



# CONNECTMAINE

ConnectMaine Authority Members: Nick Battista, Jasmine Bishop, Fred Britain, Susan Corbett, Heather Johnson, Jeff Letourneau, Liz Wyman

## Reports

The ConnectMaine Authority is a public instrumentality of Maine state government whose mission is to facilitate the universal availability of broadband to all Maine households and businesses and help them understand the valuable role it can play in enriching their lives and helping their communities thrive. ConnectMaine reports and plans highlight its activities.

State of Maine Broadband Action Plan:

[https://www.maine.gov/connectme/sites/maine.gov.connectme/files/inline-files/Plan\\_Action\\_2020.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/connectme/sites/maine.gov.connectme/files/inline-files/Plan_Action_2020.pdf)

State of Maine Economic Development Strategy:

[https://www.maine.gov/decd/sites/maine.gov.decd/files/inline-files/DECD\\_120919\\_sm.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/decd/sites/maine.gov.decd/files/inline-files/DECD_120919_sm.pdf)

## Resources

The state has set a goal of broadband service being universally available, but Maine's population isn't dense enough for the private sector alone to expand broadband service. These resources are intended to be helpful to local community leaders, to contribute to the expansion of broadband.

Maine Broadband Coalition: <https://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org/resources>

Community-Driven Broadband Process:

[https://www.maine.gov/connectme/sites/maine.gov.connectme/files/inline-files/Guide\\_CommDriven\\_II\\_1.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/connectme/sites/maine.gov.connectme/files/inline-files/Guide_CommDriven_II_1.pdf)

Other Resources: <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/communities-resources/resources>

## Grants

The ConnectMaine Authority provides grants to develop plans for, and to support investments in, the expansion of broadband service. Precertification is intended to encourage adoption best practices for broadband planning and initiate a community process that applies best practices on an on-going basis.

Planning & Infrastructure Grants: <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants>

Notes on specific communities from town requested list:

- Belmont: Fixed wireless broadband expansion is occurring in portions of the community using coronavirus relief funds, <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/award-recipients>.
- China: Charter Communications is considering the community as one of its pilots for its Bulk-Buy Spectrum Service; meanwhile, it seems the community is also conversing with Axiom Technologies about a community broadband network.
- Rangeley: Greater Franklin Development Council finished a community broadband plan for the County and is working to complete a feasibility study, <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/planning-grants/awards>.
- Rome: The Town recently received a planning grant.
- Sanford: The City is working to complete a grant-funded broadband feasibility study to expand its broadband network.
- Shapleigh: Fixed wireless broadband expansion is occurring in portions of the community using coronavirus relief funds, <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/award-recipients>.
- Surry: Wired broadband was expanded in Newry Neck in 2016, <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/award-recipients>, and another project area on the border of Lamoine is considered for an upcoming grant application.
- Sweden: Maine West completed a community broadband plan for much of Oxford County, <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/planning-grants/awards>.
- West Paris: Maine West completed a community broadband plan for much of Oxford County, <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/planning-grants/awards>, and both fixed wireless and wired broadband expansion is occurring in portions of the community using coronavirus relief funds, <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/award-recipients>.