

## Support LD 1522: Successful Eviction Prevention Program (EPP) helps Maine families stay on track with rent, strengthens communities and economies

A pilot program has extended a lifeline to renters with low incomes in a housing crisis, and helped town and city budgets

Homes are everything: our ability to work, our health, and our kids' futures all depend on keeping a roof over our heads. Yet, last year, nearly **five thousand** Maine households were on the brink of **losing their homes** because of eviction.

Lawmakers saw the urgent need for rent relief, especially for Mainers with the lowest incomes, and funded the EPP at \$18 million. The **EPP is expected to keep 1,600 households safely housed**, preventing the equivalent of three-quarters of all eviction filings last year for non-payment of rent.

The EPP has targeted support to keep Mainers hurt most by skyrocketing rents housed: **75% of households helped earn less than \$31,000 a year**, including single parents and caregivers, Mainers with disabilities, older Mainers on fixed incomes, and workers who do essential but low-paying jobs.

### A new way to build housing stability for Maine

When someone loses their home, it often means lost sales tax revenue, higher costs for MaineCare, shelters, and the criminal justice system. Employers, local General Assistance budgets, and economies feel the effects, too. Based on other states' savings from rent relief efforts, **Maine could save millions by continuing the EPP and avoiding more evictions.**

Maine may need a decade or more to build enough homes to meet our needs, but **the EPP offered Maine people relief within just months** from skyrocketing rents, which have outpaced incomes. Passing LD 1522 would build a better approach to housing stability for Maine people and communities.



**“This program is so essential to so many”**

I assisted my friend with applying for the EPP. This **truly saved her from being evicted** and assisting her moving forward.

She had been receiving unemployment after getting laid off from her position at the hospital in Presque Isle and **was not able to keep up with her rent of \$925 per month, on top of her other necessity bills, to include her prescriptions.** She had received an eviction notice...

This program is essential to so many who are not only experiencing job loss, but also when the **cost of rent and other essentials** have been at an all-time high.”

*-Kara, Aroostook County*