From:

Nancy Perlson Charlie Woodworth

To: Cc:

Sandy Wilber

Subject:

MHS Final TIF proposal

Date:

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 10:05:00 AM MHS TIF Application Final May 2025.pdf

Attachments:

MHS TIF Application Final May 2025.pdf MHS TIF Project Final Budget 2025.xlsx

SFCF TIF LOS 2025.pdf

Hi Charlie and Sandy,

I have attached a revised copy of the MHS TIF proposal and budget and included a Letter of Support from the Sargent Family Charitable Fund confirming their collaboration of the project and their financial commitment. I have not resent the other documents which were sent with the LOS which remain the same including Attachment A: Measurable Outcomes, photos, IRS determination, and cover letter.

After meeting with Sandy I considered the suggestions made by the TIF committee for our LOI proposal. One suggestion was that a 1/1 match is viewed more favorably. I have increased the matching numbers to achieve that. After conferring with the SFCF I realized that I had underestimated the contribution of donated and discounted labor and materials which are made possible because of their long standing relationship with contractors and vendors.

Another suggestion was to split the project into two phases, perhaps leaving the interpretive signage for a second phase. While we considered this, we decided to keep it as one project. My concerns were two fold. One - I was concerned that if we submitted Phase I without the signage it might not be seen as having as much scenic byway relevance and benefit. Two - I was concerned that if we had not completed Phase I by the time applications are submitted next year we would not be eligible to apply for additional funding. Hopefully this will make sense to the committee.

I did extend the time frame of the project to give us through the summer of 2026 to complete the project. In the guidance it says that the grant period for all TIF grants will be no less than one year from the time of receipt of an award so I assume that is acceptable.

Sandy also noted that you have a proposal from the ATV club for some bridge work in Madrid. She wondered if there could be some coordination between our projects. While I think there could be an opportunity to reactivate a recreational trail that might link the two projects in the future, there is just too much unknown at this time to propose that now.

We thank you and the committee for your work on this program and your guidance on our project.

Sincerely,

Nancy 207-491-1556

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Application for Funding

General Project Information
Date: May 25, 2025
Project Title: Madrid Community and Scenic Byway Facilities Enhancement
Organization: Madrid Historical Society
Type of Organization: 501(c) 3 non-profit
This project is being pursued by: ☐ A single business or organization ☐ A collaboration including:
MHS is partnering with the Sargent Family Community Fund on the project. The Sargent family have deep roots in Madrid and are committed to supporting this project both financially and through their relationships with contractors and volunteers who have participated in community projects coordinated through the Just One Day program. The SFCF has completed over 30 projects bringing together dozens of skilled volunteers with discounted contracted labor and providing funds.
One line description of your project:
We will enhance the MHS property to benefit the community and byway travelers with facilities to gather, learn about, and explore historic and recreational assets in Madrid Township contributing to our quality of life and supporting our tourism based economy.
Dollar amount requested: 50,000 Total project budget: 100,000
Unorganized Territory(ies) in which project will occur:
Madrid Township
Have you applied for applicable licenses and permits for your project (LUPC, DEP, DHHS, etc.)? If so, please list:
We are working with LUPC on a permit

Applicant Information

Legal name of organization: Madrid Historical Society
Mailing address: P.O. 122 Phillips, ME 04966
Physical address: 1 Schoolhouse Rd. Madrid Township, ME 04966
Telephone: 207-491-1556
Email: perlson.nancy@gmail.com
Website: NA
Number of years business/agency has been in existence: 25
Federal Tax ID or EIN: 01-053279
Name of Executive Director or President: Virgina Robie
Phone: 207-639-2713 Email: vrobie@live.com
Number of paid staff related to the project (Note FT, PT, and/or seasonal):
0
Number of volunteers related to the project: 30
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: September 1, 2026

A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:

Our proposal is to create facilities on a property owned by the Madrid Historical Society (MHS) prominently located just across the Sandy River from the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway (RLNSB). Madrid is the gateway to the RLNSB and the Sandy River scenic turnout, previously constructed with support from the TIF program, provides information about the history of Madrid. This project will encourage travelers to get off the highway and learn more about the community and explore the historic features and recreational opportunities which are available. We propose developing the area next to the schoolhouse museum, constructing a pavilion and cookshack, and removing the old Quonset hut.

The project would also involve grading, drainage, landscaping, parking, and interpretive signage. The facilities will provide opportunities for residents, visitors, and travelers to gather and learn about our community. It will provide connections to recreation through a short trail along the 320' on Saddleback Stream. Interpretive signs will encourage exploration providing info about MHS exhibits, the Fly Rod Crosby trail, the Perham Stream Birding Trail, the Perham Stream Settlement Museum, and the many historic cemeteries across the community dating back to the 1700's.

Plan for Evaluating Success of the Project

Financia	LSm	staina	hility	Plan-
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When the Town of Madrid de-organized remaining community funds were used to improve the Madrid schoolhouse which is now the site of MHS and the location of this project. A fund of \$100,000 was created to generate funds for the support of MHS and associated community needs. This fund is invested, and although the principal must remain intact, the income derived from it can be used for the activities of MHS including the maintenance of these facilities. While this is a modest amount it should be sufficient for long-term maintenance. There will be no staffing required and no additional burden on local or county taxpayers. MHS will be responsible for the management and long-term maintenance of these facilities. They will be designed and constructed to allow for low maintenance. MHS also anticipates that the community members, contractors, and volunteers who have donated their time to assist with the project will continue to provide support and maintenance.

Measurable Outcomes:		
See Attachment A: Measurable Outcome	s	
Potential Barriers to Success:		
MHS is a small all volunteer organization require significant outside financial suppo Community Fund will bring not only finance relationships with a dedicated core of conthour County TIF fund will bring the additional fit expect that the community will commit time project will not be able to proceed.	rt and effort. Our collabora cial support but also constr tractors and volunteers. Fu inancial support needed to	tion with the Sargent Family uction experience and unding from the Franklin undertake this project. We
Signatures		
Signature of President/CEO/Board President:	Ginni Robie	Date: May 27, 2025
Print Name: Virginia Robie	Title: Preside	ent
Fiscal Sponsor (If Applicable)		
Signature of Fiscal Sponsor Organization:		Date:
Print Name:	Title:	

Franklin County Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Application Checklist

Complete contact information
 For nonprofits, include a copy of your IRS determination letter
 All sections completed on this form or, if typed on a separate sheet, so noted in the correct areas on the form ("Please see attachment A," etc.) and appropriately titled on the separate sheet
 The TIF Project Budget Excel sheet
 A cover letter from the leader of your organization
 If you have a fiscal sponsor, a letter from that sponsor
 Up to three letters of support (Optional)
 Signatures on application
 Remove and retain Appendix of the application before submittal

Madrid Community/Scenic Byway Enhancement Project Budget

	TIF		SFC	F	Vol	unteers	Do	nated materi	als, s⊦Total	
Materials	\$	25,000	\$	10,000			\$	5,000	\$	40,000
Contracted labor	\$	10,000	\$	10,000					\$	20,000
Donated labor					\$	5,000	\$	5,000	\$	10,000
Contracted equipment	\$	5,000	\$	5,000					\$	10,000
Donated equipment time							\$	5,000	\$	5,000
Interpretive signage	\$	10,000			\$	3,000	\$	2,000	\$	15,000
Total	\$	50,000	\$	25,000	\$	8,000	\$	17,000	\$	100,000



May 22, 2025

Franklin County TIF Review Committee Franklin County Commissioners 140 Main St. Farmington, ME 04938

Dear County Commissioners and TIF Review Committee,

I am writing in support of a proposal from the Madrid Historical Society to enhance their property in Madrid Township with facilities that will benefit the community and Byway travelers providing a space to gather, learn about, and explore historic and recreational assets in Madrid Township contributing to our quality of life and supporting our tourism-based economy.

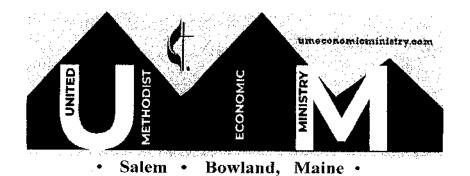
The Sargent Family Community Fund has committed to a partnership with Madrid Historical Society on this project and will bring both cash and a strong network of skilled contractors and dedicated volunteers to the work. Over the years the SFCF has participated in 30 projects contributing over \$1 million dollars and \$500,000 in labor and material donations across the greater Rangeley region. The Sargent family has deep roots in Madrid, and we are committed to bringing our resources and networks to match funds provided by the Franklin County TIF Program in support of this exciting project proposed by MHS.

We urge you to provide the funds which will allow this project to proceed. We have allocated \$25,000 to the project over the 2025/2026 construction seasons to match the \$50,000 request from the TIF. We will also assist the MHS with the mobilization of dozens of skilled and unskilled volunteers, local contractors, and materials suppliers who will provide in-kind contributions as additional match.

Sincerely,

Craig Sargent

Founder, Sargent Family Community Fund



United Methodist Economic Ministry: 1458 Salem Road, Salem, ME 04983

www.umeconomicministry.com 207-678-2611 umem@tdstelme.net

June 02, 2025

Franklin County TIF Administration,

Contact Information:

United Methodist Economic Ministry 1458 Salem Road, Salem TWP ME 04983

Helen Pinkham
Executive Director
United Methodist Economic Ministry
helen.pinkham.umem@gmail.com
207-678-2611

Dear Franklin County Commissioners and others,

My name is Helen Pinkham, I am the Executive Director at The United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine.

We have become aware that cuts made to the LIHEAP program will result in many families in Franklin County not having enough firewood to adequately heat their homes next year. We expect that nearly 150 -200 cords of additional firewood will be needed.

Our solution to helping our neighbors with this problem is to establish a wood Bank that could provide those additional needs. Under our proposal we will be looking for \$122,000 in Funding to provide 200 cord of firewood. Our proposal is to get a grant of \$50,000 from the commissioners, \$20,000 From Maine Masonic Organizations, and the remaining \$52,000 from Franklin County Corporate sponsors and United Methodist churches of New England (over 550 churches), as well at profits from selling the firewood.

Phase 1 of our plan is to purchase 200 cord of firewood and Wood processor, (about \$70,000) we have use of a tractor and truck for this summer, so we could start processing for next winter. We would sell our firewood to recipients with vouchers from WMCA for \$250.00 per cord.

Phase 2 would be to buy additional equipment (Truck, Grapple trailer, and tractor) Phase 3 would be building a pole barn, electricity, and fuel tanks to sustain the ongoing operations.

We would be creating at least one job for the equipment operator, with the potential for additional jobs in the future.

We feel this proposal could provide real benefits for the residents of the Unorganized territories, as they will be the first served, though we fully expect to be able to provide anyone in Franklin County with WMCA Vouchers.

I wish you well in your deliberations and am happy to provide any additional information on our plan.

Sincerely,

Helen Pinkham

Executive Director of UMEM, 207-678-2611

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Letter of Intent

General Project Information
Date: (06/02/2025
Project Title: Wood Bank
Organization: United Methodist Economic Ministry
Type of Organization: 170 (b) (1) (A)(vi) not for profit
This project is being pursued by: ♦ A single business or organization X A collaboration including:
United Methodist Economic Ministry, Western Maine Community Action
One line description of your project: Collaborate with WMCA to leverage and align their Weatherization (Wx) work with our targeted fuel assistance program.
Dollar amount requested: 50,000 Total Project Budget: 572,000 (\$122k UMEM; \$450k UCMA)
Unorganized Territory(ies) in which project will occur; All
Salem Township, Maine
Have you applied for applicable licenses and permits for your project (LUPC, DEP, DHHS, etc.)? If so, please list:
Not applicable

Applicant Information

Legal name of organization: United Methodist Economic Ministry

Mailing address: 11458 Salem Road, Salem Township Me 04983

Physical address: same

Telephone: (207-678-2611

Email: helen.pinkham.umem@gmail.com

Website: www.umeconomicministry.com

Number of years business/agency has been in existence: 55 plus

Number of paid staff (Note FT, PT, and/or seasonal): 7

Number of volunteers: 150

Federal Tax ID or EIN: 136-2167731

Name of Executive Director or President: Helen Pinkham

Phone: 207-678-2611	Email: <u>helen.pinkham.umem@gmail.com</u>
Project start date: 07/01/2025	Project completion date:06/31/2027

A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:

Create a Wood Bank at UMEM facility to provide low-cost firewood to residents of Unorganized Territories, and potentially all of Franklin County residents who receives LIHEAP money from Western Mountain Community Action. Also to coordinate with UCMA to assess weatherization needs and provide upgrades where feasible (See attached MoU) with a goal of 30 homes per year. They are expecting cuts from the Federal Government and Maine State Housing which will affect 150 households, who will not having sufficient amount of wood for the winter months.

We want to create a wood processing program where we can sell firewood at a reduced rate to help fill the gap and collaborate with WCMA to weatherize the low income homes we service.

Project has 3 phases: (1) purchase wood processor, firewood, fuel, truck, electric, water and driveway; (2) purchase a tractor and a grapple, we have free access the 1st year; (3) build a pole barn with a cement pad to sell seasoned wood and have covered equipment.

Plan for Evaluating Success of the Project

	tainability Plan:	,	·	<u>.</u>
To purcha which wou	se and sell 200 plus cor d purchase firewood for	rds of firewood to L upcoming years ar	.IHEAP recend implemen	eipts in Franklin County. Profits at phase 2.
Measurable (Dutcomes:			
weatherizi				erly and disabled individuals and o reduce the total amount of fue
	riers to Success: availability to a low cost o	or staff shortages.		
Signatures				
re of <u>President</u>	/CEO/Board		Date:	
Print Name: Fiscal Spons	or (If Applicable)			
	, ,,			
n:	Final Passas O			Date:
Signature of	Fiscal Sponsor Organization:		Title:	Date:

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Funding Request Form

UMEM 2025 TIF Grant Request Overview

	Gr	ants/Contri	butions
Description	Dollars	%	Notes
TIF	50,000	8.7%	TIF Grant % of total \$572k Budget
Masons	20,000	3.5%	Coordinated with Masonic Charitable Organization via local Lodges
Corp sponsors & Churches	52,000	9.1%	TBD
Total UMEM	122,000	21.3%	UMEM portion of Total \$572K
WMCA collaboration	450,000	78.7%	30 dwellings per year @ \$15k per dwelling, funding sourced by WMCA
Total Budget	572,000	100.0%	UMEM & UMCA Collaboration

UMEM Phase 1 Costs					
Description	Dollars	%			
Wood Processor	20,000	16.4%			
Firewood	30,000	24.6%			
Truck Tractor	30,000	24.6%			
Driveway/Groundwork	10,000	8.2%			
Pole Barn	7,250	5.9%			
Cement Pad	7,250	5.9%			
Grapple	7,500	6.1%			
Fuel/Oil	5,000	4.1%			
Water and Electricity	5,000	4.1%			
Total Phase 1 UMEM costs	122,000	100.0%			

Helen Pinkham, Executive Director Jim Webster, Housing Project Director United Methodist Economic Ministry 1458 Salem Rd, Salem Twp., ME 04983

RE: Support of UMEM to Create a Working Community Wood Bank

Dear Ms. Pinkham:

I would like to extend my full support of the efforts being made by the United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM) to create a fully operational "Wood Bank" for the residents of Franklin County. I was formally the Housing Director of Housing and Energy at Western Maine Community Action (WMCA) where I had close to sixteen years of experience in dealing with low-income families in need, especially when it came to keeping families and older Mainers warm in their homes. I had also enjoyed partnering with UMEM during my time at WMCA to carry out low-cost home repairs and needed ramp projects to serve as many challenged hotlscholds as possible with the limited funding available.

UMEM welled aimed efforts at creating a phased in operational sized "Wood Bank" that could serve many families and older Mainers is a much-needed addition to the low-income safety net for our region. Over the last four years, many low-income programs across the state have been reduced in funding, including the heating "benefit" amounts in the traditional Low-Income Heating Emergency Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or "Fuel Assistance." There have also been LIHEAP rules and policy changes that have been a detriment to those that heat with wood. These continued program reductions and increased costs in all forms of heating energy have caused severe gaps in affordability for these low-income households, especially for firewood. Many wood dealers that used to serve the LIHEAP program have also gone out of business or have stopped partnering with the State's Grantee due to program constraints. Maine's minimum wages contillue to increase while leaving those on fixed incomes in the wake of ever-increasing consumer prices on almost everything.

I believe that UMEM realistic and practical ideas for a phased in operational "Wood Bank" will enhance opportunities for our low-income communities to have availability to affordable firewood year-round. I fully support the UMEM proposed grant application to bring this concept to reality.

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Willi�. �r�dall ,<u>-</u>,

120 Vipah Lane Farmington, Maine 04938

(207) 491-5624

To: Franklin County Commissioners

From: Peter B. Farnsworth

Stratton, Maine

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter in support of the firewood producing initiative proposed by Mr. Jim Webster in cooperation with the Salem Economic Ministry. Jim is a good friend of mine as well as a brother Freemason. I have recently worked with Jim on several projects he initiated within Franklin County, and I have worked with the Salem Economic Ministry as well as the Western Community Action group.

I applaud Brother Webster in this proposal to obtain grant money to help get this firewood production project started. Being able to provide firewood heating assistance to residents of Franklin County by directly providing them with firewood is one way to assist residents in a very real, practical and beneficial way.

The Masonic lodges in the area are very supportive of Brother Jim's efforts. Any help we can provide to those who depend on wood heat and have trouble obtaining it is important to us as community members. As Past Master of Mt. Bigelow #202 in Stratton, I will be encouraging my lodge to help in any way we can.

I am also a licensed Forester and am ready to assist Jim in any way I can to bring his idea to fruition.

I encourage you as Commissioners to give financial support to this beneficial project for Franklin County residents.

Respectfully yours:

Peter 8. Farnsworth

Stratton Maine



Pf{OVIDENCE UNITED METHODIST CI-IIJRCH C/0 CHIJCKY WEBSTER 157 HIGH ST ELKTON, MD 21921

Date: 02/11/2022 Employer ID number: 36-2167731 Person to contact: Name: Customer Service ID number: 31954 Telephone: 877-829-5500 Accounting period ending: December 31

Public charity status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:

Yes

Effective date of exemption: t-rovembe(22, 2021 Contribution deductibility: Yes

Addendum applies:

Νo DLN:

26053728003711

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under [nternal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 1.70. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This Jetter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under II{C Section 50 I(c){3} are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

Our records show you were previously tax exe1npt as a subordinate under group exemption nu1nber 2573. Because you applied for and were granted your own individual tax-exempt status, you no longer rely on your affiliation with a parent organization for recognition of your tax exel nption and you'll be listed individually in the Tax Exelnpt Organization Search (Pub. 78 data).

If, in the future, you choose to become a subordinate under a group ruling, you'll lose your individual recognition of tax-excl npt status and you'll no longer appear in the Excl npt Organizations Select Check (Pub. 78 data). Moreover, if you become a subordinate under a group ruling and your parent organization loses its tax-exempt status, you also will lose your exempt status. To reestablish your individual tax exemption after rejoining a group exc1nption, you'll be required to reapply and pay the appropriate user fee.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, thee-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice tor three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

WESLEY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Pinebluff United Methodist Mens Food Bank)

EIN: 36-2167731 Pinebluff, North Carolina, United States

Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Organiz_ations, who hay lelifhed a 9 90::N_{e.dJostcard} annual electronic notice.

Most small organizations that receive less than \$50,000 fall into this category.

Tax Period:

2007 (07/OI/2007-06/30/2008)

EIN:

36-2167731

Organization Name (Doing Business as):

WESLEY CHAPELUNITEDMETHODIST CHURCH

Mailing Address:

305 West Baltimore Ave Pinebluff, NC 28373 United States

Principal Officer's Name and Address:

Robert S Brundrett Jr

305 West Baltimore Ave Pinebluff, NC 28373 United States

Gross receipts not greater than:

\$50,000

Organization has terminated:

No

Website URL:

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into on this day, June 3, 2025 by and between:

Party A: Western Maine Community Action (WMCA)

Address: 20 Church Street, East Wilton, ME 04234

Contact: Dustin Richards, 207-491-3357 I drichards@wmca.org

and

Party B: United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM)

Address: 1458 Salem Rd, Salem Twp., ME 04983 Contact: Jim Webster, jimwebster@roadrunner.com

Purpose:

(Briefly describe the purpose of the MOU, e.g., to collaborate on a project, share resources, etc.)

A collaboration to maximize resources (data, financial and labor) to reduce heating loads in targeted houses and to provide discounted fuel (firewood) to these households.

Scope of Cooperation:

(Describe the specific activities, responsibilities, and expectations of each party.)

In collaboration with UMEM, WMCA will prioritize income eligible households to weatherize within UMEM's catchment area in north Franklin County, Maine. They will strive to weatherize at least thirty (30) homes per year for a two-year period.

By investing in a wood processor, UMEM will provide discounted fuel (firewood) to these households throughout this period.

Each party will utilize federal, state and local funding sources to execute their responsibilities noted above and below.

Terms and Conditions:

- Project Area: North Franklin County is defined as north of Industry, Farmington, Temple and Weld.
- Duration of the agreement: Two years, 7/1/25 to 6/30/27.
- · Responsibilities of each party:
 - WMCA will prioritize income eligible households to weatherize within SEM's catchment area. They will strive to weatherize thirty (30) homes per year for a two-year period.

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into on this day, June 3, 2025 by and between:

Party A: Western Maine Community Action (WMCA)

Address: 20 Church Street, East Wilton, ME 04234

Contact: Dustin Richards, 207-491-3357 / drichards@wmca.org

and

Party B: United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM)

Address: 1458 Salem Rd, Salem Twp., ME 04983 Contact: Jim Webster, jimwebster@roadrunner.com

Purpose:

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- Responsibilities of each party:
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- UMEM will provide discounted fuel (firewood) to these households throughout this period. A list of Households receiving discounted fuel will be relayed to WMCA to ensure prioritization of weatherization services.
- Funding or resources: Each party will utilize federal, state and local funding sources to execute their responsibilities
- Reporting and evaluation: Each agency will provide each other quarterly reports on their respective goals and use this information to adapt and/or improve delivery of services.

Miscellaneous:

- Amendments: Any changes to this MOU must be made in writing and signed by both parties.
- Termination: Either party may terminate this agreement by providing a written explanation.

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Signatures:	
Dustin Richards	
Senior Energy Auditor	
Western Maine Community Action	
Date: <u>6/3/2025</u>	
Jim Webster	
Project Manager	•
United Methodist Economic Ministry	
Date:	

- UMEM will provide discounted fuel (firewood) to these households throughout this period. A list of Households receiving discounted fuel will be relayed to WMCA to ensure prioritization of weatherization services.
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- Amendments: Any changes to this MOU must be made in writing and signed by both parties.
- Termination: Either party may terminate this agreement by providing a written explanation.

Signatures:

Dustin Richards

Senior Energy Auditor

Western Mahe Community Action

Date: fi/3. 0:25

Jim Webster for Walk

Project Manager

United Methodist Economic Ministry

Date: 6/3/2025

Idele R Ponker Executive Director

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Pre-Application

General Project Information
Date: 5/23/2025
Project Title: Rangeley Childcare Center
Organization: Beth Brunswick Memorial Fund for Children
Type of Organization: 501(c)(3)
This project is being pursued by: A single business or organization A collaboration including:
The Beth Brunswick Memorial Fund for Children is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance learning for children in the Rangeley region. Our single project is the construction and operation of the Rangeley Childcare Center, a 5000 sf purpose built facility. Rangeley is a childcare "desert" without a childcare center within 40 miles. Construction is underway; completion scheduled for September 2025. The center will accommodste 48 pre-school children and up to 26 school-age.
One line description of your project:
We hope to secure funding to enable families from the UT to enroll children in the Rangeley Childcare Center without being discouraged by the cost to attend. As defined in the attached statement of assumptions, total need for UT families would be \$10,800 per child per year.
Dollar amount requested: \$70,000 Total project budget: \$3,500,000
Unorganized Territory(ies) in which project will occur:
Franklin County UT
Have you applied for applicable licenses and permits for your project (LUPC, DEP, DHHS, etc.)? If so, please list:
Yes. We have received all necessary permits for usage and construction. Final CO and operating licenses will be applied for upon completion of construction.

Applicant Information

Legal name of organization: Beth Brunswick Memorial Fund for Children
Mailing address: PO Box 7038, Rangeley, Maine 04970
Physical address: 85 Loon Lake Road, Rangeley Maine 04970
Telephone: 2039796909
Email: rangeleychildcare@gmail.com
Website: www.bethbrunswickmemorialfund.org
Number of years business/agency has been in existence: 2.75
Number of paid staff (Note FT, PT, and/or seasonal):
Number of volunteers: 8
Federal Tax ID or EIN: 92-2103220
Name of Executive Director or President: Ellen Oppenheim
Phone: 2039796909 Email: ellen.opp@gmail.com
Project start date: 12/2024 Project completion date: 9/2025

A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:

Construction of the Rangeley Childcare Center is underway. We have reached our capital funding goal of \$3,500,000 to build a 5000 square foot licensed childcare center to serve community needs. Construction will be complete in September 2025. The center will accommodate up to 74 children, aged 6-weeks through school age, and is adjacent to the local public school.

We are still in need of funding to cover enrollment subsidies for families from the Unorganized Territories. State subsidies (CCAP) have been exhausted, and families in need of childcare support are being waitlisted to receive benefits. We hope to provide replacement funds, thereby enabling families to enroll in childcare and return to the workforce until CCAP subsidies are available.

We are requesting TIF funds to support this effort with a grant request of \$70,000 (see attached explanation of assumptions to calculate this amount). Early enrollment in quality childcare enhances the education of our youth, and enables each child to reach their full social, emotional and cognitive potential. We believe all children, regardless of socio-economic status, deserve these privileges, and a fund to support enrollment fees in the absence of CCAP funding will allow families the benefits of outstanding childcare. Completion of the Center will allow workforce growth and economic development in the rural regions of Franklin County (including the Unorganized Territories) from which Rangeley draws its labor force. These subsidies will allow families to return to the workforce with confidence that their children are safe, nurtured and stimulated every day.

Plan for Evaluating Success of the Project

Financial Sustainability Plan:

Our financial model calls for a gradual ramp-up of enrollment over the first three years of operation. By year three, the Rangeley Childcare Center will be cash flow positive. We have provided working capital in our financial model to carry us through that time. Directors are actively fundraising to cover the state childcare subsidies until our enrollees move off the wait list of Maine CCAP. Full financial model is attached. Please note this project has been awarded grants from the State (\$250,000), Northern Borders Regional Commission (\$1,000,000), and Congressional Directed Spending (\$750,000).

To calculate the UT enrollment subsidy needed, see the attached explanation.

