

Washington County TIF District Application for Funding

Sunrise County Economic Council • 7 Ames Way • Machias, ME 04654 • 207-255-0983

Please indicate which program you are applying for funding from:

- ☐ Nature-Based Tourism Grant ☐ County Grant-Matching Program
☒ Economic Development Planning Funds ☐ Capital Project Fund

For the Capital Project Fund, please contact the Washington County Commissioners. A preliminary request form also is available online at www.washingtoncountymaine.com/tif.

Name of applying individual, business, or organization: **Citizens Organization for Rural Education (CORE)**

Please check which type of organization is applying for funds:

- ☐ Private enterprise ☒ 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
☐ Community organization. Fiscal sponsor: _____
☐ Government entity. Please specify: _____

This project is being pursued by:

- ☐ One business or organization ☒ **A collaboration between:** CORE; Greater East Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce; Machias Savings Bank (Danforth); Town of Danforth; Town of Weston; East Grand School

One-line description of your project: **Funding at (25%) of a Phase 1 Broadband Planning Grant with ConnectMaine in conjunction with the Greater East Grand Regional Economic Planning Initiative**

Dollar amount requested: **\$5,000** Total project budget: **\$20,000**

Unorganized Territory in which project will occur: **Forest City, Forest Twp., and Brookton, as the Northern Washington UT portion of a Ten/Township area in the Greater East Grand Region of Northern Washington, Southern Aroostook and extreme Eastern Portion of Penobscot County. The Town of Danforth serves as the service center.**

Have you applied for applicable licenses and permits for your project (LURC, DEP, DHHS, etc.)? Please list: **Not Applicable.**

Washington County TIF District Application for Funding

Please fill out all sections completely as instructed. If a section does not apply to the type of funding for which you are applying, that will be noted below.

I. Applicant Information

Legal name of organization: Citizens Organization for Rural Education (CORE)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 282, Danforth, ME 04424

Physical address: President: 363 US Route 1, Weston, ME 04424

Telephone: President: 207-557-9474

Email: President: egcleaves@pwless.net
V. President: dwayneyoung267@hotmail.com

Website: None

Number of years business/agency in existence: 5 years

Number of paid staff: None Number of volunteers: 25+ project dependent

Federal Tax I.D. or EIN: 81-1557669

President or Executive Director: Elbridge Cleaves

Board president (if applicable): John Ribe

Telephone: 207-448-2913 Email: jhribe@reagon.com

Amount requested from Washington County TIF Funds for this project: \$5,000

Total project budget: \$20,000 A 200-word (maximum) description of your project

The purpose of this grant application is to seek \$5,000 toward the funding of a Phase 1 Broadband Planning Grant application with ConnectMaine. The project is a six-month effort to assemble and publish a Phase 1 Broadband Expansion Plan for the more settled areas of Washington County within the Greater East Grand Economic Planning Region of Eastern Maine Region. The projected cost of the project is \$20,000. Matching dollars will make a more competitive application to the Connect Maine Authority.

The Greater East Grand Region in Eastern Maine is remote, sparsely populated, and encompasses approximately 500,000 acres. This area, situated at the extremities of three counties is divided by the Washington, Aroostook and Penobscot county line and is nearly evenly split between organized towns and unorganized townships. For the towns and townships in the Region participating in this Phase 1 Planning Grant, three of the ten are in the UT of Washington County.

The town of Danforth, the area's service center, is the largest of the communities in the region.

Partnering organizations include Pioneer Broadband, CORE, the Greater East Grand Area Chamber of Commerce, East Grand School, the Towns of Danforth, Weston, Reed Plantation, Haynesville, Amity, and Orient. The UT of Aroostook includes Bancroft Twp. The UT of Washington includes Forest City, Forest Twp, and Brookton.

II. Jobs and Geographic Region

For the purposes of the grant decision process, projects that will directly create or retain jobs will score 1 point per job. Jobs are measured as full-time equivalent (FTE) based on 2080 hours per year. (Example: a job that creates two full-time jobs for six months equals one FTE.) For more information on scoring of this application, please see the Base Conditions Scoring System in Appendix A.

Number of jobs to be created or retained through this project: The broadband planning project budget includes adding a part-time assistant position to work with Sarah Strickland, project consultant. The goal is to find a local person who is interested in learning more about project management so that this skill set is more available within the region going forward. Two possible candidates live in Brookton.

