

Fair Housing and Equity Assessment

January 2014

For



Northern
Maine
Development
Commission



Washington County
Council of Governments

Helping communities plan for their future in Washington County, Maine

Fair Housing Equity Assessment

The purpose of this Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) is to focus an analysis at the regional level across various components to gain a full picture of regional equity and access to opportunity. The FHEA includes the following assessment components:

1. Segregated Areas and Areas of Increasing Diversity and/or Racial/Ethnic Integration
2. Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty
3. Access to Existing Areas of High Opportunity
4. Major Public Investments
5. Fair Housing Issues, Services and Activities

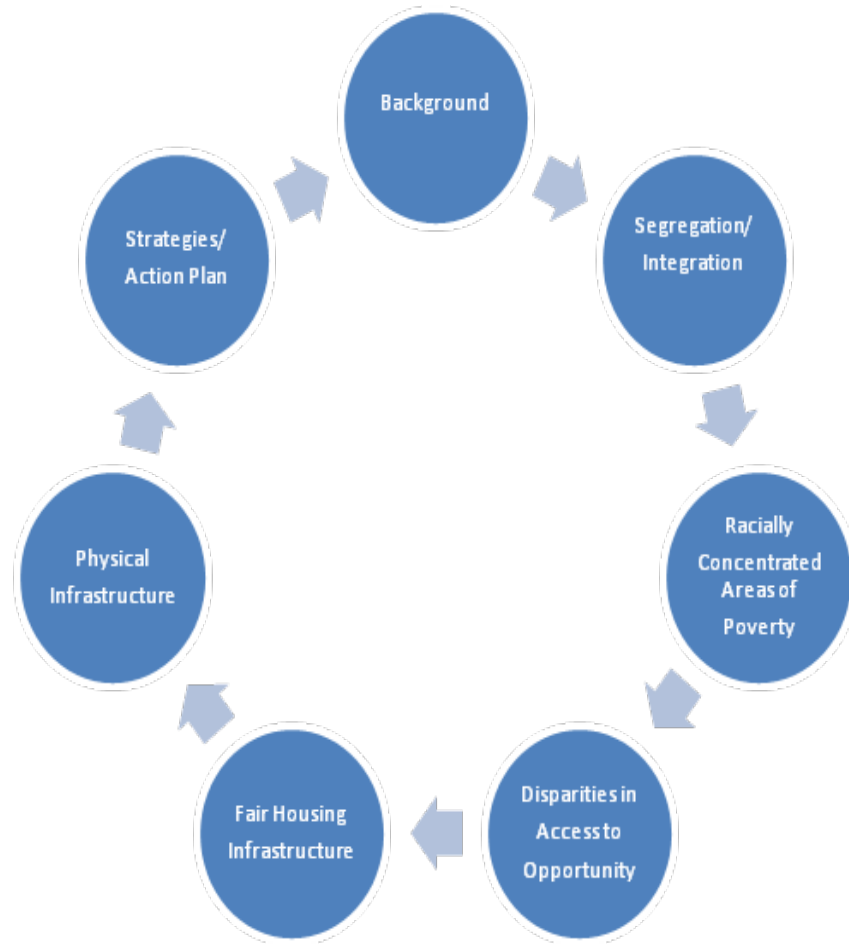
As a recipient of a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant, Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) must complete the FHEA, which addresses the fair housing impediments for the region. Utilizing the FHEA Program Guidance provided by the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities as well as a series of webinars offered throughout the months of February to April 2012, NMDC has successfully completed the FHEA, in compliance with HUD's requirements.

The focal point of the FHEA is to set an approach for data gathering, deliberation, and decision-making among the partners to provide fair housing and opportunities throughout Aroostook and Washington counties. The preparation of a two-county comprehensive plan document to serve the Washington-Aroostook region involved a broad and diverse public participation process in the housing, environment, transportation and socio-economic/economic opportunity sector. Data collected over the past year was shared with a variety of stakeholders, such as economic development professionals, planning specialists, tribal governments, public health officials, housing authority members, code enforcement officers, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialists, realtors, environmental specialists, educators, and local, state, and federal stakeholders in the field of environmental protection, transportation, meteorology, agriculture, and other interested parties.

Informational sessions and public forums were held across multiple sectors to share findings and solicit feedback on core findings. Outreach to underserved populations, such as homeless individuals, housing authority tenants, low-income individuals receiving Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding, food pantry recipients, individuals residing in the floodplain, etc. resulted in low attendance. Additional informational sessions are planned over the next several months.

The FHEA will be aligned with other local and regional plans in the Washington-Aroostook region to ensure that plans will result in actions that achieve positive outcomes in disadvantaged communities.

The FHEA structure contains seven (7) Chapters



The background chapter consists of –

Part I -General Demographics

Part II -Historical and Cultural Context and Perspective on Historical and Political Context

Part III- Information on Successes from Past Efforts

- Adoption of Fair Housing Resolutions/Fair Housing Proclamations
- Major successes of Affirmatively Further Fair Housing and Civil Rights

Part IV -Assessment of Fair Housing Challenges

- Highlight significant civil rights/fair housing related occurrences

Part I - General Demographics

Aroostook County was incorporated on March 16, 1839 and contains two cities, 54 towns, 11 plantations and 108 unorganized townships. The County is larger than the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined. It has an area of 6,672 square miles, which makes up 21.6% of the state’s area and consists of 89% forestland, 1% lakes/ponds/rivers, and 10% farmland. It is bordered on the east, west, and north by the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec.

Aroostook County can be divided into three distinct sub-regions – northern, central, and southern. The northern region is a bilingual region with a strong Acadian French heritage. It includes the communities of Fort Kent, Madawaska, and Van Buren, along with the northern half of the vast northwest Aroostook Unorganized Territory. The central region is comprised of the Caribou/Presque Isle labor market area and includes the lower half of the Northwest Unorganized Territory and 12 of the 19 unorganized townships in Piscataquis County that are a part of the Northern Maine Economic Development District. Presque Isle and its neighboring City of Caribou are the only two cities in the district. The southern region is comprised of the Houlton and the Patten/Island Falls labor market areas. The Town of Houlton is the Aroostook County seat and southern Aroostook’s economic center, with a population of 6,123. Houlton is the oldest community in Aroostook County.

Washington County is the nation’s easternmost county and is larger in size than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. The county is made up of two cities and 44 towns. Washington County is 2,628 square miles and consists of 85% woodland, 8% lakes, 4% bogs and swamps, and 3% cropland and pasture. The largest producer of blueberries, which is responsible for more than 90% of the nation’s blueberry crop, is located in Washington County.

Both Aroostook and Washington counties have experienced substantial decline in population over the past several decades. Table 1 below provides population levels in both counties from the turn of the 20th century to date along with projections to 2028. Figure 1 on the following page depicts trends in population. The following figure shows the trend in population from 1900 to 2010. Washington County’s population declined steadily each decade with projections showing a continued decline to a population of 28,531 by

2028. Meanwhile, Aroostook County’s population from 1900 to its peak of 106,064 in 1960 now continues to decline as well. Aroostook County’s population is projected to decrease to a total of approximately 65,000 by 2028.

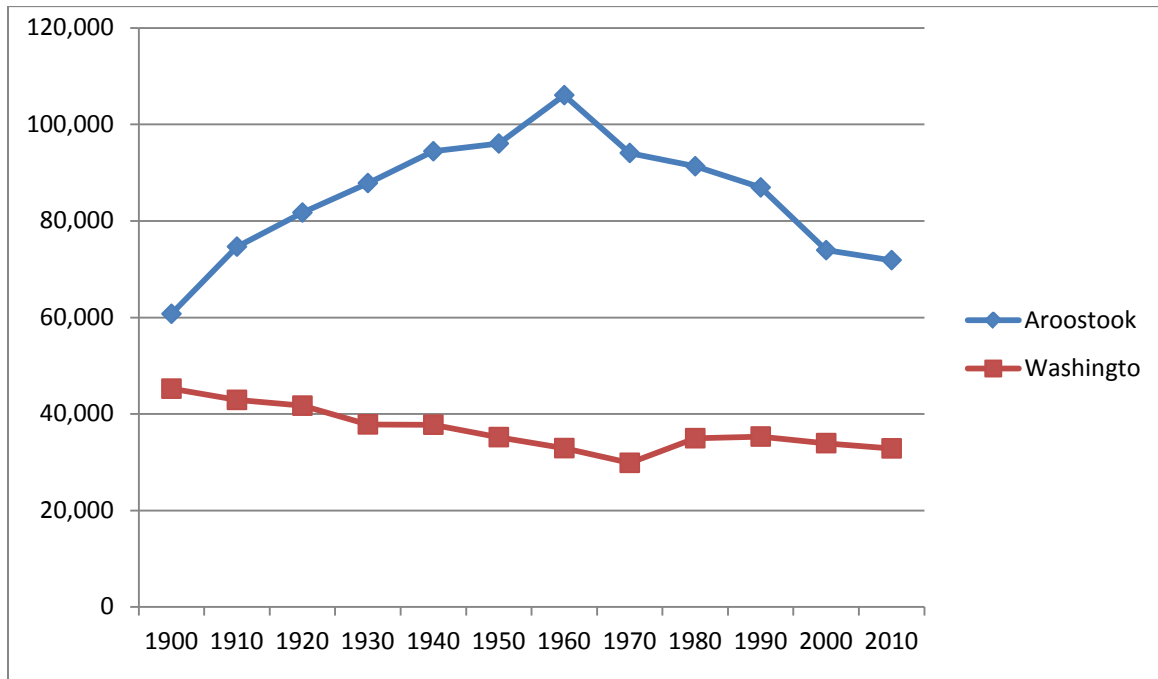


Figure 1. Population Trend

*Source: State Planning Office, Maine County and State Population Projections 2013-2028, March 2010

The following tables provide additional details on the general demographics for each county including race, persons with disabilities, households with children under the age of 18 and households with persons over the age of 65. Based on the information obtained from the 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Decennial Census data, four things are highlighted –

1. Population (increase/decrease/same) and where population growth or decline occurs? See map in Appendix A.
2. Race of population and where the difference is. The map located in Appendix B provides a distribution of race and potential issues.
3. Highlight trends, particularly in the youth and elderly populations.
4. Proportion of disabled persons.

