USDA Forest Service	Forest Stewardship Program	seeks to conserve, protect and enhance private forest landscapes by connecting individual and family woodland owners with the information, technical assistance, and professional planning to achieve their stewardship goals.	Forestry	TA		Up to a \$1,000,000 maximum award to eligible infrastructure projects, up to a \$350,000 maximum award for all other types of eligible projects		
USDA Forest Service	Forest Legacy Program	Funding conserve environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.	Forestry	Grant	FO	Up to \$10 million per project, not to exceed \$20 million per state	Federal contribution (FLP and all other Federal contributions) can't exceed 75% of the total project costs (all cost requirements to complete the project, including Federal and non-Federal contributions)	No
USDA Forest Service	Wood Innovations	Wood Innovations provides technical assistance and grant funding to non-federal parties to foster the introduction and expansion of wood uses in the economy. Two primary areas of focus in recent years have been wood energy and the use of advanced wood products, such as cross laminated timber, in building construction.	Forestry	Grant/TA				
Northern Forest Center	Future Forest Economy Initiative	A joint initiative of EDA, U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities, and the Northern Forest Center, it is supporting development of new markets for wood from the Northern Forest—expanding the use of sustainable, renewable wood heat and durable, green alternatives to steel and concrete that will support the region's economy and help keep forests as forests.	Forestry	Grant		\$50,000-\$1,000,000		no
USDA Rural Development	Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program	Helps new and existing rural businesses access affordable capital by providing guarantees on loans made by private lenders. By issuing a guarantee, USDA essentially co-signs the loan, lowering the lender's risk and allowing for more favorable interest rates and terms.	Agriculture, Food, Forestry	Loan				
USDA Rural Development	Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program's Local and Regional Food Enterprise Provision	Provides federal loan guarantees to support and establish enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, store, or market foods produced in-state or transported no more than 400 miles from the origin of the product.		Loan	F,O			
USDA Rural Development	Rural Business Development Grant	Supports TA and training that results in development or expansion of small private businesses in rural areas with <50 employees and <\$1 million in gross revenues. Provides funding to towns, tribes, agencies, rural cooperatives and organizations for rural economic development projects including planning, technical assistance, job training, and acquisition of land, capital, equipment.			O			
USDA Rural Development	Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program	Assists individuals and businesses in the startup, expansion and improvement of rural cooperatives		Competitive Grant				

Maine Agriculture, Food Forest Products Investment Fund Assessment

USDA - Rural Development	Value-Added Producer Grants	Awards competitive grants to farmers to develop value-added farmer-owned businesses, including processing, market differentiation, and local and regional supply networks, as well as improve food safety practices.			F			Yes
USDA Rural Development and Reinvestment Fund - a CDFI	Healthy Food Financing Initiative	Provides grants and technical assistance to food retail and food system enterprises that seek to improve access to healthy food in underserved areas.	Agriculture, Food	Grant, TA	O			
USDA - Rural Business-Cooperative Service	Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	Fosters rural business development by providing loan capital and technical assistance for qualifying nonprofits, Indian tribes, and public higher education institutions to distribute microloans and business development assistance to rural microentrepreneurs.			O			
USDA Business-Cooperative Service	Rural Energy for America Program	Enables farmers and businesses to purchase renewable energy systems, make energy efficiency improvements, and undertake energy audits through grants and/or loans.	Agriculture	Grant, Loan	F, O			
EPA/ME DEP	EPA Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control ("319") Grants	Maine DEP administers Nonpoint Source (NPS) grants to help communities make progress restoring or protecting waters named as NPS Priority Watersheds.	Agriculture, Forestry	Grant				
USDA NRCS	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	Helps private landowners, land trusts, and other entities to preserve, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.	Agriculture	Grant	F, O			
USDA NRCS	Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)	Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) promote the development and adoption of innovative conservation technologies and approaches while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIGs, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental entities.	Agriculture	Grant	F, O	\$75,000 max/project		
USDA-NRCS	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Protects soil, water quality, and habitat by removing highly-erodible or environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production through long-term rental agreements.	Agriculture	Grant	F			
USDA-NRCS	Conservation Reserve Program – Transition Incentives Program (CRP-TIP)	Encourages landowners to sell or lease long-term to beginning or socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers willing to implement sustainable practices or transition to organic production by providing two years of additional payments for expiring CRP-enrolled land.	Agriculture	Grant	F			
USDA-NRCS	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Rewards advanced conservation systems through 5-year renewable payment contracts to farmers and ranchers to actively manage, maintain, and expand conservation practices like rotations, cover cropping, rotational grazing, and IPM on working farms. Similarly offers payment contracts to forestland owners to implement certain forest management practices.	Agriculture, Forestry	Grant	F			
USDA-NRCS	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Supports working lands conservation through cost-share and technical assistance payments to farmers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.	Agriculture, Forestry	Grant, TA	F			
USDA-NRCS	EQIP Organic Initiative	Provides financial assistance to organic producers looking to address resource concerns by implementing and installing conservation practices tailored to organic producers.	Agriculture	Grant	F			