Uf awarded we would NOT to apply for TIE funding next year

Measurable Outcomes:

There are many benefits for residents of the Unorganized Territories of a successful childcare center in Rangeley, including:

- 1. Access to Rangeley's ample job market
- 2. Financial stability for families whose parents could work while young children receive excellent care
- 3. Improved school readiness/achievement in Kindergarten and beyond
- 4. Increased tax rolls and services provided to residents with more parents working more hours

Potential Barriers to Success:

- 1. Maine Department of Health and Human Services reduces or eliminates subsidies for families in need of childcare.
- 2. Birth rate declines due to recession, pandemic, economic uncertainty or other external forces, reducing enrollment and cash flow
- 3. Staffing challenges

Signatures	
Signature of President/CEO/Board President:	Date: 5/23/2025
Print Name: Ellen Oppenheim	Title: President
Fiscal Sponsor (If Applicable)	
Signature of Fiscal Sponsor Organization:	Date:
Print Name:	Title:

Franklin County Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Application Checklist

Ш	Complete contact information
	For nonprofits, include a copy of your IRS determination letter
	All sections completed on this form or, if typed on a separate sheet, so noted in the correct areas on
	the form ("Please see attachment A," etc.) and appropriately titled on the separate sheet
	The TIF Project Budget Excel sheet
	A cover letter from the leader of your organization
	If you have a fiscal sponsor, a letter from that sponsor
	Up to three letters of support (Optional)
	Signatures on application
	Remove and retain Appendix of the application before submittal

Appendix A: Guidelines and Considerations for Franklin County TIF District Funding Applications

Note: The following appendix is for informational purpose. You do not need to return the appendix with your application.

For questions and/or assistance preparing an application, contact the Administrator via email at info@greaterfranklin.org

The Franklin County UT TIF Program has specific limitations regarding who may apply and what projects and costs are eligible for funding assistance. It is important to understand these guidelines prior to submitting an application. See below for details.

Public Program:

The Commissioners of Franklin County are entrusted by its citizens to be responsible stewards of the UT TIF program funds. Accountability and transparency are held in the highest regard. Applicants must be willing to make public all matters and materials provided as part of a UT TIF grant.

Eligibility to Apply:

Key considerations for TIF grant award determinations include:

- Project Location:
 - o The proposed activity must take place within the Unorganized Territories of Franklin County.
- Opportunity for Economic Impact
 - Projects intended to create and/or retain jobs in the region and more specifically in the UT are more likely to receive support through this program.
- Level of Matching Funds Secured by Applicant
 - o Grant requests can range between \$5,000 and \$50,000
 - The County will give priority to those applicants who provide at least half (50%) of any cash match required by the grantor (sometimes referred to as a 1:1 match).
- Collaborations/Partnerships
 - Projects proposing collaboration with additional partners and shared risk may also be viewed more favorably.
- Sustainability
 - TIF grant funds are not intended to be utilized as a long-term subsidy. Applicants need to show a plan and trends toward becoming self-supporting.

There is a total lifetime limit of \$100,000 per project.

Eligible Project Categories:

- 1. Scenic Byway (Improvements, Planning and Updates)
- Tourism Branding and Marketing
- 3. Nature Based Tourism Plan
- Unorganized Territories Employment and Training
- Recreational Trail Improvements
- 6. GPS Plotline; Mapping of Trails

Special considerations for large scale investment and/or job creation:

In keeping with the original intent of this program, project proposals which offer substantial capital investment and/or the strong potential for significant job creation within the Unorganized Territories may be eligible for additional support through this program. These exceptional cases may be considered from time to time on an individual basis, but potential applicants must contact the TIF Administrator to discuss prior to submitting an application. Awards and funding levels will be at the sole discretion of the County Commissioners.

Grantee Obligations:

Successful applicants are not required to accept grant funds awarded to them. The county allows applicants up to six months from time of notice of award to accept that award. If the award is not accepted within that time frame, the application and award notice will be considered void. Those who do choose to accept a grant award will be required to first agree to specific terms outlined in a grant contract/special conditions agreement with the county. Each grant contract is unique to the project funded, but several requirements are inclusive to all grant contracts.

Please consider the following:

- Grant Period
 - The grant period for all TIF grants will be no less than one year from the time of receipt of an award.
- Reporting
 - All grantees will be required to maintain regular communication with the County. Grantees are
 typically required to submit progress reports and verification of expenditures at half way
 through (6 months) the grant period. The TIF Administrator will work closely with grantees to
 ensure this occurs.
- Verification of Employment
 - Grantees will be required to provide evidence of the creation and/or retention of any jobs proposed in the grant application materials. This should include details about the type of job, the frequency and duration (part-time, full-time, long term, temporary, seasonal) and wage levels or compensation package.
- Default and Repayment
 - o Grantees who do not meet the requirements outlined in the grant contract will be required to repay all or a portion of the funds awarded to them. Each case will be considered on an individual basis, however: Upon the sale, transfer, or dissolution of a grant project prior to the end date of the grant period, the grantee will be held liable for up to the full amount of their initial award amount.

Final determination for distribution of any funds through the Franklin County Unorganized Territories Grant and Loan Program will be at the discretion of the County Commissioners.

CALCULATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS FOR UT CHILDCARE ENROLLMENT NEED

In the absence of CCAP funding, we are requesting supplemental TIF funding so that children from the Unorganized Territories could afford to be enrolled in the Rangeley Childcare Center until such a time as CCAP funding is reinstated.

According to 2020 US Census data, there are 1,176 people living in the unorganized territories of Franklin County, Maine. If we only count the areas that abut Rangeley¹, from which Rangeley draws its workforce, the relevant UT population total is 928. The national percentage of people under age five in the US is 5.5%; so if that percent applies to families in the abutting UT then there would be 51 children under age 5. If only 10% of those kids enrolled in our childcare center, there would be 5 children enrolled from the unorganized territories. The average tuition (tuition varies by age²) is \$254/wk, and if we assume that these families qualify³ for 85% of tuition assistance⁴, they would require \$216/wk in tuition support. If each child was enrolled 50 wks/yr, they would need \$10,800 per child per year, or \$54,000 per year of tuition assistance for 5 children from the regional Unorganized Territories.

My TIF request of \$70,000 in funds would cover all UT enrolled children for over a year, based on these assumptions.

I would NOT reapply next year if granted the requested TIF award.

Additional restricted funds for tuition support have already been secured as follows:

\$100,000 Private philanthropy

\$115,000 Anonymous Foundation, for three years: 2025, 2026, 2027

¹ East Central (pop. 805) and North Franklin County (pop. 41) UT's, and Wyman (pop. 82) UT [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_unorganized_territories_in_Maine]

² 6 wks-12 mo= \$275/wk

¹²⁻³⁰ mo= \$250/wk

³⁰⁻⁴² mo= \$247/wk

³⁻⁵ vrs = \$244/wk

³ See eligibility table [https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/sites/maine.gov.dhhs/files/inline-files/10192024%20income%20guidelines.pdf]

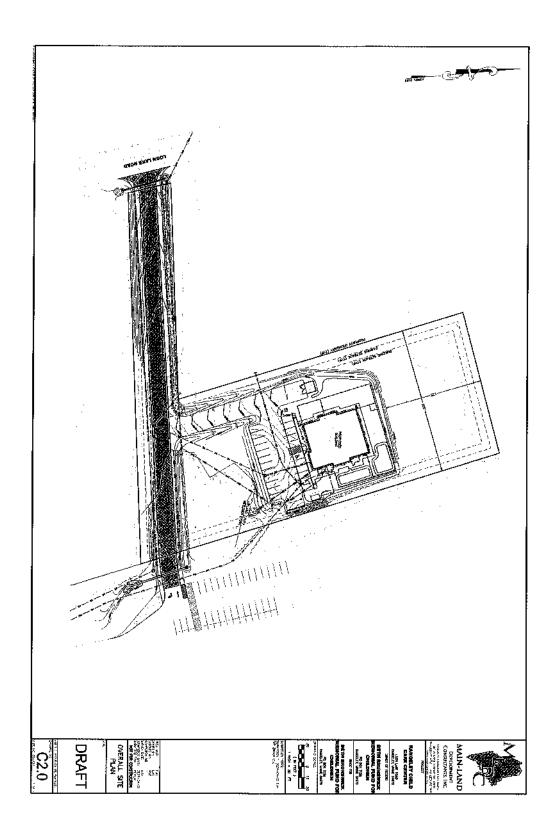
⁴ Tuition assistance is determined on a sliding scale, based on family size and household income (see above)

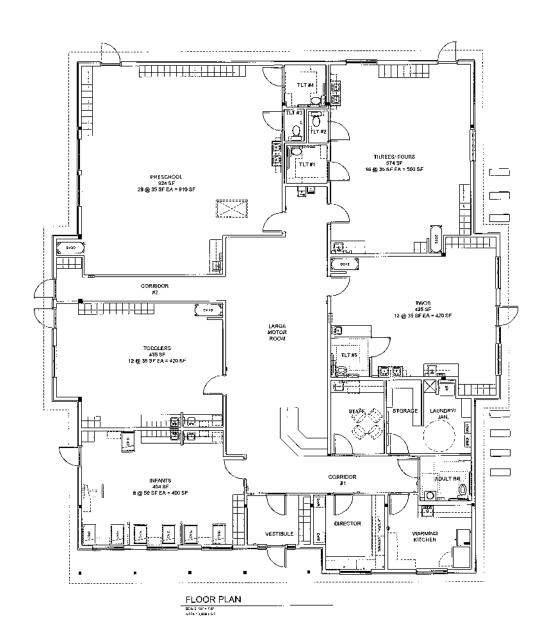
TIF Funding request Form	sources	amount	notes
Requested TIF Funds Total Project Cost CAP EX Restricted gift for earollment fees	70,000 3,500,000 100,000		FOR ENROLLMENT FEES, NOT FOR CAP EX includes \$417,000 working capital Private philanthropy Fonding received and pledged over three years (2025, 2026, 2027)-INCLUDES GOVERNMENT GRANTS, PRIVATE
Other unrullment funding, plodged and received (restricted)	345,000		
Estimated Income secured planned	3,500,000 3,500,000	,000 GIFTS AND PLE	PIIILANTHROPY, FOUNDATION GIFTS AND PLEDGES INCLUDES PLEDGES
in kind	Pow'r point generators Cerminara Landscapin LL Bean	y 5000	9 generator and switch 1 hydroseeding 1 lunchboxes and water bottles
Expenses/Uses: TIF Funds are intended for subsidies for low- and middle - income families' encollment fees while awaiting state CCAP funding to be granted			

