



# Coastal Kids Preschool

*Providing an inclusive, developmentally appropriate education for preschool children of all incomes and abilities*

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*Coastal Kids Preschool is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 22-3126832, and an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Town of Newcastle  
4 Pump Street, PO Box 386  
Newcastle, ME 04553

September 16, 2023

Dear Select Board,

Thank you so much for your continuing support of Coastal Kids Preschool, currently in our 28<sup>th</sup> year of providing a high quality, developmentally appropriate preschool program for children of all incomes and abilities. Each year, we serve close to 100 children and their families. We provide financial aid for families who qualify, reducing barriers that so many working families face in securing quality care for their children. Our inclusive program also focuses on serving children with disabilities. We are the largest provider of preschool special needs educational services in midcoast Maine, and we generate tangible, successful outcomes. We hold accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and are a Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ) Level 4 program – the highest designation offered by the state’s early career and education professional development network.

Answers to your funding application questions are as follows:

- a. Requested funds will be used for programming costs including operations, facilities, classroom supplies, and financial aid.
- b. Fourteen Newcastle children received services in the past year, or fifteen percent of the school. Also, Coastal Kids employs multiple Newcastle residents as teaching staff and leadership.
- c. Operational support of Coastal Kids allows us to provide our preschool program and high-quality childcare for the Newcastle families who entrust their children to our care.
- d. Our community needs more childcare and early childhood education. We’re doing our part to serve as many local children as possible (our program has a substantial waiting list), and our NAEYC accreditation and our particular focus on serving children with special needs make us unique in the community.
- e. Coastal Kids does not currently have endowment, contingency, and/or investment portfolios; tuition covers just 70% of our annual operating budget, with the remainder coming from private donations, town support, and grants.

This year we are seeking a \$4,000.00 contribution from the Town of Newcastle. I’m grateful to you for helping us continue to provide an inclusive, developmentally appropriate education for preschool children of all incomes and abilities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Caer Hallundbaek  
Executive Director

Kevin Sutherland, Town Manager & Select Board  
 Town of Newcastle  
 4 Pump Street  
 PO Box 386  
 Newcastle ME 04553



*The mission of Midcoast Conservancy is to protect vital lands and waters on a scale that matters.*

*We envision a world where our lands and waters are healthy and protected and where nature occupies a place of central importance in every person's life.*

**Request and Need**

Midcoast Conservancy is once again requesting the town of Newcastle to join the towns of Nobleboro and Jefferson in contributing \$3,000 to the protection of Damariscotta Lake. Your contribution will be restricted to work being done on Damariscotta Lake and will provide financial support for the following programmatic needs:

- Vital invasive plant prevention efforts on Damariscotta Lake including staffing for our Courtesy Boat Inspection at the Vannah Rd and Bunker Hill Rd launches, and staff time for our Invasive Plant Patrol programs. Invasive plant prevention is critical to preventing high costs of invasive plant removal following an introduction.
- Equipment, lab fees and staffing for public health monitoring including cyanotoxin and fecal bacteria monitoring within Damariscotta Lake. This program will help provide residents of Newcastle important information to assess individual risk. Additionally in 2024 we will be posting results to Swim Guide, a platform for communicating fecal bacteria data to the public.
- Equipment, lab fees and staffing for water quality and cyanobacteria monitoring to better understand drivers of cyanobacteria outbreaks which will help identify potential predictors and solutions.
- Staffing and tools for our Youth Conservation Corps program. Historically we have had grant funding for the program restricted to Damariscotta Lake Watershed, but we received partial funding that will allow us to expand the program beyond the Damariscotta Lake Watershed.

We are requesting the same amount of support as in previous years with the understanding that the Midcoast Conservancy budget dedicated to protecting Damariscotta Lake continues to increase. We have seen an increase in harmful cyanobacteria abundance within Damariscotta Lake in the past three years which poses an increasing threat to public health. Midcoast Conservancy is dedicated to preventing erosion and nutrient inputs to Damariscotta Lake to mitigate these blooms. We're grateful for your continued support and partnership to protect this vital resource.