Types of jobs and number of each: 1 Broadband planning project assistant

Job title: Project assistant No. of jobs: 1 Length of job: Part-time project; grant dependent

Please include any other information you may have about job creation during your project and your projections for the future:

Sarah Strickland is the project consultant for the broadband planning project. An important goal of this project, like the economic planning project, is to build capacity for an economic development coordinator after the planning phase. The broadband project is an opportunity to locate and hire a local project assistant and begin to build that person's project coordination, assessment and relationship building skills. Whether this position leads to additional responsibilities in the future economic development entity remains to be seen, but this is a good project to assess interest and abilities.

III. Financial Information

2019

Citizens Organization for Rural Education 501c3

Fiscal year start and end dates: From January 1, **2019** to December 31, **2019**

Revenues and Expenses for Enterprises Currently in Business

2019	Revenue
Income from sale of goods & services	\$ 0
Grants and donations:	
Individuals & Businesses	\$10,309.00
Foundations	\$13,750.00
Private & Non-Profit	\$13,525.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$37,584.00

2019	Expenses
Sunrise County Economic Council	\$ 26,000.00
Equipment	\$ 232.09
Supplies	\$ 88.54
Fundraising Costs	\$ 0
Grassroots Environmental Grant	\$ 1,152.91
Other: Accounting	\$ 150.00
Weekend Trip for East Grand Middle School Students, Chaperones, Guides Included: Tenting Sites, Rafting Trip, Hiking Trip and Food	\$ 4,766.85
Building Harlow Ski & Snowshoe Trail	\$ 3,873.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 3.12
Washington, DC Trip	\$ 500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 36,766.51
NET Gain (REVENUE – EXPENSES)	\$ 817.49

Assets and Liabilities for Last Fiscal Year From: 1/1/2019 to 12/31/2019

Citizens Organization for Rural Education 501c3
Many hours of donated labor and equipment. No charge.

2019 Assets Liabilities

Cash Beg. Balance	\$ 4,349.13	Accounts Payable	\$36,766.51
2019 Income	\$37,584.00		
Total Assets	\$41,933.13	Total Liabilities	\$36,766.51

January 1, 2020 Balance on Hand \$5,166.62

IV. Project budget

The total project budget is \$20,000. A 50% financial match positions the grant more favorably based on the ConnectMaine scoring system.

ConnectMaine grant:	\$10,000
New Maine Community Foundation or reallocation of MaineCF funds from economic planning project:	\$5000
Washington County TIF:	\$5000
Total Project Budget:	<u>\$20,000</u>

These funds will pay for the following Phase 1 deliverables:

- Fully functioning Task Force that is oriented and prepared for the “marathon” ahead.
- Identified broadband needs and goals for each community in the region.
- Inventory mapping of existing broadband infrastructure.
- Gap analysis between community goals and existing infrastructure.
- Assessment of municipal procedures, rules and ordinances that will impact option and decisions.
- Digital inclusion plan informed by Covid-19 experience of families/students, health center patients and businesses.
- A final Phase 1 document that recommends next steps for Phase 2 planning and funding.

V. Sustainability plan

What are your plans to ensure continuation of this project or business and to secure funding in the future? Please list at least three strategies.

Pioneer Broadband is a partner for the Phase 1 ConnectMaine grant. Based on current and future funding assumptions and information, an FCC auction for some of the communities in the Greater East Grand Region is anticipated to become open in October 2020. The Phase 1 planning information will provide the necessary information to move into Phase 2 planning and allow the region in partnership with Pioneer to be prepared to compete for these territories.

High speed broadband is a mandatory infrastructure requirement for economic development in the region. Initiating Phase 1 planning is a pre-requisite to ensure continued progress towards the goal.

VI. Project narrative

You may use the spaces below each major section, or you may include a separate page. Please do not exceed one typed page (minimum 11-point type) for each section.

History of your company or organization (founding date, mission, area and number served, top products or services):

Citizens Organization for Rural Education (CORE) began in 2014 as a grass roots organization working to create a partnership between East Grand School and the two-district communities of Danforth and Weston. CORE is a small organization, no paid staff, and the work is primarily one of information, coordination and support. Joint accomplishments with the school include strategic planning, construction of an outdoor classroom on donated land, a garden center, curriculum development, teacher training, off-site middle school outings, the Harlow Trail (a school-community service project), and assistance in developing the natural resources pathway options for aspiring students. The Harlow Trail marked a multi-year effort by CORE to develop a community service, recreational and educational trail; a partnership involving East Grand students, the Town of Danforth, and the landowner, Baskahegan Company.

