

Request to Join Statewide Pilot Neighbor to Neighbor

Age Friendly Bowdoinham has been invited by the UMaine Center on Aging and the Governor's Cabinet on Aging to join a one-year statewide pilot to link residents to essential services and social opportunities. Key features of the pilot in Bowdoinham would include:

- This is not a grant program. Funds will not come directly to the Town but instead will come in the form of a stipend from the Maine Center on Aging to an Outreach Coordinator recruited under the pilot. The Coordinator will work 20 hours per week.
- The Coordinator will recruit and manage a team of volunteers who will help connect residents to services, programs and social activities within the community.
- Volunteers will be trained to assess a person's needs and connect them to appropriate supports and programs. Volunteers will remain in contact with participants until connections are successfully made and working.
- The Outreach Coordinator and volunteers will maintain close working relationships with area resources to understand their eligibility requirements, benefits and restrictions.
- An Ambassador will be hired by Spectrum Generations to help address issues and gaps in accessing needed resources. Spectrum Generations is the local area agency on aging serving Bowdoinham and 7 surrounding communities.
- Bowdoinham will be one of 10-15 communities participating in the Pilot. Together with other sites, the Bowdoinham pilot will identify critical gaps in services and better understand how to address existing challenges in accessing services.

Findings from the Pilot will influence continued funding within communities and the Area Agencies on Aging to connect older adults and those with disabilities to needed resources and opportunities.