

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

One City Center

Thursday, February 15, 2024
9:00 AM

AGENDA

1. **Introductions**
 - a. Review and Approval of January 18, 2024 Minutes
2. **Fiscal Year 2025 ESG Budget**
3. **Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**
 - a. January 2024 Monthly Shelter Statistics
4. **Capacity at the Homeless Services Center (HSC) and 166 Riverside**
5. **Hub 2 Update**
6. **Region 1 Update**
7. **Federal, State and Local Legislation**
 - a. Bill Tracking
8. **Other Business**

Next Meeting

March 21, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: One City Center

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters* per Night:

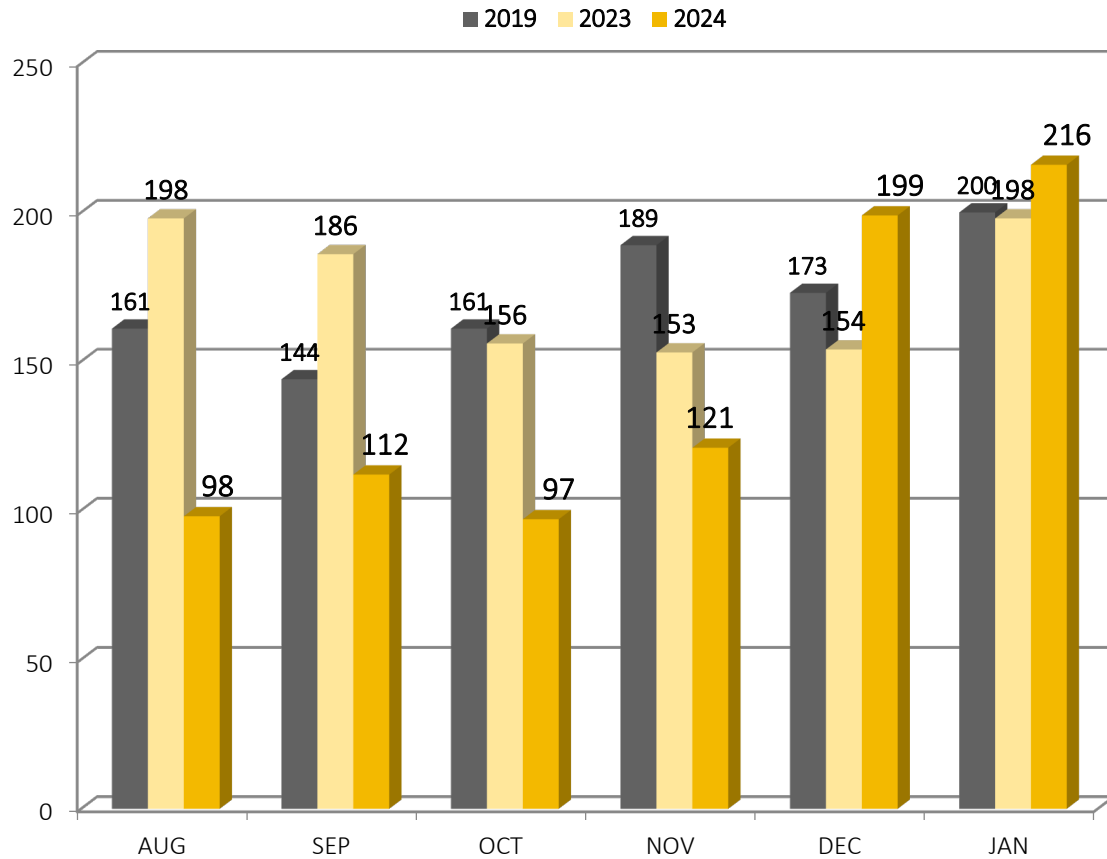
	January, 2023	January, 2024
ADOLESCENTS	15 Individuals	18 Individuals
FAMILIES	123 Individuals 46 Average Families	118 Individuals 38 Average Families
ADULTS	348 Individuals	352 Individuals
Total	486 Individuals	489 Individuals

HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER JANUARY, 2024 Intakes by Residency

*Because people are entering the country in other communities then relocating here, what would be considered out of country intakes are captured as out of state.

MAINE TOWN							OUT-OF-STATE				*OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Alfred	1	Gorham	3	South Portland	13		AR	1	OK	1		
Auburn	2	Gray	1	Standish	1		CA	1	VA	2		
Augusta	2	Lewiston	6	Warren	2		CO	1	VT	2		
Baldwin	1	Milo	2	Westbrook	9		FL	2	WV	1		
Bangor	2	Naples	2	Windham	6		ID	2				
Belfast	1	Parsonsfield	1	Yarmouth	1		MA	2				
Bethel	1	Raymond	1				NC	1				
Biddeford	7	Rumford	1				NE	1				
Bridgeton	1	Saco	3				NH	2				
Brunswick	1	Sanford	1				NY	4				
Buxton	4	Scarborough	4				OH	1				

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY, 2024 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH

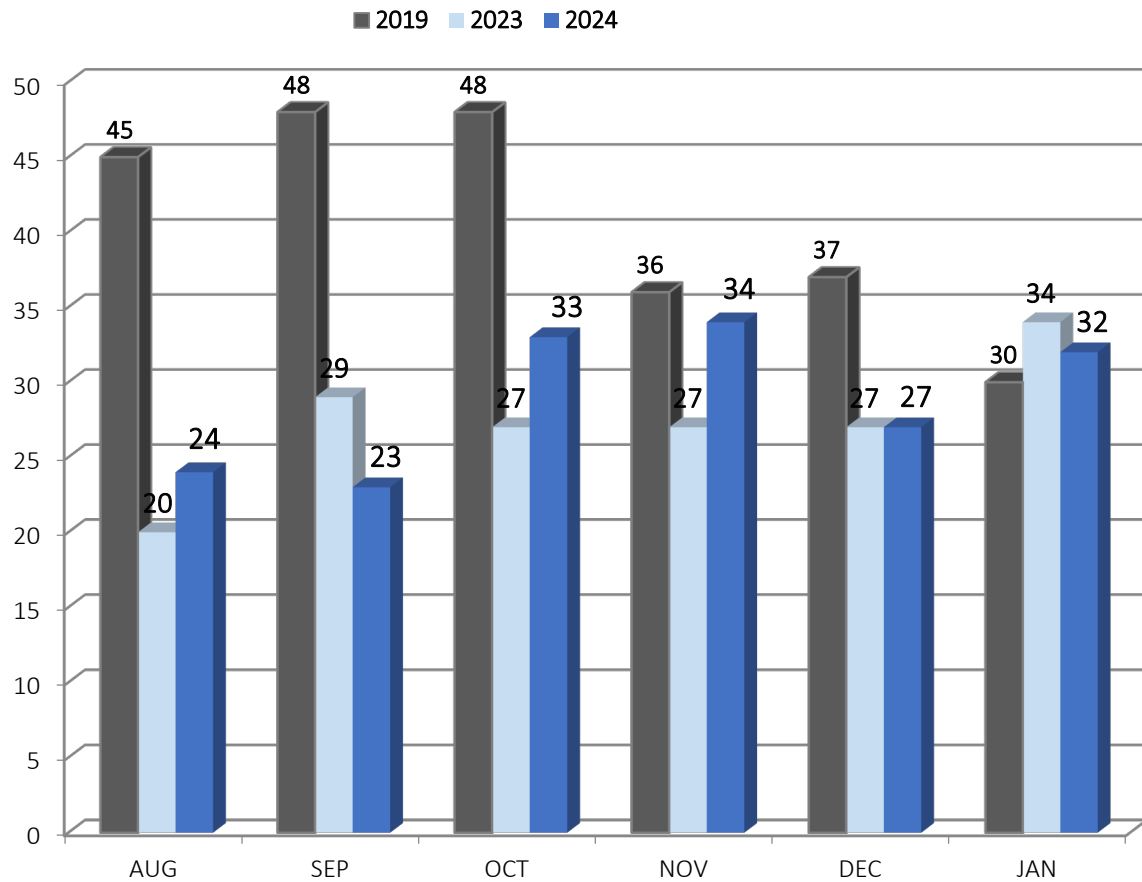


* NOTE: this and the next two slides compare the current year, last year, and the last year before the pandemic.

* * All new intakes were unsheltered.

