



2026 Housing Policy Conference Agenda

MORNING PROGRAM

7:30 - 8:30 am

Registration, Breakfast & Exhibitor Visits

8:30 - 8:45 am

Welcome & Opening

Laura Reading, MAHC Board Chair & Developers Collaborative

Laura Mitchell, MAHC Executive Director

Jeff Dickinson, Lighthouse Credit Union, Presenting Sponsor

8:45 - 9:30 am

Opening Plenary Session:

State Housing Policies: What's Working & Where?

Salim Furth, Mercatus Center, George Mason University

9:35 - 10:30 am

State Legislative Panel

Moderator:

BJ McCollister, MAHC Policy Director & Frame Strategies

Panelists:

Rep. Amanda Collamore, Housing & Economic Development Committee

Sen. Chip Curry, Chair, Housing & Economic Development Committee

10:30 - 10:45 am

Coffee Break & Exhibitor Visits

10:45 - 11:25 am

Federal Housing Policy Update & Forecast

Jennifer Schwartz, National Council of State Housing Agencies

11:30 am - 12:15 pm

Maine's Economic Horizon: Housing Outlook

Amanda Rector, Maine State Economist

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch

**Presenting
Sponsor:**



Lighthouse
Credit Union

**Hero
Sponsor:**



Mascoma
Bank

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

PLENARY SESSIONS

BREAKOUT ROOM SESSIONS

1:00 - 1:40 pm

The Workforce Case for Housing

Moderator:

Katie Shorey, Live + Work in Maine

Panelists:

Jackie Morgan, MaineHealth

Jon Fitzgerald, Bath Iron Works

Yellow Breen, Maine Development Foundation

Homes for Maine's Older Adults

Moderator:

Noël Bonam, AARP Maine

Panelists:

Katy Smith, Avesta Housing

Joy Barresi Saucier, Aroostook Area

Agency on Aging

1:45 - 2:30 pm

The Freeport Turnaround

Moderator:

John Egan, Avesta Housing

Panelists:

Matt Peters, Freeport Housing Trust

Brett Richardson, Town of Freeport

Steve Mills, Maine Beer Co.

Tawni Whitney, Greater Freeport Chamber of Commerce

Asset Management Outlook

Moderator:

Jennifer Hawkins, Avesta Housing

Panelists:

Sherrin Vail, Evernorth

Heather Starzynski, Neighbor Works

2:30 - 2:45 pm

Coffee Break & Exhibitor Visits

2:45 - 3:30 pm

Philanthropy in Housing

Moderator:

Alex Horowitz, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Panelists:

Nicole Witherbee, John T. Gorman Foundation

Deborah Ellwood, Maine Community Foundation

Build America, Buy America Impacts

Moderator:

Laura Mitchell, Maine Affordable Housing Coalition

Panelists:

Todd Rothstein, Avesta Housing

Conor Donnelly, DEW Construction

Laura Reading, Developers Collaborative

3:30 - 4:00 pm

Closing Plenary Session: Housing Policies for Maine

Alex Horowitz, The Pew Charitable Trusts

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Closing & Reception

Leader Sponsors:

