

## **Greater Portland initiatives funded through the Emergency Housing Relief Fund at MaineHousing<sup>1</sup>**

### **New shelter beds for more than 450 people:**

- Elena's Way, Portland (40 beds) – gap funding to open 24-hour wellness shelter in October 2022
- Salvation Army, Portland (77 beds) – funded through April 30, 2024 (opted to close 12/31/23)
- Woodfords Church/Williston-Immanuel, Portland (36 beds) – funded through July 31, 2024
- State Street Church, Portland (15 beds, expanding to 24 beds this winter) – renovation funding to allow shelter to operate and expand
- 166 Riverside, Portland (179 beds) – opened in November and funded through November 2026. NOTE: priority access negotiated for those at Portland's HSC not in need of services provided there, freeing up 120 beds at the HSC for those currently sleeping outside in tents.
- First Parish Church, Gorham (16 beds) – opened in November and funded through August 2024
- Through These Doors, Portland (5-10 beds) – renovation funding to allow shelter to serve more people fleeing domestic violence
- Greater Portland Peer Services (75 beds) – funding to add 75 warming shelter beds through April 2024

Funding was also provided to several local organizations for eight months between fall 2022 and spring 2023, to provide critical services to 300 people being sheltered in two South Portland hotels; those services were provided to help drive down service calls, stabilize the population being served, and prevent their eviction from the hotels.

Additionally, \$830,000 has been set aside for a State/City/nonprofit partnership to provide rental assistance, housing navigation and stabilization services for people experiencing homelessness in Portland.

### **Transitional housing for approximately 800 people:**

- Asylum Seeker Transitional Housing Program, Saco (approx. 85 families/320 individuals at any one time; approximately 550 individuals assisted thus far in aggregate) – funded through December 2024. City of Portland has exclusive referral rights to the program.
- South Portland Transitional Housing Program (approx. 84 families/240 individuals) – funded through June 2024
- Frances Warde Transitional Housing Program, Portland (15 pregnant/recently postpartum women and their children) – opened in June and funded for 3 years
- Preble Street Teen Housing Services, Biddeford (6 youth ages 18-24) – opening in February, funded for 2 years

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<sup>1</sup> The Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program was created in April 2022 through the FY23 Supplemental Budget and provided with an initial allocation of \$22 million. \$21 million was added to the Fund through the enactment of LD 3 in January 2023, and the FY24-25 budget signed in July 2023 included another \$12m. In addition to the Greater Portland initiatives described above, numerous additional shelter and housing initiatives have been funded statewide.

**Permanent housing for 202 households (approximately 700 people):**

- West End 2, South Portland (52 households) – occupancy began in March 2023; rent support provided for up to two years.
- Brunswick Landing, Brunswick (60 households) – occupancy began in December 2023; rent support provided for up to two years.
- Porter Station, Portland (15 households) – occupancy began in November 2023; rent support provided for up to two years.
- Quality Housing Coalition/Prosperity Maine (75 households) – rent supplements to allow families to access/avoid eviction from local apartments for one year; began in March 2023.

Additionally, \$1.2 million has been allocated from the Fund to ILAP, Hope Acts and Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services to expand their ability to help asylum seekers file timely, high-quality asylum and work permit applications.