



Dear Kennebec County Commissioners,

On behalf of the entire team at the [Maine Recovery Access Project](#) (formerly a program of [Mobilize Recovery](#), the recipients of the ARPA Grant), I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your investment in our work through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This final report represents two and a half years of community-centered work made possible by the Kennebec County Commissioners' visionary support.

Your early investment in our work allowed us to build the infrastructure needed to not only launch peer-led and lifesaving initiatives at a scale we had never achieved but also to sustain that work moving forward. With your support, we interacted with over **22,412 adults** and empowered youth 2,556 different times, including interacting with more than **1,300 unique young people**. Additionally, we distributed over **5,600 boxes of Naloxone**, trained nearly **4,000 individuals** on overdose response and the Good Samaritan Law, hosted **40 naloxone trainings**, reached **10,000 homes** through [Project Doorstep](#) Canvassing, and held over **100 youth-led events**. That's not even all of what we did, check out our [community clean ups](#), but most importantly, your support has saved lives and built new leaders in the process.

As outlined in the attached report, **each program goal was not only met but significantly exceeded** our original targets. Our grassroots team responded to urgent community needs, built sustainable systems, and cultivated deep trust across Kennebec County. This work ultimately led to the successful transition of Mobilize Recovery's Maine-based programs into an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit—**Maine Recovery Access Project**—which is now carrying this work forward with new funding and partnerships.

Additionally, we are proud to share that **every program launched through this ARPA grant is continuing** in some form, thanks to new resources secured through the Maine Recovery Council and other partnerships. Your original investment is still working—still growing—and still reaching the most vulnerable in our communities. We're especially proud to highlight that we've recently opened the [Access Center](#), a recovery community center located in the heart of downtown Augusta. Many of you may recall that this type of project has been **a long-held vision** of ours, and we're thrilled to finally bring it to life. Please consider this letter an invitation to visit the new space and see firsthand the impact this program is having on our community.

We hope this final report provides a clear and compelling picture of what was made possible through the County's trust in our work. Additionally, I've attached a copy of our first report to the Maine Recovery Council and the Project Doorstep Final Report.

Finally, we will be working closely with BerryDunn to **finalize all fiscal reporting to close out this grant by September 2025.**

From all of us at ME-RAP, **thank you** for believing in people, in recovery, and in the power of grassroots leadership to save lives and build stronger communities.

With deep gratitude,

Courtney Gary-Allen
Executive Director



To: Maine Recovery Council
From: Courtney Gary-Allen, ME-RAP ED
RE: ME-RAP Access Center Outcomes & Fiscal Report
Date: July 1st, 2025

Background

The Maine Recovery Access Project (ME-RAP) is the recipient of Maine Recovery Council funding to implement the Access Center & Project Doorstep in Kennebec County, Maine, including the opening of a peer led recovery center, syringe disposal program, community canvassing project, and more. The total grant amount over the course of two years is \$499,536.00. This memo will serve as a running report of grant objectives and outcomes and will be updated every three months.

The funds will be used to accomplish the following deliverables from May 2, 2025, to April 30th, 2027:

- ***Access Center & Comprehensive Services:***
 - Establish a daytime drop-in center in Augusta that will operate at least five days a week.
 - Submit an application for certification of a SSP to the CDC by April 2025 and commence SSP operations by September 2025. (complete)
 - Increase the number of SSP service utilization in Kennebec County.
- ***Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution:***
 - Conduct at least twelve (12) overdose prevention training sessions, including in local schools, for members of the community.
 - Conduct a canvassing campaign to knock on at least three thousand (3,000) doors and distribute overdose prevention information.
 - Educate at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) community members on the Good Samaritan Law.
 - Distribute at least three thousand (3,000) doses of naloxone.
- ***Community Clean Ups:***
 - Organize and complete four (4) syringe and community clean up events to improve community safety and cleanliness.
 - Increase volunteer engagement in community clean-up efforts.

