

OUR VISION

Vibrant, equitable and environmentally sustainable local economies enabling all people and communities to thrive.

2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

Our Approach

OUR MISSION

CEI works to build a just, vibrant and climate-resilient future for people and communities in Maine and rural regions by integrating finance, business expertise and policy solutions in ways that make the economy work more equitably.

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIES

Amplify our impact

Grow good jobs, livelihoods, and diverse small business ownership to build a more equitable economy in Maine

Advance an equitable transition to a sustainable economy and resilient climate future

Deepen and broaden our impact by contributing lessons from our practice and advancing a deliberate systems change agenda

Enhance our capacity

Strengthen our foundation for learning and innovation

Incorporate equity in operations and invest in a strong organizational culture inclusive of all staff

Refine our financial self-sustainability model to support new and existing work

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Use an equity lens to learn and to drive action—externally and internally

Build on what we do well, especially our proven sector-based approaches, and on what we learn to position ourselves for greater impact in the future

Deepen our work in Maine while strategically expanding our impact across the Northeast and nationwide

Leverage our experience as a rural practitioner to reduce barriers to opportunity and build new systems that advance equity

Cultivate and nurture relationships with people and places traditionally underserved by our economic system

Remain flexible, adaptive, and responsive to today's rapidly changing economic and policy environment

OUR VALUES

STEWARDSHIP

As careful, responsible managers of the resources entrusted to us, we recognize that our decisions and actions have near- and long-term impacts for people and the planet.

EQUITY

We work to ensure that all people, especially those facing individual or systemic barriers to opportunity, can secure a livelihood that enables them to build assets and share in prosperity.

DIVERSITY

We engage diverse staff, board members and partners who bring lived experience, community connections, and know-how to the problems we aim to solve.

INNOVATION

We foster creativity and entrepreneurial spirit in our networks and in the communities we serve.

COLLABORATION

We share our knowledge, practices and resources and partner with people and organizations to deepen our impact.