**2023 Update**

- We completed a second year of our re-booted Youth Conservation Corps program this summer. Through this program we installed 48 Best Management Practices at 11 sites around Damariscotta Lake this summer. These BMPs help prevent erosion into the lake which can lead to nutrient pollution and exacerbate cyanobacteria issues. These projects are partially funded by Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.
- We kick-started our public health monitoring program, sampling for fecal bacteria at 5 sites around Damariscotta Lake from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Results of this sampling were posted weekly on the Damariscotta Lake Watch Facebook and Instagram and allowed recreationists to make informed decisions about swimming in the lake.
- We hosted the second annual State of Damariscotta Lake event at Wavus Camps in August. Around 145 community members attended the event where we educated them about cyanobacteria, fecal bacteria, and our work in the Damariscotta Lake Watershed.
- Our cyanobacteria and water quality monitoring efforts were combined and intensified this summer as we sampled 12 times from May through October. Each sampling trip involved collecting environmental data, nutrient samples, and samples for cyanobacteria abundance and toxins. These data were shared at the State of Damariscotta Lake event and we continue sample processing and data analysis throughout the winter.
- We continued our vital invasive plant prevention work this year with both Invasive Plant Patrol and Courtesy Boat Inspection. We hosted several in person training events for new and returning volunteers and had an informational table at the Jefferson Scoop twice this summer.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our work on Damariscotta Lake. Your support ensures we're able to continue our work to protect the lake on a scale that matters, thank you.

If you have any questions regarding our work on Damariscotta Lake or otherwise please reach out!



Kristin Pennock  
Director of Finance and Administration



Patricia Nease  
Damariscotta Lake Watershed Manager



# Ecumenical Food Pantry

*Reaching out to feed the hungry in Mid-Coast Maine*

October 1, 2023

**OUR MISSION**

- To reduce food insecurity
- To maintain dignity
- To raise public awareness
- To remain a volunteer organization

**SPONSORING CHURCHES**

- Damariscotta Baptist
- First Baptist of Nobleboro
- Midcoast Friends Meeting
- Midcoast Unitarian/Universalist
- Second Congregational
- St. Andrew's Episcopal
- St. Patrick's Catholic
- Water of Life Lutheran

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**PANTRY MANAGERS**

- Ellen Dickens *Co-manager*  
(207 563-1311)
- Rebecca Tilden *Co-manager*  
(207 350-5050)

51 Main Street  
P.O. Box 46  
Newcastle, ME 04553

Email:  
chair.ecumenicalfoodpantry@gmail.com

Website:  
www.newcastlefoodpantry.org

**Open Tuesdays 9:30 to 11:00**

Dear Friend,

This past week I stopped by the Pantry on Tuesday morning, just before it opened. The parking lot was full. I passed by a car with a young woman cheerfully waiting her turn to go in. Her back seat was full of personal belongings. I wondered to myself if she had access to cooking facilities, and knew that she'd be given what she needed, either way. Inside, the co-managers and other volunteers were setting out the food and packing some boxes for delivery. I helped pack some of those boxes, and I was told about who I was packing for: "Give her lots of the fresh herbs, she loves to cook with them," "He can't cook anymore, give him prepared food," and "The children would love those chocolate chip cookies." When the pantry doors opened people were greeted and urged to take advantage of the fresh produce donated that day. Personal. Friendly. Dignified. Later in the week, our backpack team will pack healthy snacks and fixings for a simple meal to send home with food-insecure school children to get them through the weekend.

Usually, at this time of year, we write you and ask for your support for the Thanksgiving basket initiative. And we are asking for your support for it. But as you can see the Ecumenical Food Pantry is so much more than the-300 Thanksgiving baskets we expect to give out this year. It's food and basic necessities for an average of 65 families each week – up from 49 per week in January. It's weekend food for 125 elementary school children – up from 100 last school year. Often the ability to get healthy free food this week means a family will be able to pay their electric bill or put gas in their car.

As we all know the cost of food has risen dramatically this year taking a bigger bite out of our personal finances and out of the EFP budget as well. This is the only direct appeal we send out each year and we ask you to support our efforts to help our neighbors in need. The EFP is an entirely volunteer-run organization. All of the money we receive goes directly to purchase food and supplies for the Pantry.

The enclosed envelope is a chance to support the entire pantry operation. You can also donate online at our website, [newcastlefoodpantry.org](http://newcastlefoodpantry.org). With your donations, some generous grants, and support from local farms, groceries, and state agencies, we hope to help our food-insecure neighbors manage to avoid hunger for themselves and their families.

Again, thank you for helping us in our efforts to get food to those truly in need.

*Sue Rockwood*

Sue Rockwood  
President, Board of Directors  
Ecumenical Food Pantry

*The Ecumenical Food Pantry is a ministry of the Second Congregational Church, UCC, Newcastle, ME, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to the Ecumenical Food Pantry in the memo line are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*



December 18, 2023

Please accept our petition to request \$2,000 in funding from the Town of Newcastle. In 2023, *twenty-eight* Newcastle youth between the ages of 7 and 15 experienced a Hearty Roots program. Our goal is to increase youth involvement to *fifty* in 2024 through the additional offerings of off-the-grid teen retreats and expanded overnight coastal excursions.