1,000,000 750,000 250,000 1,500,000

*See detailed spreadsheet

Grants and contributions Summary:
Northern Borders Regional Commission
Congressionally Directed Spending Grant (USDA)
State Child Care Infrastructure Grant (CEI)
Private Philanthropy and Foundations*





RANGELEY CHILDCARE CENTER





BETH BRUNSWICK MEMORIAL FUND FOR CHILDREN PO BOX 7038 RANGELEY, ME 04970 Date:

March 13, 2023

Employer ID number:

92-2103220

Person to contact:

Name: Harold J Fodor

ID number: 31675

Telephone: 877-829-5500

Accounting period ending:

December 31

Public charity status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:

Yes

Effective date of exemption:

February 2, 2023

Contribution deductibility:

Yes

Addendum applies:

Νo

DLN:

26053465011113

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Appheu a martin

Stephen A. Martin Director, Exempt Organizations Rulings and Agreements Janet T. Mills Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services
11 State House Station
2 Anthony Ave.
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Fax: (207) 287-5282
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

MEMORANDUM

To:

Child Care Providers, CCAP Families, and OCFS Stakeholders

From:

Office of Child and Family Services

Date:

November 25, 2024

Subject:

Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP) Wait List

Growth in the Maine Child Care Affordability Program

The Department is proud to be serving over 4,000 young children in the program, including infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary school students receiving out of school time care. Over 500 new children have been enrolled in the Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP) since spring 2024. However, in order to stay within the available federal funding, the Office of Child and Family Services will have to implement a wait list for CCAP beginning November 30, 2024.

Eligibility & Wait List Process

- Families can continue to apply for the Child Care Affordability Program. CCAP
 Specialists will make eligibility determinations and notify families if their application is
 denied or approved and added to the waitlist.
- When there is space to move families off the wait list,
 - Per federal and state rules, the Department will prioritize children with disabilities, children experiencing homelessness, and children under 85% of state median income.
 - o Families are selected from the wait list on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date the Department received the completed application or redetermination, serving priority populations first before moving to all other families.

If your children are currently enrolled in CCAP, the wait list will not affect your existing CCAP award. For more information, please email <u>CCAP.DHHS@maine.gov</u>.

Gina Forbes Child Care Services Program Manager Office of Child and Family Services

GreaterFranklin Economic and Community Development

May 22, 2025

TIF Committee for the Franklin County Commissioners 140 Main Street, Suite 3 Farmington, ME 04938

Re: Request for Matching Funds in the amount of \$141,000

Dear Committee Members,

You will notice that our request for county investment has increased by \$16,000. This is to make up for Farmington, Wilton, and Rangeley telling us to seek investment from the county, now that we have a new set of commissioners.

Successful community and economic development efforts such as Greater Franklin are charged with creating the ecosystem that allows for economic and community vitality. This requires taking a long view when considering return-on-investment, which is critical for creating the conditions for job and population growth. Our deliberate planning results in our attracting investment to benefit our towns and county. Ultimately, we attract public and private investment to our towns and county.

An example of our long view yielding a tremendous return-on-investment is our continuing success with our broadband work which has resulted in 96% of Franklin County being able to connect to a fiber network. This one initiative has already resulted in 5% growth across our county. This one metric affects three systemic challenges for our rural county: it broadens our tax base, populates our underpopulated schools and increases our workforce in the face of low 4.2% unemployment. As a bonus, all this work adds up to \$39.5M which has been invested in broadband infrastructure. This investment is TAXABLE allowing for additional tax base and economic growth into the future.

In addition to this and our Childcare and Housing initiatives, we are asked to advocate for our businesses at the state and federal level. Recent examples are an OSB mill in Jay, the owner of the former Pixelle mill, our two biomass generators, and our two ski resorts. This can be regarding permitting and/or investment.

Franklin county's unemployment is still low. We need to add to our workforce if our economy is to grow and it begins by investing in strategic community and economic development initiatives.

If these initiatives and our success in attracting investment resonates with you, please request that the county invest \$141,000 in your Economic and Community development work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Charle Wombunt

Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Application for Funding

General Project Information					
Date: May 22, 2025					
Project Title: Invest in your Community					
Organization: Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development					
Type of Organization: 501c3					
This project is being pursued by: ☐ A single business or organization ☐ A collaboration including:					
Chambers x 4, towns x 22, businesses, Adult Education x 3, WMCA, Eastern Maine Development, CWM Workforce Development Board, Economic Development Authority (EDA), Rangeley Economic Committee, Franklin County Broadband Initiative, Maine Connectivity Authority, DECD, Northern Boarder Regional Commission, Child and Family Services (Childcare), Maine State Housing, Western Maine Workforce Housing, Rangeley Workforce Housing, CEI, Rangeley Childcare, Federal Delegation					
One line description of your project:					
Attracting investment to our communities to stimulate our regional economy.					
Dollar amount requested: 141,000 Total project budget: 203,300					
Unorganized Territory(ies) in which project will occur:					
Entire County (22 towns, 15 townships)					
Have you applied for applicable licenses and permits for your project (LUPC, DEP, DHHS, etc.)? If so, please list:					
N/A					

Applicant Information

Legal name of organization: Greater Franklin Development Council						
Mailing address: PO Box 107, Farmington ME 04938						
Physical address: 165 Front Street, Farmington ME 04938						
Telephone: 207-232-1997						
Email: cwoodworth@greaterfranklin.org						
Website: www.greaterfranklin.org						
Number of years business/agency has been in existence: 28						
Federal Tax ID or EIN: 01-0524770						
Name of Executive Director or President: Charlie Woodworth						
Phone: 207-232-1997 Email: cwoodworth@greaterfranklin.org						
Number of paid staff related to the project (Note FT, PT, and/or seasonal):						
2						
Number of volunteers related to the project: 15						
Number of volunteers related to the project: 10						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026 A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026 A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026 A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026 A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026 A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:						
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Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026 A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026 A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:						
Project start date: July 1, 2025 Project completion date: June 30, 2026 A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:						

Plan for Evaluating Success of the Project

Financial Sustainability Plan:	
Organizations invest in Greater Franklin because of c sustainability plan requires that Greater Franklin Eco to provide evidence of a Return on Investment to the	nomic and Community Development continues
Measurable Outcomes:	
Measurable outcomes will be: - Upgrading municipal websites to better serve the communities and meet fede - Developing IT programming with two school districts to provide workforce skill - Seeing that 98% of County residents can connect to a FIBER network resultir families moving to our region. - Quality jonbs with quality employers that provide career opportunities for our case. - Population growth (sinece 2020 Franklin County has grown 5%). More than have a citizenry that invests in itself for long-term gain. - A growing workforce to allow our current and future businesses to grow and one in the county has grown and one in the county has grown and one in the county has grown and one in the current built assets.	Is through mentoring. ng in a gig economy of attracting remote workers, local workers and citizens (Godfrey Forest Products, Saddleback, Origin, etc). alf of the county went live with FIBER in December 2022.
Potential Barriers to Success: 1) Leadership at municipalities embracing change for 2) County investment will allow us and our MANY colour region.	
Signatures	
Signature of President/CEO/Board President:	Date: May 22, 2025
Print Name: Charlie Woodworth	Title: executive director
Final Spanner /If Applicable)	
Fiscal Sponsor (If Applicable) Signature of Fiscal Sponsor Organization:	Date:
Print Name:	Title:
r inic ivalie.	TRIG.

GreaterFranklin

Economic and Community Development

ATTACHMENT "A" Project Narrative:

May 22, 2025

Franklin County TIF Committee
Re. Request for Matching Funds in the amount of \$141,000

What would you be willing to invest to attract \$52 million of strategic investment to Franklin County?

The mission of Greater Franklin is to work with our leaders to identify needs, recognize obstacles, devise solutions and secure federal and state funds to implement these solutions. Ultimately, we attract investment to our towns and county. We compete for these funds against the 15 other counties in the state. We are the only entity in our county that addresses our larger issues while working towards solutions.

- Developing a multi-town initiative to upgrade websites to best serve towns and residents and to help meet pending ADA compliance deadlines.
- Lack of affordable and quality **Childcare** is a significant factor in preventing parents from reentering the workforce. We need 760 additional slots. We have attracted investment to create 145 new slots in 2025. Rangeley's new 75-slot facility to open Fall 2025!
- Workforce housing solutions for year-round workers in both Rangeley and Carrabassett Valley. We need workers to allow businesses to grow. Rangeley has 18-single family homes underway!
- Working with the developer and advocating to the State to remove barriers to allow for an
 Oriented Strand Board (OSB) mill to be built on the former Pixelle site.
- CDS for Alden Hill Road rebuild.
- Working with the **owner of the former Pixelle site** to attract other compatible businesses.
- Developing an Entrepreneurial Incubator with the JLLF Chamber to prepare that region's workforce for the industries coming to the abandoned Pixelle mill site.

