



CITY OF BIDDEFORD

ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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City of Biddeford Receives Grant to Study Broadband Needs

BIDDEFORD — The City of Biddeford is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Broadband Fund of the Maine Community Foundation. The grant funding will be used to create a Broadband Plan that will help Biddeford move towards becoming a “Smart Community”.

The City will mobilize a Community Broadband Team that will hire a broadband consultant to identify broadband needs in Biddeford’s low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. The consultant will create a map demonstrating existing broadband connections, gaps in service, and opportunities for expansion, and will work with staff to identify obstacles to meeting broadband needs, including issues of affordability and proprietary delivery of services. A digital literacy outreach strategy to help overcome these obstacles will be developed and implemented by the City’s Neighborhood Planning Committee.

“When it comes to applying for jobs, completing schoolwork, and more, broadband is as important of a utility in 2018 as electricity and water,” said Mayor Alan Casavant. “It is important to know which members of our community are lacking access so that we can work to expand access in targeted areas.”

With offices in Ellsworth and Portland, the Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecef.org.

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