

Maine Office of Community Affairs – Brief Summary

The Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) is a new standalone State office that partners with Maine communities to strengthen planning and implementation at the local level. It serves as a one-stop shop within State government to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance, and financial support to towns, cities, Tribal governments and regional entities, to help them better plan for common challenges, pursue solutions, and create stronger, more resilient communities.

Starting in July 2025, the Office will reorganize seven existing state programs involving land use, housing and flood plain planning, as well as building codes, coastal management, and climate resilience.

Other state programs that provide services to communities on these and other related topics will remain in other agencies, with the Office ensuring increased coordination across agencies and program staff.

The Office will additionally include a newly established State Resilience Office and staff, supported by the historic [\\$69 million climate resilience grant](#) awarded to Maine by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The staff of the reorganized programs and the State Resilience Office will work together to enable each community to find the support services that are right for them.

In June 2023, the Legislature directed the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) to review opportunities and structural changes in state government and recommend ways to improve coordination and implementation of planning grants and technical assistance programs for communities and regional planning and development organizations. This resulted in a report to the Legislature in 2023 that recommended the creation of the Maine Office of Community Affairs. Its establishment, consisting primarily of the Director's position, was funded in the 2024-25 supplemental budget passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Mills in April. Governor Mills [announced](#) Samantha Horn as the Office's Director in October 2024.

The following existing State programs will be incorporated into the Office:

- Community Resilience Partnership (currently part of GOPIF)
- Maine Coastal Program (Department of Marine Resources)
- Maine Floodplain Program (Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry)

- Municipal Planning Assistance Program (Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry)
- Housing Opportunity Program (Department of Economic and Community Development)
- Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code/Code Enforcement (Office of State Fire Marshal)
- Volunteer Maine, an independent state office connected to the Department of Education that supports a stronger Maine through volunteerism.

The relevant state programs and staff will be transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs through proposals that will be included in the Governor's forthcoming biennial budget, to take effect by July 1, 2025. The Office will also include, by spring 2025, a newly established State Resilience Office and staff to lead cross-agency efforts to enhance climate resilience across the state, especially in communities with significant climate vulnerabilities impacting residents, infrastructure, and the environment.