



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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Key County Economic Programs Boosted

Under FY2018 Omnibus Bill

Several federal departments that deliver crucial housing and workforce and economic development programs to counties saw funding increased by nearly \$6 billion under the FY2018 omnibus bill recently signed into law by President Trump. The three departments overseeing these key programs include Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Commerce (DOC) and Labor (DOL).

Under the FY2018 omnibus, HUD was funded at \$42.7 billion for FY2018, a \$3.9 billion increase over FY2017; DOL was funded at \$12.2 billion, a \$129 million increase above FY2017 levels; and DOC was funded at \$11.1 billion, a \$1.9 billion increase over FY2017.

Some of the programs receiving an increase in funding under the FY2018 omnibus include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Congressional appropriators are already working on FY2019 spending levels, which must be set and passed before the current fiscal year ends Sept. 30. If legislators are unable to reach an agreement and pass a spending bill by Sept. 30, a continuing resolution will need to be passed to keep the government open. In February, Trump released his FY2019 budget request, which outlined federal spending priorities for the next fiscal year. The budget request would eliminate or reduce funding for many community and economic development programs important to counties. The proposal would eliminate funding for CDBG, HOME and EDA and reduce funding for WIOA and homelessness assistance compared to FY2018 levels. [~Click here FMI by Daria Daniel & Sofia Ferber.](#)



Ronald Rollins Named Deputy of the Year!

~ By Gina Hamilton and J.W. Oliver

Detective Sergeant Ronald Rollins holds his Deputy of the Year award in the picture above during the March 20th Lincoln County Commissioners meeting. Detective Sergeant Ron Rollins was honored as Deputy Sheriff of the Year at the Maine Sheriffs' Association award banquet at their conference in Biddeford March 15th according to Lincoln County Sheriff Chief Deputy Rand Maker. Also honored was Officer Charlie McCue of Two Bridges Regional Jail. McCue was named Corrections Officer of the Year. Rollins received his plaque and the appreciation of Lincoln County commissioners.

During an interview Thursday, March 22nd, Rollins said he is honored by the recognition. "But I don't feel like I do anything special that a lot of other people don't do already," he said. "I feel like I come to work every day and do my job, do the best I can, and that's all. I don't think I do anything exceptional." The award is not the first decoration for Rollins in his 18-plus years with the sheriff's office. He received the agency's 2008 Deputy of the Year Award and its Meritorious Service Star "for saving the life of a suicidal man with a knife in the middle of the Medomak River" in 2005, according to the nomination letter by Lincoln County Sheriff Todd Brackett. The New England Narcotics Officers Association recognized him for his work on assignment with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. While the recent award recognizes Rollins for his career rather than for a single case or incident, the nomination mentions his involvement in the investigations of the July 17, 2017 robbery of Camden National Bank in Waldoboro and a burglary spree in fall 2016, among others. "Under his leadership, the (Criminal Investigative Division) has branched out into the field of cellular phone mapping and forensics," Brackett said. "He encourages his staff to explore new technology and techniques of criminal investigations while instilling the importance of honing their basic investigative skills to a fine edge." But the key to being a good investigator, according to Rollins, is not gadgets or Sherlock Holmes-like powers of deduction. It's hard work. "I think it's just being tenacious, just being willing to follow up all your leads and willing to work a little extra, put the extra time in, to stay late on a fresh lead," he said.



Angela Musto and William Ellsworth above, of Lincoln County Outreach, discuss the program's expansion to Waldoboro. The program has expanded its addiction recovery services to Waldoboro in an effort to better serve area residents. Since its start as an outreach program working with men's and women's groups at Two Bridges Regional Jail in Wiscasset, Lincoln County Outreach has grown to serve men's and women's groups from its offices in the basement of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in Wiscasset and, more recently, a coed peer support outreach group at VFW Post 4525 on Mill Street in Waldoboro. At its heart, Bill Ellsworth said, the outreach program is about helping people throughout the 19 municipalities of Lincoln County. "How do we help people in our community? That's really what it is all about," Ellsworth, head of the county's outreach program, said. Ellsworth said the program takes a local approach to the nationwide opioid epidemic. "We have an epidemic here. How do we focus on the people here and what help can we offer them?" he said. The program offers recovery coaching to clients, helping them land jobs, grow relationships, and work on personal development, according to Ellsworth. "Lincoln County Outreach is a grass-roots operation we make available to people in our community who have a continuation of substance-abuse problems," he said. Lincoln County Outreach has also worked with Sagadahoc County and is in the initial stages of planning to provide services to a group in the Damariscotta area. To date, the outreach program has served over 600 clients. Ellsworth started the program, a partnership between the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the Mid Coast Hospital Addiction Resource Center, over 20 years ago. The sheriff's office, with county funds, contracts with the hospital to run the program. Ellsworth said a key to the program's recovery efforts is community involvement and engagement, having neighbors come in and offer support to those in recovery. [~Click here to read the full article by Alexander Violo.](#)



The Photo to the right shows Lincoln County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presenting a display created to educate legislators, and the public at the 2018 County Government Day celebrated in the Hall of Flags at the Maine State House. Lincoln County was one of many counties, county departments and county representatives who participated in the annual event on April 12th.



This is one method used to actively promote the services and programs offered by county government programs offered by county government. County officials agree the average Maine citizen does not attribute many of the services provided to their county. It's largely up to county employees and elected officials to raise public awareness and understanding among lawmakers and community members alike.

LINCOLN COUNTY A FULL-SERVICE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER RUN FROM THE BASEMENT?

Casey Stevens, in the picture to the right, is the Director of the Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency.

His department utilizes space in the basement of the courthouse to maximize efficiency. The arrangement proved successful last November during a storm which wreaked havoc in the area, inflicting nearly a half-a-million-dollars in damages in the county.

Lincoln County HAM Team (Amateur Radio Team) is the newest addition to the Lincoln County EMA Department.

Amateur Radio, commonly referred to as ham radio, has been used for communication since the late 19th century.

Amateur radio has been used for a variety of purposes: wireless telegraph, science, engineering, social services, and education. According to Wikipedia, "ham radio" mocked amateur radio operators with this derogative term. The community adopted it as a welcome moniker, much like the "Know-Nothing Party", or other groups and movements throughout history. The purpose of the group is to promote all aspects of the hobby of Amateur Radio through member and public education, to train and prepare local operators for both emergency and non-emergency events, to support the Lincoln County EMA and to encourage and assist fellow amateur radio operators and associated organizations.