A. Total Population – 1990-2010

Table 1. General Demographics of Aroostook County, 1990-2010

	2010	%	2000		1990	
Total Population:	71,870		73,938		86,936	
*One Race	70,892	98.6%	73,350	99.2%	84,601	97.3%
-White	68,759	95.7%	71,572	96.8%	932	1.1%
-Black of African American	455	0.6%	281	0.4%	793	0.9%
-American Indian/Alaska Native	1,225	1.7%	1,005	1.4%	405	0.4%
-Asian	312	0.4%	351	0.5%	*	
-Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	11	0.0%	19	0.0%		
-Some Other Race	130	0.2%	122	0.2%		
*Two or More Races	978	1.4%	588	0.8%		
-White/American Indian-Alaska Native	586	0.8%	48	0.8%		
-White/Asian	95	0.1%	304	0.5%		
-White/Black or African American	151	0.2%	62	0.1%		
-White/Other	55	0.1%	N/A	N/A		
-Black/American Indian-Alaska Native	0	0.0%	4	0.0%		
Hispanic	667	0.9%	441	0.6%	554	0.6%
Persons with Disabilities*	15,614	22.0%	17,438	23.6%		
Households with Children Under 18	7,897	24.7%	9,197	30.3%		
Households with Persons 65 and Over	9,653	30.2%	8,787	28.9%		

*2009-2011 American Community Survey

Table 2. General Demographics of Washington County, 1990-2010

	2010	%	2000		1990	
Total Population:	32,856		33,941		35,308	
*One Race	32,298	98.3%	33,577	98.9%	33,734	95.54%
-White	30,257	92.1%	31,728	93.5%	66	0.18%
-Black of African American	140	0.4%	88	0.3%	1,414	4.0%
-American Indian/Alaska Native	1,603	4.9%	1,505	4.4%	81	0.22%
-Asian	149	0.5%	101	0.3%	*	
-Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	9	0.0%	4	0.0%		
-Some Other Race	140	0.4%	151	0.4%		
*Two or More Races	558	1.7%	364	1.1%		
-White/American Indian-Alaska Native	364	1.1%	198	0.6%		
-White/Asian	50	0.2%	44	0.1%		
-White/Black or African American	53	0.2%	28	0.1%		
-White/Other	28	0.1%	N/A	N/A		
-Black/American Indian-Alaska Native	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Hispanic	452	1.4%	274	0.8%	127	0.4%
Persons with Disabilities*	6,842	21.2%	8,543	25.2%		
Households with Children Under 18	3,710	25.9%	4,298	30.4%		
Households with Persons 65 and Over	4,719	33.0%	4,187	29.7%		

*2009-2011 American Community Survey

B. Race/Ethnicity: Another important trend to be attentive to is race distribution so that potential issues can be highlighted.

Table 4. Race of Population, 1990-2010

Aroostook County	1990	2000	2010	Change 1990-2010
Whites	97.3%	99.2%	98.6%	Increase
Blacks	1.1%	0.4%	0.6%	Decrease
American Indians	0.9%	1.4%	1.7%	Increase
Asian	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	No Change
Native Hawaiian	-	No Change	No Change	No Change
Some Other Race	-	No Change	No Change	No Change
Hispanics	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	Increase
Washington County				
Whites	95.5%	98.9%	98.3%	Increase
Blacks	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	Increase
American Indians	4.0%	4.4%	4.9%	Increase
Asian	0.22%	0.3%	0.5%	Increase
Native Hawaiian	-	No Change	No Change	No Change
Some Other Race	-	1.1%	1.7%	Increase
Hispanics	0.6%	0.8%	1.4%	Increase

Source: 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census

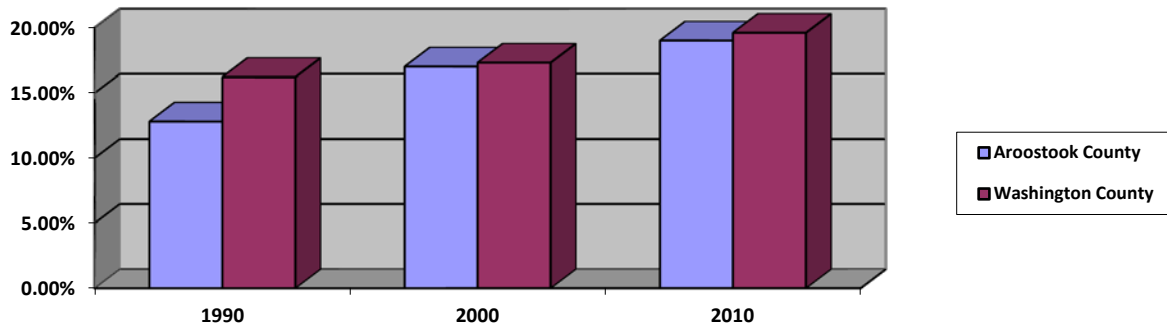
In Aroostook County, the decrease in black population is attributable to the closure of Loring Air Force Base in Limestone during the 1990s. The race showing the greatest increase is that of American Indian populations in both Aroostook and Washington counties. The designation of Federal Recognition of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, in October 1980, and the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians in November 1991 accounts for the increase in population. In Washington County, the Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point and Indian Township memberships have also grown over the past three decades accounting for a membership of 3,464 and 1,369 respectively. Aroostook County has also experienced an increase in the Hispanic population due to the recruitment of migrant workers to the forestry and agricultural industries. In the forestry industry, migrant workers are employed to replant large forested acres. Migrant workers are also recruited to harvest broccoli fields in the central Aroostook region.

In the 1990s, the Town of Milbridge, located in Washington County, experienced a rapid influx of migrant farm workers who decided to leave the migrant stream and settle in Downeast Maine. In 2005, Mano en Mano was incorporated as a non-profit organization. They function as the connection between the Hispanic population and the services they need.

C. Elderly and Youth Population

Maine is known as the “oldest” state in the nation. This is a serious issue for Maine. The percentage of people 65 years and older has risen significantly in Aroostook County. Aroostook County’s population of persons 65 years of age and older was 12.8% in 1990 as compared to 19.0% in 2010. This is a significant increase as compared to other counties in the State of Maine. Knox, Lincoln, Piscataquis, and Washington counties have remained constant as the top five counties with the largest proportion of elderly population.

However, Aroostook County went from a ranking of 12th position among the 16 counties in Maine to a ranking of 5th highest from 1990 to 2010 and remains in 5th position in 2010.



As mentioned earlier, the population in Washington County continues to decline each decade, but at a steady pace. Likewise, the population 65 years of age and over continues to increase at a steady pace. The percent of elderly population in Aroostook County has increased each decade at a higher rate than any other county in Maine.

The trend of increased elderly population in Maine has many implications, particularly for Aroostook County. Youth out-migration in Maine has become such an issue that former Governor Baldacci convened a statewide conference in June 2004 to explore the problem. The size of the problem is larger in Aroostook County than other areas of Maine because the physical size and distance from urban centers make the issue particularly challenging. The loss of young people presents challenges to maintaining an adequate workforce needed to support economic development, particularly as the population ages and the worker/retiree ratio shrinks over the next two decades.

D. Disabled Population

Data for the disabled population in Aroostook and Washington counties was obtained from the U.S. Census as well as the Social Security Office of Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI). The disability status for Aroostook County’s civilian non-institutionalized population in 2000 was approximately 23.5% and in the 2009-2011 American Community Survey report, the rate was 22.0%. The disabled population decreased by 1.5%; however, the total population decreased by 2.8% during this same time period. In Washington County, the 2000 disability percentage was 25.2% and 21.2% for 2010. Between 2000 and 2012, the number of people receiving Social Security disability benefits has accelerated among all counties in Maine. The number of recipients receiving Social Security Income (SSI) based on disability was 82.8% in 2000 compared to 93.1% in 2012. In Washington County, the 2000 percentage was 84.0% as compared to 2012 at 92.5%. During the month of December 2012, 48.44% of Aroostook County recipients receiving SSI also received OASDI, the highest percentage of all 16 counties; and Washington County was ranked third at 44.74%. This is alarming when nearly 50% of the working aged population is on disability.

As a Community Development Specialist and Community Development Block Grant Administrator for the past 30 years, Joella R. Theriault, has administered numerous housing rehabilitation projects. As part of the application process for eligibility, a scoring system is established with points awarded for household characteristics, such as low-and-moderate income, disability status, elderly status, female head of household, and number of children in the household. When awarding disability points, applicants must

show proof of disability generally by providing copies of social security disability checks. Examples of disability among the 30 to 50 year old population who are receiving Social Security disability income include learning disability, lung disease, fibromyalgia, back injury, bad knees, arthritis, diabetes, breathing problems, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and high blood pressure.

An article entitled *U.S. Disability Rolls Swell in a Rough Economy* in the *Washington Post* on September 30, 2013 reports on the rise of disability benefits. The article talks about the struggle of Maine paper mills in recent years and how well-paying jobs provided an economic foothold for generations of blue-collar workers. A large number of these unemployed workers are now seeking economic shelter on federal disability rolls. The growth of disability rolls has accelerated since the recession hit in 2007. One licensed master social worker responded to the article by saying that parents view their kids as ‘moneybags’ and stigmatize them as disabled from a very young age in order to collect disability.