CORE also works in the community. The organization obtained funding and contracted with Sunrise County Economic Council to conduct a local economic impact analysis in the event that part or all of the school has to be closed. Findings show a substantial economic hit to the area if local education fails in Danforth and Weston. CORE has obtained funding from The Maine Community Foundation, the Davis Conservation Foundation, and the Stetson Mountain Fund of the Forest Society of Maine, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, key area landowners and many local citizens. CORE entirely operates on volunteerism from its board and officers to the many volunteers that assist with projects. The Harlow Trail and Middle School Outing have in-kind contributions of time and equipment that exceed actual out of pocket costs. Volunteers include students, student mentors, teachers, and adults from the surrounding communities.

The Greater East Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1998 as a way to promote area businesses and to draw new businesses to the area. The primary area served is comprised of Danforth, Orient, Weston, Bancroft Twp., Brookton and Forest City Twp.

Over the years the Greater East Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce has supported many community and area functions beyond the normal chamber of commerce business. It has provided financial support for a local summer concert series, development and improvements in partnership with the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust for the East Grand Highlands Hiking Trail, created a promotional video for the region and maintained a public informational building in Danforth.

The Chamber prints a brochure showcasing local businesses and distributes it throughout the local area, the Maine Tourism Association and a half-dozen other chambers statewide. It maintains a website and social media presence. The Chamber has no paid employees, thus operates on volunteerism. Its website is located at <https://www.eastgrandlake.net/>.

The region (as previously described) has a year-round population of approximately 1,250. The area is home to eleven lakes and two rivers with about 1,200 seasonal cottages, the population swells to several thousand in the summer months.

Overview of the project for which you seek funding (1. overall goal; 2. how this project will strengthen your organization; 3. up to three measurable outcomes that will help achieve your goal; 4. specific activities to complete the project):

This project supports the draft GEGR 2030 economic development goals. See attached progress and interim report to Washington County Commissioners.

The Phase 1 Project will be led by the GEGR Broadband Task Force. The GEGR Broadband Task Force is a sub-committee of the GEGR Economic Planning Initiative and includes representatives from the communities, plantations and unorganized territories that will be part of this first assessment in the region, as well as the East Grand Chamber of Commerce, the RSU 84/MSAD school district and other anchor institutions and businesses.

Communities to be included in this phase of Broadband Assessment: Amity, Orient, Haynesville, Weston, Bancroft TWP, Reed Plantation, Danforth, Forest City, Forest TWP, Brookton TWP

There are four project segments which will produce a final Phase 1 report.

(1) Task Force Orientation (Month 1)

- Review relevant information from the economic development asset mapping and plan – establish the larger context for this effort.
- Participate in a High-speed Broadband 101 orientation and field trip with Don Flewelling.
- Review, modify and finalize the community broadband assessment process and survey tools to maximize participation across the region.
- Finalize the project timeline, deliverables and task force meeting schedule.

(2) Months 2-5, task force members and selected volunteers will assess community need with residents and businesses. Sarah Strickland to lead. Steps include:

- Hold information meetings with town leaders and residents about the project.
- Implement a communications plan about the project and assessment survey to encourage participation region wide.
- Initiate and complete the on-line residential and business survey activities that will assess community concerns, costs of current services, and service gaps.
- Conduct 1:1 interviews with cornerstone organizations across the region.
- Prepare a summary report for the Task Force.

(3) Months 2-5, complete an inventory of existing broadband infrastructure and a gap analysis for all communities in the region. Don Flewelling to lead. Steps include:

- Municipal procedures, policies and ordinances will be requested and reviewed by the Task Force.
- Based on the recent school and health center experience with Covid-19, conduct a digital inclusion assessment that addresses affordable internet, equipment, digital literacy and public computer access in the region. Internet “deserts” will be identified in the region.
- Prepare a summary report for the Task Force that includes a gap analysis with preliminary options to remediate.

(4) Task Force Reporting (Month 6)

- When all the assessments and reports are complete, the task force will meet to review the findings, develop recommendations, and prepare a summary report outlining results and likely next steps.
- Meetings with town leaders and businesses in each community will be held to assess readiness to move into Phase 2 planning.
- A public meeting will be held and articles in the local paper will inform residents about the results and set the stage for the next phase.

Who will be served by this project?

Township/region: Brookton TWP, Forest TWP, Forest City TWP in addition to the other communities in Greter East Grand Region.

Age range of those served: all ages

Approximate number: 1800 – 6000 for the region, based on season.