	INTAKES	Pre-COVID Bed Capacity	Current Bed Capacity
Through These Doors	3 / 10	16	16+ at shelter and hotel overflow
Family Shelter	8 / 22	146	146
Joe Kreisler	5	24	24
Milestone	15	41	36
HSC (Men)	123	154 at OSS, 75 at PSRC overflow	208
HSC(Women)	55		
Florence House	3	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven
Elena's Way**	4	NA	40
TOTAL	216	496	474+

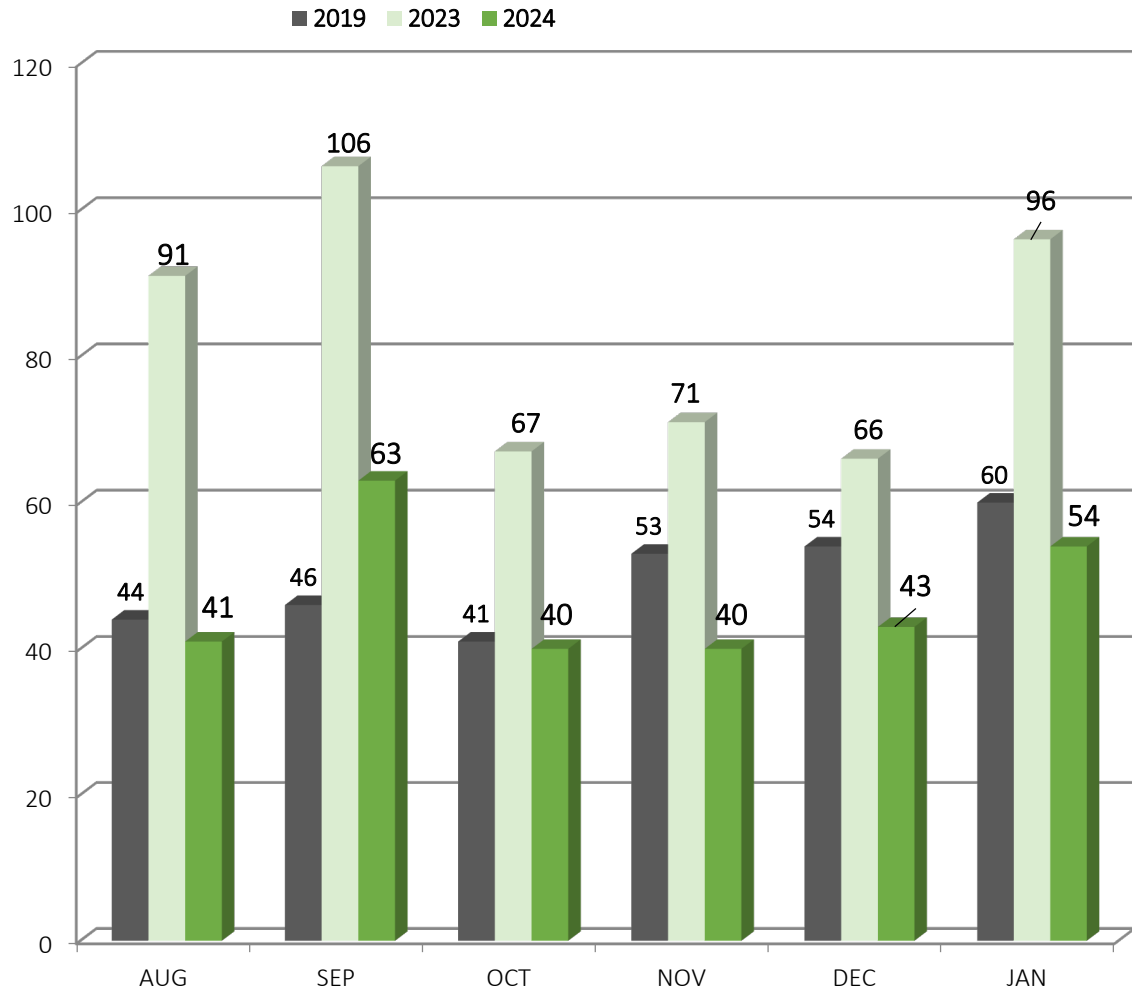
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY, 2024 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



***Starting October, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter (replaced by HSC) shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.**

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	BED NIGHTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	3 / 7	212		3
Family Shelter	10 / 36	6818		10
Joe Kreisler	6	813	2	4
Milestone	0			
HSC (Men)	5	620		5
HSC (Women)	2	689		2
Florence House	4	1425		4
Elena's Way	2	372		2
TOTAL	32	10,949	2	30

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY, 2024 1st TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)

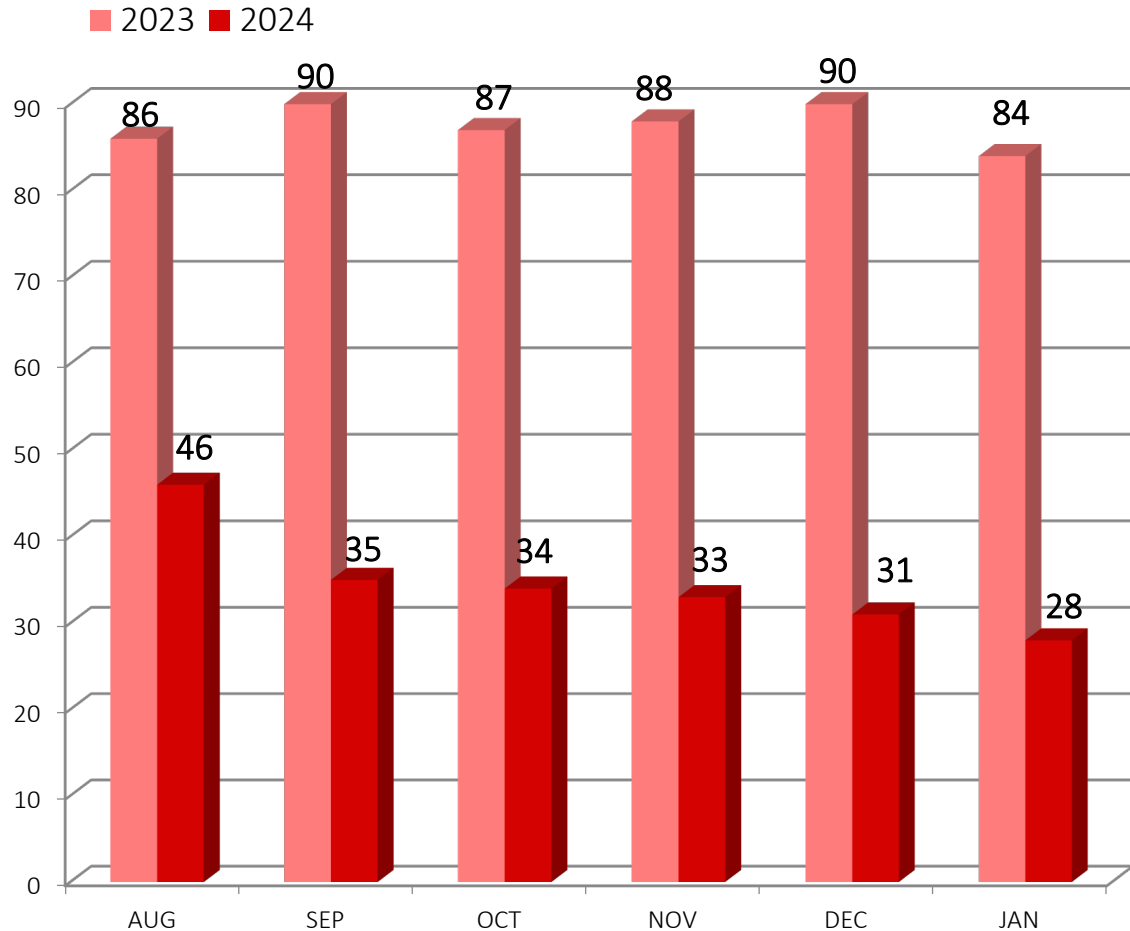


1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	All Intakes	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of the Shelter's Intakes	% of All Intake	% of Portland First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	3 / 10	0	-	-	-
Family Shelter	8 / 22	8 / 22	100%	4%	15%
Joe Kreisler	5	4	80%	2%	7%
Milestone	15	9	60%	4%	17%
HSC (Men)	123	27	22%	13%	50%
HSC (Women)	55	6	11%	3%	11%
Florence House	3	0	-	-	-
Elena's Way	4	0	-	-	-
TOTAL	216	54		25%	100%

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY, 2024 CTOs FROM SHELTER

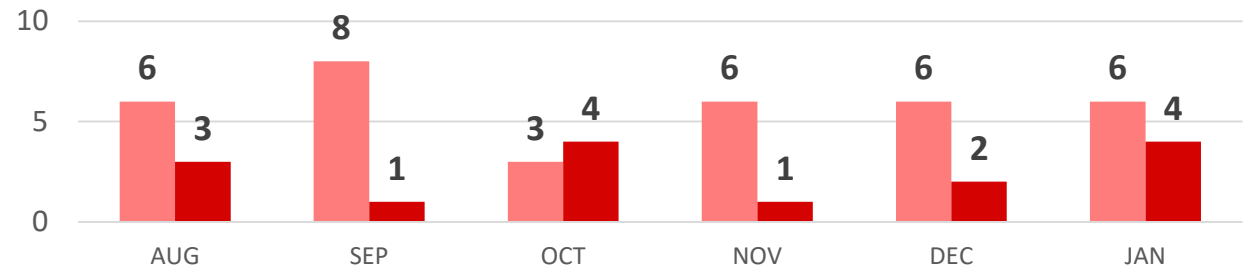
*CTOs from the former Oxford Street Shelter carried over as restrictions with the same end date as the CTOs issued for the OSS shelter address and are included in this number. Anyone restricted from the HSC can ask to speak to management to request lifting the restriction.

