



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Wheaton Photography

Economic Impacts of the Future Kitchen at 185

January 2025



Regional Growth Opportunities: Advancing Economic Development in Central Maine

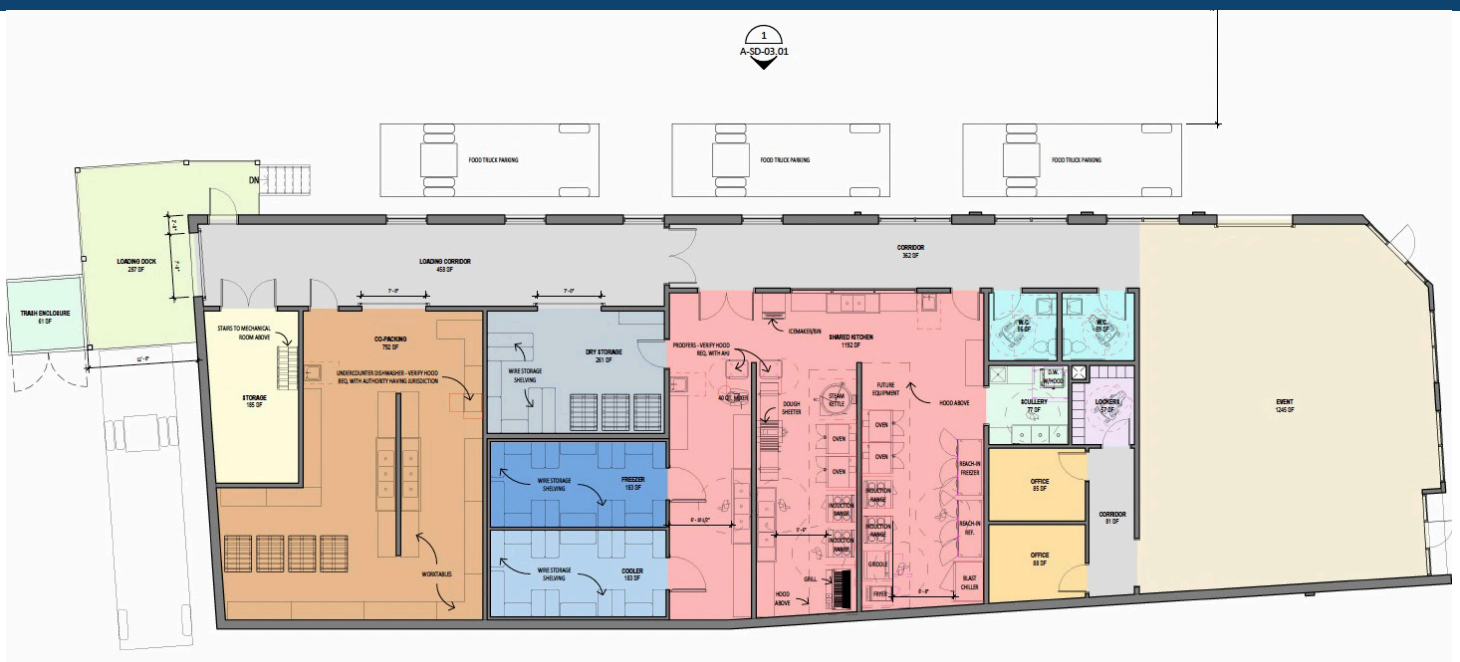
The Waterville-Skowhegan region is on the brink of significant growth, fueled by a series of transformative projects across various sectors. In December 2023, a regional coalition led by Main Street Skowhegan achieved a major milestone by securing a Phase 1 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Recompete Pilot Program.

The Revitalization of Central Maine Coalition was subsequently selected as one of 22 national finalists to apply for up to \$50 million in Phase 2 Implementation funding, with the grant application submitted in April 2024.

As part of the Phase 2 application, Main Street Skowhegan commissioned Camoin Associates to conduct a detailed economic impact analysis for four proposed projects. Main Street Skowhegan is spearheading two of these Skowhegan-based projects, including the Kitchen at 185.

The analysis quantified the economic benefits these developments are projected to generate, including construction impacts, operational benefits, and visitor spending. The study analyzed economic impacts across a core area encompassing Skowhegan, Waterville, and Fairfield.

This report is part of a comprehensive study that highlights the transformative projected impact, reinforcing the case for significant investment in the region.



Rendering of Kitchen at 185 construction design concept



\$4,050,000

*estimated annual
direct sales at the
Kitchen at 185*

The Kitchen at 185: A Catalyst for Entrepreneurial Growth

Main Street Skowhegan is leading the development of the **Kitchen at 185**, a shared-use commercial kitchen incubator in downtown Skowhegan. This state-of-the-art facility will provide food entrepreneurs with affordable access to professional-grade kitchen space and comprehensive business development programs, empowering them to launch and scale their ventures.

Project Highlights

- **Facility Development:** The project involves purchasing, renovating, and constructing a fully equipped, shared commercial kitchen.
- **Entrepreneur Support:** Members will gain access to kitchen space through a membership model, as well as specialized courses tailored to their business needs.
- **Educational Programs:** Main Street Skowhegan will launch the Food Entrepreneur Pathway, a comprehensive program guiding food entrepreneurs from concept to sustainability.
- **Workforce Development:** Main Street Skowhegan will create culinary pathways through training, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships to support and advance Maine's culinary workforce.

Construction Phase Impacts



\$1.6M
*estimated
construction costs*

The total construction hard costs (including labor and materials) to build The Kitchen at 185 will be approximately \$1.6 million. Based on local industry data, approximately \$315,000 in spending will be paid to local construction companies.



2

*local
jobs*



\$146K

*in local
earnings*



\$361K

*in local
sales*

Impact Projections

Main Street Skowhegan estimates that the Kitchen at 185 will support approximately **30 small businesses annually**, offering entrepreneurs the resources to refine their products, expand production, and grow sales. According to a March 2024 feasibility study, businesses operating at the facility are projected to achieve **\$4,050,000 in direct annual sales** once the kitchen is fully operational.

Through this innovative initiative, Main Street Skowhegan is building a vibrant regional hub for culinary entrepreneurship that will strengthen Maine's food economy, create jobs, and position the state as a leader in sustainable and innovative food entrepreneurship.

Annual Impacts of the Kitchen at 185

Through on-site employment and job creation generated by member businesses using the space, The Kitchen at 185 is expected to generate an annual economic impact of:



52

local jobs



\$1.2M

in local earnings



\$5.0M

in local sales



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