The Disability Determination Office in Maine was contacted to discuss the high rate of disability in Aroostook and Washington counties. Disability rates in these two counties parallel rates throughout the State of Maine. According to a representative in the Disability Determination Office, there are a number of factors considered when determining an individual’s disability status, such as age, limited access to health care, type of physical work over time, and high incidence of smoking and alcohol issues. They also look at certain impairments, such as cancer, paraplegics, and other disabilities that have lasted at least 12 consecutive months as well as work skills and education. If an individual cannot be matched with other work skills that match their type of employment, then they would probably find that individual disabled. The Office confirmed that economic conditions drive disability claims up.

Part II – Historical and Cultural Context and Perspective on Historical and Political Context

There are five federally recognized Indian tribes in the State of Maine with four of the tribes located in the target area of this planning project. The Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians received federal government recognition on November 26, 1991. The Micmac Nation is comprised of the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians and 28 other bands that are based in Canada. They are part of the Wabanaki Confederacy, an alliance formed with the Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Abenaki tribes in the 18th century. Members of the Aroostook Band have free border-crossing rights guaranteed under the Jay Treaty of 1794.

Traditionally, the Micmac and Maliseet people have lived along the 400-mile long St. John River, which runs along the Canadian border, as early as 12,000 years ago. The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians was federally recognized on October 1, 1980 as part of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.

Passamaquoddy Indian Township is the largest reservation in Maine. The Treaty of 1794 between the Tribe and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established the Indian Township Reservation. The Passamaquoddy Tribes have been in the northeastern United States for several thousand years. In 1856, the State of Maine established the Passamaquoddy Trust Fund. Income generated from the sale of timber and resources on tribal lands were used to provide emergency assistance to tribal members. The lack of employment opportunities at both Pleasant Point and Indian Township contributed to many tribal members who were forced to leave the region in search of employment. This led to the tribes taking legal action against the State of Maine for loss of tribal lands. The Maine Indian Land Claim Settlement Act of 1980 provided funds for tribes to buy back tribal lands as well as create a trust fund to pay tribal members. The Passamaquoddy village at Pleasant Point has been in existence since 1770.

In the 1990s, the Town of Milbridge in Washington County experienced a rapid influx of migrant farm-workers who decided to leave the migrant stream and settle in Downeast Maine. To meet the needs of these migrant farm-workers, Milbridge's public library, town office, and schools began to offer educational programs and basic resources. In 2005, Mano en Mano was incorporated as a non-profit organization to function has the connection between the Hispanic population and the services they need.

Between 10,000 and 12,000 migrant farm-workers and their families come to Maine each year to harvest blueberries, cranberries, and apples. More than half of the migrant workers are undocumented workers and/or illegal immigrants but due to a 2004 executive order by Governor John Baldacci, state agencies, including law enforcement, are prohibited from asking immigration status of migrants. The majority of migrants are Hispanics from Mexico. In Washington County, migrant workers are a critical component of Maine's annual wild blueberry harvest. In Aroostook County, migrant workers are employed by Irving Forest Woodlands to plant trees and by farmers to harvest broccoli.

Part III – Information on Success from Past Efforts

Both Washington and Aroostook counties have participated in the CDBG program since the state began administering the funds in 1982. From 1982 to 2011, approximately 21% of CDBG funds were granted to 67 communities in Aroostook County for a variety of economic and community development projects, including housing rehabilitation of single-family and multi-family housing units, installation and/or replacement of public water and sewer projects, as well as business acquisition, job creation/retention projects, etc. Washington County has also benefited with 46 communities receiving assistance for a total of over \$47,000,000.

The four federally recognized Indian tribes in Aroostook and Washington counties have also benefitted from the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program. For example, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (HBMI) has been successful in securing grant funding for numerous community development projects. From 1987 to 2010, HBMI secured in excess of \$15 million dollars for projects including construction of a 4,200 square-foot tribal administration building, construction of housing units, improvements to drinking water and wastewater sanitation facilities, and road/bridge construction.

The non-entitlement CDBG program, administered by the State of Maine, requires each community to adopt a Fair Housing Resolution and Fair Housing Self-Assessment prior to entering into a funding agreement. The Fair Housing Resolution resolves that a community will not discriminate in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. The Fair Housing Self-Assessment is a two-page query regarding a community's involvement in any complaints regarding discrimination. Communities are asked to adopt a Fair Housing Program to assist local citizens in becoming aware of their rights regarding fair housing under federal and state law. To the best of NMDC's knowledge, of the 67 communities who have participated in the CDBG program, there has been no community involvement in complaints of fair housing discrimination.

Another success story is that of migrant farm-workers at Cherry Point Products in Milbridge. Owners of Cherry Point Products process sea cucumbers. A total of 70 or more migrant farm-workers (and their families) return to the farm each year. The migrant workers settled in Milbridge and put their kids in the local schools. When schools balked at hiring an English as a Second Language teacher, the owner of Cherry Point Products ran for and won a seat on the school board. The teacher was hired, and the children learned English. Today five are in college. Hispanics make up 10% of Milbridge's 1,300 residents. Local residents

have accepted the Hispanics. Some Hispanics have branched out into yard-work, painting or other businesses.

Part IV – Assessment of Fair Housing Challenges

Federal law protects against discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, disability, gender, and familial status. Maine law protects against these seven plus discrimination against public assistance, sexual orientation and national ancestry. During the months of October and November 2012, NMDC contacted various agencies involved in potential fair housing complaints. Pine Tree Legal (PTL) has six (6) offices statewide. They average between 24 and 25 cases per year, but not many of the cases are filed with the Maine Human Rights Commission. The majority of the complaints are against landlords, who own single-family rental units, concerning sexual harassment, some are based on disability, and some based on racial issues. Charles Rutledge, Attorney for the PTL Office in Machias, sees several types of fair housing issues with underserved populations. The most prevalent issue is that of sexual harassment of young women by landlords. In some instances where housing issues arise, landlords are as poor as the clients and oftentimes problems arise out of ignorance, such as the use of service animals. Once the landlord is educated, there are usually no repeat issues. PTL usually handles one or two cases per year and rarely are these cases referred to the Maine Human Rights Commission. According to Mr. Rutledge, discrimination on housing issues in the nearby Native American reservation community is suspected, but there has never been a case filed.

In another PTL office, there have been no fair housing issues or cases filed, but clients residing in subsidized housing units have filed complaints against one administrator. A 12-page agreement between the management company and tenant is stringent, but not illegal. Examples of issues include the frequent inspection of tenant units to assure cleanliness. One dirty cup on a countertop constitutes an unclean kitchen. Lost keys shall be replaced at a fee to tenants of \$50 per key. A written request must be made and submitted with the next monthly rent check. This agreement states that the submission of a maintenance request is considered a request by the tenant to allow landlord to enter the unit without further notice during normal business hours. Persons applying for an apartment may be refused based in whole or in part on information obtained in a credit report provided by Trans Union LLC.

Key Findings:

- Total population in both Aroostook and Washington counties is declining. The population trend for Washington County shows a steady decline while in Aroostook County the population is decreasing rapidly. Both counties are projected to continue their downward spiral in total population through 2028.
- In Aroostook County, the white population increased from 1990 to 2000, but decreased from 2000 to 2010. The County has also experienced increases in American Indian and Hispanic populations. The Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians have been in existence for thousands of years, but did not receive federal recognition until 1980 and 1991 respectively. Once recognized, tribal members enrolled in each tribe attributing to the increase in American Indian population.
- In Washington County, the Passamaquoddy Indian Tribes at Pleasant Point and Indian Township are also federally recognized and the tribes continue to grow in membership.
- The Hispanic population has increased statewide, but more particularly in Aroostook and Washington counties. Between 10,000 and 12,000 migrant farm-workers and their families come to Maine each year to harvest blueberries, cranberries, apples, and broccoli. In the 1990s, the Town of Milbridge in Washington County experienced a rapid influx of migrant farm-workers. Migrant farm-workers are

employed for the blueberry harvest in Washington County, the apple harvest in surrounding counties, the broccoli harvest in Aroostook County, and in the forestry industry to plant and thin trees in Somerset, Franklin, Aroostook, and Piscataquis counties.

- Maine is the oldest state in the nation. There has been a significant increase in elderly population in Aroostook County where the county ranked 12th among all 16 counties with a high percentage of people 65 years of age and older in 1990 and jumped to 5th position in 2010. Washington County has experienced a slower increase in elderly population remaining in the top three ranking of all 16 counties throughout the past three decades.
- Outmigration of youth population is a problem in Maine, and more particularly in Aroostook County. The outmigration of our youth presents challenges to maintaining a sustainable workforce.
- Based on a conversation with Ms. Rosa McNally of HBMI, the increased American Indian population also increases the risk of discrimination based on race/ethnicity. Although there were no legal actions, there are potential barriers to finding jobs. Anecdotal suggestions are that employers do not hire American Indians because in their opinion “they won’t stay working”. Low-income populations also experience this type of discrimination.

The following provides an economic overview of the region and includes unemployment rates, top employers, and recent trends in job gains/losses by sector. The northern and eastern region of the state, namely Aroostook and Washington counties, has experienced the greatest impact from “the Great Recession”. This is primarily due to the region’s dependence on traditional industries such as natural resources and forest products. Washington County, often referred to as Downeast Maine, is the easternmost county in the U.S. and has been designated as a Labor Surplus Area, which means that the unemployment rate exceeds 120% of the national average. The wood product and paper manufacturing industries were the largest industry impacted by the recession.

The recession has forced many individuals who have lost their jobs to pursue alternative careers. Re-employment prospects are shifting away from goods production/manufacturing into service-providing industries, such as health care, social assistance and professional and business services. Despite job openings in the service industry, unemployed workers are having difficulty finding and/or retaining jobs because they lack the “soft skills” necessary to fill viable employment opportunities. “Soft skills” are described as communication, interpersonal, decision-making, and lifelong learning skills necessary to meet the needs of the business community.