Total Current Criminal Trespass Orders



CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions in Month	Current CTOs
Family Shelter	0		0
Joe Kreisler	0		3
Milestone	2		10
HSC*	0		12
Florence House	2		3
Elena's Way	0		0
TOTAL	4		28

CTOs Issued in the Month



PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY, 2024 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY TYPE

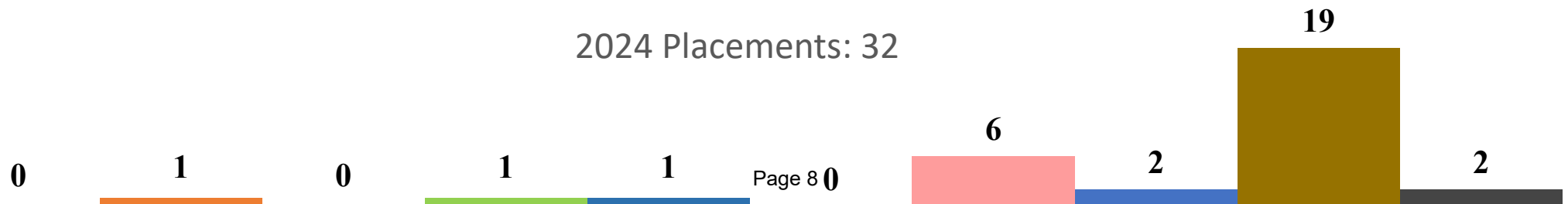
	S+C	BRAP	Recovery Home	Housing Project/PSH	STEP	Family Reunification	Sect. 8/HCV	OTHER*	GA	No Subsidy
Through These Doors					1		1			1
Family Shelter									10	
Joe Kreisler								2	4	
Milestone										
HSC (Men)		1		1					3	
HSC (Women)							1		1	
Florence House							3		1	
Elena's Way							1			1
TOTAL		1		1	1		6	2	19	2

* Host Home

Distribution of Placements in the Month: 32



2024 Placements: 32



PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY, 2024 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

On January: 23

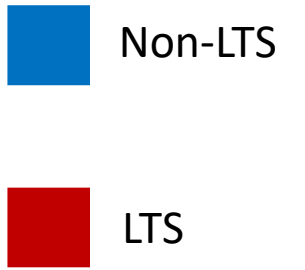
514 individuals

(including families)

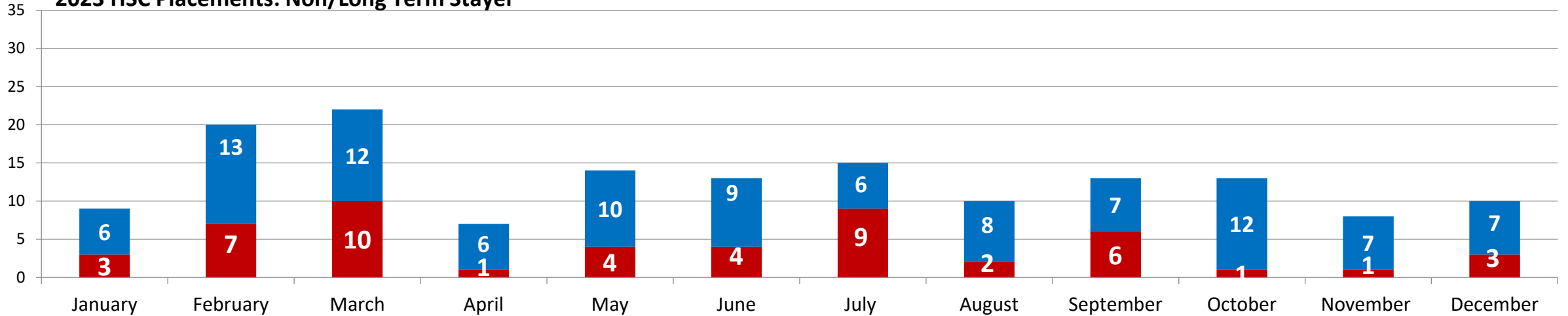
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	HSC Beds	FS WC	Elena's Way	Total Bed Nights
1	16	106	39	18	37	182	2	40	440
2	16	106	42	18	34	206	2	40	464
3	16	106	42	18	36	216	2	40	476
4	16	106	41	18	28	217	2	40	468
5	16	108	40	19	32	230	2	40	487
6	16	108	39	18	25	240	2	40	488
7	16	108	40	18	25	230	2	40	479
8	16	108	40	20	29	242	2	40	497
9	16	112	41	19	30	245	2	39	504
10	16	107	41	20	30	246	2	39	501
11	16	110	40	21	33	251	2	39	512
12	16	100	36	20	34	245	0	39	490
13	16	100	38	16	35	243	0	39	487
14	16	97	39	17	37	244	0	39	489
15	16	97	38	18	35	244	0	39	487
16	16	98	38	19	36	248	0	39	494
17	16	93	40	21	36	251	0	40	497
18	16	98	38	20	35	250	0	40	497
19	16	98	40	17	37	246	0	40	494
20	16	96	40	20	31	243	0	40	486
21	16	96	39	19	31	239	0	40	480
22	16	96	38	18	36	247	4	39	494
23	16	96	38	21	37	262	4	40	514
24	16	92	38	20	37	261	4	40	508
25	17	92	37	19	36	260	7	40	508
26	17	92	35	17	33	255	7	40	496
27	17	92	32	15	33	244	7	40	480
28	17	92	36	15	36	241	7	40	484
29	17	92	37	17	34	234	7	40	478
30	17	92	34	17	34	250	7	40	491
31	17	92	32	18	34	242	7	40	482
Total	503	3,086	1,188	571	1,036	7,454	83	1,231	15,152
Avg/night	16	100	38	18	33	240	3	40	489
Highest	17	112	42	21	37	262	7	40	514
Lowest	16	92	32	15	25	182	0	39	440

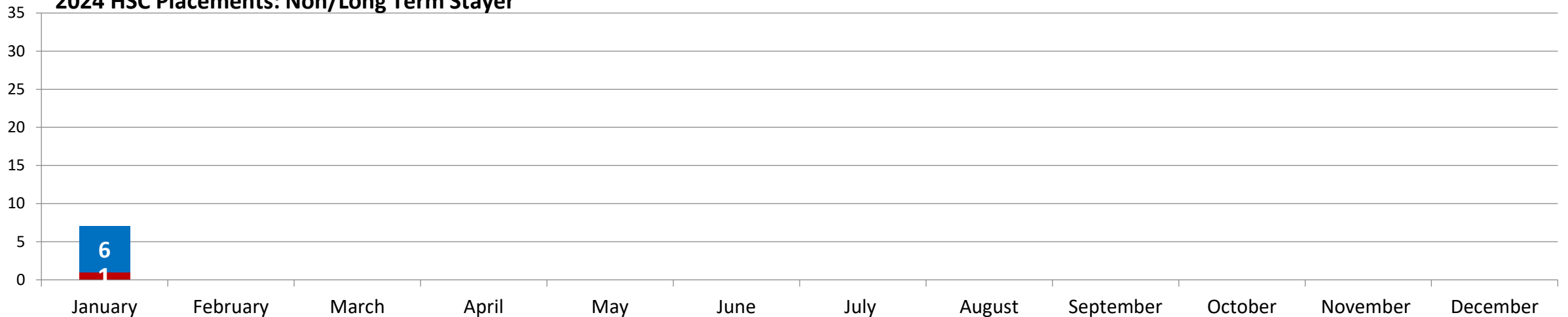
HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



