



Maine
Sagadahoc County





THE BACKSTORY

2016

In July, parent and business owner Jamie Dorr convened a group of five Greater Bath community leaders and other concerned people in response to yet another death by suicide of a Bath youth.

In October, Midcoast Community Alliance was formed with 34 members to address the high rate of youth suicide, substance use disorder, and other youth challenges, like depression and despair in Coastal Sagadahoc County.

2018

MCA begins operating from the Bath Youth Meeting House and Skate Park.

2019

Merrymeeting Support Collaborative for Youth Experiencing Homelessness becomes part of MCA.

2020

MCA assumes operation of the Bath Youth Meeting House and Skate Park, formerly part of the Bath Parks and Recreation Department.

The name is changed to include dba Midcoast Youth Center.

WHAT IS THE WCC?

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON INITIATIVE

A 3-year \$375,000 grant opportunity strengthen Maine's rural towns, regions, and small cities.

The WCC supports cross-sector teams working collaboratively to build strong economies and healthy communities by changing the way systems work to benefit residents, especially residents with low incomes.

LET'S COLLABORATE!



CRITERIA FOR MAINE'S 60 PRIORITY COMMUNITIES

Our Priority Communities: Bath & Richmond

RATE OF POVERTY GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 12 PERCENT

Maine WCC targets communities with significant economic need.

MINIMUM POPULATION OF 1,900

Make WCC eligible to communities without a large city or town in close geographic or market proximity to a larger place.



6 WCC CORE PRINCIPLES



Cross-sector team of leaders from private, public, non-profit, and community working toward an ambitious shared goal;



Engagement of community members in setting direction and decision-making;



Economic inclusion, racial equity, and diversity across age, gender, and sexual orientation an important part of process and shared goal;



System solutions, not just programs, to achieve team's shared goal;



Learning and adaptation through research, data, and peer exchange;



Connections to ideas, people, and markets within and across local economies and communities.



CORE TEAM

CLAIRE BERKOWITZ

CEO, MIDCOAST MAINE COMMUNITY ACTION

KATIE JOSEPH

ASST SUPT, RSU1

DEB HAGLER, MD

**DIRECTOR, MID COAST CENTER FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS
PEDIATRICIAN, MID COAST PEDIATRICS**

MELISSA FOCESATO

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION,
MID COAST-PARKVIEW HEALTH**

EMILY RUGER

DCED, CITY OF BATH

BARBARA REINERTSEN

ED, UNITED WAY OF MID COAST MAINE

JAMIE DORR

ED, MIDCOAST YOUTH CENTER

JULIE KENNY

DIR, BATH TECH

DEB YOUNG


COO, BATH AREA FAMILY Y

CHRIS OUELLETTE

**DIR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
BATH IRON WORKS**

ALLEN LAMPERT

DIR, MERRYMEETING ADULT EDUCATION



OUR TEAM'S COMPELLING CAUSE

Our vision is to create a comprehensive web of education, mentoring, training, jobs, healthcare, and programs that decrease the rates of hopelessness (a proxy for depression) by 15% in 10 years for youth, especially those from families with low and moderate incomes, and so improve projected economic & health outcomes for young adults in our community.



SAGADAHOC HOPE COLLABORATIVE?

SYSTEMS CHANGE

**looking at complex issues from the
balcony**

**Maine
Integrated
Youth Health
Survey

High Schoolers**

35.9%

FELT SAD OR HOPELESS FOR TWO WEEKS OR MORE

18.5%

SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED SUICIDE

**SAGADAHOC COUNTY HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY HIGHER
THAN STATE AVERAGE**

PANDEMIC HAS MADE THIS MUCH WORSE

**In our community and in neighboring communities, we see
theses statistics play out when the lives of our young
people are lost**

OUR APPROACH

BUILDING HOPE – A BLUEPRINT FOR YOUTH

Our two pronged approach will be reactive to today's 16-24 year olds who "fall off a cliff of services" after high school and proactive to address inequities among our youngest community members.



REACTIVE

Programs for young adults ages 16-24 interested in discovering their unique potential and developing basic life skills with coordinated support, employers, organizations, cities and towns, and community members who want to help young people thrive.



PROACTIVE

Equitable access to youth programs starting at an early age, increased access to health care, support for families, and creating stepping stones for development.