January-June 2025 Outcomes

From January to June 2025, ME-RAP executed a robust schedule of programming and outreach rooted in harm reduction, recovery support, and grassroots mobilization, while also managing a massive renovation of the Access Center. Our work during this period focused on designing, renovating, and setting up the Access Center, as well as naloxone distribution and education, volunteer engagement, public-facing clean-ups, and advocacy training—each initiative aimed at reducing overdose deaths, empowering community members, and strengthening the infrastructure of recovery in Maine.



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Access Center & Comprehensive Services

Renovations

One of the most transformative accomplishments of this reporting period was the renovation of the ME-RAP Access Center in Downtown Augusta. The Center, envisioned as a welcoming hub for harm reduction, recovery support, and advocacy, underwent an extensive overhaul between January and June 2025—evolving from a raw, underutilized space into a vibrant, functional community resource.

Renovation efforts were guided by a trauma-informed, community-centered design philosophy. Every detail—from the fresh paint provided through the Sherwin-Williams Paint Out initiative to the layout of the community room—was selected to make participants feel safe, seen, and supported. Staff, volunteers, and people with lived experience in recovery and those who use drugs contributed input throughout the process, ensuring the space truly reflected the needs of the people it was meant to serve.

Key improvements included the installation of new flooring, lighting, signage, secure storage for naloxone and harm reduction supplies, a confidential space, and the creation of a community room and conference room for peer meetings, training, and support groups. The new layout also includes an open-access, public-facing supply box mounted outside the building, available 24/7, stocked with snacks, naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and hygiene items.

Volunteers from Sherwin-Williams, Home Depot, Needlepoint, and many local recovery groups rolled up their sleeves alongside ME-RAP staff, painting, assembling furniture, and cleaning to prepare for the Access Center's grand reopening. Their participation fostered a sense of ownership and pride in the space.

With renovations now complete, the Access Center stands as a model of what is possible when recovery work is grounded in dignity, peer leadership, and community-driven investment. It is more than a building or a renovation—it's a testament to what recovery looks like in action, and a launching point for ME-RAP's next phase of impact.

CDC SSP Certification

During this reporting period, ME-RAP successfully completed the process to certify the Access Center's Syringe Services Program (SSP) through the CDC. The application process required the development of a comprehensive suite of policies and protocols, including our SSP operations manual, participant confidentiality guidelines, and disposal and safety procedures. These documents were crafted with input from national best practices and adapted to reflect the unique needs of our local community. We also worked closely with peers in the harm reduction field to ensure our program design met both CDC standards and the needs of people who use drugs.



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In preparation for launch, ME-RAP collaborated with advocates and fellow harm reduction organizations to select appropriate vendors and build out our data collection and reporting system. This system will support ongoing evaluation of service delivery, participant engagement, and supply distribution—laying the foundation for responsive, data-informed program growth.

With certification in hand, ME-RAP is now positioned to offer syringe access, safe disposal, and other critical harm reduction supplies through a peer-led model rooted in dignity, trust, and public health. The certified SSP at the Access Center is a major step forward in reducing the harms of criminalization, stigma, and overdose—and a clear demonstration of ME-RAP's commitment to evidence-based solutions.

Community Outreach and Support

In the sweltering heat of late June, ME-RAP staff took to the streets of Kennebec County with cold water, snacks, and ice pops, providing basic care and hydration while connecting with community members in a non-judgmental and compassionate way. These seemingly small gestures are a vital part of our work—bridging gaps and building trust in populations often underserved.

Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution

Harm Reduction and Naloxone Distribution

ME-RAP prioritized access to naloxone across several counties. One notable interaction took place when Joe, a recovery house manager, met with ME-RAP staff to pick up a full case of naloxone. These doses were essential for his facility's efforts to meet MARR certification requirements and ensure residents had access to life-saving medication.

Additionally, staff at True Connections Behavioral Health in Lincoln received in-depth naloxone training as part of their onboarding process, ensuring that new professionals in the field are well-equipped to respond to overdoses. We also trained Secretary Shenna Bellows and staff at the DMV in Kennebec County, expanding the reach of naloxone education into non-traditional public service sectors.