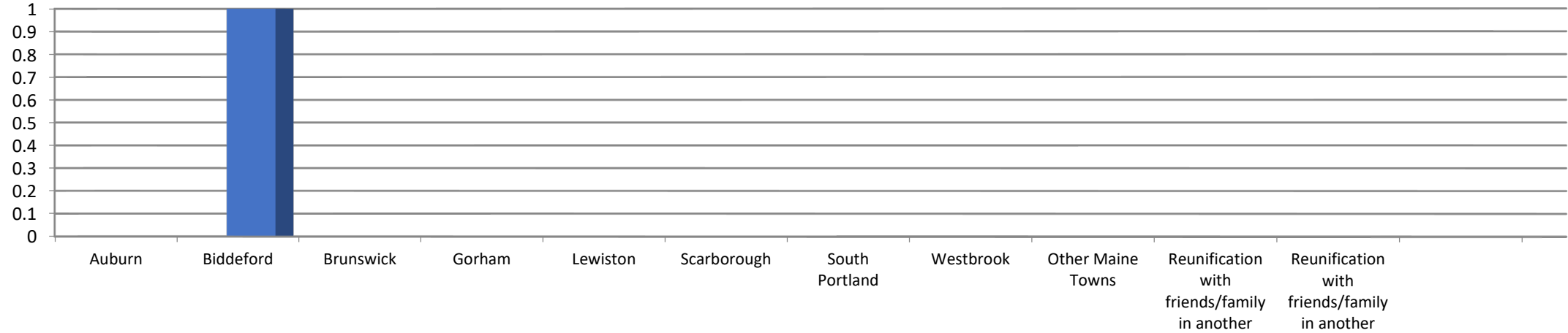
2023 HSC Placements: Non/Long Term Stayer



2024 HSC Placements: Non/Long Term Stayer



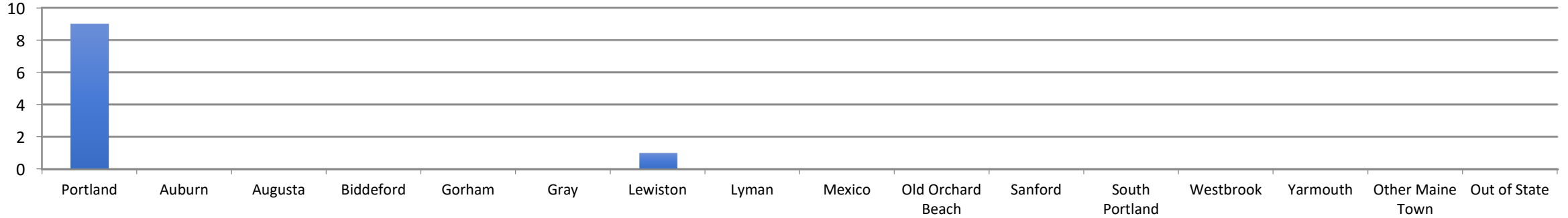
HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2024 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	7													100%
Portland	6													85.7%
Auburn														0.0%
Biddeford	1													14.3%
Brunswick														0.0%
Gorham														0.0%
Lewiston														0.0%
Sanford														0.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook														0.0%
Other Maine Towns														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*														0.0%

FAMILY SHELTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

■ 2024



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	10													100%
Portland	9													90%
Auburn														0%
Augusta														0%
Biddeford														0%
Gorham														0%
Gray														0%
Lewiston	1													10%
Lyman														0%
Mexico														0%
Old Orchard Beach														0%
Sanford														0%
South Portland														0%
Westbrook														0%
Yarmouth														0%
Other Maine Town														0%
Out of State														0%

131ST LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION

The Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature begins January 3, 2024. Statutory adjournment is April 17, 2024.

USEFUL LINKS

- Maine Legislature Homepage: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>
- Maine Legislature YouTube Channels for Legislative Committees: <https://www.youtube.com/mainestatelegislature>
- Sign up to Testify and/or submit testimony here: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

Common Acronyms: AFA = Appropriations and Financial Affairs. HHS = Health and Human Services. OTP = Ought to Pass. OTP-AM = Ought to Pass as Amended. ONTP = Ought Not to Pass.

BILLS

Color code: **Orange font = Budget bill;** **Black font = Homelessness related bill;** **Blue font = Service related;** **Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related;** **Purple font = General Assistance & Safety Net related bills;** **Pink font = Food security related bills;** **highlighted in yellow = passed the House and/or Senate;** **highlighted in green = signed by the Governor and will become Public Law;** **Red text = the bill is now dead.**

BUDGET BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
	Governor’s Bill	An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (aka Supplemental Budget)		<p>The Governor released her Supplemental Budget. Part A; Part B; General Fund Bill Language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PART FF: establishes the Office of New Americans within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and also establishes an advisory council to the Office of New Americans • PART HH: \$16 million for the Emergency Housing Relief Fund: Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to supplement or establish programs addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness or facing other immediate housing needs, and support other uses that address housing emergencies in the State, such as through privately-operated low barrier shelter, winter warming shelters, legal services, and other wraparound settlement supports intended to help individuals integrate into Maine’s workforce and communities to ensure that winter warming shelters, lower barrier shelters, longer term shelters and transitional housing programs can remain open, operating, and supporting the emergency housing needs of Maine people.
HOMELESSNESS BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1422	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special	This bill establishes a housing voucher program for homeless students under the authority of the Maine State Housing



		Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services	Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – CARRIED OVER	Authority and appropriates one-time funding of \$2 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority to identify 3 sites in Maine to be used for a site-based housing program and appropriates one-time funding of \$3.5 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the Department of Health and Human Services to support the program.
LD 2136	Rep A Mastraccio	An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals	Public Hearing, Tuesday 1/23/24; Work Session 1/30/24 – Housing Committee – OTP-AM unanimous of all present	This bill, as amended by the Committee, provides ongoing funds for homeless shelters – allocating \$10 million beginning next fiscal year, and \$2.5 million for low-barrier shelters. The Committee amendment makes the bill an emergency and adds a Legislative Study.
LD 2138	Rep C Madigan	An Act to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters	This bill is now DEAD (instead incorporated in LD 2136 above)	This resolve, as amended by the Sponsor, provides ongoing funds for low-barrier homeless shelters – allocating \$2.5 million beginning next fiscal year.
LD 2146	Rep. G Lookner	An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	Public Hearing 1/30/24, Work Session 2/6 – State and Local Government Committee – Divided Report	This bill prohibits municipalities with populations exceeding 30,000 people from adopting moratoria on the establishment of emergency shelters that provide temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness.

SERVICE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 328	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Improve Mental Health in Maine	This bill is now DEAD	This bill brings MaineCare regulations into alignment with Dartmouth Assertive Community Treatment Scale fidelity items, ensuring high-quality, evidence based Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services for Maine residents with psychotic disorders and high needs.
LD 540	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Establish Peer Respite Centers for Adults with Mental Health Challenges in Maine	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill requires the department to establish through contracts 2 peer respite centers in the State for persons 18 years of age or older. The centers must provide 24-hour intentional peer support to persons in need of mental health services on a voluntary, short-term basis.
LD 599	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill provides ongoing funding for support services for a transitional housing program in Portland.
LD 1633	Sen. Pinny Beebe-Center	An Act to Establish a Community-based Reentry Program in All Department of Corrections Facilities	Additional Work Session on 12/23/23 – Criminal Justice and	This bill creates a community-based reentry program administered by a community based organization at each correctional facility operated by the Department of

			Public Safety Committee – Divided Report	Corrections. The program is a peer-supported program that provides individualized reentry plans to incarcerated individuals starting from 2 years prior to an individual's release, involving multiple meetings to determine the individual's education, job training, substance use disorder treatment, housing and other needs subsequent to release and follow-up meetings after release to support the individual's reentry into the community and to reduce or prevent recidivism. This bill also creates the Peer Reentry Review Board, which oversees, advises, studies data and makes recommendations to the community-based reentry program and reports to the Commissioner of Corrections and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters.
LD 1975	Rep. Lydia Crafts	An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs	Public hearing held 1/17/24	This bill establishes the Substance Use, Health and Safety Fund in the Department of Health and Human Services. Money deposited in the fund must be used by the department to oversee, approve and provide grants and funding to agencies, organizations and service providers, including the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State and service providers that are affiliated with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, to increase voluntary access to community care for persons who need services related to substance use, as set forth in the bill. By June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Legislature must appropriate to the fund an amount sufficient to fully fund the services as set forth in the bill. The bill repeals the laws that make possession of a schedule W, X, Y or Z drug and use of drug paraphernalia a crime. It also repeals the laws governing the civil violation of use of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia.
LD 2082	Sen. R Bennett	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service and Housing Providers	Public Hearing 1/24/24; Work Session 2/6/24 – HHS Committee – Tabled	This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to pay administrative expenses and interest charged on lines of credit or loans accessed by behavioral health services providers and housing assistance providers when a delay in department contract award, finalization or payments requires the provider to access the line of credit or loan.
HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1074	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households	Public Hearing on 4/25 - AFA Committee – Carried over	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$100,000,000, will be used to build new affordable housing for low-income households through the construction of new structures and adaptive reuse of existing structures.