Hearty Roots is a proactive intervention program for youth. Our mission is to keep youth connected to their community and trusted adult mentors in order to increase wellness and aspirations. Hearty Roots is purposefully portable and meets youth on local wild preserves and waterways. We offer programming year-round, in school and after school and when school is out of session due to development workshops or federal holidays. We are nimble and expansive and meet children where they're at: developmentally and emotionally. We operate with a two-person administrative staff, exceptionally-qualified programming staff, and zero overhead. Dollars to support our organization go directly to serving local youth.

Kids in Hearty Roots programming learn social emotional wellness tools that help them succeed in peer relationships, navigate big emotions at home or in school, and foster a sense of worthiness. All programs help children to understand how and why they "matter." While this may not feel like pressing work, Maine youth overwhelmingly report low levels of feeling like they "matter" and/or "belong." They report having low access to activities that bring them joy and hope. They identify as having zero or low access to trusted adults that inspire them and promote well-being. This, along with Maine's disproportionately high youth (1 in 4) diagnosed with a mental health disorder (1 in 6 nationally), can too often translate to self-harm/community harm, loss of interest in daily activities, hopelessness and increased ideations of suicide.

When kids lack the foundational aspect of emotional development—and aren't exposed to tools for managing self-regulation—before they reach the teenage years, the likelihood of struggling at home and at school increases exponentially. Hearty Roots is a proactive, engaging program to reduce the instances for these results for local kids. We're all aware of how Maine's over-extended Special Education system is struggling to keep pace with the intensity of the behavioral needs that often correlate with biological trauma, environmental adversity, or the known lasting effects of a global pandemic. When Special Education and Alternative Education cannot attain social or academic expectations set forth in IEPs or Behavioral Plans—or act in ways deemed "safe" by the school, the next step is to explore options for educating kids out of district in behaviorally supportive programs. For too many kids and families, this often translates to months of remote learning from home while they wait on a day treatment facility to have an enrollment opportunity that can meet their needs. Typically, day treatment facilities are at least two counties away, which involves increased financial support from taxpayers for education and transportation. Other children are sent to a residential treatment center, away from family and peers, and away from any chance to find success and belonging in their hometown. These shifts in services increase how much a town and district must pay to support continued education and services. Hearty Roots provides services in Knox and Lincoln counties to help reduce behavioral risks, strengthen a young person's connection to community, and help children rest, restore, and strengthen in nature.

Not only does bussing kids outside of our local schools send a message that they need fixing, that they're too much, and that we can't help them—the cost to taxpayers per child ranges from \$50,000-90,000 per year for one child to receive the appropriate level of treatment and transportation. One kid, one year. Hearty Roots programs offer non-clinical, innovative supports for mental wellness at a cost of less than \$75 per enrolled Newcastle youth.

At Hearty Roots, we aim to enrich a child's connection to community, land, and self. We know our kids deserve pioneering interventions to keep them strong. And we know taxpayers' dollars can be stretched proactively through the lens of prevention, holistic education, and connection to nature.

Haley Bezon  
 Founder and Executive Director  
[haley@heartyroots.org](mailto:haley@heartyroots.org)

HEARTY ROOTS PO Box 302, Bristol, ME 04539 [heartyroots.org](http://heartyroots.org) [connect@heartyroots.org](mailto:connect@heartyroots.org)

December 26, 2023

Kevin Sutherland  
 Town Manager  
 Newcastle, Maine

Dear Mr. Sutherland:

Lincoln County Television (LCTV) requests the same amount of funding from the town's cable franchise fees for the upcoming year 2024 of \$13,500, as a reflection of the need to support ongoing and increasing programming value for Newcastle citizens.

**The Essential Need for Public Access Media**

We believe that informed participation by citizens is a core goal for thriving local government. With the experience of how business moved online during the Covid-19 emergency, citizens expect town government to be conducted both online and in person. This makes it easier for citizens to access and participate in local government. LCTV is a cornerstone community partner to support Damariscotta’s delivery of citizen access to municipal, community, educational, and public health updates.

**How LCTV Has Increased Our Support to Our Local Community**

As a non-profit community public access station, LCTV is honored to assist our municipalities. We have expanded how we deliver local, fast, and trustworthy information to Lincoln County citizens with upgraded equipment and services, additional staff, and new shows to support citizens’ increasing need for our services via broadcast and on-demand viewing.

We offer an expanding range of shows that highlight the thriving life of our community, including local businesses, nonprofit organizations, festivals, and high school sports. To illustrate how LCTV gives back to the community, the number of locally produced shows, sports and specials we made available to our broadcast and online viewers in 2023 is nearly double what we produced in 2022.

