

Fund Maine's Successful Eviction Prevention Program (EPP)



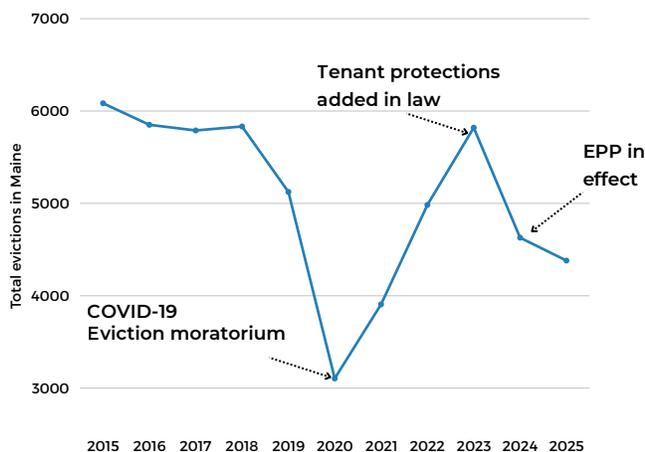
Protect Maine families from unaffordable rents and eviction. Give cities and towns a targeted, proven tool to respond to federal cuts and rising costs.

It's no secret that Mainers are struggling with the high cost of housing, but renters with low incomes have seen some of the worst difficulties. Maine rents have gone up faster than the rest of the country (rising 32.1% between 2019 and 2025). By 2023, a whopping 65% of Maine households making \$32k or less per year (about half of Maine's avg. income) were paying *more than half* of their income on rent.

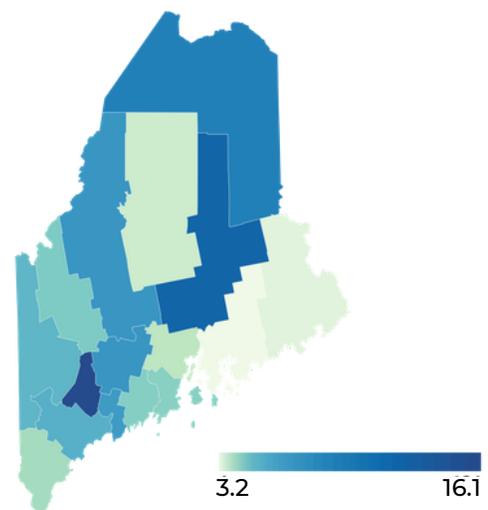
EPP, launched in 2024, has helped **1,280 households** in Maine so far, with an **average income of just \$17,000**. People who applied were **mainly working**, and reported **going without medical care and food** to make ends meet. They often said rent/utilities were going up (46%), they'd lost a job (41%), or had a change in health status (41%). More than half were parents or guardians with a child at home.

EPP dramatically lowers evictions, helps everywhere in the state.

Number of evictions in Maine, 2015-2025



Number of Approved Eviction Prevention Program (EPP) applications per 10,000 people



While we build homes, Maine renters need relief. The investment pays off.

Evictions are personal tragedies, but they also mean 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. **Maine would avoid millions in costs by continuing EPP and preventing thousands more evictions.** The legislature should reinvest in this effective program, and target housing affordability dollars where they will help most.