LD 226	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine’s Affordable Housing Crisis	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill provides one-time funds to MaineHousing in the amount of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 (only these FYs) to increase affordable housing stock in the State.
LD 314	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine	This Bill is now DEAD	This bill would establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine. The commission would be a quasi-independent agency funded through the Department of Economic and Community Development. Members of the commission would include housing advocates and organizations, policy makers, housing developers, housing experts, landlords and tenants. The commission would identify the hurdles to developing more housing units and recommend solutions to each branch of government.
LD 337	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing	Public Hearing, Tuesday 1/23/24; Work Session 1/30/24 – Housing Committee voted OTP-AM	Sponsor Amendment replaces the entire concept draft bill: This amendment aims to increase affordable housing by allowing manufactured housing (modular and “newer mobile homes” as defined) to be located on lots where single family homes are allowed. This includes only 1) “newer mobile homes” built after 1976 that are constructed in compliance with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development standards, and 2) modular homes that the manufacturer certifies are constructed in compliance with Title 10, chapter 951, and rules adopted under that chapter.
LD 371	Sen. Jeffrey Timberlake	An Act to Address Certain Local Zoning Ordinances	Work Session 1/30/24 – State and Local Government Committee voted ONTP	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to address certain local zoning ordinances.
LD 387	Rep. Mark Blier	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Providing a Tax Exemption for Housing Choice Vouchers	This Bill is now DEAD	This bill provides an income tax deduction for income received by a landlord as tenant based housing assistance payments in the form of Section 8 housing choice vouchers administered by the Maine State Housing Authority.
LD 721	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Preserve Historic Buildings and Promote Affordable Housing	This Bill is now DEAD	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would enact provisions of law to preserve historic buildings and promote affordable housing.
LD 853	Rep. Benjamin Collings	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Housing	Public Hearing, Tuesday 1/23/24; Work Session 1/30/24 & 2/6/24 – Housing Committee – Divided Report	This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to housing. Constitutional referendum - the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon

				the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question: "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to housing?"
LD 1294	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Implement Several Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals	Work Session 2/13/24 – Housing Committee – Voted OTP-AM	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would implement certain recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals.
LD 1298	Rep. Charles Skold	An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing	Public Hearing 2/13; Work Session 2/13/24 and 2/27/24 – Taxation Committee	This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax of 1% on short-term lodging that is subject to the state sales and use tax if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality. The revenue from the local option sales tax must be distributed to the municipality imposing the local option sales tax. The distributed revenue must be used in municipal programs that support affordable housing development in that municipality, including rental assistance for lower income households or moderate-income households. Revenue received by a municipality may not be used to reduce or eliminate funding otherwise due the municipality under other provisions of law. The local option sales tax may not take effect before July 1, 2024.
LD 1490	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees at or Prior to the Commencement of Tenancy	Work Session held 1/16/24 – Judiciary Committee – Divided Report	This bill provides that at or prior to the commencement of a tenancy, a landlord, the landlord's agent or a real estate broker may not require a tenant or prospective tenant to pay an amount in excess of the rent for the first full month of occupancy, a security deposit and the purchase and installation cost for a key and lock.
LD 1493	Rep. Raegan LaRoche	An Act to Increase Affordable Housing by Expanding Tax Increment Financing	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill authorizes the creation of Pine Tree Housing Zones to allow retained value resulting from a tax increment financing district in a municipality to be used anywhere in the municipality for the purposes of the purchase, rehabilitation or establishment of affordable and workforce housing in the municipality. The bill provides for a sales tax exemption for the associated purchasing of goods and services and electricity for a qualified project in a Pine Tree Housing Zone.
LD 1505	Rep. Kristen Cloutier	An Act to Amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act	Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment A in the House on 2/6 and the Seante on 2/13; the bill now faces votes for enactment	This bill amends the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act to include group equity cooperatives. It also provides that a housing assistance program must be made reasonably available to residents of housing cooperatives.
LD 1540	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund Program	Emergency bill requiring 2/3's	This bill, which includes an emergency preamble and emergency clause, creates the Stable Home Fund and the Stable Home Fund

			majority vote – failed 2/3's majority vote in the House but Passed in the Senate to be Placed on the Special Appropriations Table on 6/21. Sent back to the House for concurrence where it failed 2/3's needed for final passage – Carried over	Program within MaineHousing. The purpose of the program is to provide persons earning up to 60% of the median income for an area as defined by HUD with \$300 per month in rental assistance paid directly to the landlord for up to 24 months or until those persons secure housing by means of a housing voucher program administered by HUD under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, or secure a subsidized housing unit. The bill directs MaineHousing to administer the program except that MaineHousing may delegate the administration of the program and provide appropriate funding from the fund to a municipal housing authority with respect to eligible persons located within the municipal housing authority's jurisdiction.
LD 1672	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Establish an Affordable Housing Permitting Process	Public Hearing held 1/5/24; Work Session 1/26/24 and 2/6/24 – Housing Committee – Voted ONTP	This bill establishes the Affordable Housing Development Review Board under the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning in order to issue permits for the development of affordable housing and workforce housing.
LD 1673	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development by Establishing a Thriving Corridors Program	Public Hearing on 5/12; Work Session 1/12/24; Work Session 1/26/24 – Housing Committee – Unanimous OTP-AM	As Amended, this bill would establish a resolve to create a working group to design a cross-agency plan. The Working Group would consist of the Commissioners of: DOT, EPA, DECD, ACF, Housing, GOPIF.
LD 1710	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program	Public Hearing on 5/12; Work Session 5/26; Work Session 5/30; Work Session 2/13/24 – Housing Committee – Divided Report	Sponsor Amendment amends the bill as follows: This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs in the State. The amendment also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out the program. The bill appropriates \$16,000,000 of ongoing funds annually. The amendment makes it an unfair trade practice for a landlord to refuse to participate in a federal, state or local tenant-based rental assistance program.
LD 1721	Sen. Jill Duson	An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State	Public Hearing on 5/12; Work Session 1/5/24, and 1/30/24 – Housing Committee – Divided Report OTP-AM/ONTP	This bill creates the Transitional Housing Community Construction Program Fund under MaineHousing to create transitional housing communities, which are clusters of transitional housing dwelling units for homeless individuals and families to provide stability and to allow the individuals and families to transition to permanent housing. The bill directs that transitional housing communities be created throughout the State designed to cover all 16 counties.

				The bill directs DHHS, through independent housing services under its administration of assisted housing programs, to coordinate, arrange or provide services including job training and health care services for residents of transitional housing communities. The bill also provides one-time funding MaineHousing to create transitional housing communities and funding to the department to provide independent housing services to residents of transitional housing.
LD 1864	Rep. James Boyle	An Act to Increase Maine's Housing Supply by Prohibiting Certain Zoning Requirements in Areas Where Public Sewer and Water Infrastructure Are Available and in Designated Growth Areas	This Bill is now DEAD	This bill provides restrictions on municipal ordinance requirements related to minimum lot size in areas where water and sewer infrastructure are available and in areas where water and sewer infrastructure are not available but that are within designated growth areas. For a housing development served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system and that is located in an area in which dwelling units are allowed, a municipality must allow a dwelling unit on a lot with a minimum size of 5,000 square feet. For a housing development located in a designated growth area that is not served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, that complies with minimum lot size requirements in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 423-A and that is located in an area in which dwelling units are allowed, a municipality must allow a dwelling unit on a lot with a minimum size of 20,000 square feet. The bill also provides limits to ordinance provisions relating to lot coverage, road frontage and setback requirements.
LD 1867	Rep. Grayson Lookner	An Act to Establish the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority	Public Hearing on 5/19; Work Session 5/26, Work Session 1/26/24 – Housing Committee Voted OTP-AM (6); ONTP (2) (ONTP due to \$100M fiscal note)	This bill establishes the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority within the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to develop, own, lease and maintain mixed-income, permanently affordable public residential housing in this State.
LD 1904	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Enact the Fair Chance Housing Act	Public Hearing on 5/15; Work Session 5/24; 1/31/24 and 2/6/24 – Judiciary Committee – Voted ONTP	This bill establishes the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act, the purpose of which is to ensure that a person is not denied housing based solely on the existence of a history of criminal convictions. This bill prohibits a housing provider from considering an applicant's criminal history until after the housing provider determines that the applicant meets all other qualifications for tenancy. A person who is aggrieved by a violation of the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act by a housing provider may file a grievance with the Maine Human Rights Commission and, if it is a violation by a private housing provider, may bring a civil action in court.



