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Maine Association of Nonprofits Urges County Commissioners to Engage with Community Leaders on ARPA Spending

PORTLAND - The Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP) and 14 members of their Advocacy Network have issued an open letter to County Commissioners in the state, urging continued collaboration on distribution of American Recovery Plan Act funding.

Maine’s 16 counties are preparing to distribute up to a total of $261 million allocated directly from the U.S. Treasury Department, and the state’s six largest cities are doing the same with a total of $121.6 million. Each county and city received about half of its allocation in May and is expected to receive the other half after April of next year.

“Maine’s nonprofit community is one of the most robust and vibrant in the country, playing a significant role in the state’s reputation as a great place to live and raise a family and our organizations are an integral part of recovery efforts,” said Jennifer Hutchins, MANP Executive Director. “We believe that this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity and encourage municipal and county leadership to include the unique perspective that nonprofits provide as they make these critical funding decisions.”

Excerpt from letter below, full letter available here.
"In response to COVID-19, Maine’s nonprofits stepped up without hesitation to serve their communities. By increasing services, modifying existing programs, creating new ones, and delivering information in ways they’ve never had to before, they were essential partners in Maine’s response.

We encourage you to continue this collaboration as you determine the distribution of ARPA funding. Partnerships with Maine’s nonprofits will allow for funding to be distributed effectively and efficiently, leveraging resources, relationships, and strengths to serve communities even better. Additionally, nonprofits are perfectly positioned to maximize public benefits with their deep knowledge of community needs, reach, and existing relationships, particularly in low-income and underserved or hard-to-reach populations.”

MANP also distributed a report from the National Council of Nonprofits to county leadership. Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits: Principles, Recommendations, and Models for Investing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provides substantive guidance on the role nonprofits can fill in the allocation process and examples of successful programs from across the country.

For more information about MANP, visit www.NonprofitMaine.org.