The region has experienced permanent and temporary layoffs, business closures, reduction in work schedules and benefits. Unemployment rates continue to be highest among young people aged 20 to 24, particularly those with the least educational attainment. The unemployment rate in Aroostook County for 2010 was 9.7% and 11.1% in Washington County as compared to the State of Maine average at 7.9%. Eight of 35 (or 23%) Labor Market Areas in the State of Maine ranking highest in unemployment rates and poverty status and lowest in average annual wages are found in Aroostook and Washington counties. Furthermore, a survey of people aged 25 years and over, shows that 15% of people in Washington County and 17% in Aroostook County are neither enrolled in school, nor have they graduated from high school.

Table 6. Unemployment Rates, 1990, 2000-2012

Year	Maine	Aroostook	Washington
1990	5.3%	6.9%	7.6%
2000	3.3	4.1	5.8
2005	4.9	6.6	8.5
2010	8.2	9.9	11.5
2012	7.3	9.2	10.7

Maine’s aging population and the impending retirements of baby boomers will profoundly impact the labor markets and reshape long-standing patterns of demand for goods and services. Understanding these dynamics is fundamental to making effective public policies and developing sound public and private investment strategies. In conjunction with the Maine Department of Labor, economic development professionals, and educational institutions, the Aroostook-Washington Local Workforce Investment Board is committed to examining the dynamics of the region’s economy and associated impacts on the workforce and labor markets in helping to chart a more prosperous future for all of our citizens.

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey provides Five-Year Estimates on Employment Status.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS BASED ON RACE/ETHNICITY				
	Total – Population 16 Years and Over	In Labor Force	Employed	Unemployment Rate
Aroostook County				
White	57,412	57.7%	54.0%	6.6%
Black/African American	367	48.8%	44.1%	9.5%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	701	66.9%	56.6%	15.4%
Asian	268	64.6%	62.7%	2.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	32	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	107	55.1%	55.1%	0.0%
Washington County				
White	25,511	55.9%	50.2%	9.8%
Black/African American	140	44.3%	43.6%	1.6%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	961	63.8%	41.0%	35.7%
Asian	124	83.1%	82.3%	1.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	8	100.0%	37.5%	62.5%
Some Other Race	92	26.1%	26.1%	0.0%

2010 U.S. Census – Employment Status Based on Race/Ethnicity

	Total	In Labor Force	Employed	Unemployment Rate
Aroostook County				
Population 25 to 64 Years	38,241	72.0%	68.1%	5.5%
Less Than High School Graduate	3,727	41.0%	35.0%	14.6%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	14,930	69.4%	65.0%	6.4%
Some College or Associate’s Degree	12,589	78.3%	74.5%	4.8%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	6,995	82.8%	80.6%	2.6%
Washington County				
Population 25 to 64 Years	17,564	70.8%	63.9%	9.6%
Less than High School Graduate	1,812	52.3%	39.8%	23.9%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	6,628	68.6%	60.1%	12.4%
Some College or Associate’s Degree	5,658	73.4%	67.5%	7.5%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	3,466	80.5%	77.9%	3.1%

Listed below are the top employers in Aroostook and Washington counties for the 4th Qtr, 2012:

Name	Employment Range	Business Description
Aroostook Medical Center, The	1,001 to 1,500	General medical and surgical hospitals
Twin Rivers Paper Company LLC	501 to 1,000	Newsprint mills
Walmart/Sam's Club	501 to 1,000	Discount Department stores
McCain Foods USA, Inc.	501 to 1,000	Frozen fruit and vegetable manufacturing
Northern Maine Medical Center	1 to 500	General medical and surgical hospitals
Houlton Regional Hospital	1 to 500	General medical and surgical hospitals
Paradis Shop 'N Save	1 to 500	Supermarkets and other grocery stores
Caribou Nursing Home, Inc.	1 to 500	Nursing Care facilities, skilled nursing
Northern Maine General	1 to 500	Nursing Care facilities, skilled nursing
Community Living Association	1 to 500	Services for the elderly and disabled
Aroostook Mental Health Services	1 to 500	Outpatient mental health centers
Burrelle's Information Services LLC	1 to 500	All other information services
Aroostook Home Health Services	1 to 500	Home health care services
Circle K	1 to 500	Gasoline stations with convenience stores
Columbia Forest Products, Inc.,	1 to 500	Hardwood veneer and plywood manufacturing
Madigan Estates	1 to 500	Nursing Care facilities, skilled nursing
Smith & Wesson Corporation	1 to 500	Small arms and ordnance manufacturing
Katahdin Trust Company	1 to 500	Commercial banking
Maine Mutual Fire Insurance Co.	1 to 500	Direct property and casualty insurers
Fraser Timer Limited	1 to 500	Sawmills
Career Systems Development Corp	1 to 500	Other technical and trade schools
Pines Health Services, Inc.	1 to 500	Offices of physicians, except mental health
Sitel Operating Corporation	1 to 500	Telemarketing and other contact centers
Aroostook Area Agency on Aging	1 to 500	Services for the elderly and disabled
Central Aroostook Association	1 to 500	Services for the elderly and disabled
WASHINGTON COUNTY		
Domtar Maine Corporation	1 to 500	Pulp Mills
Whitney Originals, Inc.	1 to 500	All other miscellaneous manufacturing
Calais Regional Hospital	1 to 500	General medical and surgical hospitals
Downeast Community Hospital	1 to 500	General medical and surgical hospitals
Walmart/Sam's Club	1 to 500	Discount department stores
Jasper Wyman & Son, Inc.	1 to 500	Frozen fruit and vegetable manufacturing
Machias Savings Bank	1 to 500	Savings institutions
Worcester Wreath Company	1 to 500	All other miscellaneous manufacturing
Sunrise Opportunities	1 to 500	Residential developmental disability homes
Washington Academy	1 to 500	Elementary and secondary schools
Aroostook Mental Health Services	1 to 500	Outpatient mental health centers
Calais & Bells Orono IGSS	1 to 500	Supermarkets and other grocery stores
Hannaford Brothers Company	1 to 500	Supermarkets and other grocery stores
Circle K	1 to 500	Gasoline stations with convenience stores
Narraguagus Bay Health Care Facility	1 to 500	Nursing Care facilities, skilled nursing
Marshall Healthcare	1 to 500	Nursing Care facilities, skilled nursing
Danforth Habilitation Association	1 to 500	Residential developmental disability homes
Washington Hancock Community Action	1 to 500	Other individual and family services
Sunrise County Evergreens	1 to 500	All other miscellaneous manufacturing
Cooke Aquaculture USA, Inc.	1 to 500	Finfish farming and fish hatcheries
R.H. Foster Energy LLC	1 to 500	Petroleum bulk stations and terminals
Cherry Point Products, Inc	1 to 500	Seafood product preparation and packaging
Cherryfield Foods, Inc.	1 to 500	Frozen fruit and vegetable manufacturing
Blue Bird Ranch Inc.	1 to 500	General freight trucking, long-distance
Sunrise Care Facility	1 to 500	Nursing Care facilities, skilled nursing

Source: Maine Department of Labor, Labor Statistics

One way to understand the state of fair housing in the region is to consider a series of indicators for socio-economic conditions and housing affordability and availability. This section presents the application of data tools generated at the federal level to the local contexts of Aroostook and Washington counties. This section uses three measurements of racial and ethnic integration: dissimilarity index, predicted racial/ethnic composition, and fair share of affordable housing index.

A dissimilarity index (DI) measures the degree to which racial groups are spatially separated from each other. The index is calculated by comparing the regional share of one demographic group in a defined area with that of another demographic group. An index of 0% means that the two groups being measured are mixed evenly throughout the region, and a 100% means that there is no overlap, which means complete segregation.

There are two measures of DI:

1. Metro/Micro level statistics that builds up from tract-level/neighborhood level data and
2. A DI is the most commonly used measure of segregation between two groups.

Table 5. Metro Level Statistics

Segregation of Maine Cities Ranked by White/Asian Dissimilarity Index				
City	Asian Population	White Population	Total Population	Dissimilarity Index
Lewiston	299	33,896	35,690	37.9
Portland	1,967	58,201	64,249	36.5
Bangor	353	29,704	31,473	34.1
Segregation of Maine Cities Ranked by White/Black Dissimilarity Index				
Portland	1,611	58,201	64,249	40.7
Lewiston	361	33,896	35,690	33.0
Bangor	307	29,704	31,473	31.1
Segregation of Maine Cities Ranked by White/Hawaiian Dissimilarity Index				
Portland	29	58,201	64,249	77.4
Bangor	18	29,704	31,473	76.1
Lewiston	10	33,896	35,690	70.9
Segregation of Maine Cities Ranked by White/Other Dissimilarity Index				
Bangor	40	29,704	31,473	62.8
Lewiston	30	33,896	35,690	61.7
Portland	96	58,201	64,249	56.7
Segregation of Maine Cities Ranked by White/Multiracial Dissimilarity Index				
Portland	1,088	58,201	64,249	28.7
Bangor	418	29,704	31,473	26.8
Lewiston	546	33,896	35,690	25.7

Source: CensusScope

It is important to remember that when a group’s population is small, such as the population in Aroostook and Washington counties, its DI may be high even if the group’s members are evenly distributed throughout the area. When a group’s population is less than 1,000; exercise caution in interpreting its DI.

HUD data for 2010 County Dissimilarity Index on Tracts is as follows:

County	NHW-NHB	NHW-NHA	NHW-Hispanic	NHB-Hispanic
Androscoggin	0.5855	0.2732	0.2395	0.4427
Aroostook	0.4175	0.3204	0.2289	0.2868
Cumberland	0.5275	0.3378	0.2708	0.3458
Franklin	0.2188	0.2261	0.1552	0.2476
Hancock	0.2411	0.3480	0.1173	0.2038
Kennebec	0.2960	0.3061	0.2063	0.1494
Knox	0.3194	0.2129	0.1679	0.2983
Lincoln	0.1769	0.1502	0.2137	0.2389
Oxford	0.1949	0.3649	0.1429	0.1553
Penobscot	0.3438	0.3589	0.1853	0.2400
Piscataquis	0.3400	0.5228	0.1979	0.3772
Sagadahoc	0.1905	0.1864	0.1745	0.1138
Somerset	0.1737	0.3364	0.2360	0.2442
Waldo	0.0830	0.1045	0.1042	0.1287
Washington	0.2341	0.2680	0.1912	0.3315
York	0.2075	0.2454	0.1644	0.1549

A majority of municipalities in both Aroostook and Washington counties have populations under 1,000; therefore, the dissimilarity index for the two counties may appear skewed in comparison to larger municipalities in Maine. The dissimilarity index for Hispanic-White Segregation in Maine is 1.4. Maine is ranked 41 in the nation. The DI in 2005-2009 was 42 as compared to 24 in 2000. The dissimilarity index for Black-White Segregation in Maine is 1.1. Maine is ranked number 19 in this category. The DI in 2005-2009 was 63 as compared to 42 in 2000. The DI for Asian-White Segregation in 2005-2009 was 52 as compared to 37 in 2000, a difference of 15 and a DI of 1.0. Maine is ranked 27.

The segregation index for NMDC’s region under this Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Community Planning Grant program is provided in the following table:

Table 1 - Race/Ethnic Segregation

	Share of Population		Dissimilarity Index	
	Program Participant Area (2000) (1)	Program Participant Area (2010) (2)	Program Participant Area (2000) (3)	Program Participant Area (2010) (4)
Non-White/White	5%	6%	0.39	0.33
Black-African American/White	0%	1%	0.00	0.00
Hispanic/White	1%	1%	0.00	0.30
Asian/White	0%	0%	0.00	0.00
Pacific-Islander/White	2%	3%	0.60	0.58
Native-American/White	0%	0%	0.00	0.00

	Share of Population		Isolation Index (2010)	
	Program Participant Area (2000) (1)	Program Participant Area (2010) (2)	Program Participant Area (2000) (5)	Program Participant Area (2010) (6)
Non-White/White	5%	6%	0.21	0.14
Black-African American/White	0%	1%	0.00	0.00
Hispanic/White	1%	1%	0.00	0.01
Asian/White	0%	0%	0.00	0.00
Pacific-Islander/White	2%	3%	0.38	0.27
Native-American/White	0%	0%	0.00	0.00

Notes: Values in column (1) and (2) are the share of racial/ethnic groups in the participant geography in years 2000 and 2010, respectively. Columns (3) and (4) are the dissimilarity index for years 2000 and 2010. The index compares the spatial distribution of the two groups identified in the left-hand column, summarizing neighborhood differences over a larger geography (program participant geography or metro). Higher values of dissimilarity imply higher residential segregation. Column (5) is the isolation index calculated over the program participant geography for the year 2000, column (6) is the same for the year 2010. The isolation index compares average neighborhood minority share for a minority person to the average minority share in the larger geography (program participant geography or metro). Again, higher values imply higher levels of segregation. These index are calculated using block group 100% count data from the 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census SF1.

Housing authority directors, code enforcement officers, and community development directors were contacted to discuss possible segregation issues in Aroostook County. Discussion of segregation based on familial status, disability, zoning and land use, code enforcement, school enrollment, etc. among stakeholders in this planning process included some issues requiring further discussion and deliberation.

Some forms of segregation in affordable housing can be useful in a society, according to the Fort Fairfield Housing Authority Director. He cited the example that some elderly tenants do not want to be in an area that also houses families with noisy children. Siting of public and assisted housing is currently being developed around availability of access to local support services, such as grocery stores, drug stores, town offices, restaurants, convenience stores, etc. All housing authorities in Aroostook County were contacted and all expressed that no public acts of discrimination occurred in any of the housing authorities. One Code Enforcement Officer noted that manufactured housing/mobile homes are being zoned out of growth areas and out into rural districts.

The predicted Racial/Ethnic Composition tool was applied to each county subdivision in both Aroostook and Washington counties. See Appendix D.

Chapter 3 – Concentrated Areas of Poverty

According to the U.S. Census report on Areas with Concentrated Poverty, people living in poverty tend to be clustered in certain neighborhoods rather than being evenly distributed. Measuring concentrations of poverty is important because living in areas with many other poor people places burdens on low-income families beyond what the families’ own individual circumstances would dictate. These areas of concentrations of poverty results in higher crime rates, underperforming public schools, poor housing and health conditions, as well as limited access to job opportunities.

Table 1. Poverty Data for All Counties in Maine, 1980-2010

County	1980	1990	2000	2010 ¹
Androscoggin	12.6%	11.4%	11.1%	16.1%
Aroostook	16.2%	14.5%	14.3%	18.3%
Cumberland	10.5%	8.0%	7.9%	12.1 %
Franklin	12.8%	12.5%	14.6%	17.4%
Hancock	14.6%	10.0%	10.2%	13.8%
Kennebec	11.8%	10.2%	11.1%	12.8%
Knox	14.4%	11.9%	10.1%	13.0%
Lincoln	16.7%	9.6%	10.1%	12.1%
Oxford	12.7%	12.5%	11.8%	16.5%
Penobscot	13.0%	13.0%	13.7%	17.2%
Piscataquis	14.1%	15.2%	14.8%	19.5%
Sagadahoc	11.2%	7.2%	8.6%	11.7%
Somerset	16.3%	14.5%	14.9%	18.6%
Waldo	20.0%	16.0%	13.9%	16.0%
Washington	21.6%	19.3%	19.0%	21.7%
York	9.8%	6.8%	8.2%	10.2%

Source: Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

1)Source: USDA Economic Research Service (Not all county poverty data statistics are available under the 2010 U.S. Census)

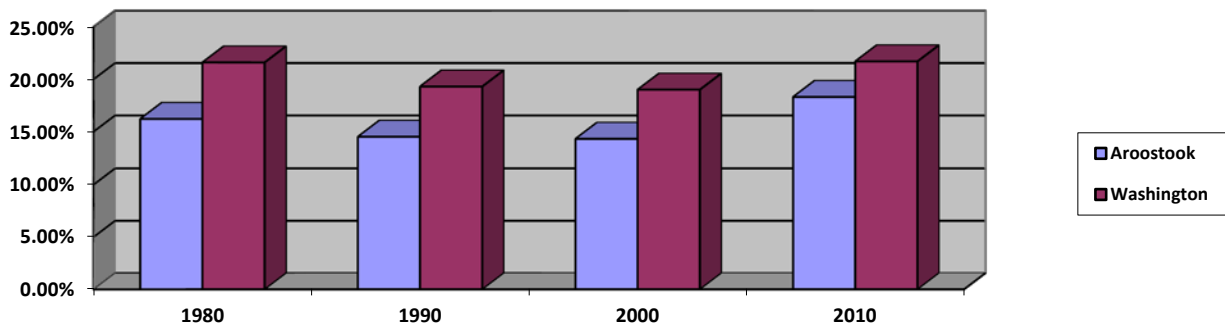
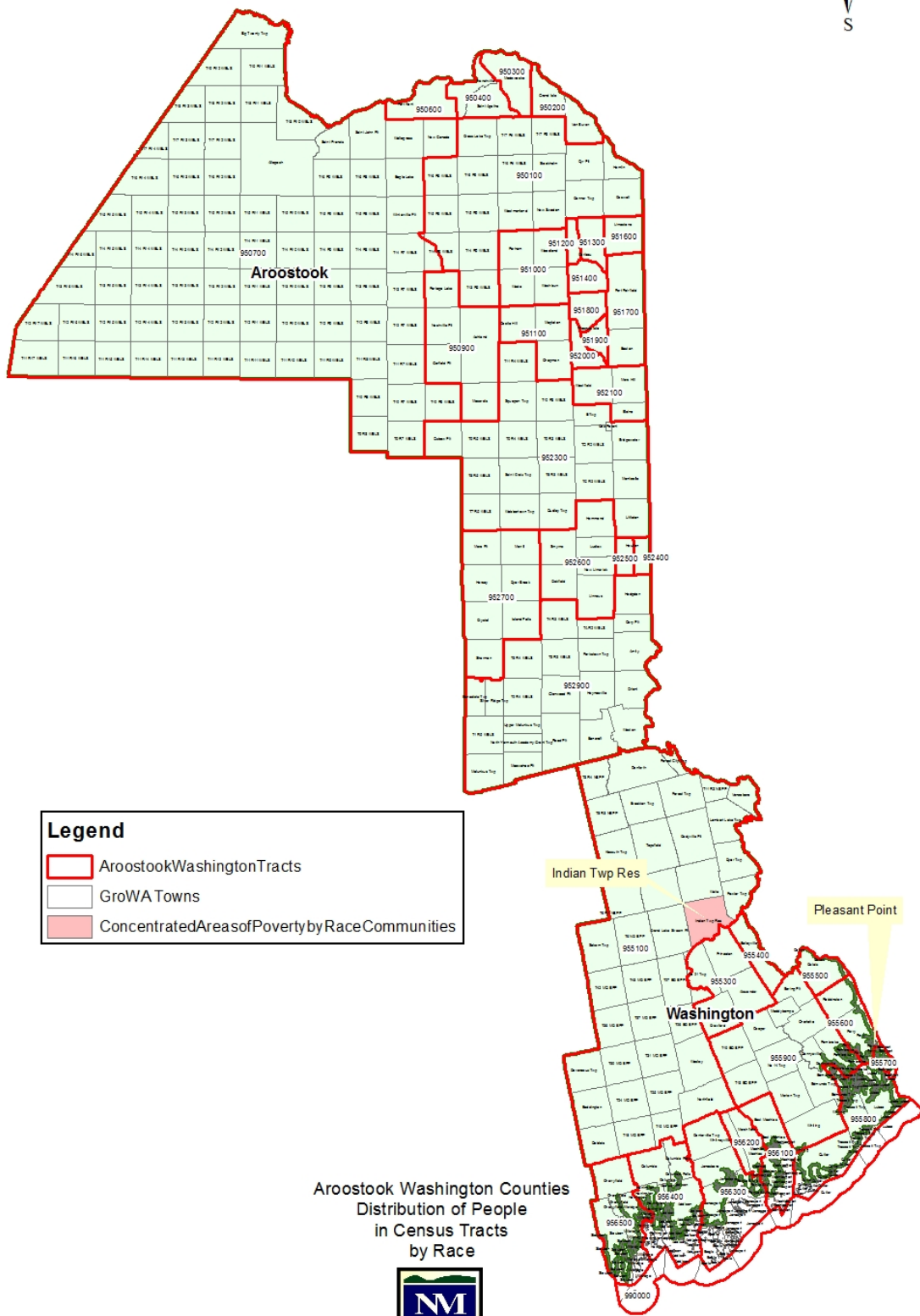
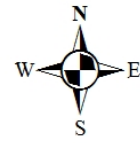