A major milestone was the distribution of naloxone to MYAN (Maine Youth Action Network). Two separate batches were delivered for staff leaders across the state, followed by a youth naloxone training session, preparing the next generation of recovery advocates with the tools they need to save lives.



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Education and Advocacy

At the 2025 HOPE Conference, ME-RAP staff led an Advocacy 101 Training session, giving participants practical knowledge and language to become more effective voices for recovery in Maine. The session was well-attended and sparked meaningful dialogue about local and state-level policy change.

We also partnered with Queercovery to deliver a training focused on the intersection of substance use disorder (SUD) and LGBTQ+ populations. This session brought together medical providers to increase cultural competence and reduce stigma in healthcare settings.

Importantly, our work helped build momentum for LD 1738, which has now passed the Appropriations Committee and is sitting on the Governor's desk. This legislation will help establish the infrastructure needed to fund clean-ups like the ones we led this spring—ensuring long-term support for community-driven solutions. We are grateful for the continued partnership and support of the Maine Recovery Council as we move forward.

Community Clean Ups

Our "Spring Into Action" Community Clean-Up event in Downtown Augusta was a visible success, taking place even before the Access Center's official opening. As our team cleaned up 100 bags of trash and large debris along Water Street, passersby honked and waved in appreciation—a powerful moment of visibility and pride for the recovery community.

During the event, we spoke with members of the unhoused community about the growing trash issue near the bridge and what resources were needed to address it. From that conversation, we made a simple agreement: if we brought a trash bag each morning, they would use it. Since then, we've followed through—and so have they. While this hasn't solved the broader trash problem downtown, it's made a noticeable difference in this corner of the neighborhood. It's a reminder that when people have the resources, they use them. 😊

In Lewiston, our Community Clean-Up Day brought out over 20 volunteers who collected 30+ bags of trash and 40 syringes while engaging with local residents. The day felt less like a task and more like an act of solidarity, care, and community healing. We partnered with Church of Safe Injection, Spurwink Services, and were joined by Lewiston City Councilors, OPTIONS liaisons, and local businesses like Mancini's Italian Deli, who donated food. The event underscored our shared commitment to a safer, healthier Lewiston—without stigma or punishment.

In collaboration with COSI, ME-RAP staff also conducted a mini clean-up around COSI headquarters, emphasizing hands-on, local impact in neighborhoods where we are deeply embedded. Finally, in Bangor, we participated in a Pre-Pride Clean-Up with Needlepoint to build relationships and prepare for Pride



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celebrations. The event not only helped beautify the area but also led to a media connection with Cali Warren from Fox Bangor, who expressed interest in covering our Access Center's grand opening.

Volunteerism and Public Recognition

A series of volunteer events further underscored the dedication and creativity of our partners. At our "Prime Out!" events, we had the perfect number of volunteers—not too many to crowd the space, but enough to get the job done efficiently. In our second event, three incredible volunteers from Needlepoint stepped in and saved the day by showing up when needed most.

ME-RAP was also honored to be selected by Sherwin-Williams as a recipient of their Paint Out volunteer initiative. A team of their employees generously donated time and materials to help us beautify the Access Center, reinforcing the value that businesses see in our mission and the power of cross-sector collaboration.

Total Grant Outcomes as of 7/1/25

- ***Access Center & Comprehensive Services:***
 - Establish a daytime drop-in center in Augusta that will operate at least five days a week. **(in progress)**
 - Renovations **(complete)**
 - Grand Opening **(in progress)**
 - Operation **(pending)**
 - Submit an application for certification of a SSP to the CDC by April 2025 and commence SSP operations by September 2025 **(in progress)**
 - Application for certification **(complete)**
 - Commence SSP operations **(in progress)**
 - Increase the number of SSP service utilization in Kennebec County. **(in progress)**
- ***Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution:***
 - 4 of 12 overdose prevention training sessions hosted. **(in progress)**
 - 50 of 3,000 doors knocked. **(in progress)**
 - 21 of e 1,500 people trained on the Good Samaritan Law. **(in progress)**
 - 22 of 3,000 doses of naloxone. **(in progress)**
- ***Community Clean Ups:***
 - 4 of 4 community clean up events. **(complete + continuing)**
 - Increase volunteer engagement in community clean-up efforts. **(complete + continuing)**