**Direct Benefits to Newcastle**

We are proud to continue to partner with the Town to broadcast and provide on-demand viewing for your Select Board, as well as for your Planning Committee and Town Meeting:

- **2023:** 18 Select Board and 4 Planning Board meetings.
- **Broadcasting over 450 original shows**, events, specials, games, and community updates on LCTV.org and local channel 7. This includes 43 **new Chamber Chat shows** featuring local business owners who belong to our three local Chambers, and 13 **new Community Conversation shows** with local community leaders including a December 2023 show to introduce Newcastle’s new permanent Town Manager.
- **Hosting over 100 YouTube events and On Demand replays** including local youth sports.

- **A mere 12 hours after the tragic October shootings in Lewiston**, LCTV recorded and broadcast two public safety updates with Damariscotta Police Chief Jason Warlick and Lincoln County Sheriff Todd Brackett. These crucial updates are among the 10 top most viewed LCTV videos for 2023.
- **To keep citizens informed, LCTV offered ongoing** health and wellness opportunities with community partners like LincolnHealth, the CLC YMCA, Healthy Lincoln County, Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, the Community Energy Fund, and others.
- **For 2024**, we plan to continue to facilitate access to all municipal meetings. We welcome the opportunity to cover Newcastle community events as requested.

**The Context for Our Request**

In 2024, we anticipate a \$250,000 budget, of which we are requesting to raise 30% via the franchise fees that the for-profit cable companies pay to towns for the privilege of using our utility poles and other infrastructure to distribute their programming.

Last year, the Town allocated \$13,500 of the cable franchise fees it receives to LCTV, for which we are very grateful. Our request for the same amount this year arises from the continuing understanding that these fees are intended to be allocated for public access and community media, now more important than ever in the Covid-19 era.

We are requesting similar support from the other municipalities that LCTV serves in order to meet our 30% budget goal. The balance of our budget is raised through donations, sponsorships, and fundraising activities. We receive zero tax dollars to provide our public services.

As we are all aware, the costs of fuel, wages, and the overall cost of operations continue to rise.

Please convey our gratitude to the Select Board, Budget Committee and Town Meeting for your support.

Larry Sidelinger

Executive Director  
Lincoln County Television



September 18, 2023

Town of Newcastle  
P.O. Box 386  
Newcastle ME 04553-0386

Dear Selectperson,

When Maine Public was established in 1961, the goal was to bring a new kind of broadcasting service to Maine – one that was as innovative as it was trustworthy, a service that would inform, inspire, and educate our communities. Now more than six decades later, Maine Public is still leading the charge to share Maine's stories in new and revitalized ways.

Last year with community support, Maine Public increased our reporting capacity to better cover important news stories by adding a Report For America reporter covering immigration and New Mainer communities and adding a new full-time climate reporter. Your support also helped us increase coverage of underrepresented areas of the state through several projects such as the Rural Reporting Project, highlighting the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of life in rural and western Maine. We shared the first State of the Tribes in more than 20 years live on Maine Public radio, television, and online as Wabanaki leaders addressed both chambers of the Legislature.

Every day, Maine Public connects the people of Maine and our region to each other and the world through the open exchange of information, ideas, and cultural content. This is essential work that we are proud to do. Currently, Maine Public has 14 radio signals emanating from towers across the state. Last year, we were awarded construction permits for seven new stations by the Federal Communications Commission. With donations from our community, we plan to expand Maine Public Radio to unserved areas in Millinocket, Greenville, and Bethel, and grow our existing Maine Public Classical network to Fort Kent, Mars Hill, Calais, and Greenville. Free and open access to accurate, balanced, and objective content is more important than ever, and Maine Public is committed to delivering it everywhere in Maine.

**Will you consider an appropriation this year of \$100 (previous donation amount), \$150, or the amount that works best for Newcastle?** With your funding, Maine Public, with our trusted partners, NPR and PBS, will continue to be Maine's storyteller, amplifying the voices of Maine.

Our listeners and viewers appreciate the support your community provides. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marvis Zou  
Direct Marketing and Membership Fundraising Specialist  
mzou@mainepublic.org  
800-884-1717 x 3045





MIDCOAST MAINE   
**Community Action**  
*Building better lives for stronger communities*

Dear Newcastle Select Board,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of Midcoast Maine Community Action (MMCA), a vital resource that has been serving Maine's Midcoast communities since 1972. I am reaching out to request funding support from the Town of Newcastle Select Board to ensure the continued success and impact of our programs.