Plan for evaluating the success of this project:

The success of this project will be measured in the following ways:

- Resident and business survey process results in necessary and sufficient participation.
- Towns are engaged and provide requested information in a timely manner.
- Consultant interim reports are delivered to the Task Force per the project schedule.
- Meetings with town leaders in each community are well attended with informed discussions.
- There is a clear path forward with priorities for the region to seek funding for Phase 2 planning.

VII. Signature - Must be original, not photocopied.

Signature of president, chief executive officer, or board president (nonprofits)

Date

Elbridge Cleaves
Print name

CORE President
Title

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAR 04 2016**

CITIZENS ORGANIZATION FOR RURAL
EDUCATION
PO BOX 252
DANFORTH, ME 04424-0000

Employer Identification Number:
81-1557669
DLN:
26053460003496
Contact Person:
CUSTOMER SERVICE ID# 31954
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
509(a)(2)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
September 16, 2015
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

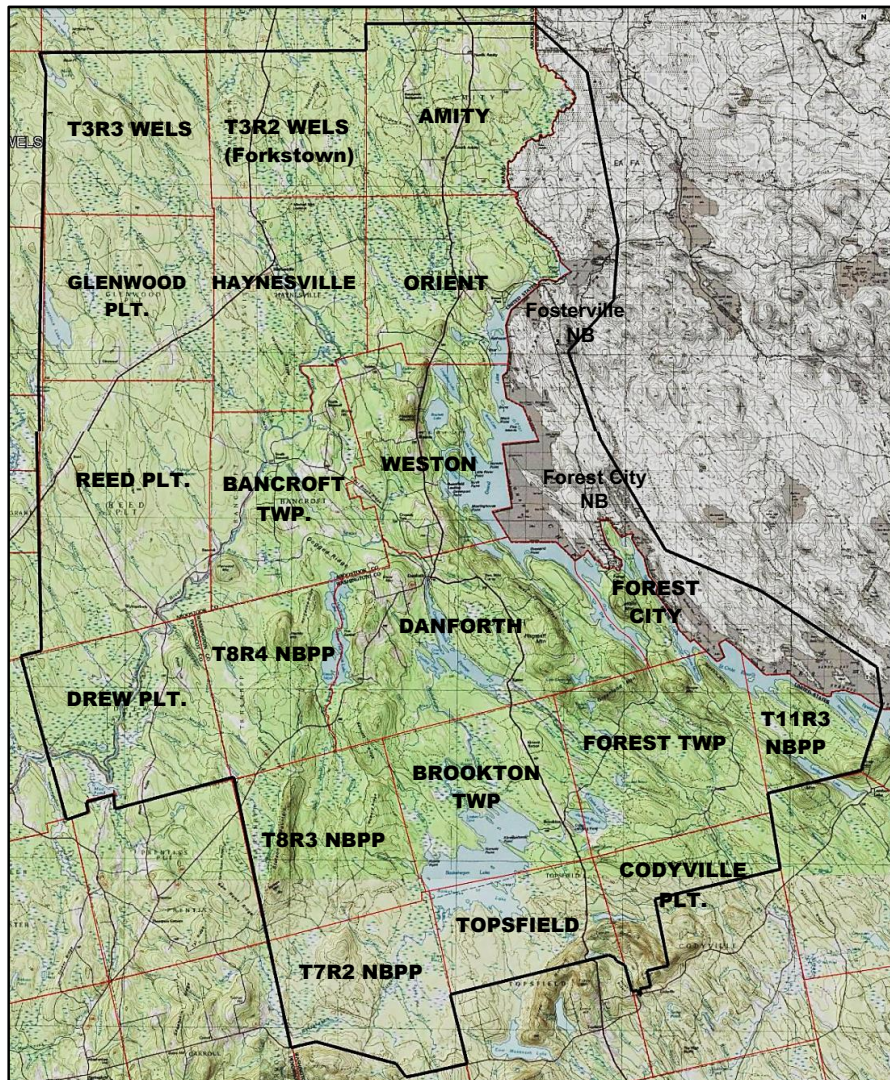
For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 5436

Greater East Grand Region Economic Development Plan: 2020 – 2030 Interim Report for Washington County UT

*Representing the communities of Amity, Orient, Haynesville, Bancroft, Weston
Reed Plantation, Drew Plantation
Danforth, Forest City, Brookton TWP, Forest TWP
Codyville Plantation, T11R3, T8R4, T8R3, T7R2*

GREATER EAST GRAND REGION ECONOMIC PLANNING AREA



Greater East Grand Region “A Heritage Reclaimed”

I. Our Vision

The phrase - “a heritage reclaimed” - speaks to the values, passion and vision of the hearty group of “locals” and the devoted influx of “summer folks,” twice our number, who share a love for the lakes, rivers and forests; the natural beauty and quiet lifestyle of rural living; and aspire to rebuild the region’s future by investing in its people and assets.