Other initiatives are:

- 96% of Franklin County can connect to a **FIBER network**. By this fall, FIBER will cover 98%. No other county in the state has achieved this success. Greater Franklin designs and executes.
- By this fall, we hope to see New Vineyard, Strong and Freeman Twp get upgraded.
- Digital Literacy/Skills: We are working with our two Adult Education programs and the state to
 educate our residents on efficient and safe use of the internet. We have attracted three years of
 investment to allow them to hire staff. Since we began in November 2022:
 - We have held 1035 classes at 11 libraries and 5 community orgs, including the Jail, upskilling 398 residents.
 - In response to survey results, we are launching a six-week QuickBooks class focused on businesses and entrepreneurs. This is in partnership with the JLLF Chamber, AVCOG and RSU73 Adult Education.

GreaterFranklin

Economic and Community Development

 In September, we will be working with RSU9 and RSU73 high school students and faculty to launch Teens Teach Tech which is a partnership with Connected Nation. This is a workforce development initiative as well as mentoring and we will be working with their award-winning Robotics Club.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Funding Request Form

Requested TIF Funds	141,000	69%	Total Project Cost 203,300
Estimated Income	Sources		Amount
secured	grants and con	tributions	62,300
planned			
In-Kind	project manage	ement	
TIF Request	1	69%	141,000
total	-		203,300
Expenses / Use			
Broadband Admin	On going		38,826
Workforce Admin	On going		23,000
Affordable Housing	On going		31,500
Childcare	On going		31,974
Business engagement/Outreach	On going		33,000
Municipal engagement/Outreach	On going		40,000
Events/promotional coordination	On going		5,000
		total	203,300
Grants and Contributions itemized			
Board Members	1,200		
Helix Wind	1,000		
Otis Federal Credit Union	1,500		
Franklin Savings Bank	10,000		
Skowhegan Savings Bank	5,000		
Town of Farmington	-	(7,000)	
Town of Carrabassett Valley	8,600		
Town of Rangeley	-	(5,000)	
Town of Wilton	_	(4,000)	
Maine Community Foundation	10,000	(16,000)	Towns want county to fund our work
Sewall Foundation	10,000		
Betterment Foundation	15,000		
	62,300		



On April 30, 2025, AVCOG awarded an Economic Development Achievement Award to the Franklin County Broadband Initiative, in recognition of the collaborative efforts led by the Greater Franklin Development Council for the successful initiative to bring reliable high-speed internet and fiber to Franklin County residents and businesses.

AVCOG's Economic Development Achievement Award recognizes achievements in activities/efforts which lead to increased business investment and associated job retention/creation and/or the creation of a suitable environment that can lead to business investment in traditional or a growth industry important to the local economy.

Launched in 2017 by the Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC), the Franklin County Broadband Initiative is a comprehensive, community-led effort to bring high-speed, fiber-optic internet access to every home and business in Franklin County. Recognizing that connectivity is essential for education, healthcare, workforce participation, and economic opportunity, the initiative addresses long-standing gaps in service caused by the region's rural geography and low population density. GFDC not only focused on building broadband infrastructure but also prioritized digital literacy by partnering with local adult education providers to offer free technology classes and one-on-one support, ensuring residents could fully benefit from improved access.

What distinguishes this initiative is its commitment to digital equity and its regional, customized approach. Rather than applying a one-size-fits-all solution, GFDC worked closely with municipalities, internet service providers, and organizations like the Maine Connectivity Authority to attract \$34 million in investment. By integrating infrastructure development with community engagement and digital skill-building, the Franklin County Broadband Initiative has become a scalable and sustainable model for rural broadband planning, positioning the county for long-term economic growth and resilience in the digital age.

As a regional planning organization and partner in broadband and digital equity work in the AVCOG region, we support the broadband efforts of the Franklin County Broadband Initiative.

Sincerely,

Amy M Landry Executive Director INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE P. O. BOX 2508 CINCINNATI, OH 45201

Date: FEB 1 9 2004

GREATER FRANKLIN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PO BOX 107 FARMINGTON, ME 04938-0107 Employer Identification Number:
01-0524770
DLN:
17053010789004
Contact Person:
L. WAYNE BOTHE ID# 31462
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated March 2000, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity during an advance ruling period.

Based on our records and on the information you submitted, we are pleased to confirm that you are exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at www.irs.gov.

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading between 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Eastern time

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,

Lois G. Lerner

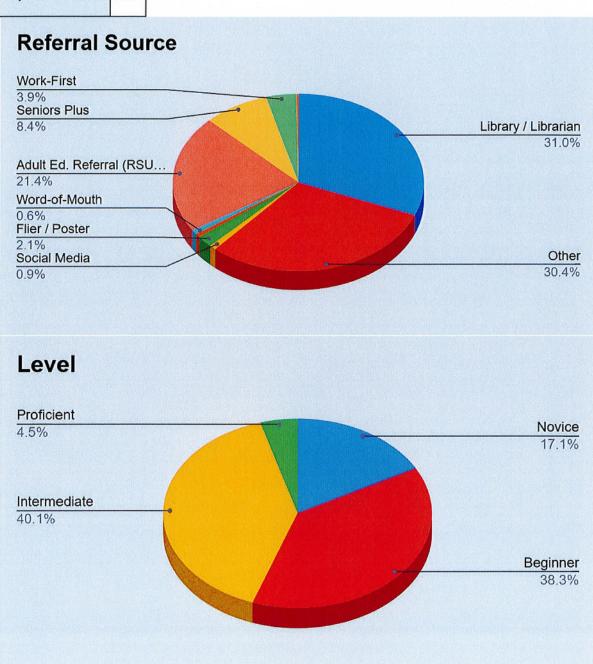
Director, Exempt Organizations

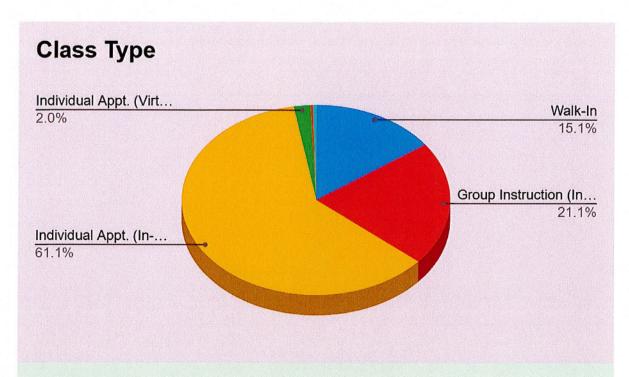
Dis G. Derne

Rulings and Agreements

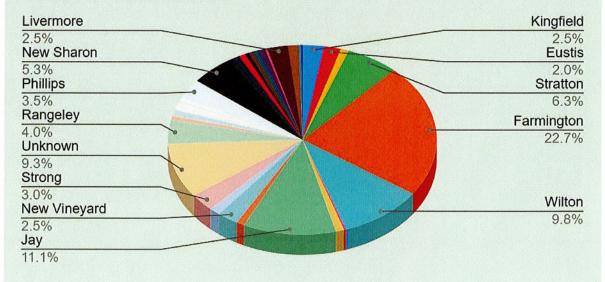
Letter 1050 (DO/CG)

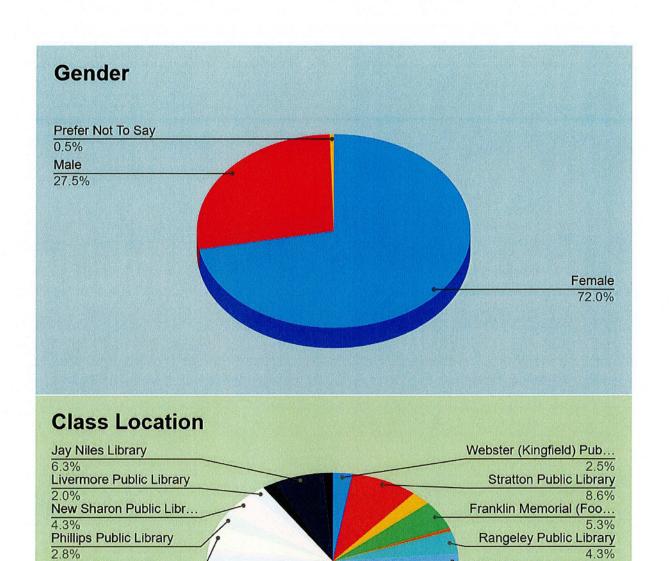
Total Classes	1035
Total Students	398
Repeat Students	153





Town of Residence





Strong Pub Library

SeniorsPlus (Wilton)

Farmington Public Library

Franklin County Adult Ed.

4.3%

7.3%

21.2%

New Vineyard Public Li...

Spruce Mountain Adult...