Figure 1- Poverty Levels, 1980-2010



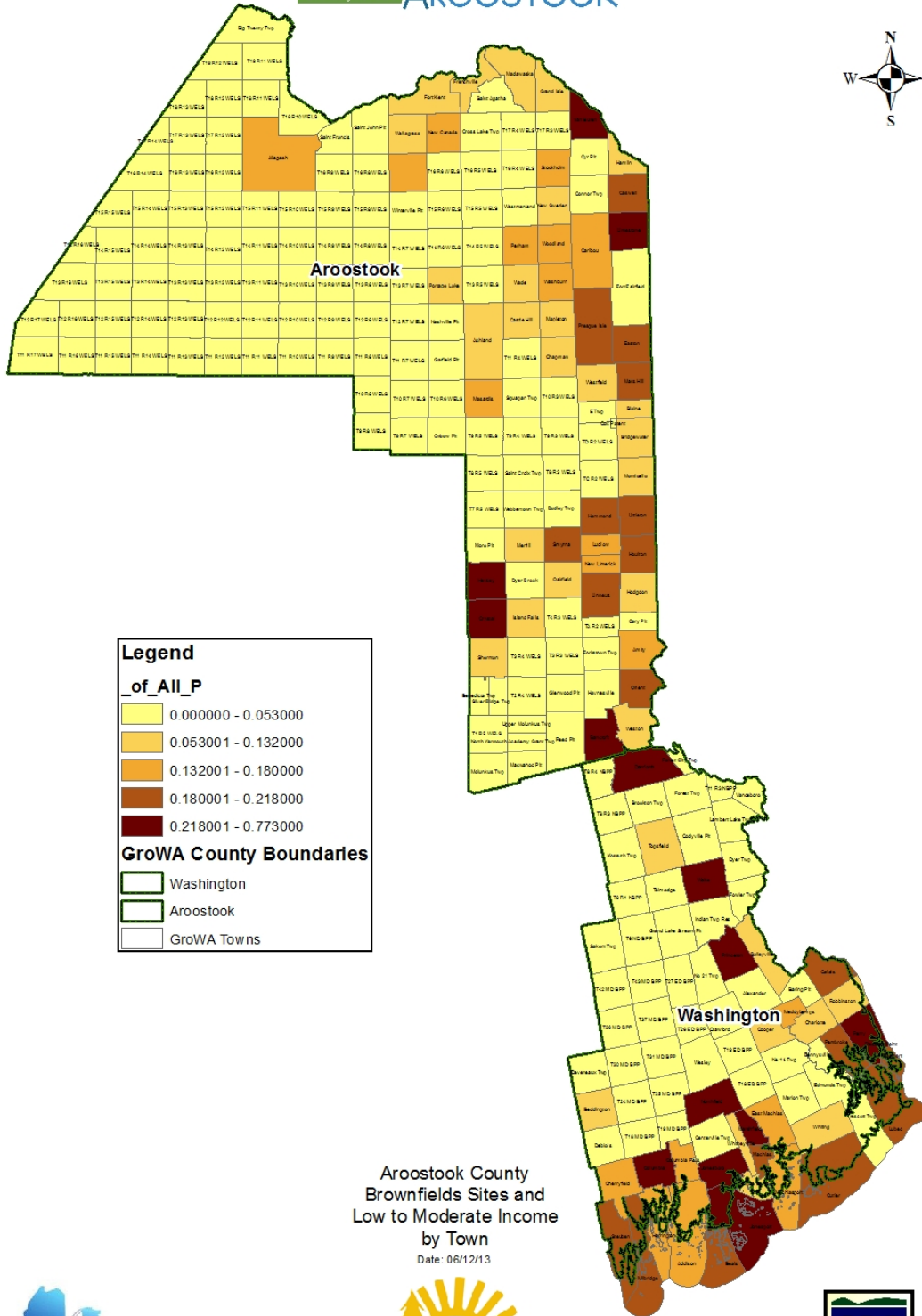
Legend

- AroostookWashingtonTracts
- GroWA Towns
- ConcentratedAreasofPovertybyRaceCommunities

Aroostook Washington Counties
Distribution of People
in Census Tracts
by Race



Date: 12/18/12



Legend

of All_P

- 0.000000 - 0.053000
- 0.053001 - 0.132000
- 0.132001 - 0.180000
- 0.180001 - 0.218000
- 0.218001 - 0.773000

GroWA County Boundaries

- Washington
- Aroostook
- GroWA Towns

**Aroostook County
 Brownfields Sites and
 Low to Moderate Income
 by Town**
 Date: 06/12/13



The 1990, 2000, and 2010 census provides population statistics on race of the population and was used to determine the percentage of the population in each race/ethnicity category. To further study the trend of race and ethnicity in each of the census tracts in Aroostook and Washington counties, data from Brown University was used to make comparisons.

HUD defines a Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) and Ethnic Concentrated Area of Poverty (ECAP) as a census tract with a family's poverty rate greater than 40% of the metro tract average. Using the Metro Area of Bangor, with a rate of 16.6%, there are no census tracts that would be considered as an RCAP or ECAP area. However, when looking at individual communities, there are four communities that have a family poverty rate greater than 40% of Bangor's rate of 16.6%. Two are located in Census Tract 9551, the site of the Passamaquoddy Indian Township and the neighboring community of Talmadge and Census Tract 9556, the site of the Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point Reservation, and Census Tract 9558 consisting of the communities of Cutler and Lubec. In Aroostook County, there are no RCAPs/ECAPs but there are five communities with higher than average poverty rates.

The following table provides additional information on poverty rates and minority rates of each of the census tracts.

Communities	% of Population in Poverty	% of Population that is Minority
Beddington, Codyville, Danforth, Deblois, Grand Lake Stream Plantation, Northfield, North Washington UT, Passamaquoddy Indian Township, Talmadge, Topsfield, Vanceboro, Waite, and Wesley (Census Tract 9551)	29.5%	26.2%
Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point, Perry, Robbinston (Census Tract 9556)	25.8%	36.3%
Eastport (Census Tract 9557)	21.1%	8.0%
Cutler and Lubec (Census Tract 9558)	23.4%	3.0%
Beals, Jonesboro, Jonesport, and Roque Bluffs (Census Tract 9563)	22.3%	2.2%
Grand Isle and Van Buren (Census Tract 9502)	22.2%	2.8%
Limestone (Census Tract 9516)	25.1%	10.8%
Easton and Fort Fairfield (Census Tract 9517)	22.1%	3.5%
Presque Isle (Census Tract 9520)	24.8%	8.0%
Houlton (Census Tract 9524)	20.0%	9.1%
Houlton (Census Tract 9525)	16.6%	7.2%
Hammond, Linneus, Ludlow, New Limerick, Oakfield, and Smyrna (Census Tract 9526)	15.8%	3.4%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2007-2011

This represents 34.5% of Washington County's population and 30.8% of Aroostook County's population living in poverty. The predominant minority population in Census Tracts 9551 and 9556 are American Indians residing in the Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point and Indian Township reservations. In Census Tract 9502 the Van Buren population living in poverty is 24.2% while Grand Isle is 10.7%. The reason for the high percentage rate in this census tract is easily explained as the Town of Van Buren has multiple subsidized housing units containing elderly, handicapped, and disabled individuals. The same is true of Census Tract 9517. The Town of Fort Fairfield has a higher proportion of residents in subsidized housing than other communities within Aroostook County. Limestone's higher than average poverty rate and minority rate includes an African American population residing in that community and either working at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), a payment service for the U.S. Department of Defense, or attending the Maine School of Science and Math. The Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians is headquartered in Presque Isle, located in Census Tract 9520, and also contains minorities who are either working at The Aroostook Medical Center and/or working at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Houlton is the home of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

There are 11 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit housing facilities in Washington County. A map with locations of these facilities follows. Of the 11 facilities, five are located in communities that have a greater percentage rate with families

living below poverty levels than the County of Washington's poverty rate of 14.5%. In Aroostook County, of the 21 LIHTC Housing facilities, eight are located in communities with a higher percentage rate than that of Aroostook County's 10.5% rate (*Van Buren, Fort Fairfield, Houlton, and Presque Isle*).