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ME-RAP/MRC Access Center Outcomes As of 7/1/25								
Types of Event	Goal	# of Events Helds	Adults	Naloxone	People Trained in Naloxone	Trash Bags Collected	Syringes Collected	Doors Knocked
Goal			1500	3000	1500			3000
<i>OEND Trainings</i>	12	4	20	22	21	0	-	-
<i>Canvassing</i>	3000	1	6	0	0	0	10	50
<i>Community Clean Up</i>	4	4	76	0	0	130	70	-
<i>Center Operation</i>	3720	-	-	-	-	20	0	-
<i>SSP Exchanges</i>	Increase	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Totals		9	102	22	21	130	80	50

Color Code
Goal Met/Exceed
Goal in process
Goal not started

**Maine Recovery Access Project:
MRC Access Center
Quarter 1 & 2 Fiscal Report (1/25 to 6/25)
Prepared by CGA 7.7.25**



Maine Recovery Access Project: MRC Access Center		Total Budget 05/01/25- 04/31/27	Total Remaining	% Remaining	Q1 Actuals 1/2025 - 3/2025	Q2 Actuals 4/2025 - 6/2025	Q3 Actuals 7/2025 - 9/2025	Q4 Actuals 10/2025 - 12/2025	YTD Total	Remaining
Personnel			\$ -							
Salary	\$	293,800.00	\$ 276,666.49	94.17%	\$ -	\$ 17,133.51		\$ -	\$ 17,133.51	\$ 276,666.49
Fringe	\$	29,380.00	\$ 27,857.01	94.82%	\$ -	\$ 1,522.99		\$ -	\$ 1,522.99	\$ 27,857.01
Total Personnel	\$	323,180.00	\$ 304,523.50	94.23%	\$ -	\$ 18,656.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,656.50	\$ 304,523.50
Other										
Travel	\$	6,000.00	\$ 5,650.98	94.18%	\$ -	\$ 349.02		\$ -	\$ 349.02	\$ 5,650.98
Supplies	\$	40,000.00	\$ 39,312.78	98.28%	\$ 169.13	\$ 518.09		\$ -	\$ 687.22	\$ 39,312.78
Furniture	\$	5,000.00	\$ 4,154.07	83.08%	\$ 189.89	\$ 656.04		\$ -	\$ 845.93	\$ 4,154.07
Renovations	\$	60,000.00	\$ 2,520.68	4.20%	\$ 40,421.33	\$ 17,057.99		\$ -	\$ 57,479.32	\$ 2,520.68
Utilities	\$	11,600.00	\$ 10,480.84	90.35%	\$ -	\$ 1,119.16		\$ -	\$ 1,119.16	\$ 10,480.84
Data	\$	1,159.00	\$ 579.50	50.00%	\$ -	\$ 579.50		\$ -	\$ 579.50	\$ 579.50
Permits/Postage/Etc	\$	3,000.00	\$ 2,578.20	85.94%	\$ 356.80	\$ 65.00		\$ -	\$ 421.80	\$ 2,578.20
Total Other	\$	126,759.00	\$ 67,159.22	52.98%	\$ 40,778.13	\$ 18,821.65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,599.78	\$ 67,159.22
Direct Sub total	\$	449,939.00	\$ 369,800.55	82.19%	\$ 41,137.15	\$ 39,001.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,138.45	\$ 369,800.55
Indirect	\$	49,597.00	\$ 23,795.05	47.98%	\$ -	\$ 25,801.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,801.95	\$ 23,795.05
Total	\$	499,536.00	\$ 393,595.60	78.79%	\$ 41,137.15	\$ 64,803.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,940.40	\$ 393,595.60