



Inside a Furman Block unit, courtesy of The Szanton Company

Happy end of January!

Amidst the challenges of the last months, one bright spot was attending the opening of Furman Block.

The new development adds 40 affordable units and 11 market rate units to Portland's tight real estate market. Six of the affordable units are set aside to house people who were homeless - with the opening of the development, they will have a place to call their own.

We're proud to support efforts like these that not only add to the number of affordable units in places where they are desperately needed, but also adds to this community's character and the sense of community in this neighborhood.

With the vast majority of our staff telecommuting once more, we are hard at work on standing up the new rent relief program (more below), gearing up for the legislative session, and of course making sure our long-standing programs are running as smoothly and efficiently as possible. As always, **please be in touch with us** if you have questions or comment about our work!

The MaineHousing Team

Rent Relief Coming Soon

Now that we've received guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department, we are working with Maine's Community Action Agencies to build our new COVID-19 rent relief program - the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

We have an update on where we are with the program, [which you can find here](#), including an email sign up for Emergency Rental Assistance Program updates. Check it out and sign up for updates!

New Emergency Shelter Hotels

Our COVID-19 response continues with contracting with more hotels to accommodate emergency shelter needs. We have new emergency shelter contracts with hotels in Waterville (29 rooms, combination of families and singles), Scarborough (73 rooms, all singles), and Presque Isle (10 rooms, families and singles).

We appreciate the work that has gone into standing up these emergency shelters, especially from our partners at Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter, the City of Portland and Preble Street, and the Aroostook County Action Program. The new hotel emergency shelters are in addition to similar efforts in South Portland, Lewiston, and Bangor.

Our COVID-19 Response

MaineHousing has been central to Maine's response to keeping Mainers housed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our multifaceted response began with funding homeless shelter providers with additional operations funding to address COVID-19 concerns, to house homeless individuals in hotels, and to launch wellness shelters. We quickly expanded our response to fund the COVID-19 Rent Relief Program. [This document](#) outlines costs and some of the outcomes of our work.

MaineHousing Publishes 2020 Maine Homeownership Affordability Index

Each year, MaineHousing publishes a homeownership affordability index detailing the affordability of homeownership for those at the local median income. The index includes statewide, congressional district, county, and municipal level homeownership affordability data. [You can find it here](#) on our website.

MaineHousing is Hiring!

We are hiring for a few positions! Learn more at the links below.

[Weatherization Program Officer](#), Energy and Housing Services
Close Date: 2/12/2021

[HEAP Program Assistant](#), Energy and Housing Services
Close Date: 1/29/2021



MaineHousing's Board of Commissioners will meet on February 16, 2021 at 9 am via teleconference. For more information about how to listen in on the meeting, [please contact us](#).



MaineHousing Homeownership:
As of January 19, 2021:

Purchases: 63
The total value of the loans purchased so far in 2021 is **\$9,698,256**.

There are **261 units** in the pipeline at **\$36,937,635** in value.



HEAP (as of January 21, 2021):

Total applications: 34,145
Pending: 10,886
Confirmed eligible: 19,070

Find out more information about the program here - and forward to your networks and people who may need help!



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