LD 2106	Sen. M Rotundo	An Act to Accelerate the Production of Housing and Strengthen the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit	Public Hearing 1/24/24; Work Session 2/13 – Taxation Committee – Divided Report	This bill increases the maximum tax credit allowed for certified historic property rehabilitation projects. It also allows nonprofit organizations that claim the historic preservation tax credit or the affordable housing tax credit to file their refund claims on a calendar year basis. The changes in the bill apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.
LD 2158	Rep. C Golek	An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System	Public Hearing 1/30/24; Work Session 2/2/24, tabled – Housing Committee	This bill does the following regarding housing vouchers. 1. It requires MaineHousing to collect data regarding and to submit applications to HUD for waivers that: A. Allow MaineHousing to enter into contracts at a higher rate than the fair market rental rate as established by HUD. The waiver may not result in fewer housing vouchers being issued than before the waiver was obtained; B. Allow MaineHousing or a municipal housing authority to establish reasonable time limits for the use of housing vouchers issued by the MaineHousing or the municipal housing authority; and C. Allow MaineHousing or a municipal housing authority to issue housing vouchers that may be used upon issuance anywhere within the State. 2. Contingent upon approval of a waiver, it codifies under the powers and duties of MaineHousing the power authorized by each waiver. 3. It requires MaineHousing to submit: A. Suggested legislation that requires all housing authorities or public corporations created or authorized pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 201 to conform their housing voucher programs to the housing voucher program administered by MaineHousing; and B. A report detailing its efforts to obtain the 3 waivers from HUD. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters is authorized to report out to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 legislation related to the report and suggested legislation submitted by MaineHousing.
LD 2169	Sen. M Daughtry	An Act to Create Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine	Public Hearing 2/6/24; Work Session 2/13/24, Tabled – Housing Committee	This bill establishes the Workforce Housing Development Loan Fund in the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide loans to support the development of affordable workforce housing. The department must solicit applications for loans from the fund through a competitive application process. Loans may be awarded to community banks at an interest rate of 0% to provide funding to housing developers to develop housing for employees who earn 60% to 120% of the area median income as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
LD 2209	Committee Bill	An Act to Increase the Cap on Bonds Issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to Reflect Current Housing Production Needs in the State	Public Hearing 2/20/24 1pm – Housing Committee	This committee bill is presented by the Joint Select Committee on Housing pursuant to Joint Order 2023, H.P. 3, section 3. The bill increases the cap on mortgage purchase bonds authorized to be issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to align with current housing production needs in the State.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1426	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance	This bill is now DEAD	<p>This bill:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requires an overseer, no later than the 120th day following appointment or election, to complete training on the requirements of the municipal general assistance program; 2. Replaces, for determining the maximum level of assistance, the fair market value determination with setting the assistance at the equivalent amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 except that the benefit level may not be less than the difference between the applicant's income and 110% of the area's fair market rent; 3. Provides that if general assistance is being used to pay rent for an applicant whose rent is subject to a lease an overseer may redetermine the applicant's eligibility annually; 4. Increases from 70% to 90% the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by a municipality and each Indian tribe; 5. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse each municipality for 5% of the direct costs of paying benefits incurred through its general assistance program; 6. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and provide overseers with access to a statewide database for tracking applicants for the general assistance program and expenses relating to the program; and 7. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to municipalities with regard to processing applications for the general assistance program and directs the department to establish a hotline that is available 24 hours per day in order to provide consistent, accurate advice to overseers. It also requires the department to respond to requests for assistance within 24 hours
LD 1664	Sen. Marianne Moore	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.
LD 1675	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the General Assistance Program Regarding Eligibility, Housing Assistance and State Reimbursement and to Establish a Working Group	This bill is now DEAD	This bill amends the law governing the General Assistance (GA) program to provide that a municipality must calculate housing assistance equivalent to the amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. The bill extends the period of eligibility from one month to 6 months. Beginning July 1, 2023,

				when a municipality incurs net general assistance costs in excess of 0.008% of that municipality's most recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, DHHS must reimburse the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures. The bill also directs the department to establish a working group to study and make recommendations related to a uniform intake process and the conversion of the GA program into a housing assistance program.
LD 1732	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program	1/30/24 Work Session – HHS Committee – Voted OTP-AM	<p>This bill changes the municipal general assistance program in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment; 2. It requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during regular business hours; 3. It amends provisions governing the municipality of responsibility to increase the provision of assistance from 30 days to 6 months when a municipality assists an applicant in relocating to another community and from 6 months to 12 months when an applicant is residing in a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home or hospital or in a hotel, motel or other temporary housing; 4. It increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe. It also provides that, if a municipality elects to determine need without consideration of funds from a municipally controlled trust, the State is required to reimburse the municipality for 66 2/3% of the amount in excess of expenditures; 5. It provides state reimbursement for additional program costs, including emergency general assistance, temporary housing, interpreter services and administrative expenses; and 6. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the services necessary to support municipalities, including education and training for certain state employees the delivery of trauma-informed and culturally and linguistically appropriate services, written decisions and a database.

FOOD SECURITY BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 568	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$600,000 to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill also removes the \$50,000 limit on matching contributions from the fund criteria.

LD 1584	Rep. Holly Stover	An Act to Provide Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to Temporarily Restore Benefits Being Reduced by the Federal Government	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	Under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Federal Government provided emergency benefit allotments under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. These emergency benefit allotments are scheduled to expire March 1, 2023. This bill extends for 6 months, but on a decreasing basis, the amount of benefits available under SNAP by providing General Fund funds to provide the following level of benefits: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In March 2023, 100% of the federal emergency benefit allotment; 2. In April 2023, 75% of the federal emergency benefit allotment; 3. In May 2023, 50% of the federal emergency benefit allotment; and 4. From June through August 2023, 25% of the federal emergency benefit allotment. Beginning in September 2023, an additional amount is not provided.
LD 1940	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Promote Consistent Policies within Growth Management Programs in Order to Increase Food Security and Economic Resiliency in Local Communities	This Bill is now DEAD	This bill amends the laws governing planning and land use regulation to encourage: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Municipalities to ensure that the language and requirements in charters, policies, codes, regulations, bylaws and fees align with each other and meet the overall intent of the comprehensive plan approved by the legislative body; 2. Municipalities to develop policies that assess community needs and environmental, food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations, lessen the effect of excessive parking requirements for buildings in downtowns and on main streets and provide for alternative approaches for compliance relating to the reuse of upper floors of buildings in downtowns and on main streets; and 3. In the development of affordable housing, municipalities and multimunicipal regions to establish policies that assess food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations.

Federal Legislation Update

BUDGET & FUNDING-RELATED ITEMS - Updates

Tax Package – Update – The House passed its tax package, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 (H.R. 7024), at the end of January. The bill now faces a full vote in the Senate. The tax bill includes provisions to expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC), as well as top two top legislative priorities related to affordable housing (also included in the bipartisan Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act that has widespread bipartisan support). The tax bill would do the following for affordable housing:

- Restore the 12.5 percent allocation increase for nine percent LIHTCs for 2023 to 2025; and
- Lower the 50 percent bond financing test to 30 percent for 2024 to 2025.

FY 24 Budget – Update – Congress passed, and the President signed, another short-term two-tier, short-term continuing resolution (CR) to extend federal funding. THUD and three other federal spending bills are now funded through 3/1. Congress is likely to pass multiple mini-bus spending bills (vs. one large omnibus bill). As Congress finalizes the T-HUD budget for FY 24, it will need to provide a significant funding increase over 2023 levels for Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) to avoid a reduction in the number of families receiving HCVs. Based on CBPP figures, 600 fewer families in Maine would be assisted with HCVs in the House T-HUD bill, and 400 fewer families with the Senate bill.

Senate FY 24 THUD Bill – No New Update – On 7/20 the Senate T-HUD Appropriations Committee released its FY 24 spending bill. Overall, the bill provides \$70.06 billion for HUD’s affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs, an increase of \$8.26 billion (or slightly more than 13%) over FY23-enacted levels. However, HUD needs to increase funding by approximately \$13 billion just to maintain existing levels of assistance. Though, the Senate draft proposes \$1.86 billion more in funding for HUD’s vital affordable housing and homelessness programs than the draft spending bill released by the U.S. House of Representatives on 7/11. The Senate THUD bill provides increased funding for key HUD programs, particularly those vital to getting or keeping people with the lowest incomes housed. The bill proposes:

- \$31.7 billion for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program (\$1.48 billion more than FY 23).
 - Expected to be sufficient to renew existing contracts and provides funding for an additional 4,000 vouchers targeted to Veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness and youth aging out of foster care – including \$30 million for VASH (\$20 million decrease from FY 23) and \$30 million for the Family Unification Program (FUP)
- \$15.7 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) program (\$884 million more than FY 23).
- \$686 for Section 811 Mainstream vouchers (\$78 million increase from FY 23).
- \$3.9 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) program (\$275 million increase from FY 23). Within this is:
 - \$100 million for the construction, preservation, and operation of permanent supportive housing, and \$31 million for capacity-building grants and technical assistance.
 - Language that would allow HUD to complete funds every other year, cut down on time and resources spent on paperwork, and allow service providers to focus on delivering assistance (aka 2-year NOFOs).
- \$1.5 billion for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and the recently authorized Grants to Identify and Remove Barriers to Affordable Housing program.
- \$1.5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) (same as FY 23).
- \$4.5 billion for CDBG (decrease of \$1.9 billion from FY 23). of that amount \$3.3 billion is allocated for formula funding, while approximately \$1.06 billion is earmarked for specific community development projects. The Senate proposal would also provide \$100 million in funding for grants to identify and remove barriers to affordable housing – a \$15 million increase from FY23. The program is zeroed out in the House draft.
- Level funding for Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities, Housing Counseling Assistance, and fair housing programs.