The belief that out-migration, aging population, political and governmental divisions and a diminishing natural resource-based economy has destined this region to a declining quality of life is ever-present. Our demographics include some of the oldest towns in Maine and a total region-wide population of just under 1800 people -- a mark that is fifty percent of the region’s high point in 1920.

This economic planning region was created in 2019 because of the historical and current strong business, education and community connections to Danforth as a service center and the cross-county boundaries of school district RSU 84/MSAD 14 served by exclusively by East Grand School in Danforth. The region, with 7 communities, 3 plantations and 6 TWP’s, is situated at the remote extremities of three counties, has seen ever-changing international border rules, and is divided by two state legislative districts and three state tourism areas. This makes the prospect of coordinated economic and community planning very limited. *We believe these hurdles can be turned into strengths.*



It is not by chance or without cause that we now embark on an economic plan for this remote region of Eastern Maine. Decades of decline, particularly from systemic changes in the forest products and farming industries have rendered havoc on our communities, some to the extreme. Other communities with substantial lake neighborhoods have been able to slow the impact of rural decline through hard work and perseverance.

Since 2014, citizen groups, key community leaders, civic-minded landowners, creative business people and outside sources of funding have helped foster huge investments of time, energy and volunteerism in the well-being of some of our communities and in local education. These investments have produced returns, and we believe the hurdles the region has can be turned into strengths.

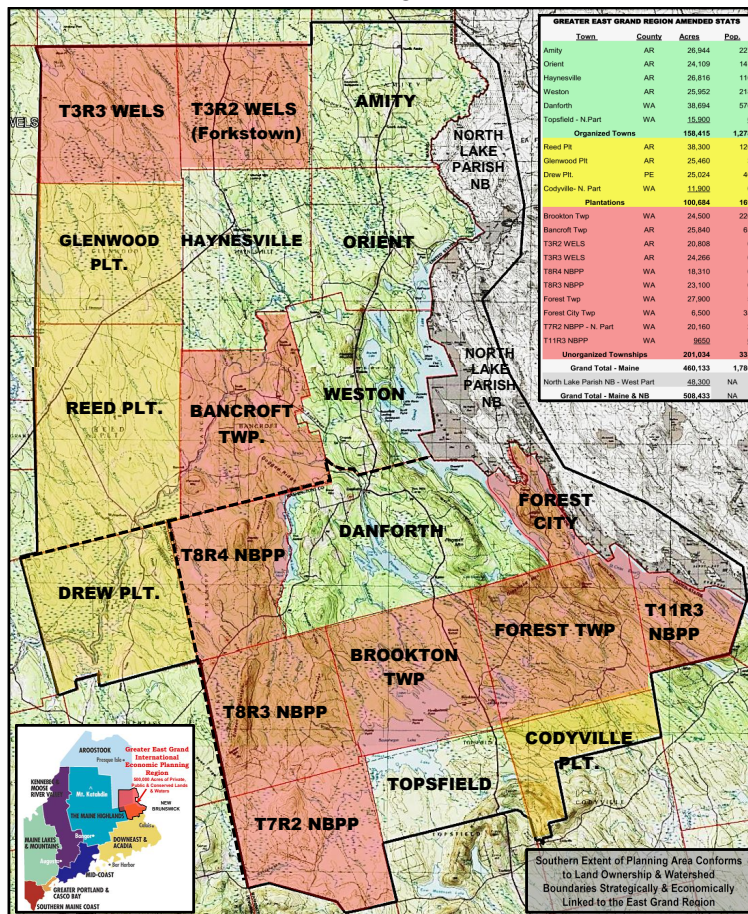
It is with a sense of urgency that we capitalize on these recent developments and take full advantage of prior investments. Weaknesses and threats to the economic viability of the Region are real. Confidence is high that our basic quality of life issues can be successfully attacked. It is such concerns as State and federal decisions about critically important infrastructure that we must have a credible

local voice of economic advocacy backed by a publicly approved platform from which to act. No one can do this for us.