MMCA plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for our residents by providing free Head Start and Early Head Start education, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) services, LIHEAP (Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program) services, Economic Stability support, professional and parent development programming through Families CAN!, Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator support, and other programs that promote self-sufficiency and support social and economic mobility. In our last fiscal year (10/01/2022-09/30/2023) we served:

- **19** Newcastle residents through our Emergency Rental Assistance program, a service introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on low-income renters. Due to funding restrictions, this program was discontinued on 04/30/2023.
- **14** Newcastle residents through our Economic Stability program that provides financial assistance for utility bills, disconnection notices, first-month's rent or security deposits.
- **19** Newcastle residents through the WIC program by providing nutrition education, breastfeeding support, supplemental food vouchers, hospital-grade breast pumps, and referrals to other health organizations.

34 Wing Farm Parkway | Bath, Maine 04530  
P 207-442-7963 | 1-800-221-2221 (toll-free) | F 207-443-7447  
Midcoast Maine Community Action is an Equal Opportunity Employer



- **On average, each of the 52 participating Newcastle residents received approximately \$788 in services.**

As you are aware, maintaining and expanding our services require financial support. While we actively seek grants and engage in fundraising efforts, the assistance of the Town Select Board is paramount in sustaining our operations and meeting the increasing demand for our services. We believe that an investment in MMCA is an investment in the well-being and prosperity of our community. This year, MMCA is requesting a contribution of **\$1,400** from the Town of Newcastle.

Thank you for considering our funding request. We are grateful for the Town Select Board's commitment to the welfare of our community, and we look forward to the possibility of working together to ensure a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

Sam Hallowell

Administrative Associate, Midcoast Maine Community Action

# NEW HOPE

24/7 domestic abuse  
support, services  
& prevention

## MIDCOAST

November, 2023

Dear Town of Newcastle,

New Hope for Women dba New Hope Midcoast is writing request that Newcastle consider a donation of \$996.00 to keep our communities safe from the enduring effects of domestic abuse. Last year we requested an increase in municipal funding to help meet a rise in staff salaries due to the increase in cost of living. We also raised the reimbursement rate for staff travel to assist those in need. For towns and cities who were able to respond with an increase, we thank you very much and are asking for the same amount. For those who were not, we kindly request that you consider this possibility again.

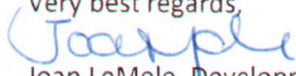
New Hope Midcoast is a member of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV). We employ trained staff who seek to empower clients to make their own decisions throughout their journey toward safety and self-sufficiency. Our free, comprehensive services include a 24/7 helpline, hospital accompaniment when injury is incurred as a result of domestic abuse, support groups, legal advocacy and support services, a dedicated staff in Child Protective Services to address the needs of families affected by domestic abuse who have children, emergency sheltering, long-term transitional housing with the opportunity to work toward financial stability through our collaboration with New Ventures Maine, and trainings and presentations for schools, businesses, healthcare providers and civic organizations.

We recognize that abuse not only affects the individuals and families that directly experience it and believe in a coordinated community response to domestic abuse. Along with the aforementioned collaborations with schools, civic organizations, New Ventures Maine and Child Protective Services, New Hope Midcoast regularly works with area food pantries, animal shelters, law enforcement, legal professionals, homeless coalitions, and healthcare professionals.

In the past we have offered data on the direct services provided specifically to clients from your town. Unfortunately, doing so conflicts with the confidentiality requirements of our federal funding sources. This is particularly true for small towns with relatively few residents where maintaining confidentiality can be challenging. We hope that you will find this Lincoln County data helpful as you make your decision: During the FY23 year (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023), NHM served 271 clients this year totaling 611.2 hours. We provided 717 nights of shelter for those who chose to leave their circumstances and provided 275.63 hours of community education and prevention for 1,656 individuals.

We enclose our financials and petition, and are pleased to provide any other non-identifying information as requested. The stakes are high. Communities simply cannot thrive when individuals and families are hurting. Thank you for your consideration as we continue to work with all in need.

Very best regards,



Joan LeMole, Development Director

Development: (207) 691.5969; Email: [developmentdirector@newhopemidcoast.org](mailto:developmentdirector@newhopemidcoast.org)

**Enclosures:** Most recent audited financials, FY24 board-approved budget, and our petition if applicable  
24/7 HELPLINE 1-800-522-3304



# Skidompha Library

December 13, 2024

PO Box 70  
184 Main Street  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

P. 207.887.0919

F. 207.886.5547

info@skidompha.org

www.skidompha.org

### Hours of Operation

Monday - Closed  
Tuesday - 9 - 6  
Wednesday - 9 - 6  
Thursday - 9 - 6  
Friday - 9 - 6  
Saturday - 10 - 2  
Sunday - Closed

### Executive Director

Matthew Graff

### Board of Directors

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Carolyn Anthony  
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Darryn Petersen  
Katie Rethman  
Dr. Denise Soucy  
Maia Zewert

**To:** Town of Newcastle

**From:** Skidompha Library Association

**Subject:** Appropriation Request 2023-2024

The Skidompha Library requests an appropriation from the town of Newcastle of \$27,612 towards operating costs for fiscal year 2023-2024. This is the same amount we requested last year.