Maine Agriculture, Food Forest Products Investment Fund Assessment

USDA-NRCS	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Enables state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and other entities to partner regionally with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on special projects to promote farmer adoption of conservation activities to address key natural resource concerns.	Agriculture	Grant	O			
USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE)	Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers	Provides outreach and technical assistance to increase participation of minority and historically underserved producers in USDA programs through competitive grants made to non-profit and tribal organizations, academic institutions and cooperative extension.	Agriculture	TA, Grant	O			Yes
Administered by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), available through a commercial lender	Conservation Loans	Offers federal guarantees on private loans to help farmers and ranchers implement qualified conservation practices on their farm, with a priority for beginning farmers.	Agriculture	Loan	F			
USDA FSA	Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans	DIRECT – Provides government loans to allow family farmers, including beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers, to purchase farmland, equipment, and other start-up and production necessities. GUARANTEE – Provides a government guarantee on commercial loans to family farmers, including beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers, for real estate costs or farm operating expenses.	Agriculture	Loan	F	Current maximum loans limits are \$400,000 (direct operating); \$600,000 (direct farm ownership); and \$1.75 million (guaranteed operating / ownership).		
USDA FSA	Down Payment Loans	Provides a low-interest government loan, made in conjunction with a private bank loan and a borrower down payment, to help beginning, minority, and women farmers purchase a farm or ranch.	Agriculture	Loan	F			Yes
USDA FSA	Farm Storage Facility Loans	Provides low-interest loans (up to \$500,000) for construction of commodity storage facilities, including fruit and vegetable cold storage, as well as buildings and equipment for washing, handling, and packing.	Agriculture, Food	Loan	F			
USDA FSA	Microloans	FSA provides small farm loans (up to \$50,000) for annual operating expenses or real estate purchases tailored for small, young, beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and diversified farming operations serving local markets.	Agriculture	Loan	F			
USDA FSA	Land Contract Guarantee	Reduces risk for retiring farmers who sell land via a multi-year land contract to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers by providing a federal guarantee in case the buyer encounters problems making payments.	Agriculture		F			
USDA FSA	Organic Certification Cost Share Program	Provides cost-share assistance to help farmers with annual organic certification costs; covers up to 75 percent of annual certification costs with maximum payments of \$750 per year per farm.	Agriculture	Grant	F			
USDA FSA	Biomass Crop Assistance Program	Promotes renewable energy production by providing incentives to help farmers grow bioenergy feedstocks (crops that are well-suited to be turned into energy) and connect with relevant energy facility.	Agriculture	Grant	F			
USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program	Provides assistance to farmers who suffer crop losses and who are unable to obtain adequate crop insurance coverage for their crops, with a priority for beginning, socially disadvantaged, and limited resource farmers.	Agriculture		F			
USDA RMA	Organic Crop Insurance	Highlights special crop insurance provisions for organic producers, including organic price elections, contract price addendums, and Whole Farm Revenue Protection.	Agriculture		F			

