

# Northern Maine Development Commission

## Annual Report 2022-23



A large, white, multi-story house with a prominent porch and a sign for the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) in the foreground. The sign features the NMDC logo and the text "Northern Maine Development Commission". The house has a dark roof and a large front porch with white columns. The scene is set in a well-maintained lawn with some landscaping.

*We envision a treasured  
place with a vibrant  
quality of life and a  
thriving economy.*

**NMDC Vision Statement**

# Business Finance



**RECORD CAPITAL YEAR!**  
In keeping with trends, NMDC doubled last year's loan output to \$13.8 million!



**SUSTAINING EMPLOYMENT.**  
Over 600 retained & created jobs, NMDC loans created value for our communities!



**2023 SBA AWARDEE**  
We're honored to be named Maine's SBA Microlender of the Year!



**INVESTING IN DAYCARE.**  
Our FY 22 portfolio includes 3 new child care facilities & 200 new slots in Presque Isle & Houlton!



**NEW LOAN FUND!**  
Thanks to an investment from FAME, we are growing an \$8 million + fund for Northern Maine!

# Business Finance

Total funding lent by year



## TRANSFORMING BUSINESS FINANCE

Here is our 6 year analysis of our Business Finance Department's performance. For the FY 22, we are proud to be nearly at \$14 million in lent capital!

# Small Business Development Center



**Clients: 76**

**Total Hours: 218.76**

**Capital: \$442,230.00**

**Jobs created: 6**

**Jobs retained: 5**

**Business Starts: 2**

# Economic and Community Development

## Broadband

- Secured Maine Connectivity Authority funding to hire a broadband coordinator for Aroostook
- Participated in Aroostook County Broadband Committee, which led to a comprehensive County-wide report.
- Assisted in Broadband grant applications.

## Economic Development Administration

- Secured more than \$7 million in funding for projects in Presque Isle, Caribou, and Madawaska.

## NBRC

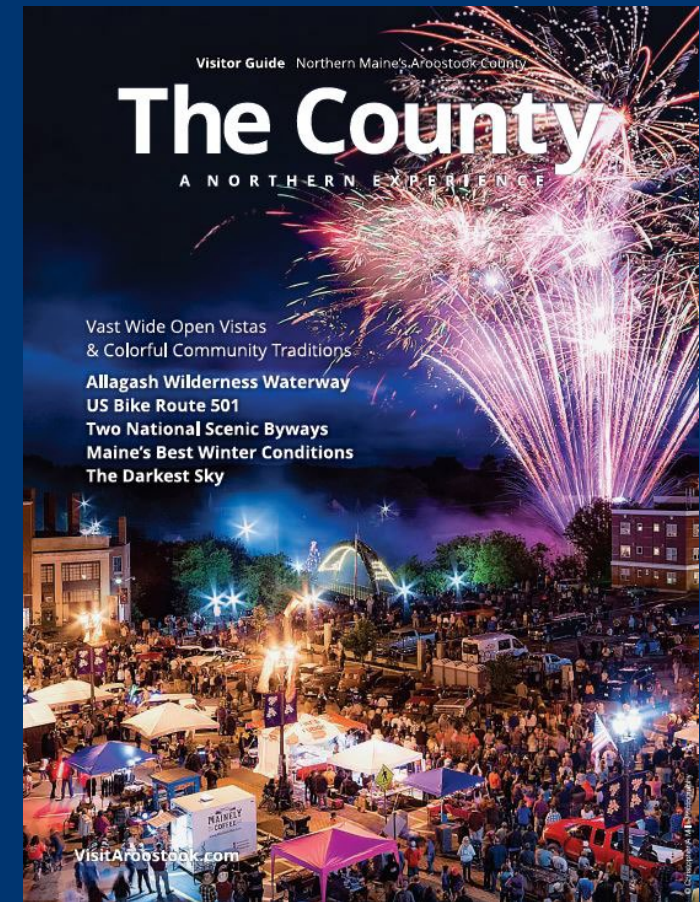
- Assisted with grant applications, which could lead to more than a \$2-million to Aroostook County. Year prior wrote 11 NBRC grant applications for communities.

## Community Development Block Grants

- Assisted more than 20 communities with CDBG technical assistance and developed letters of interest and grant applications for housing, and economic development.

# Aroostook County Tourism

- 2022 visitor data tells us that Maine was the third most visited state in New England welcoming 15,363,600 visitors down 1.5% from last year. Visitor spending (\$8,644,145,000) was up 10.1% over the previous year.
- 2022 data tells us Aroostook County welcomed 282,900 visitors down 1.2% from last year. However, visitors stayed longer in the region and traveled with more members per party. This data reveals day trip travel was down, but over night visitation was up resulting in \$246,453,400 of economic impact up 13% from the previous year.
- Printed and distributed 12,500 guidebooks
- Facebook reach of 955,002 people, impressions of 4,000,328
- New St. John Valley/Fish River National Scenic Byway Map designed, printed (15,000), distributed.
- AAA delivered 850,000 email marketing messages in May.



# Planning

## **Maine Redevelopment Authority Legislation**

- Enables a State land bank which can then make agreements to enable regional/ local land banks, moving property back into productive reuse
- Communities can prioritize certain areas for redevelopment and projects in those areas are eligible for existing and additional State funding
- The legislation maintains the sovereignty of localities.

## **Land Use technical Assistance- Code Enforcement Officer Training**

- Six (6) in person training with presenters from the local, state and federal agencies on a variety of topics from internal plumbing and subsurface wastewater disposal rules, shoreland zoning, legal issues, dealing with difficult people, squatters, and housing.
- In total 102 people attended. Estimated time saving to CEOs 1,530 hours.

## **Climate Mitigation**

- Assisted in bringing four DC fast Chargers to the region - \$500,000
- Writing \$1.5 million in grant applications for stream crossings, sewer resilience, municipal



- NMDC has 187 active clients in Aroostook County
  - We also service an additional 12 clients in the greater Millinocket/northern Penobscot County area
- In PY 22, services to our clients included:
  - 601 individual counseling sessions
  - Assisted 111 unique clients
  - Added 18 new clients to the program
  - Provided 753 hours of counseling time
  - Conducted/participated in 14 workshops and outreach events.
  - Recorded **\$19,569,500** in contract Awards for Aroostook County and Millinocket area small businesses, both primary and subcontracting Awards. These contracts included federal, state, and local agencies.



# Microenterprise Grants

**Awarded 44 Microenterprise Grants to some of the smallest businesses in the Aroostook Washington Economic Development District.**



The photo is of Leon, a talented blacksmith who passionately wanted to expand his business and hire an apprentice/assistant but was unable to scale his operation beyond a simple forge, hammer, and anvil. Working with Jacob, we were able to secure a CDBG Microenterprise grant, which enabled Leon to purchase the power hammer shown in the photo. That one piece of equipment is going to exponentially increase his efficiency and output and create at least one additional job in the near term.

# Thank You

**NMDC staff would like to thank the Executive Board, the municipalities, our partner organizations, and the good people of Aroostook and Washington counties for another successful year.**