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To: Key Elected & Appointed Municipal Officials
From: Rebecca Graham, Senior Legislative Advocate
Date: January 5, 2024
Re: Updates from DECD Re: LD 2003 Housing Mandate

As a reminder, one of the deadlines placed on municipalities to align ordinances with the housing mandates adopted via LD 2003 (PL 2021, c. 67) has expired. The deadline for council communities to get their ordinances in order was December 31, 2023. The deadline for all other communities is July 1, 2024.

Attached to this email are two documents just recently redistributed by the Housing Opportunity program coordinators within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

The first are the rules, as adopted in September of 2023, guiding the distribution of state funds required by Maine's Constitution to be provided to municipalities to help cover the cost of the mandate. As you will read, authorized expenses include legal fees, staff and volunteer time and public meeting expenses.

Municipal officials who have received funding are being asked to send copies of adopted ordinances as a means for documenting and verifying the appropriate use of the revenues.

Municipal officials who have not yet received state funding are encouraged to do so as soon as practicable.

The second document is a schedule of the office hour sessions the department will host throughout January and into early February. These sessions are open to the public and are being conducted without a formal agenda. Municipal officials are encouraged to drop in as their schedules allow.

Questions about the programs, funding and office hour sessions should be emailed to housing.decd@maine.gov.