Key Findings:

- The white population in both Aroostook and Washington counties decreased over the three decades. In Aroostook County the census tract with the least decline in white population was found in the Castle Hill, Chapman, and Mapleton area and the greatest decline in white population was in the Limestone and Houlton area. In Limestone, the closure of Loring Air Force Base explains the reason for the greatest decrease as the Air Force base employed over 7,000 people from all areas of the country. Its closure in the 1990s saw an exodus of people of all races. In Washington County, all census tracts experienced a decrease in the white population, but the decrease was slight as compared to Aroostook County with a 1.75% decrease compared to a 4.72% decrease.
- The black population increased in all census tracts, except for three with Fort Kent, Limestone, and Houlton experiencing the biggest increase. The increase is mostly likely the result of employees at the medical facilities and educational institutions in those service center communities. The Alexander/Princeton census tract and Machias/Marshfield census tract experienced the highest growth in Black population.
- The population in the American Indian category increased significantly in the Fort Kent and St. John Valley region because of the tribal organization known as Wesget Sipu, which was formed in 1999 and is working towards a designation for federally recognized tribes. Other areas of increase include Presque Isle, which headquarters the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians; Houlton which is the site of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; and the Bridgewater/Littleton area where the Micmac Indians own in excess of 120 acres of property. As expected, the increase in American Indian populations was in those census tracts where the Passamaquoddy tribes – Indian Township and Pleasant Point – are situated. Although all census tracts in Washington County experienced some degree of growth.
- The Asian population shows an increase in several census tracts in Aroostook County, mainly in the University of Maine System or Community College communities. In Washington County, the two census tracts showing the greatest increase in Asian population is, again, located in communities with University of Maine System schools.
- The growth in the Hispanic population occurred mostly in the Limestone, Caribou, Presque Isle and Houlton communities of Aroostook County. Most migrant farm workers are primarily Mexican-born workers that travel to Presque Isle to harvest broccoli. Aroostook County has two large broccoli farms concentrated in the Presque Isle area.
- In Washington County, the Hispanic population is most prevalent in the Cherryfield/Milbridge/Steuben census tract. Migrant workers, mostly from Mexico, arrive in Milbridge to harvest blueberries and eventually settle down in the area.

Chapter 4 – Disparities in Access to Opportunity

Aroostook and Washington counties can reduce the level of disparity by looking at opportunities throughout our region; opportunities such as transportation, jobs, health care, education, etc. It is important to identify and assess disparities at the regional/local level. To help in identifying disparities, HUD has created 5 indices –

- School Proficiency Index
- Poverty Index
- Labor Market Index
- Housing Stability Index
- Job Access Index

Other Considerations:

- Crime Rate
- Health
- Access to Recreation
- Other Amenities

- ✓ Data Analysis
- ✓ Deliberate and engagements
- ✓ Decision and prioritization

Opportunity, such as transportation, jobs, health care, education, etc. is most important in people’s lives, but there are disparities that affect access to opportunity, especially the most vulnerable populations in Aroostook and Washington counties. Equalizing access to opportunity must be identified and assessed in such areas as education, labor, housing, job access, health, and other amenities. The tables in the following pages identify the disparities our communities face. Disparities are measured from 1 to 10 with one being the lowest score and 10 being the highest; five is normal. A negative number indicates disparity.

Table 4a – Disparity in Access to Neighborhood Opportunity – All Persons (Family Households)
Northern Maine Development Commission
Program Participant Area

Panel A-All Persons (Family Households)								Disparities				
	All Persons	White Persons	Black/African American Persons	Hispanic or Latino Persons	Asian Persons	Native American Persons	Pacific Islander Persons	Black-White	Hispanic-White	Asian-White	Native American-White	Pacific Islander-White
Opportunity Dimensions:												
Poverty Index	38	39	0	36	0	15	0	0	3	0	24	0
School Proficiency Index	37	37	0	37	0	38	0	0	-1	0	-2	0
Labor Market Engagement Index	36	36	0	35	0	14	0	0	1	0	22	0
Job Access Index	56	55	0	58	0	43	0	0	-3	0	12	0
Transit Access Index	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Hazards Exposure Index	88	88	0	88	0	91	0	0	0	0	-2	0
Counts	100,867	72,220	221	554	243	2,053	9					
Panel B-Persons in Poverty								Disparities				
	All Poor Persons	Poor White Persons	Poor Black Persons	Poor Hispanic or Latino Persons	Poor Asian Persons	Poor Native American Persons	Poor Pacific Islander Persons	Poor Black-White	Poor Hispanic-White	Poor Asian-White	Poor Native American-White	Poor Pacific Islander-White
Opportunity Dimensions:												
Poverty Index	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
School Proficiency Index	42	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Labor Market Engagement Index	32	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Job Access Index	56	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transit Access Index	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Hazards Exposure Index	29	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Counts	17,336	15,130	293	323	63	963	0					

Table 4b – Disparity in Access to Neighborhood Opportunity – All Persons (All Households)
Northern Maine Development Commission
Program Participant Area

Panel A-All Persons (All Households)								Disparities				
	All Persons	White Persons	Black/African American Persons	Hispanic or Latino Persons	Asian Persons	Native American Persons	Pacific Islander Persons	Black-White	Hispanic-White	Asian-White	Native American-White	Pacific Islander-White
Opportunity Dimensions:												
Poverty Index	38	39	33	34	39	17	0	6	5	0	21	0
School Proficiency Index	37	37	37	39	42	38	0	0	-1	-5	-1	0
Labor Market Engagement Index	36	36	35	35	45	17	0	1	1	-8	19	0
Job Access Index	56	56	63	59	60	46	0	-6	-3	-4	10	0
Transit Access Index	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Hazards Exposure Index	88	88	89	88	87	90	0	0	1	1	-2	0
Counts	100,867	94,648	553	1,020	454	2,760	16					
Panel B-Persons in Poverty								Disparities				
	All Poor Persons	Poor White Persons	Poor Black Persons	Poor Hispanic or Latino Persons	Poor Asian Persons	Poor Native American Persons	Poor Pacific Islander Persons	Poor Black-White	Poor Hispanic-White	Poor Asian-White	Poor Native American-White	Poor Pacific Islander-White
Opportunity Dimensions:												
Poverty Index	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
School Proficiency Index	42	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Labor Market Engagement Index	32	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Job Access Index	56	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transit Access Index	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Hazards Exposure Index	29	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Counts	17,336	15,130	293	323	63	963	0					

Table 4c – Disparity in Access to Neighborhood Opportunity – All Children
Northern Maine Development Commission
Program Participant Area

Panel A-All Children								Disparities				
	All Children	White Children	Black/African American Children	Hispanic or Latino Children	Asian Children	Native American Children	Pacific Islander Children	Black-White	Hispanic-White	Asian-White	Native American-White	Pacific Islander-White
Opportunity Dimensions:												
Poverty Index	37	38	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	25	0
School Proficiency Index	37	37	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	-2	0
Labor Market Engagement Index	35	36	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	23	0
Job Access Index	55	55	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	13	0
Transit Access Index	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Hazards Exposure Index	88	88	0	0	0	91	0	0	0	0	-3	0
Counts	100,867	18,082	74	219	81	779	4					
Panel B-Persons in Poverty								Disparities				
	All Poor Children	Poor White Children	Poor Black Children	Poor Hispanic or Latino Children	Poor Asian Children	Poor Native American Children	Poor Pacific Islander Children	Poor Black-White	Poor Hispanic-White	Poor Asian-White	Poor Native American-White	Poor Pacific Islander-White
Opportunity Dimensions:												
Poverty Index	30	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
School Proficiency Index	38	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Labor Market Engagement Index	31	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Job Access Index	56	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transit Access Index	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Hazards Exposure Index	88	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Counts	4,746	3,917	28	94	18	330	0					

According to the HUD generated disparity reports, the NMDC region shows disparities among:

- Hispanic/White in school proficiency and job access proficiency;
- Native American/White in school and health proficiencies;
- Black/White in job access proficiency, and;
- Asian/White in school, labor market engagement, and job access proficiencies.

School Proficiency:

There are 26 schools in Aroostook County and 33 in Washington County. The following table provides a percentage of schools in both Aroostook and Washington Counties receiving an A-F grade as part of the Maine Department of Education’s new grading system

Aroostook County											
A		B		C		D		F		?	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2	7.7%	3	11.5%	13	50.0%	3	11.5%	3	11.5%	2	7.8%
Washington County											
3	9.1%	3	9.1%	11	33.3%	6	18.2%	5	15.2%	5	15.1%

Source: Maine Department of Education, Data Warehouse, 2012

Additionally, the Maine Education Assessment (MEA) scores for all students in Grade 3-5 were released in February 2012. The State of Maine average for math proficiency is 63.05% and reading proficiency is 71.81%. The Aroostook County average is 50.40% for math and 63.73% for reading; and Washington County’s average is 50.86% for math and 57.01% for reading indicating a lower than average score.

Poverty contributes greatly to lower graduation rates and proficiency rates. When reviewing the school’s reduced/free lunch program for each school in Maine, it was noted that the schools in the identified census tracts with high poverty rates also have the highest rate of students receiving free or reduced lunches. For example, 85.9% of Indian Township and 95.1% of Pleasant Point students receive free lunches. In Aroostook County, the highest rate of free or reduced lunches was found in Census Tract 9502 in the community of Van Buren at 65.8%. Improving graduation rates is important for the future well-being of our individuals as well as the economic and social well-being of the region. According to the U.S. census, on average, high school dropouts earn 28% less per year than graduates and 61% less than college graduates. Of the 2011-2012 graduates in Aroostook County, 94.7% were white and in Washington County 93.1% were white.

Unemployment rates for dropouts are 33% higher than for high school graduates, and almost triple for college graduates. The State of Maine dropout rates continue to decline from a 5.1% rate in the 2006-2007 school year, to 3.2% in 2011-2012. L.D. 1658 in 2010, mandates that all publicly supported high schools achieve a graduation rate of 90% by 2015/2016. Maine’s high school graduation rate was 82.8% in 2010. A review of the graduation rates in 2008/2009 were; Vermont – 85.6%; New Hampshire – 83.4%; Massachusetts – 81.5%; Maine – 80.4%; and Rhode Island – 75.5%.

Crime Index

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program produces criminal statistics for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. These statistics are also used to determine the crime problem in Aroostook and Washington counties.