Recovery Center

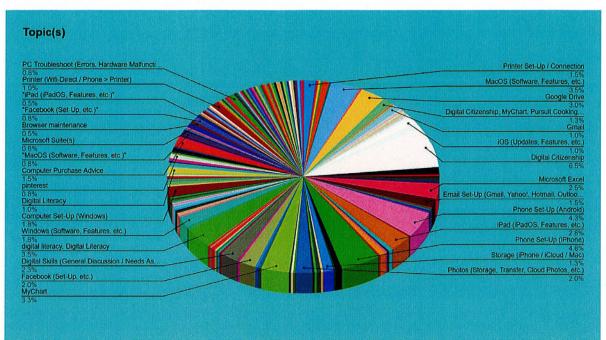
GoldLEAF (UMF)

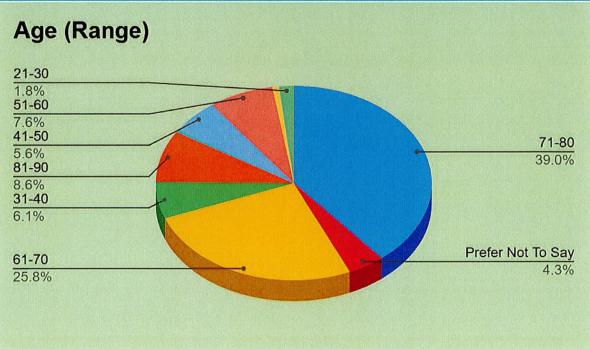
2.8%

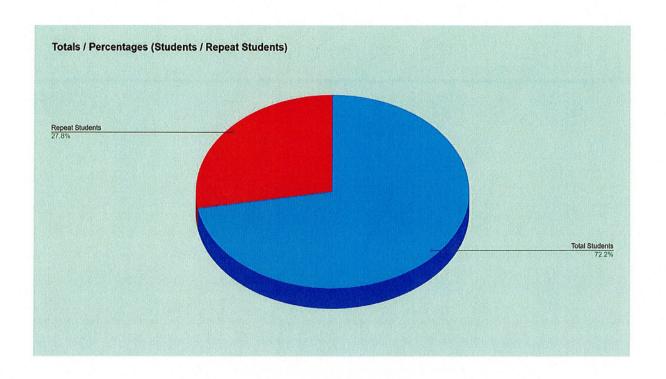
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Ryan Bachelder President Narrow Gauge Riders ATV Club PO Box J Phillips, ME 04966 ryanwbachelder@gmail.com (207) 670-8659

May 1, 2025

Franklin County TIF

Dear TIF Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Narrow Gauge Riders ATV Club to submit our Letter of Intent for the Franklin County Tax Increment Financing (TIF) grant program. Our proposed project, the Madrid Motorized Trail Bridge, aims to replace and upgrade a critical bridge over Crossman Stream in Madrid, which was destroyed during the December 2023 flood. We are requesting \$50,000 to support this initiative, which aligns with the TIF program's focus on recreational trail improvements and economic development in Franklin County's Unorganized Territories.

The Narrow Gauge Riders, a nonprofit with 22 years of service and 20 dedicated volunteers, are committed to maintaining and enhancing trail connectivity in the region. This project will restore a vital ATV and snowmobile trail linking Madrid to Byron, fostering tourism and local economic activity. In collaboration with the High Peaks Alliance, we are securing a permanent trail easement from the landowner, ensuring long-term access. The North Franklin Snowmobile Club is also expanding the trail for snowmobiling, amplifying the project's impact.

Our plan includes replacing the washed-out bridge with a longer, more resilient structure, upgrading culverts, and improving the trail surface along Mud Pond Road to enable contractor access. We are consulting a licensed forester for permitting and oversight, anticipating a permit-by-rule for the stream crossing. The project, with a start date of July 2025 and completion by December 2025, will be sustained through our robust membership, state ORV program grants, and High Peaks Alliance's technical support..

Thank you for considering our application. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this project further and contribute to Franklin County's economic vitality.

Sincerely, Ryan Bachelder President, Narrow Gauge Riders ATV Club

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Pre-Application

General Project Information
Date: 6/10/2025
Project Title: Madrid Motorized Trail Bridge
Organization: Narrow Gauge Riders ATV Club
Type of Organization: Nonprofit
This project is being pursued by: A single business or organization A collaboration including:
The Narrow Gauge Riders are the lead organization that will be responsible for implementation of Project. The High Peaks Alliance is assisting with the grant application and the access easement that the landowner will be donating to permanently conserve access on this parcel.
One line description of your project:
Replacement and upgrade of the bridge that was washed out in the December 2023 flood that spans Crossman Stream.
Dollar amount requested: \$35,000 Total project budget: 70,000
Unorganized Territory(ies) in which project will occur:
Madrid
Have you applied for applicable licenses and permits for your project (LUPC, DEP, DHHS, etc.)? If so, please list:
Not yet but anticipate a permit by rule for stream crossing replacement. We are working with a licensed Forester.

Applicant Information

Legal name of organization: Narrow Gauge Riders
Mailing address: PO Box J, Phillips, ME 04966
Physical address: 250 Salem Rd, Phillips RD, ME 04966
Telephone: 207-491-8798 (Dana Bowman)
Email: dbowman3397@yahoo.com
Website: https://www.facebook.com/NarrowGaugeRidersAtvClub/
Number of years business/agency has been in existence: 22
Number of paid staff (Note FT, PT, and/or seasonal):
Number of volunteers: 20
Federal Tax ID or EIN: NA
Name of Executive Director or President: Ryan Bachelder
Phone: 207-670-8659 Email: ryanwbachelder@gmail.com
Project start date: July Project completion date: December, 2025

A 200 word (maximum) description of your project:

During the historic flood in December of 2023 the bridge that spanned Crossman stream in Madrid was washed out. This bridge washout has resulted in the closure of this regionally important ATV connection. This trail connects the Madrid area to the Bryon region. The Narrow Gauge Riders ATV club approached the landowner who cannot afford to replace the bridge. If we are able to replace the bridge will grant the ATV club a permanent trail easement for both ATV and Snowmobile. The High Peaks Alliance will assist the club is securing this trail easement. The North Franklin Snowmobile club is in the process of opening this trail for snowmobiling too. The project consists of fixing multiple culverts and the trail surface that will enable a contractor to reach the stream crossing and replace the bridge. This bridge is planned to be longer than the original bridge which will make it less likely to wash out again. We are consulting a licensed forester to help us with the permitting and contractor oversight.

Plan for Evaluating Success of the Project

Financial Sustainability Plan:	_			
The ATV club has a robust membersh state of Maine ORV program gives an The High Peaks Alliance is offering ted developing an access easement that v	nual grants to the c chnical support in v	lub to keep up n riting grants and	nainte	nance. Additionally,
Measurable Outcomes:				
We will replace the bridge the crosses Riders to reopen this regional and criti fixing a section of trail to get it to a star Pond road. This project will also result bridge is located.	ical connection fron ndard that trucks a	n Madrid to the B nd materials can	Byron a reach	area. We will also be the site on the Mud
Potential Barriers to Success:				
We are currently working to secure beams steel beams are prohibitively expensement that have come from other projectential sources that have the proper	ensive so the club i ects. We expect thi	s working creativ	vely to	source proper
Signatures				
Signature of President/CEO/Board President:			Date:	
Print Name:	Title	:		
Fiscal Sponsor (If Applicable)				
Signature of Fiscal Sponsor Organization:			Date:	
Print Name:	Title			

Franklin County Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Application Checklist

Complete contact information
For nonprofits, include a copy of your IRS determination letter
All sections completed on this form or, if typed on a separate sheet, so noted in the correct areas on
the form ("Please see attachment A," etc.) and appropriately titled on the separate sheet
The TIF Project Budget Excel sheet
A cover letter from the leader of your organization
If you have a fiscal sponsor, a letter from that sponsor
Up to three letters of support (Optional)
Signatures on application
Remove and retain Appendix of the application before submittal

Narrow Gauge Riders bridge over Crossman Stream

6/10/2025

Requested TIF Funds	35,000	50%	Total Project Cost	70,000	l
Estimated Income Secured	<u>Sources</u>		<u>Amount</u>		
Planned	ATV Club		29	,500	
In-Kind	ATV Club + Snowi	mobile + HPA		5,500	
TIF Request	<u> </u>	50%	35	5,000	
Total Project Cos	st		70	0,000	
Expenses / Uses			Amount		

Expenses / Uses	Amoun	<u>t</u>
Materials (culverts/gravel/abutments)		21,500
Skilled Labor and Contractors		24,000
Bridge Beams		20,000
Volunteer Labor		1,000
Grant Writing and Easement (in Kind HPA)		3,500
	Total	70,000

