

Call for Economic Development Proposals

March 10, 2016

As part of its annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process, the **Midcoast Economic Development District (MCEDD)** is soliciting economic development project proposals from across the region. Proposals from concept to implementation phase are sought.

Proposals will be reviewed and prioritized by a **Project Review Committee** comprised of public and private sector representatives from across the MCEDD service area. There will be a **two-phase process** aimed at developing an inventory of priority projects for the region. High priority projects submitted by MCEDD member communities will be included in the **2016 MCEDD CEDS** that is written annually and submitted to the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and advanced by MCEDD to funders as opportunities are identified.

Principles and priorities from **Mobilize Midcoast Maine** will be integrated into the project process again this year. Applicants are advised to review appropriate background information and propose their projects within the Mobilize Midcoast Maine context to the greatest extent possible. **See the 2015 MCEDD CEDS** and learn more about Mobilize Midcoast Maine at <http://www.mceddme.org/economic-development/mobilize-maine/>

Phase 1 - How to Submit Your 2016 Proposals

Once again this year, we ask you to submit a preliminary project proposal by March 25 through an on-line form located at our website at <http://www.mceddme.org/ceds-project-solicitation-form/>. Please note the on-line form is an easy five-step process. Any questions on the form should be directed to MCEDD staff at (207)443-5790 or bnajpauer@mceddme.org

Phase II - 'Finalist' Proposals

Once preliminary proposals are received, the Project Review Committee will select a group of 'finalist' proposals from MCEDD member communities to proceed to the next phase of the process. The finalists will be invited to submit a more detailed proposal by April 22 and participate in a project interview with the Committee. Applicants are advised to understand that approximately 2 weeks separates the first review from the second submission deadline, so finalists

should be well prepared to advance to the finalist stage as outlined by the Finalists Submission Guidelines, which can be reviewed here (see '2016 CEDS Finalist Submission Guidelines') at <http://www.mceddme.org/economic-development/mobilize-maine/>

Proposal Deadlines

See a full 2016 schedule at <http://www.mceddme.org/economic-development/mobilize-maine/>. Here are the major dates in the schedule:

- Preliminary economic development project proposals submitted by **Friday, March 25th** at 5 p.m.
- During the **week of April 4th through April 8th**, the Project Review Committee reviews preliminary proposals and selects group of 'Finalist' projects to proceed to next phase of process.
- By close of business on **April 8th**, the 'Finalists' are invited to submit a more detailed proposal and participate in a project interview with the Project Review Committee
- 'Finalist' proposals due by **Friday, April 22nd** at 5 p.m.
- **By May 6th**, Project Review Committee interviews 'finalists' and prioritizes projects for inclusion in 2016 MCEDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).