As citizens of once flourishing settlements of loggers, farmers and entrepreneurs, we are reclaiming our rural heritage and true sense of community. As new-found pioneers, we are striving to build local and far-reaching partnerships in education and economic vitality with a focus on three connected goals: (1) supporting existing businesses and emerging entrepreneurs, (2) investing in youth and young adults, and (3) creating a regional

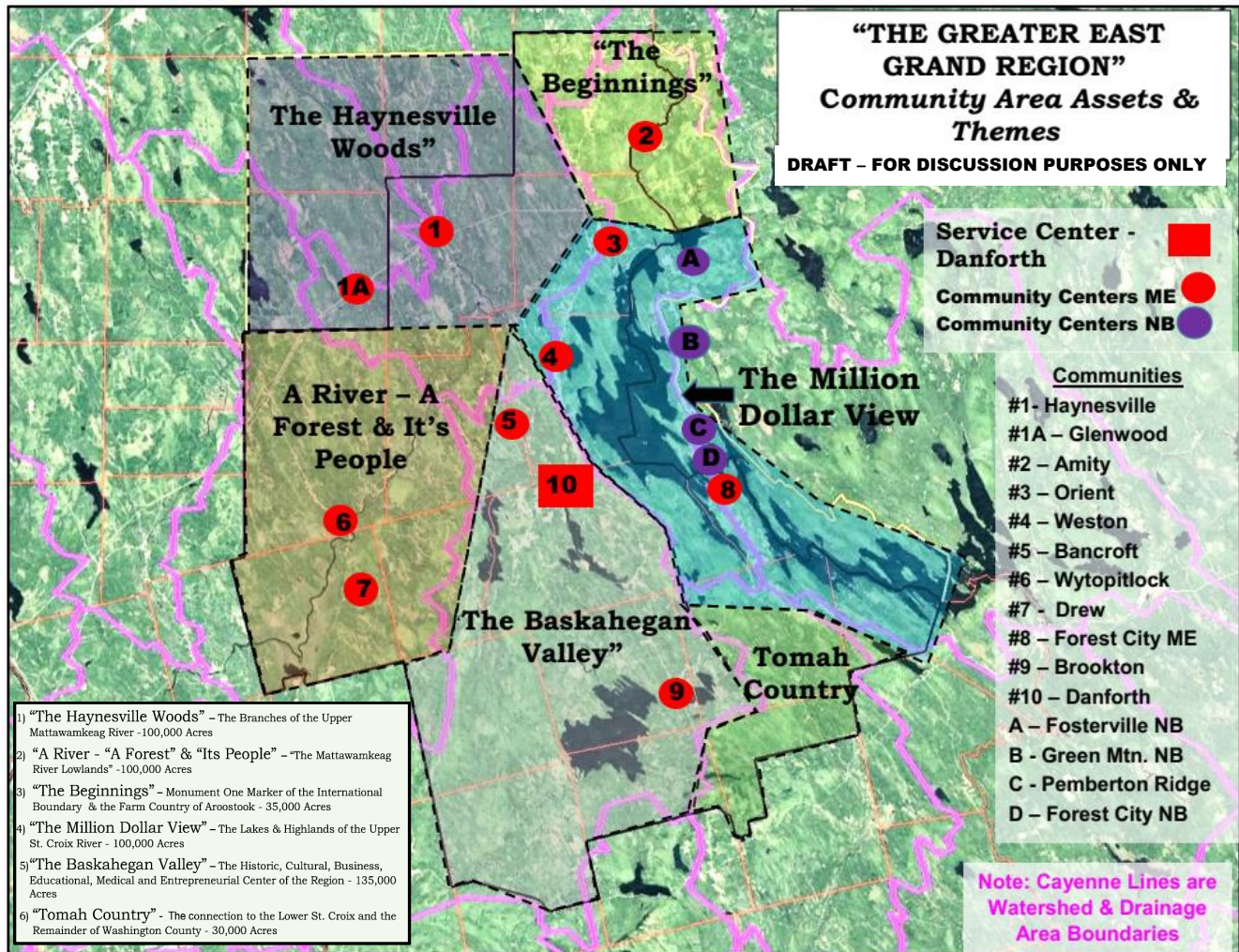
landscape fortified with the necessary infrastructure, housing, local businesses, and public services for families, elders, and individuals to create a sustainable and satisfying rural lifestyle. This narrative and our regional planning effort entitled “A Heritage Reclaimed”, is about local citizens bringing renewed purpose to a rural way of life and to the communities upon which those lives depend.

