

## **Home Loan Assistance Available for Those Directly Affected by Lewiston Shootings October 28, 2023**

USDA Rural Development offers home mortgages in Maine and provides loans for home repairs through our Section 502 and 504 programs. A search of our records indicates that USDA holds more than 1300 loans in the greater Lewiston area, and we are concerned that we may have borrowers in that area who were directly affected by the recent mass shooting. If so, whether they were victims of the shootings or workers displaced from the affected establishments, we can help.

We encourage individuals who were injured in the shootings, or the survivors of victims to reach out to talk to our staff about their USDA mortgage or home repair loan. Anyone employed by the businesses involved in the massacre may also be eligible for assistance. Among other things, USDA may be able to waive late fees for 6 months or implement a 6-month payment moratorium.

Not all borrowers who have obtained a USDA mortgage understand that it is through the USDA, so local lenders may be helpful in sharing this information. The staff in our Lewiston Area Office would be glad to answer questions for lenders and other service providers who are helping borrowers.

**For more information or to request USDA mortgage or loan assistance contact:**

- Our Lewiston Area Office at 207-753-9400 (ext. 4) from 8-4:30 Mon-Fri or
- The USDA Rural Development direct line for borrowers impacted by a tragedy at 1-888-796-0538 or TDD/TTY 800-438-1832 from 8-4:00 Mon-Fri.

Borrowers in the region will be receiving a direct mailing with this information in December. The letter will include details about the assistance available.

Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions.

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*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*