We rely on the generosity of individuals, supporting towns, businesses, and foundations to keep Skidompha operating. That the Library is such a special place is due in large part to that generosity, as well as the value our supporters and patrons see in our services and in the Library institution itself. Loss of any one of these critical funding sources would pose a significant hardship to the Library, and reduce the vital services we offer to the community.

Our request of \$27,612 maintains the current level of support from Newcastle.

Skidompha continues to increase its services and programming each year providing numerous opportunities for support, connection, discovery and learning, and entertainment. I am proud of our library staff and of their passion and dedication.

**A. What are the purposes for which the requested funds will be used?**

Library services.

**B. How many Newcastle residents received services last year?**

Due to limitations in our database it is impossible to tease out precisely how many Newcastle residents were served over the fiscal year or calendar year. I can report that 490 Newcastle residents have an active Skidompha Public Library account, that over the 2022-2023 calendar year over 53,000 people have come through our door.

**C. Which services or support will be provided to Newcastle residents if the requested appropriation is approved? Explain specifically how and why these funds can or will benefit the residents of Newcastle directly.**

With Newcastle's support, Skidompha will continue to provide, and expand our resources and provide key services to the community.

Most recently Skidompha has had the pleasure of supporting people during the 12/18/23 storm. Over 330 people utilized the library space the next day, to warm up, charge devices, work, have something warm to drink, and enjoy a fun and welcoming space. On 12/19/23 our teen librarian, Frazier Arrets, hosted a showing of the movie Elf, with free pizza included, at the Lincoln Theater. Much of the area was still without power and 90 people attended, many with a dark house and little to do at home.

Skidompha will always offer traditional library services such as children's, teen's, and adult programming, lendable books, audiobooks, movies, and music, free computer access as well as printing, faxing, photocopying, and scanning.

But our service does not end there. There is too much to include for the purposes of this letter, but a sampling includes...

We liaise with local community organizations and schools to create connections and opportunities to collaborate. Our new Young Adult Librarian, Frazier Arrets, works closely with, and regularly visits local schools to talk with teachers and sign up students for library cards. She and our children's librarian, Kristi Favaloro, host over one hundred students once a month at the library. These kids enjoy quality time at Skidompha, learn library skills, and gain a sense of appreciation for books, libraries and librarians. Kristi and Frazier also offer library skills classes for home schooled students that fulfill state academic requirements. There is also storytime for young ones, book clubs, art and theater programs, and more.

Our Adult Librarian, Molly Coyle, offers creative, fun, and educational programming that brings people together. Last summer, along with nature hikes, book clubs, movies, crafting programs, and a scavenger hunt, Molly offered a tremendously popular intergenerational book club for families. She has created a game night for adults seeking something to do other than a movies or a bar at night. There are formal technology classes and opportunities to schedule a quick drop appointment to ask a specific tech question, and a genealogy representative is on hand on Thursdays to help guide those seeking information on local history or ancestors.

We offer personal delivery of books and resources to congregate care facilities and individuals without access to the Library. Our food pantry, stocked with durable goods, personal hygiene items, and fresh vegetables continues to empty out all to quickly and regularly. We continue to offer reader services to our patrons, and access to two downloadable ebook collections. Adult virtual programming continues with our poetry club, a weekly mindfulness meditation group, adult book clubs.

The Library remains a critical resource for our community. Patrons utilize the institution for a broad variety of purposes, but that breadth ranges from borrowing books to embracing weekly personal, human contact with library staff or fellow patrons; from utilizing our space as

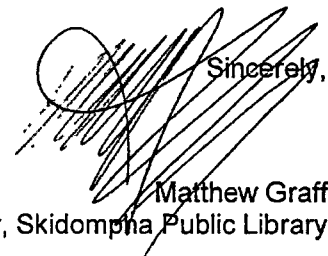
sanctuary from the weather to accessing free food and hygiene items. I am intensely proud of our library staff and how they continue to step up and meet the needs of the community.

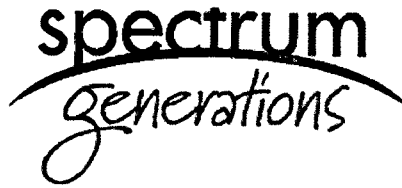
**D. Please explain why your program does not provide similar or duplicate services to Newcastle residents from other agencies or programs?**

Skidompha is the only public library serving the residents of Newcastle. Although there are other libraries in neighboring towns Newcastle residents would be required to pay a fee to join them.