GREATER EAST GRAND REGION ECONOMIC PLANNING AREA

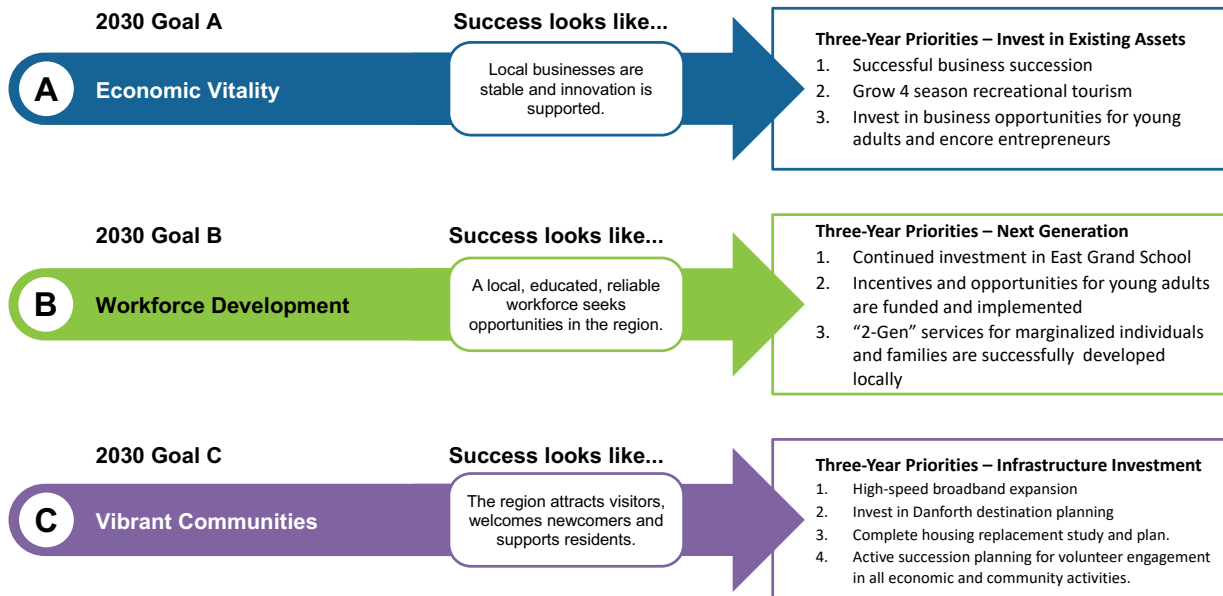


II. The Region's Assets

- The people – 1800 year-round increasing to 6000 seasonally
- 500,000 acres of rural, remote landscape with 10 small communities
 - Highly forested – endowed with nearly 30,000 lakes and ponds
 - 60,000 acres public and conserved lands
 - Shares international border with New Brunswick, Canada along the St. Croix River
- A highly natural landscape with an embedded 32 lake neighborhoods and over 1200 cottages
- Hundreds of thousands of acres of working forest open to the public for traditional outdoor recreation
- 2014-2020 investment by foundations, private donors and volunteers
- An economy heavily dependent upon natural resources
- 9 natural resource-based businesses providing 100-125 jobs in the region; 10 independent trucking businesses
- Established Danforth Service Center – 8 retail businesses; 23 service businesses
 - “Danforth for a Lifetime” initiative
 - East Grand School – PreK to 12th grade – outdoor education “magnet”; Portrait of a Graduate
 - East Grand Health Care Center – FQHC with established referral network; SMD/MAT program
 - Machias Savings Bank branch
 - Centered between Houlton, Lincoln and Calais
- 6 geographically distinct community areas and assets (See map on page 5)
 - 3 major watersheds
 - 400 miles of existing and planned recreational trails – Water, ATV, Snowmobile, Bike, Hiking
 - Signature landmarks – Scenic Million Dollar View; Peak-a-boo Lookout, Danforth Town Hall
 - East Grand Lake
 - 12 Lodges/Sporting Camps
- Underutilized farm lands
- Working railroad with international connections
- Emergency helipad under development
- Reliable utilities – fuel, electricity, low speed internet
- To be expanded – see Asset Mapping Files



GEGR 2030 Economic Development Plan



III. The 2030 Economic Development Plan

Vision: By 2030, the Greater East Grand Region is a stable constellation of rural communities that collaborate to attract people of all ages to live, work, visit and play because of its heritage and vision as a remote, rural and welcoming region.