House FY 24 Appropriation Bills (including THUD) – No New Update – The House has yet to vote on the T-HUD; though a vote is expected in the near future. However, three amendments that would have reduced funding for HUD programs and affected access to housing failed.

The House FY24 THUD spending bill proposes funding HUD at \$68.2 billion, a \$6.4 billion (or roughly 10%) increase to HUD programs over previously enacted levels. HUD needs an approximately \$13 billion increase in funding over current levels just to maintain existing assistance. The spending bill proposes deep cuts to or even elimination of some HUD programs but appears to adequately fund most rental assistance programs. The bill would:

- Fund Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) programs at levels that may be sufficient to renew existing contracts.
- Provide a slight increase for HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) program.

Other HUD programs would face funding cuts, including:

- The Public Housing Capital Fund, Public Housing Operating Fund, Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities, and Section 202 Housing for the Elderly.
- The HOME Investments Partnership Program would be cut by more than half.
- Funding for several other programs – including the Family Unification Program, Incremental Vouchers, Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, and Housing Mobility Services – would be zeroed out completely.

BILLS – Updates

HR 6696 / S 3463 Eviction Prevention Act – No New Update – On 12/11 Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced the “[Eviction Prevention Act](#)” ([H.R.6696](#), [S.3463](#)) in the House and Senate, respectively. The bill would authorize new grants to provide legal representation to tenants, create the country’s first federal evictions database, and mandate a government report on evictions in the U.S.

➔ **S 2932 Housing ACCESS Act – No New Update** – On 9/26 Senator Markey introduced the Housing ACCESS Act, which would align housing and services resources and address the barriers providers face when seeking Medicaid reimbursement for housing-related services and support. It also requires a national study to determine rates that allow providers to pay living wages, reduce staff turnover, and ensure evidence-based case ratios. A companion bill is expected in the House.

Farm Bill – No New Update– The US Farm Bill is a critical piece of legislation that sets agricultural policies nationwide for the next five years. The Farm Bill offers an opportunity to expand/enhance SNAP benefits for low-income households across the country. Some lawmakers wish to make changes to SNAP through the Farm bill which would reduce eligibility for and availability of SNAP benefits for households.

HR 5221 Homeless Children and Youth Act – No New Update – On 8/15 Representatives Mikie Sherrill, Bill Posey, Delia Ramirez, and Don Bacon reintroduced the bipartisan Homeless Children and Youth Act. This bill remedies the issue of most children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness being ineligible for homeless assistance because they do not meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness by aligning federal definitions of homelessness for children and youth, streamlining assistance, leveraging resources, and bringing greater visibility to the reality of family and youth homelessness.

S 2701/HR 5254 Housing for All Act of 2023 – No New Update – Introduced by Senator Alex Padilla on 7/27 in the Senate (and by Rep Ted Lieu in the House on 8/22), this bill would address the homelessness and housing crises, moving towards the goal of providing for a home for all Americans.

➔ **S 1557/ HR 3238 The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act – No New Update** – Senators Collins and King cosponsored bipartisan legislation to create nearly two million new affordable homes across the country – including thousands in Maine. The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act would expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to provide more homes for low-income people, support small businesses trying to attract workers, and fill the state’s gap of more than 20,000 affordable housing units. The bill would:

- Increase the number of credits available to states by 50 percent for the next two years and make the temporary 12.5 percent increase secured in 2018 permanent—which has already helped build more than 59,000 additional affordable housing units nationwide.
- Stabilize financing for workforce housing projects built using private activity bonds by decreasing the amount of private activity bonds needed to secure Housing Credit funding. As a result, projects would have to carry less debt, and more projects would be eligible to receive funding.

S 1436, CHARGE Act of 2023 – No New Update – Introduced on 5/3 by Senator Jon Tester, this bill would permanently authorize additional services for Veterans experiencing homelessness that were authorized at the beginning of the pandemic. These services include: Basic essentials like food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items; Transportation to appointments with service providers and conducting housing searches; and ways to stay in touch with providers and landlords, such as tablets, smartphones, and data plans.

HR 3848, Housing Our Military Veterans Effectively Act of 2023 – No New Update – *This bill passed the House on 12/5 and was sent to the Senate for consideration.* Introduced on 7/26 by Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, this bill would revive crucial services authorized during the pandemic to provide lifesaving services under the Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD), which funds transitional housing programs for homeless veterans. These services include transportation to doctor appointments and food banks, communications devices for hearing impaired veterans, personal care products along with a dearth of other vital services and resources. that have led to a significant increase in the housing stability and improved the lives of veterans across the country.

S 1257 / HR 3776, Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act – No New Update – This bill was reintroduced in the Senate on 4/25 by Senators Van Hollen and Young. This bipartisan bill would create 250,000 new housing vouchers, paired with mobility-related services, to help low-income families with young children move to communities of their choice, including neighborhoods with high-performing schools and high-quality childcare and early education programs.

S 680 / HR 6970 DASH Act – Update – Reintroduced by Senator Wyden on 3/7, the [DASH Act](#) would make a generational investment to house all people experiencing homelessness, tackle the housing affordability crisis, and expand homeownership opportunities for young people by creating a new down payment tax credit for first-time homebuyers. On 1/11/24, Representatives Val Hoyle (D-OR) and Salud Carbajal (D-CA) introduced a companion bill in the House. The DASH Act would make stable, safe and decent housing available for all by:

- Housing everyone experiencing homelessness within five years, and prioritizing children and families for placement, by issuing them a Housing Choice Voucher, because young children are heavily impacted by housing instability, and because housing is a chief determinant of health;
- Expanding health, child care, financial and nutrition services for families and individuals to stay on a path to unassisted housing stability, because the climb out of housing poverty is nearly impossible to complete alone;
- Greatly increasing the production of deeply affordable housing for families exiting homelessness and for low-income households by investing in effective, efficient existing programs and reforming the tax code to strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax

Credit (LIHTC) to weather the economic fallout from the pandemic, as well as establish a Renter's Tax Credit and Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit (MIHTC);

- Investing in homeownership in underserved communities and for low income Americans with new tax credits and down payment assistance, including a down payment tax credit for first-time homebuyers; and
- Incentivizing environmentally-friendly development strategies and land use policies.
- Permanent authorization of appropriations for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act grants.

HR 1708 Housing is a Human Right Act of 2023 – No New Update – On 3/22 Rep. Pramila Jayapal introduced the Housing is a Human Right Act of 2023, which would address root causes of homelessness, meet the needs of community members experiencing harms from homelessness, transition communities towards providing housing for all, end penalization of homelessness, and ensure full democratic participation and inclusion of persons experiencing homelessness, and for other purposes.

S 255 Asylum Seekers Work Authorization Act of 2023 – No New Update – On 2/3 Senators Collins and Sinema reintroduced the Asylum Seekers Work Authorization Act of 2023, which would make asylum seekers eligible to receive work authorizations starting 30 days after filing an asylum application. Senator King is an original co-sponsor. On 3/1, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree reintroduced the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act in the House.

HR 9587 Tenants' Right to organize Act – No new update – On 12/19 Rep. Andy Levin introduced the Tenant's Right to Organize Act. Per NLIHC, the bill would "protect the organizing rights of tenants with Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) and tenants living in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties. Currently, only public housing tenants have a legally recognized right to organize. In extending the right to organize to HCV and LIHTC tenants, the bill recognizes that all tenants have the right to decent, safe, stable, and sanitary housing."

RULES/Other Federal Items of Note

➡ **Supreme Court Case Re. Homelessness – New** – The U.S. Supreme Court announced on 1/12 that it will hear [Johnson v. City of Grants Pass](#), a case that will determine whether people experiencing homelessness have a constitutional right to camp on public property when they do not have a place to sleep. The Supreme Court will decide whether laws regulating camping on public property constitute "cruel and unusual punishment" prohibited by the Eighth Amendment.