**E. If applicable, explain the nature of any endowment, contingency, or investment portfolio and the ability of the agency to use those funds for current operating purposes.**

Skidompha draws 5% from its endowment every year for operating costs.

 Sincerely,  
Matthew Graff  
Director, Skidompha Public Library



One Weston Court, Augusta, ME 04330 | 207.620.1674

October 13, 2023

TO: The Town of Newcastle  
PO Box 386  
Newcastle, ME 04553-0386

Dear Newcastle Residents,

We hope this note is finding you well and enjoying the fall season. Spectrum Generations continues to provide essential programs and services to older and disabled adults, with the support of their care partners, so they may live in the community of their choice. We take pride that the individuals and families we serve have access to the needed supports and living arrangements that suit them best

While we recognize this as a time that many organizations are struggling against spiraling inflation and budget cuts, including municipalities, we urge you to financially support Spectrum Generations to the fullest extent possible. With your support, we will continue to provide critical services to older and disabled adults – your friends, neighbors and colleagues – living within your community.

While Spectrum Generations is most well-known for its robust Meals on Wheels program; Spectrum Generations is an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) that provides Medicare/Medicaid counseling, caregiver respite, supplemental USDA food program, case management, health and wellness programs, a variety of referral and resource services, and more!

This broad spectrum of services improves the quality of life for generations of Mainers at little to no financial cost for those we serve. In Newcastle specifically, we provided services to 40 residents and delivered a total of 1,482 meals through our Meals on Wheels program during the most recent fiscal year. As a nonprofit, community-based organization, we could not provide this level of service without your generous support.

Thank you for considering our request of \$1,756 in contribution from the Town of Newcastle this fiscal year. We appreciate and value your continued support and your trust in us to care for the residents in your community. Every dollar raised advances the well-being and independence of older and disabled adults, thank you so much.

Best,

Lindsay MacDonald  
Vice President of Community Engagement

**Estimated value of services: \$20,569**  
**Request to the town of Newcastle: \$1,756**

Spectrum Generations is the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging with Community and Aging and Disability Resource Centers in:

Belfast | Brunswick | Camden | Damariscotta | Hallowell | Skowhegan | Waterville

TO: Select Board, Town of Newcastle, Maine  
 FROM: David Watts, Director, Central Lincoln County Adult & Community Education , AOS 93

December 29, 2023

**Request to raise \$20,160 from the Town of Newcastle for Adult Education for the 2024-2025 school year.**

Dear Select Board,

Below is a request to raise funds for Central Lincoln County Adult & Community Education (CLCAE), an adult education program approved by the Maine Department of Education serving the towns of AOS 93. The information below begins with a summary of the tax impact of the CLCAE budget to the town of Newcastle, followed by a presentation of data related to the region and Newcastle specifically.

Items having a significant impact on our current and projected work and the budget for the 2024-2025 school year are then followed by a detailed budget, including actual numbers from the FY23 school year, the current FY24 approved budget, and the proposed FY25 budget on which this current request is based.

**Tax impact of request**

TAX impact based on assessed property value

| Town                              | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    | 2021    | 2022    | 2023    | 2024     | 2025      | Increase  | current local share |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Newcastle                         | \$6,402 | \$6,402 | \$6,402 | \$6,595 | \$6,595 | \$6,595 | \$6,595 | \$ 9,512 | \$ 20,160 | \$ 10,648 | 15.04%              |
| cost per \$100K                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | \$ 2.66  | \$ 5.63   | \$ 2.97   |                     |
| Taxes based on average home value |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | \$ 10.69 | \$ 22.66  | \$ 11.97  |                     |

\*notes to above:

- Cost per \$100K is based on the total assessed value reported on maine.gov for 2023.
- Taxes are based on the average owner-occupied home value of \$402,400 from federal census information. The total taxes for the average owner-occupied home based on the local contribution request of Newcastle are \$22.66.
- This information is for illustrative purposes only. Town shares are based on the interlocal agreement.