Information gathered by the University of Southern Maine’s Muskie School of Public Service provided the detailed data on the crime index in Maine as well as Aroostook and Washington counties. Aroostook County

has the second lowest rate of indexed crimes in the State. The rate of indexed crime in 2007 was 17.1 per 1,000 residents as compared to the state average of 25.7. However, the violent crime rate has increased 35.9% over the last five years; the property crime rate has decreased by 14.3% over the same period. Juvenile arrests have shown a 27.9% decline over the past five years; and over 10 years, the decline is even more pronounced, registering a 52.7% decrease. The juvenile recidivism rate also remains low compared with the State average. Washington County has seen a slight increase in adult arrests and has maintained a relatively steady index crime rate over the past 10 years. The adult arrest rate increased by 12% over the last five years. In 2007, Washington County's index crime rate of 22.0 per 1,000 residents was below the statewide average of 25.7 per thousand. The property and violent crime rates have remained relatively steady.

Housing Affordability Index

The housing affordability index is based on the median home price, median family income, and average mortgage interest rate. The higher the index, the greater the purchasing power. According to the Maine State Housing Authority's affordability index for 2010, Maine is 0.92 down from 0.95 in 2000. An index of less than 10 means the area is unaffordable. Washington County ranks first among the 16 counties as the most unaffordable. Aroostook County ranks in 8th position.

State	Average 2-Bedroom Unit	Renter Median Income (Household Income)	Income Needed to Afford an Average 2-Bedroom Rent	2 Bedroom Rent Affordable at Median Income	Household Unable to Afford an Average 2-Bedroom Rent	Housing Affordability Index
State	\$826	\$30,478	\$33,040	762	53.8%	0.92
Aroostook County	\$668	\$23,999	\$26,720	600	54.4%	0.90
Washington County	\$806	\$21,904	432,240	548	67.4%	0.68

Major Public Investments

Recent, on-going major investments in Washington County include:

- Port of Eastport's biomass chip manufacturing facility. Plans call for E.J. Carrier, Inc. to ship out 9,000 tons a month of biomass fuel to Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, Canada. In return, Carrier would be importing about 9,000 tons of hardwood chips to the Bangor and coastal areas. The Port of Eastport's proximity to the wood fiber source and being the most easterly port within the United States gained much interest among delegates at a wood fiber conference in Istanbul, Turkey. Large capacity pellet plants to feed the European demand are coming online in the U.S. Approximately 100 jobs are anticipated.

- Portland-based Ocean Renewable Power Company (ORPC) has been engineering, fabricating, and testing underwater tidal generation technology in waters off the Washington County community of Eastport. The company has been working to perfect techniques and technologies required to transform the inherent energy of the powerful currents associated with the Bay of Fundy's massive tides into grid-ready electricity. The TidGen, developed by ORPC sits at the bottom of a free-flowing deep river. This project is on-going and has created approximately 50 jobs. ORPC intends to place 24 underwater turbines in the Western Passage of the Bay of Fundy in 2014.
- The Calais/Saint Stephen International Bridge was opened in 2010 to relieve the heavy traffic and extensive delays that existed at the nearby border crossings at Milltown and Ferry Point. These crossings combined to form the eighth busiest commercial crossing along the U.S./Canada border. On the Canadian side, access to the port is a four-lane highway through St. Stephen and on the U.S. side, there are three lanes to process commercial trucks with drive-through cargo-scanning technology, as well as six bays, allowing cargo to be unloaded, examined and reloaded quickly. The bridge crossing is classified as a Class A U.S. port, which means it is a designated port for all international travelers. Foreign nationals entering the U.S. use Class A Ports of Entry.
- Passamaquoddy Indian Township has several significant road and bridge improvement projects on-going within the Township and in neighboring communities.

In Aroostook County,

- Ecoshel, Inc., a business located in Georgia, is relocating to Ashland, Maine and plans to create 78 full-time manufacturing jobs for low-to-moderate income (LMI) individuals. The business produces a patented cedar-shingle panel that can be used for both roofing and siding applications. Currently, cedar shingle logs from Maine are exported to Canada for manufacturing, with very few jobs or income generated from this valuable raw material. The Ecoshel mission is to bring the cedar-shingle industry back to Maine by introducing a market-leading innovative product, and by developing an automated production process that greatly reduces risk of injury and worker's compensation costs, and allows the company to produce the product efficiently enough to provide good wages, and still compete aggressively in the marketplace.
- The \$13 million international bridge construction connecting Fort Kent, Maine with Clair, New Brunswick, Canada started in March 2012, and is nearing completion. The construction of this new four-span, steel beam bridge is expected to be completed in time for the World Acadian Congress to be held between the two counties in August, 2014.
- The newly constructed Port of Entry in Van Buren is also nearing completion. The international bridge construction, which began in 2010, will provide the region with the ability for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to inspect commercial cargo once the facility becomes operational July 2013. This is a function that only the POE in Houlton had provided in the past. The new facility will also include a canine unit.

- Ameridial of Canton, OH recently announced the opening of a call center in the Town of Fort Kent. The tele-services company will employ 90 full-time employees beginning September 3, 2013. Ameridial President Mark Schmidt describes the community support as unprecedented in the 30 years of Schmidt’s experience in opening call centers. The work ethic in the St. John Valley where Fort Kent is located is known worldwide. Ameridial will process inbound and outbound calls in the healthcare sector.



Chapter 5 – Fair Housing Infrastructure

The Fair Housing Equity Assessment and Regional Assessment of Impediments requires addressing systemic fair housing issues and also requires addressing fair housing capacity and infrastructure in the region. Systemic Discrimination (SD) involves a pattern, practice, or policy where the alleged discrimination has a broad, long-term impact on a group, industry, or geographic area.

In assessing systemic discrimination, we look for indicators, such as available data from research, studies, audits, or other sources about housing market discrimination patterns (rental, sales, lending, insurance, accessibility) that may affect housing siting, access, or services in the region. Once identified, action plans, with related goals, can be developed to address systemic discrimination.

The FHEA provides an opportunity for diverse stakeholders in the region to develop a shared picture of the housing and infrastructure dynamics that enhance, or limit, opportunity. A broad array of stakeholders can be helpful in developing strategies and forming long-term partnerships that address some of the region’s greatest challenges. HUD’s FHEA guide outlines three critical factors to create and implement a successful FHEA.

- Alignment of the FHEA/RAI with other local and regional planning processes
- Robust Community Engagement to Better Address Local Equity Concerns
- Build Local Capacity and Foster Partnerships to Address Barriers to Opportunity

Alignment of the FHEA/RAI with other local and regional planning processes: We recognize that aligning current planning processes with the FHEA is critical towards developing an active document. In July of 2011, Washington and Aroostook counties were combined as one of seven Economic Development Districts (EDDs) in Maine. The purpose for the realignment was to better represent natural economies. The linkage between Aroostook and Washington counties has many similar attributes and unique assets – some of them with great promise and some with serious challenges.

The region faces two critical issues that capture regional leaders' focus – out-migration of our younger population and high energy cost burdens.

- 1) Outmigration: Aroostook County has faced a problem of outmigration among its youth for decades. Concern about youth leaving the County has grown steadily, particularly since the closing of Loring Air Force Base a decade ago. The implications for economic development and other policies affecting youth can be summarized as follows:
 - a. The principal factor affecting youth location choices is the desire to seek additional education in order to improve career and income prospects.
 - b. It will be easiest to attract youth to stay for careers in health, social services, and education. It will be most difficult to retain youth who are interested in the professions, in scientific, artistic, and technological occupations. Economic development efforts to grow opportunities in these areas will be most successful in attracting and retaining youth.
 - c. The key to dealing with youth out-migration must come from addressing the needs of those who are currently in Aroostook County and have not yet left. Understanding the dynamics affecting the locational choices of these two groups will permit leaders to focus both youth retention and economic development efforts on realistic and effective strategies.
- 2) For more than four years the Mobilize Northern Maine (MNM) strategic planning process has been involved in identifying and leveraging our renewable energy assets in the region that can lead to economic growth and job creation. Here is the major **energy challenge**:

Aroostook and Washington County residents and business owners are burdened with high energy costs for heating due to dependence on imported fuel oil as our primary heating source. We believe that this issue, explored in MNM process for Aroostook County and now underway in Washington County, resonates in the entire region. What we know is:

- Aroostook County residents carry **TWICE** the national average burden for residential energy cost compared to their household income
- In 2007, Aroostook County businesses and homes spent \$80.9M in electrical energy and \$52.1M in heating oil.
- 78% of the value of heating oil purchases (**\$40.6M**) **leaves the regional economy** each year.
- The Northern Maine business start-up and growth resources are limited and disconnected to achieve the shift from traditional energy sources to regionally available renewable resources.

These conditions hamper our competitiveness by spending scarce financial resources in a way that exports local wealth, threatens our long-term economic viability, and hampers our economic potential.

These are the opportunities:

- There is sufficient renewable energy resource and supply-chain infrastructure in our region to capture direct impacts by creating 1,316 jobs and \$70M in yearly economic value.
- The region has significant knowledge resources to realize this renewable energy opportunity; University Maine Presque Isle, University of Maine Fort Kent, University of Maine at Machias, Northern Maine Community College, Washington County Community College, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Services and industry leaders like you.
- There is a renewable energy value-chain infrastructure that already exists in the region.

- A solid renewable energy industry cluster network has been created that will support consumer transition and market development.

As we explored the potential of Renewable Energy to lower regional energy costs, the idea came forward of ***creating a regional resource that could assist local entrepreneurs in investigating and evaluating their ideas for new RE products and processes***. In fact, as our discussions progressed, several individuals and businesses contacted us about new technology that could present real opportunities in the Renewable Energy sector.

As a way of creating support for these new ideas and technologies, we want to bring together the technical resources present in the region and make them available to help entrepreneurs explore and assess new innovations in the renewable energy field. Such resources would include:

- Reports, white papers or data in the particular technology field;
- Connection to ongoing research and networks of expertise;
- Information on other innovations or products in similar fields.

Proposed outcomes would be to strengthen the technological base for the proposed process or product that, in turn, could leverage funding to pursue further feasibility analysis leading to manufacture and commercialization.