➡ **Proposed Rule to Provide 30-Day Notice before Initiating Eviction Proceedings for Non-Payment of Rent – New** – HUD will hold a listening session for tenants regarding a [proposed rule](#) that would require a public housing agency (PHA) or owner of a property assisted with Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) to provide a 30-day notice to a household before starting a formal judicial eviction procedure to terminate a lease for non-payment of rent. The listening session is scheduled for 12:30 pm ET on January 23. Register for the session [here](#).

State Update: Please see the [Bill Tracking](#) document for the State legislature Update.

USEFUL LINKS

- Maine Legislature Homepage: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>
- Sign up to Testify and/or submit testimony here: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

Common Acronyms: AFA = Appropriations and Financial Affairs. HHS = Health and Human Services. OTP = Ought to Pass. OTP-AM = Ought to Pass as Amended. ONTP = Ought Not to Pass.

Color code: Orange font = Budget bill; Black font = Homelessness related bill; Blue font = Service related; Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related; Purple font = General Assistance & Safety Net related bills; Pink font = Food security related bills; highlighted in yellow = passed the House and/or Senate; highlighted in green = signed by the Governor and will become Public Law; Red text = the bill is now dead.

BUDGET BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
	Governor's Bill	Supplemental Budget		<p>The Governor released her Supplemental Budget. Part A; Part B; General Fund Bill Language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PART FF: establishes the Office of New Americans within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and also establishes an advisory council to the Office of New Americans • PART HH: \$16 million for the Emergency Housing Relief Fund: Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to supplement or establish programs addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness or facing other immediate housing needs, and support other uses that address housing emergencies in the State, such as through privately-operated low barrier shelter, winter warming shelters, legal services, and other wraparound settlement supports intended to help individuals integrate into Maine's workforce and communities to ensure that winter warming shelters, lower barrier shelters, longer term shelters and transitional housing programs can remain open, operating, and supporting the emergency housing needs of Maine people.
HOMELESSNESS BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1422	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – CARRIED OVER	This bill establishes a housing voucher program for homeless students under the authority of the Maine State Housing Authority and appropriates one-time funding of \$2 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority to identify 3 sites in Maine to be used for a site-based housing program and appropriates one-time funding of \$3.5 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the DHHS to support the program.



LD 2136	Rep A Mastraccio	An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals	Public Hearing, Tuesday 1/23/24; Work Session 1/30/24 – Housing Committee – Voted OTP-AM unanimous of all present	This bill, as amended by the Committee, provides ongoing funds for homeless shelters – allocating \$10 million beginning next fiscal year, and \$2.5 million for low-barrier shelters. The Committee amendment makes the bill an emergency and adds a Legislative Study.
LD 2138	Rep C Madigan	An Act to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters	This bill is now DEAD (instead incorporated in LD 2136 above)	This resolve, as amended by the Sponsor, provides ongoing funds for low-barrier homeless shelters – allocating \$2.5 million beginning next fiscal year.
LD 2146	Rep. G Lookner	An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	Public Hearing 1/30/24, Work Session 2/6 – State and Local Government Committee – Divided Report	This bill prohibits municipalities with populations exceeding 30,000 people from adopting moratoria on the establishment of emergency shelters that provide temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness.

SERVICE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1975	Rep. Lydia Crafts	An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs	Public hearing held 1/17/24	This bill establishes the Substance Use, Health and Safety Fund in the Department of Health and Human Services. Money deposited in the fund must be used by the department to oversee, approve and provide grants and funding to agencies, organizations and service providers, including the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State and service providers that are affiliated with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, to increase voluntary access to community care for persons who need services related to substance use, as set forth in the bill. By June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Legislature must appropriate to the fund an amount sufficient to fully fund the services as set forth in the bill. The bill repeals the laws that make possession of a schedule W, X, Y or Z drug and use of drug paraphernalia a crime. It also repeals the laws governing the civil violation of use of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia.

HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1074	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households	Public Hearing on 4/25 - AFA Committee – Carried Over	\$100,000,000 bond issue to build new affordable housing for low-income households.
LD 226	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine’s Affordable Housing Crisis	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table	This bill provides one-time funds to MaineHousing in the amount of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 (only these FYs) to increase affordable housing stock in the State.



			pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	
LD 1540	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund Program	Emergency bill requiring 2/3's majority vote – failed 2/3's majority vote in the House but Passed in the Senate to be Placed on the Special Appropriations Table on 6/21. Sent back to the House for concurrence where it failed 2/3's needed for final passage – Carried over	This bill, which includes an emergency preamble and emergency clause, creates the Stable Home Fund and the Stable Home Fund Program within MaineHousing. The purpose of the program is to provide persons earning up to 60% of the median income for an area as defined by HUD with \$300 per month in rental assistance paid directly to the landlord for up to 24 months or until those persons secure housing by means of a housing voucher program administered by HUD under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, or secure a subsidized housing unit. The bill directs MaineHousing to administer the program except that MaineHousing may delegate the administration of the program and provide appropriate funding from the fund to a municipal housing authority with respect to eligible persons located within the municipal housing authority's jurisdiction.
LD 1710	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program	Public Hearing on 5/12; Work Session 2/13/24 – Housing Committee – Divided Report	Sponsor Amendment amends the bill as follows: This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs in the State. The amendment also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out the program. The bill appropriates \$16,000,000 of ongoing funds annually. The amendment makes it an unfair trade practice for a landlord to refuse to participate in a federal, state or local tenant-based rental assistance program.
LD 2106	Sen. M Rotundo	An Act to Accelerate the Production of Housing and Strengthen the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit	Public Hearing 1/24/24; Work Session 2/13 – Taxation Committee – Divided Report	This bill increases the maximum tax credit allowed for certified historic property rehabilitation projects. It also allows nonprofit organizations that claim the historic preservation tax credit or the affordable housing tax credit to file their refund claims on a calendar year basis. The changes in the bill apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1426	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance	This bill is now DEAD	This bill: 1. Requires an overseer, no later than the 120th day following appointment or election, to complete training on the requirements of the municipal GA program; 2. Replaces, for determining the maximum level of assistance, the fair market value determination with setting the assistance at the equivalent amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 except that the benefit level may not be less than the



				<p>difference between the applicant's income and 110% of the area's fair market rent;</p> <p>3. Provides that if general assistance is being used to pay rent for an applicant whose rent is subject to a lease an overseer may redetermine the applicant's eligibility annually;</p> <p>4. Increases from 70% to 90% the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of GA incurred by a municipality and each Indian tribe;</p> <p>5. Directs DHHS to reimburse each municipality for 5% of the direct costs of paying benefits incurred through GA program;</p> <p>6. Directs DHHS to establish and provide overseers with access to a statewide database for tracking applicants for the GA program and expenses relating to the program; and</p> <p>7. Requires DHHS to provide assistance to municipalities with regard to processing applications for the GA program and directs the department to establish a hotline that is available 24 hours per day in order to provide consistent, accurate advice to overseers. It also requires the department to respond to requests for assistance within 24 hours</p>
LD 1664	Sen. Marianne Moore	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.
LD 1675	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the General Assistance Program Regarding Eligibility, Housing Assistance and State Reimbursement and to Establish a Working Group	This bill is now DEAD	This bill amends the law governing the General Assistance (GA) program to provide that a municipality must calculate housing assistance equivalent to the amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. The bill extends the period of eligibility from one month to 6 months. Beginning July 1, 2023, when a municipality incurs net general assistance costs in excess of 0.008% of that municipality's most recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, DHHS must reimburse the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures. The bill also directs the department to establish a working group to study and make recommendations related to a uniform intake process and the conversion of the GA program into a housing assistance program.
LD 1732	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program	1/30/24 Work Session – HHS Committee – Voted OTP-AM	<p>This bill changes the municipal general assistance program in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment; 2. It requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during regular business hours; 3. It amends provisions governing the municipality of responsibility to increase the provision of assistance from 30 days to 6 months when a municipality assists an applicant in relocating to another community and from 6 months to 12 months when an applicant is residing in a

				<p>group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home or hospital or in a hotel, motel or other temporary housing;</p> <p>4. It increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe. It also provides that, if a municipality elects to determine need without consideration of funds from a municipally controlled trust, the State is required to reimburse the municipality for 66 2/3% of the amount in excess of expenditures;</p> <p>5. It provides state reimbursement for additional program costs, including emergency general assistance, temporary housing, interpreter services and administrative expenses; and</p> <p>6. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the services necessary to support municipalities, including education and training for certain state employees the delivery of trauma-informed and culturally and linguistically appropriate services, written decisions and a database.</p>
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FOOD SECURITY BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 568	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$600,000 to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill also removes the \$50,000 limit on matching contributions from the fund criteria.