Amount	
29500	
1000	
1000	
3500	
	29500 1000 1000

person contacted alexandur

Form	SS-4	Application for Employer Identification Number	EIN 81-0611715
(Rev.	December 2001)	(For use by employers, corporations, perinerships, trusts, estates, churches, government agencies, indian tribel entities, certain individuals, and others.)	OMB No. 1545-0003
Depart	ment of the Treasury I Revenue Service	See separate instructions for each line. Keep a copy for your records.	Omb No. 1010-000
	1 Legal name of	selft Author Buell for whom the EIN is being requested	
L	Mounis	Gaal Piders	
ŧΓ		business (if different from name on line 1) 3 Executor, trustee, "care of name	
Search	SMJ	ss froom, apt., suite tio. and street, or P.O. box) sa Street address (if different) (Do not en	er a P.O. box.)
	48 Mailing address		966
F.	4b City, state, an	at ZIP code Sb City, state, and ZIP code)
7	Ph. 11.0	MP 04866 Thilly 3 17E 0496	
2		tate where orincipal business is located	
B		in County Me ipel officer, general partner, grantor, owner, or trustor 76 SSN, ITIN, or EIN	
- 1		the Hoines of the same of the	
<u>_</u>		heck only one box) Estate (SSN of decedent)	
8a	Sole proprieto		
	Partnership	Trust (SSN of grantox)	
	Corporation (er	US. JOHN BRIDGE ID DE 1860)	ate/local government deral government/military
	Personal servi	ice-corp.	ien nipej donaumeurajeurahisea
	Church or chu	inch-controlled organization ATV Club Group Exemption Number (GEN	
	Other (specify		
8b	if a corporation,	name the state or foreign country State Foreign co	untry
	(if applicable) wh	ere incorporated	
9	Reason for apply	ping (check only one box) Banking purpose (specify purpose) Changed type of organization (specify new t	una) h
	Started new b	ousiness (specify type) >477	ypa)
		Created a trist (specify type)	
	Compliance v	eas (Check the box and see into 12) with IRS withholding regulations Greated a pension plan (specify type)	
	Other (specify	≬ ⊁	venilna venir
10	3.77		Antonia John
	rloy	S = 2003 or annuities were paid or will be paid (month, day, year). Note: If applicant is a withholding	g agent, enter date income will
12	first be paid to n	ronresident ellen. (month, day, year)	the state of the s
13	Lileboer number	of amployees expected in the pext 12 months. Note: If the applicant does not Agricultur	al Household Other
	expect to have a	any employees during the period, enter "0".	Wholesale-agent/broker
14	Check one box th	hat best describes the principal activity of your business. Health care & social assistance Rental & leasing Transportation & warehousing Accommodation & food service	Wholesale other Retail
	Real estate	☐ Rental & leasing ☐ Transportation & warehousing ☐ Accommodation & food service ☐ Manufacturing ☐ Finance & Insurance ☐ Other (specify) ☐ TV C/U/	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
15	Indicate neincina	If line of merchandise solid; specific construction work done; products produced; or service	
168	Has the applicar	nt ever applied for an employer identification number for this or any other business?	Yes Zi No
	Note: If "Yes," p	clease complete lines 16b and 16c. Yes' on line 16a, give applicant's legal name and trade name shown on prior application if	different from line 1 or 2 above.
16b	I saal maara 🗫	Hade same	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
160	Approximate da	te when, and city and state where, the application was filed. Enter previous employer ident	ification number if known. Nous EIN
140	Approximate date	when filed (mo., day, year) City and state where filed Pro	PROGUS EIN
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	re this section only if you want to authorize the named individual to receive the entity's EIN and answer questions at	out the completion of this form.
		te this section only if you want to eutherize the names movemen to receive one discrete discrete the De	ignee's telephone number (include area code)
7.		linda Haines)
_	arty esignee Addres	Inda Halles ss and ZIP code	signee's fex number (include area code)
	1	QX PARK St. Phillips Me Office	
Unde	e peneties of perjury, I d	ectors that I have exemined this application, and so the best of my fore-feedge and best f, it is true, correct, and complete.	plicatel's telephone curriber findude area code)
		1 1 11 1 m Cl (Routhaut)	2071639-3/88
Ner	ne and title (type or p	Drint clearly) > 1/1/10 FT D 1/16 > STUD TESTORY S	plicant's fex number (include area code)
Slo.	natrice 💌 📈	mon Hours Date May 12-03 (<u> </u>

Filing Fee: \$35.00

STATE OF MAINE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Make check payable to: Secretary of State

FOR NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS ON FILE AS OF **DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Pursuant to 13-8 MRSA §1301.2, the information on the report must be current as of the date signed,

Filing by April 1, 2024 will allow us to provide better service. The legal filing deadline is still June 1, 2024. A \$25 late filing fee will be assessed if the report is rate.

Please file by April 1, 2024

Charter Number: 20040139ND

NARROW GAUGE RIDERS ATV CLUB KATHERINE M. ABBOTT, REGISTERED AGENT PO BOX J PHILLIPS, ME 04966 US

Jurisdiction: ME

Principal Home Office Address:

250

250 SALEM RD

PHILLIPS, ME 04966 US		•
1. A brief statement of the charact Maine; if none, so indicate: (13-8 M	ter of the business in which the non RSA §1301.1.D)	profit corporation is actually engaged in the State of
THIS IS A NON-PROPIT ATV CLUB WITH O	FRICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND M	EMBERS.
2. Name and physical address of	the President, Treasurer and Secre	tary or Clerk (or equivalent title). (13-8 MRSA §1301.1.C)
Pres: RYAN BACHELDER	PRESIDENT	962 RANGELEY RD. AVON. ME 04966
Type or Print Name	President or Equivalent	Physical Street Address (City, State, Zip - Not PO Box)
Treas: SARA SPEAR	TREASURER	250 SALEM RD, PHILUPS, ME 04966
Type or Print Name	Treasurer or Equivalent	Physical Street Address (City, State, Zip - Not PO Box)
Sec or		
Clerk: JOANNE BACHELDER	SECHETARY	962 RANGELEY RD, AVON, ME 04966
Type or Print Name	Secretary, Clerk or Equivalent	Physical Street Address (City, State, Zip - Not PO Box)
3. Must provide 3 to 3 Directors: (13-B MRSA \$1301.1.C & \$702.1)	Street address of ophysical location (not P	f each (not P.O. Box); O.Box) - street, town/city, zip)
TERRY HAINES	ON LET DI LIE DE ALLE	N NC 04000
Type or Print Name	29 MT BLUE RD, AVC	IN, M.E. U990b sical Street Address (City, State, Zip - Not PO Box)
DENNISRICHARDS	SAWYER ST. PHILLIPS	ME 04986
Type or Print Name		ical Street Address (City, State, Zip - Not PO Box)

Dated: 03/20/2024

SARA SPEAR

SARA SPEAR

TREASURER

Physical Street Address (City, Street, Zip - Not PO Box)

(AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE)

Type or Print Name

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

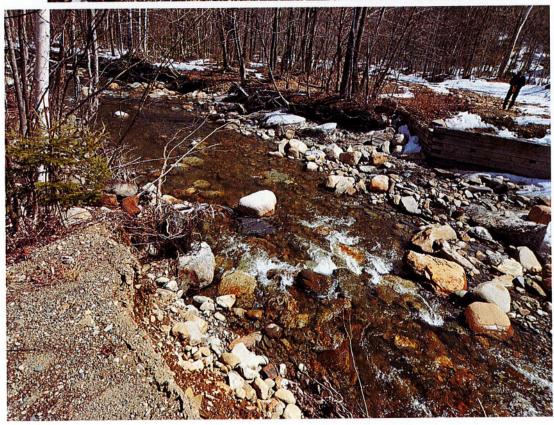
(CAPACITY/TITLE)

(Execution - 13-B MRSA §1301.3. Penalty for untrue or omitted meterial facts - t3-B MRSA §1303)

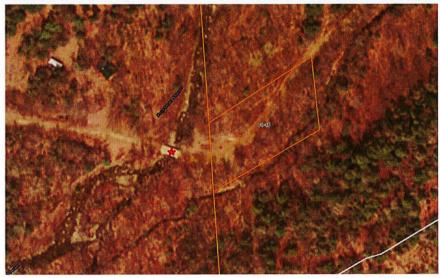
172 ARCHER RD. CHESTERVILLE, ME 04938

Maps and Photos of Crossman Stream Bridge Replacement TIF Grant 2025 - Narrow Gauge Riders Phillips









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	comments Support from Sargent Family Foundation	and community hours and materials	A Community Connector				\$572,000 total budget.	The committee got WMCA and UMEM	to sign MOU to Wx homes and	establish a firewood production	process to reduce fuel costs	for targeted residents.	Benefits all UTs within the county as well as	his inecces in the organized towns	ROI is times 376! (\$53M:\$141.000)				Serviing entire region, including UT parents ar	workforce						Recommended pending:	proof of state grant, Landowner	permission and signed.
2025	Avg					65						65						65						09				
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TIF Project Scoring Summary - June 11, 2025	Recommend 50,000						50,000						141,000	•					70,000									
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	Project Madrid Historical Society	Pavillion	Community Hub,	Trail connector			UMEM (Salem Economic Ministry)	Reducing heating load and	providing discounted fuel.				Greater Franklin ECD	marketina, infrastructure,	Employment training, housing,	Childcare, economic developmer			Rangeley Childcare	providing a critical service	for the entire region while	nurturing and educating infants.	Allowing parents to reenter the	workforce.	Narrow Gauge Riders (ATV)	bridge over Crossman Stream		

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11, 2025
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Project	Madrid Historical Society	Pavillion	Community Hub,	Trail connector			UMEM (Salem Economic Ministry)	Reducing heating load and	providing discounted fuel.				Greater Franklin ECD	marketina, infrastructure,		Employment training, nousing,	Childcare, economic developmer			Rangeley Childcare	providing a critical service	for the entire region while	nurturing and educating infants.	Allowing parents to reenter the	workforce.	Narrow Gauge Riders (ATV)	bridge over Crossman Stream				