Success Looks Like:

1. A sustainable, collaborative and trustworthy intermediary organization guides and coordinates economic development for the region.
2. Investment in existing assets and people have increased new business and employment opportunities.
3. 4-season recreational tourism is a positive economic driver through successful marketing.
4. Young adults have chosen to remain or return “home” because of the region’s positive direction and opportunities.
5. New families with children have moved to the region because of the excellent education, welcoming community and job opportunities.
6. Elders are able to successfully “thrive in place.”

The Starting Gate: Regional Collaboration & Investment to Advance the Vision

1. Define and organize a regional entity to guide and manage the implementation of the economic/community development plan.
2. Create and establish a destination identify and marketing effort that attracts visitors to the region. (*See the revised regional map and zone concept*).
3. Establish a 5-year funding strategy to implement priorities from the plan.
4. Complete a feasibility plan to establish a Greater East Grand Region Endowment Fund to support sustained investment into the future.

2030 Goals with Three-Year Priorities

Goal A: Economic Vitality – Stable local businesses and investment in innovation.

1. Existing business owners and their respective transitions are successful.
2. Grow recreational and nature tourism into a four season destination and economy
3. Invest in and support new small businesses and start-ups especially for young adults and encore entrepreneurs.

Goal B: Workforce Development – an educated, reliable workforce is available to local businesses.

1. Investment continues in East Grand School's vision and natural resources magnet priorities
2. Incentives and opportunities for young adults to return "home" are funded and implemented.
3. "2-Generation" services for marginalized individuals and families are developed locally and supported through East Grand Health Center, East Grand School and other local non-profits.

Goal C: Vibrant Communities – the region attracts visitors, welcomes newcomers, and supports residents.

1. Funding is secured to develop a community owned high speed fiber-optic internet service.
2. Continue to invest in Danforth's downtown destination plan and *Danforth for a Lifetime* initiative.
3. Complete a regional study to address the affordable/desirable housing challenge; and opportunities for locally owned businesses.
4. An active and ongoing succession plan to recruit and train volunteers to serve in community, civic and non-profit entities.

IV. Progress Report for Washington County UT/TIF

The following list of potential projects, organized by 2030 Goal, includes potential projects that will involve in whole, or in-part, Washington County UT towns.

2030 Goal A: Economic Vitality – Investment in Existing Assets

Three-Year Priority: Grow recreational and nature tourism into a four-season destination and economy.

Projects in development:

1. **Snowmobile & ATV Trails** – Working with Baskahegan Company to explore the development of a motorized trail from Danforth into the Brookton area. Also have held regional snowmobile trails coordination meetings with Quod Country & East Grand Snowmobile Club for trails located in T8R4 & T8R3 NBPP. Have held regional ATV trails coordination meeting with four (4) ATV clubs and State Director Bronson to discuss ATV task force and new trail (Such as Danforth to Brookton) development requirements

2. **Hiking Trails** – Planning and development for additional regional hiking trails not only for public benefits but to help diversify recreational opportunities for visitors and family vacationers at area sporting camps & lodges. (Example Pickerel Pond/Cold Springs & Greenland & Tomah Lakes BCO Land Use Concepts)
3. **Public Access to Water** - (Improve boat access to East Grand Lake at the Arm (Near Brookton). Also support BCO plans to better control and environmentally upgrade access to Tomah and Greenland lakes area off the Forest City Road.
4. **Diversify Recreational Offerings** especially to support existing sporting camps, lodges and campgrounds - Numerous meetings and plans to develop more hiking and “mapped” water trails (over 200 miles of potential water trails in and around the Region) some of which will form the basis of nature based offerings
5. **Other recreational infrastructure** including new campgrounds - Preliminary planning has identified the need for a modest campground in the Brookton area. Demand and support for area businesses seems apparent. Need to ensure no negative affect on resources and existing business (Professional guiding and fisheries especially those of Baskahegan Lake).
6. **Baskahegan River Water Trail** – Capitalize on prior investments by TIF, Stetson Mountain Fund and many volunteers that have improved the recreational infrastructure to now formally announce the 34 mile long Baskahegan River Water Trail much of which is located in the UT of Washington County.
7. **A regional and community area vision and marketing plan** has been drafted with the theme of “A Heritage Reclaimed”. Community areas in Washington County include “The Baskahegan Valley” The “Lakes and Highlands of the Upper St. Croix” and “Tomah County”.

2030 Goal C: Vibrant Communities – Infrastructure Investment

Three-Year Priority: High speed fiber-optic broadband internet service is expanded.

Projects in Development:

8. A pending proposal to submit a Phase 1 Planning Grant to ConnectMaine to tee up future expansion of broadband internet access in the Region including the UT of Washington County.