



Town of Bowdoinham

13 School St • Bowdoinham, ME 04008

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www.bowdoinham.com

Memo:

To: Select Board,
Nicole Briand, Town Manager **Date:** May 19th, 2026

From: Jason Lamoreau, Community
Services Director representing the
Advisory Committee for Age
Friendly Bowdoinham **Reference** 2026 AARP Community
Challenge Grant

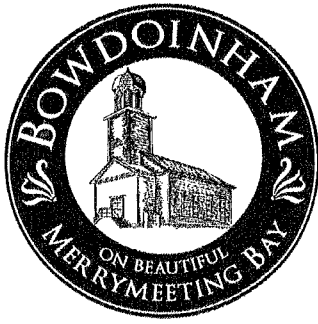
Request to Accept Grant Funding for 2026 AARP Community Challenge Grant

Summary

In August 2025 the Select Board unanimously approved applying for the 2026 AARP Community Challenge Grant for \$2500 to support the development of a home assessment program that allows residents to live safely and comfortably at home as their needs change.

Key components

1. Uses AARP Home Fit Guide as the primary tool to assess barriers and hazards in the home. In addition:
 - Develops a homeowner interview to identify their primary concerns living at home safely
 - Develops Maine specific issues that affect home safety (plowing access to car and to oil tank during winter)
2. Works with local consultants experienced in OT and home health to train volunteers on the use of the assessment tool. **After grant funds end, volunteers will train future volunteer recruits.**
3. Assessor will walk through the home with the homeowner to conduct an assessment..
4. After the assessment, assessors with homeowners will develop clear prioritized recommendations for improving home safety.



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5. Refers small projects to our existing Handy Brigade program. The proposal also includes discretionary funds for Handy Brigade to purchase common items requested in home repair (grab bars, lumber, tape)
6. Refers large projects to area volunteer programs (Comfortably Home/Bath or Habitat for Humanity) or help homeowner find suitable local contractors.

Timeframe

This is a rapid-cycle grant. Project pieces are mostly in place; project will coordinate in cohesive program.

Proposal due	March 4, 2026
Notification of status	May, 2026
Project work begins	June 24, 2026
Project completion	December 15, 2026
After action report due	December 31, 2026

Budget

Consultant assistance for training & trouble-shooting post assessments	\$1000
Gift bag to homeowners with common safety gadgets @ \$10/ea	250**
.....	
Print services for promotional material	150
.....	
Inventory of common repair materials for Handy Brigade	1100
.....	

** The budget estimates a total of 25 homeowners participating in the program over an extended period; however, only 4 assessments are estimated to be completed during the 5-month project period.

Request

The Age Friendly Committee is proud to report that their application for the 2026 AARP Community Challenge Grant has **been selected to receive \$2,500.00 in no-match funding** to be used for the development of a home assessment program that allows residents to live safely and comfortably at home as their needs change.

We are requesting the Select Board to approve the acceptance of this grant funding. Implementation of this home assessment program will allow us to further evaluate and address



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the needs of our aging residents and support their desire to age at home safely. We would appreciate your support of this successful grant application.