



mPower Loan Program Information

Official Name: Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund

Assumed Name: mPower – “empowering” individuals with disabilities

Mission Statement

The mPower Loan Fund provides Maine citizens and businesses with affordable loans to create access, buy equipment and assistive technology to achieve greater independence, life enrichment, productivity and/or community participation.

mPower Program Background

In 1988, Mr. Kim Wallace of Alpha One led a drive to make low-interest loans available to Maine citizens with disabilities.

- Since then, two bond issues (totaling \$6.5 million) were passed by Maine voters to fund the program. This makes mPower the only citizen-funded type loan program in the country.
- In the past 25 years, more than \$23 million has been loaned to individuals and businesses across Maine.
- As loans are repaid, money is made available for additional mPower loans, creating an ongoing resource for Mainers with disability-related needs.

mPower Board

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of every month, and is made up of nine members who are appointed by the Governor including:

CPA, commercial lender, representative from Treasurer’s Office, representative from Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (Vocational Rehabilitation), and five public members who are individuals with a disability and users of adaptive equipment or assistive technology. Also assisting the Board are Alpha One Staff and FAME Staff.

Loans

- Loans of \$250 to \$100,000 are available to Maine residents for assistive technology;
- Loan interest rates and terms are based on the individual’s ability to repay the loan being sought;
- Loans are also available to businesses for adaptive equipment and modifications to enhance accessibility (through FAME);
- The majorities of individuals who apply for this program have limited income, such as SSI or SSDI; live in subsidized housing; and, receive food stamps and / or fuel assistance.

- Since living with a disability can be very costly, many applicants have poor or no credit history. A high percentage of applicants would not be eligible for a loan through a traditional lender.

Examples of assistive technology include, but are not limited to the following:

- Manual wheelchairs, power wheelchairs and scooters
- Hearing aids
- Computer technology (i.e., Smart devices, large print readers, TTY/video phones)
- Prosthetics and orthotics
- Ramps, stair lifts, stair glides and elevators
- Recreation equipment
- Adapted vehicles ---trucks, cars and vans
- Home access modifications: widen doorways, power door openers, rolling showers

Loan Process

Interested persons begin the application process with Alpha One.

- With offices in South Portland, Bangor and Presque Isle, Alpha One's Independent Living Specialists assist people with disabilities to live more fully and more independently in all aspects of their lives.
- To complete a Consumer Application, call Alpha One at 800-640-7200.
- Business Applications can be found at famemaine.com or prospective applications can contact FAME at 800-228-3734 and request one be mailed to them.
- FAME reviews all loan applications and presents the Board with their recommendations.
- The mPower Board makes the final decision on each loan request.

Contact

For additional information about the mPower Loan Program, please visit: mpowerloans.org

Videos describing the different loans are viewable by clicking on the Personal and Business Loan tabs on the home page.

If you have questions regarding the mPower Loan Program please contact,

Alpha One by phone: 800-640-7200, V/TTY, or

FAME by phone: 800-228-3734.

FAME Contacts:

- Laurie Garrison, Loan Assistant Ext. 3546

Alpha One Contact:

Jeremy Libby, Bangor Office, 207-941-6553

Revised: 1/2/15