REACTIVE

PROACTIVE



MAINE CAREER EXPLORATION

DEPT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

2-YEAR \$430,000 MYC GRANT

- **16-24 YEAR OLDS**
 - **MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT**
 - **COMMUNITY NAVIGATION**
- **PARTNERING WITH**
 - **MORSE ELO**
 - **MT. ARARAT ELO**
 - **BRUNSWICK ELO**
 - **BATH-BRUNSWICK CHAMBER**
 - **MAINE TOURISM**

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

more grant funding opportunities

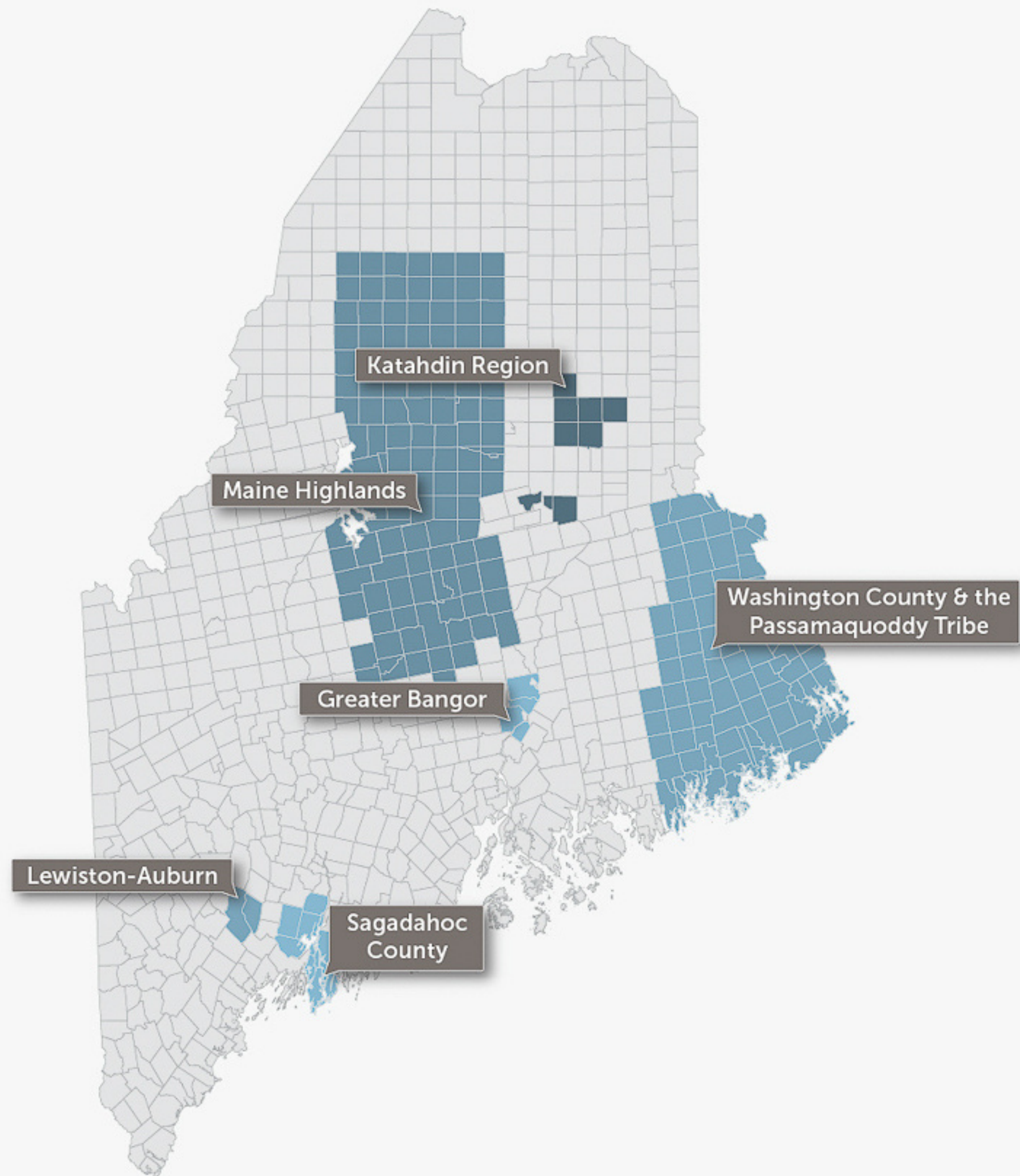
DOWNTOWN HUB

Resources, jobs, makerspace, connection, community

UNIVERSAL HUB

Interconnection throughout the county





MAINE WCC TEAMS

GET INVOLVED



liz@midcoastyouth.org



207-504-2908



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207-443-6856

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