**By the Numbers**

Central Lincoln County Adult & Community Education (CLCAE) is part of the Maine Department of Education's MidCoast Hub 7 collaborative that includes 9 programs spread across the 4 midcoast counties from Sagadahoc north through Waldo. Each of the nine programs relies on a



combination of money from the state (State Subsidy), local taxes (the Local Contribution), and our primary grants AEFLA (the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act federal grant) and MCCA (the Maine College and Career Access state grant).

| <b>FY23 students served:</b>     | <b>Number</b> | <b>Rank in Hub</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| High School Equivalency          | 25            | 4th                |
| MCCA                             | 47            | 3rd                |
| Workforce prep                   | 13            | 4th                |
| NRS (federal reporting) eligible | 28            | 3rd                |
| Enrichment                       | 587           | 3rd                |

In terms of funding, CLCAE has had to rely heavily on grants and local donations over the past several years to sustain its services. In terms of comparison to our collaborative Hub, we rank as follows:

| <b>Funding category:</b> | <b>Reliance*</b> | <b>Avg of Hub</b> | <b>Rank in Hub</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Grant funds              | 28%              | 13%               | 1st                |
| State Subsidy            | 26%              | 26%               | 6th                |
| Local Contribution       | 46%              | 61%               | 9th                |

\*Note: these numbers do not reflect the \$25,000 received in charitable donations that accounted for over 20% of operating revenue to balance our current year's budget.

**Adult and Community Education Local Enrollment**

In terms of students served, CLCAE has a wonderful reputation throughout the midcoast for helping students succeed where they have yet to be successful in their local high school due to a variety of reasons. We continue to see a need for increased services. The COVID-19 pandemic may be over, but the effects on teenage students are now being felt. 2023 represented the first year of completing high school students who did not have a single year of 'normal' school attendance.

We see student enrollments increasing in college and career advising, with many working with us to help determine the best pathways based on career values and interests and the availability of funding in support of further education. Traditional CNA classes have become "hybrid" with part of the class taught live via Zoom and clinicals on-site at hospitals throughout the entire midcoast region. Meetings with career navigators happen both virtually and onsite at our office. Nearly all students spend a portion of their classes accessing materials through online learning management systems. Technology use has increased significantly, and all of the adults in our communities have FREE access to learning about Microsoft products, computer basics, and online security. We will continue to adapt as needed to enable the adults in our communities to succeed and improve opportunities for their families.

For FY23, there were 11 student enrollments in academic programs from Newcastle. This represents 16% of the enrollments within the AOS. There were an additional 87 enrollments in

enrichment classes, representing 23%. The Local Share Allocation for Newcastle for FY25 is 15.04%.

### **Budget Impact**

Our request for the 2024 - 2025 school year is based on the following impacts on our budget and revenue sources:

1. The total FY24 approved budget for CLCAE general fund 150 is \$121,529. The proposed budget for FY25 is \$172,955, an increase of \$48,600.
  - a. The changes to the budget noted below total \$72,903. Except for the additional \$11,410 to add a small amount of time for the Director (item 4), these increases represent a *reduction* to a status quo budget. To keep the Local Share requested increase *below* the \$72,903, we have reduced other areas of the administrative budget. And we are anticipating a net contribution of \$14,400 from tuition and enrollment fees.
2. We are requesting adjustments to our revenue sources to (1) reduce our reliance on grant funding, which is unpredictable, and (2) increase reliance on our local communities to be more in line with our partner school districts. This is reflected in our requested increase to the Local Contribution.
  - a. The AEFLA federal grant that provides our primary funding for high school completion activities is set to expire at the end of this current school year. We know that the federal government is reducing its allocation to Maine due to population shifts in other parts of the country.
  - b. We have removed any reliance on private donations for general operating costs. This reduced revenue by \$25,000 over last year's budget. While we will continue to seek private funding, it is unpredictable and we prefer to earmark any of those funds to increase student aspirations rather than cover general overhead costs.
3. Within the administrative portion of the budget, we have not needed to provide benefits for the immediate past director and so have not carried it as a budget item for several years. The cost of providing benefits next year increases the budget by approximately \$28,000.
4. The Director is currently contracted for 130 days, which amounts to less than 3 days per week during the school year and 1 day per week during the summer. To complete the work required, we are requesting an increase to 152 days based on 3.5 days per week for 40 weeks during the school year, and 1.5 days per week for 8 weeks during the summer. The program will be closed for 4 full weeks a year.
5. The cost of printing and postage to reach our communities has increased 45% in FY2024 over FY23. We are told to anticipate another increase of at least 10%. We continue to seek out ways to save money in this area.

Central Lincoln County Adult & Community Education is thankful for the support shown by its communities over the past four decades. There have been many changes to the charge of adult education since the 2014 passing of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the greatest of these being a focus on preparing adults for the workforce. While high

school completion (formerly the GED program, now HISET) continues to be a main focus, the state and federal governments as well as local demand have created the need to go beyond a focus on high school to post-secondary certifications, workforce preparation, and college and career advising. We assist students well beyond their high school graduation and have adults continue to return as their lives and goals change. In addition, we create opportunities for community members to engage in the school community through life-enriching activities. We hope you will continue to support and join us on our journey.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Watts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Watts, Director  
Central Lincoln County Adult & Community Education  
207-563-2811  
dwatts@aos93.org