

Androscoggin | 1999 | John Ochira
Aroostook | 1986 | Erica McCrum
Cumberland | 2005 | Katie Howard
Franklin | 1992 | John Ochira
Hancock | 2003 | Laura Reed
Kennebec | 2018 | Stephanie Cesario
Knox | 1993 | Cate Cronin
Lincoln | 2014 | Stephanie Cesario
Oxford | 1997 | Katie Howard
Penobscot | 2009 | Laura Reed
Piscataquis | 1986 | Laura Reed
Sagadahoc | 2019 | Stephanie Cesario
Somerset | 1992 | John Ochira
Waldo | 1990 | Cate Cronin
Washington | 1986 | Laura Reed
York | 2007 | Gloria Aponte C

The Community Building Grant Program covers the entire state through our County and Regional Program. Community Building grant decisions are made by volunteer advisors from each county or region. Most of the funding comes from permanent county or regional funds that are dedicated to supporting nonprofits in their area. This map shows the dates of each fund's founding as well as the MaineCF staff member who guides each committee. (Counties marked with an asterisk are part of a regional committee: Franklin and Somerset are under the Western Mountains Committee and Lincoln and Sagadahoc are under the Southern Midcoast Committee.)

Total Awarded:

200 committee grants

\$1.67 million

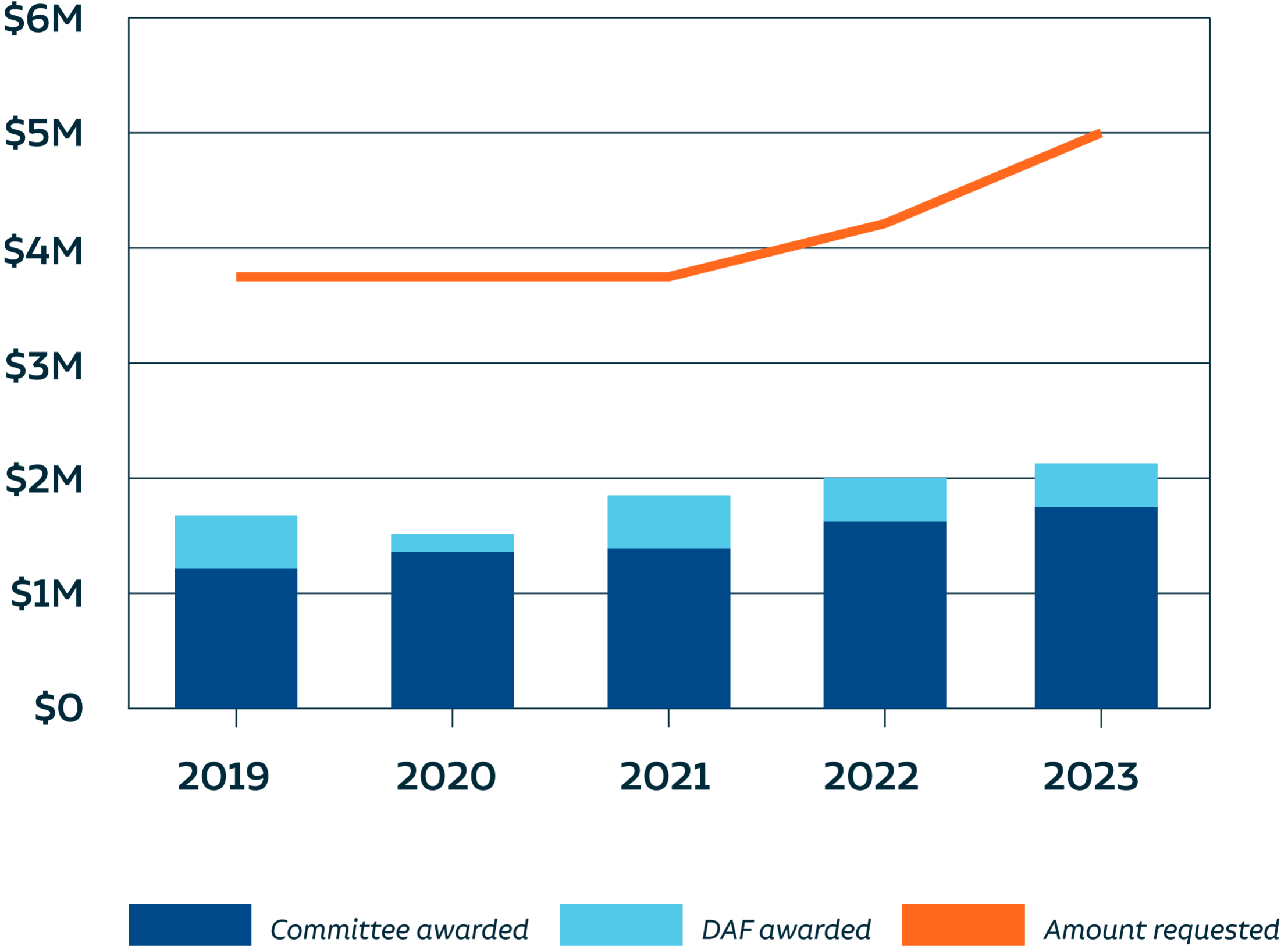
72 donor grants

\$533,263

Total **272** *grants*

\$2.2 million

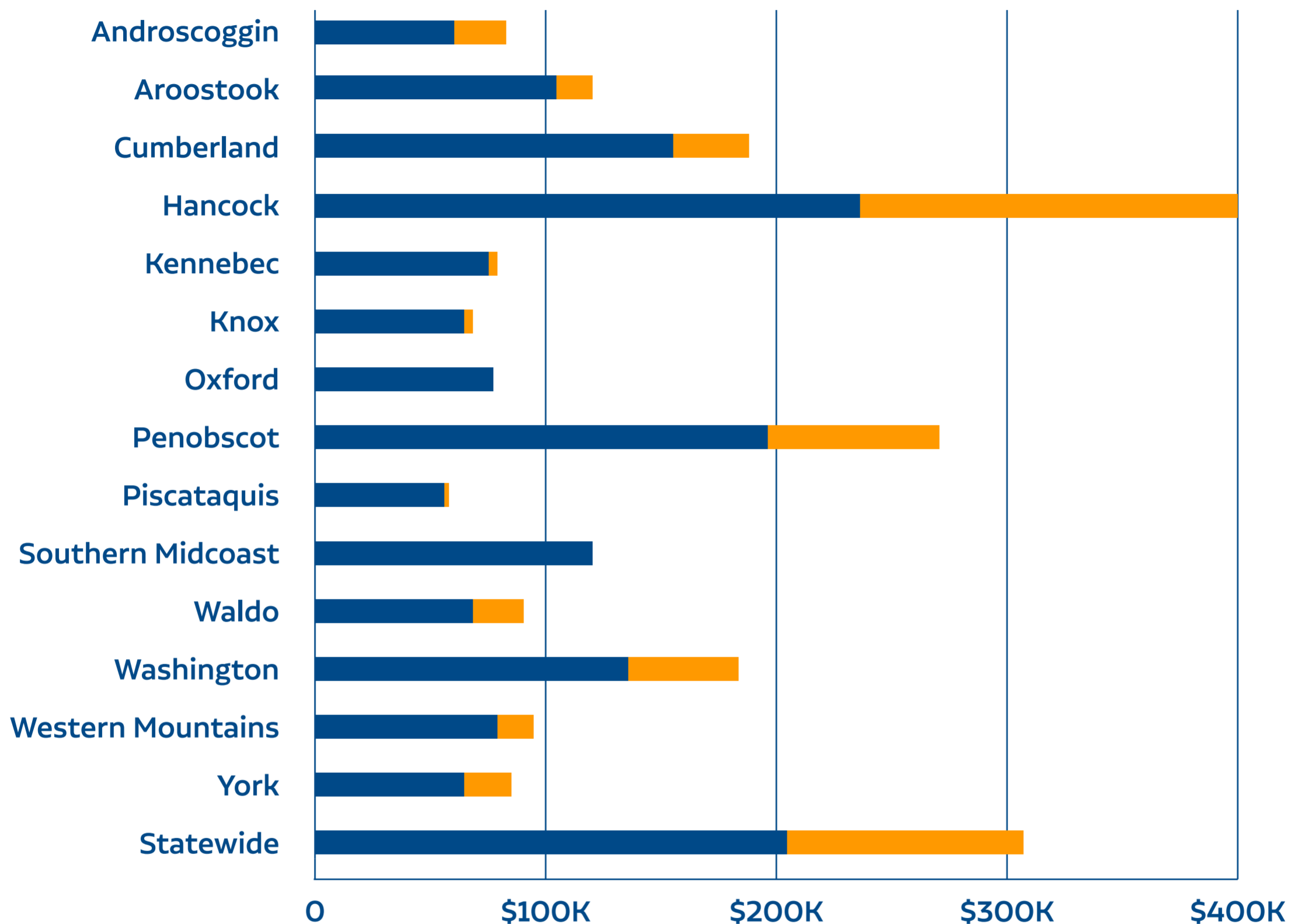
Requests and awards over time



We continue to see requests rise over time. Despite a growth in our grant awards, we have not been able to meet all of the demand. In 2023, we received 544 requests through our Community Building Program, a record.

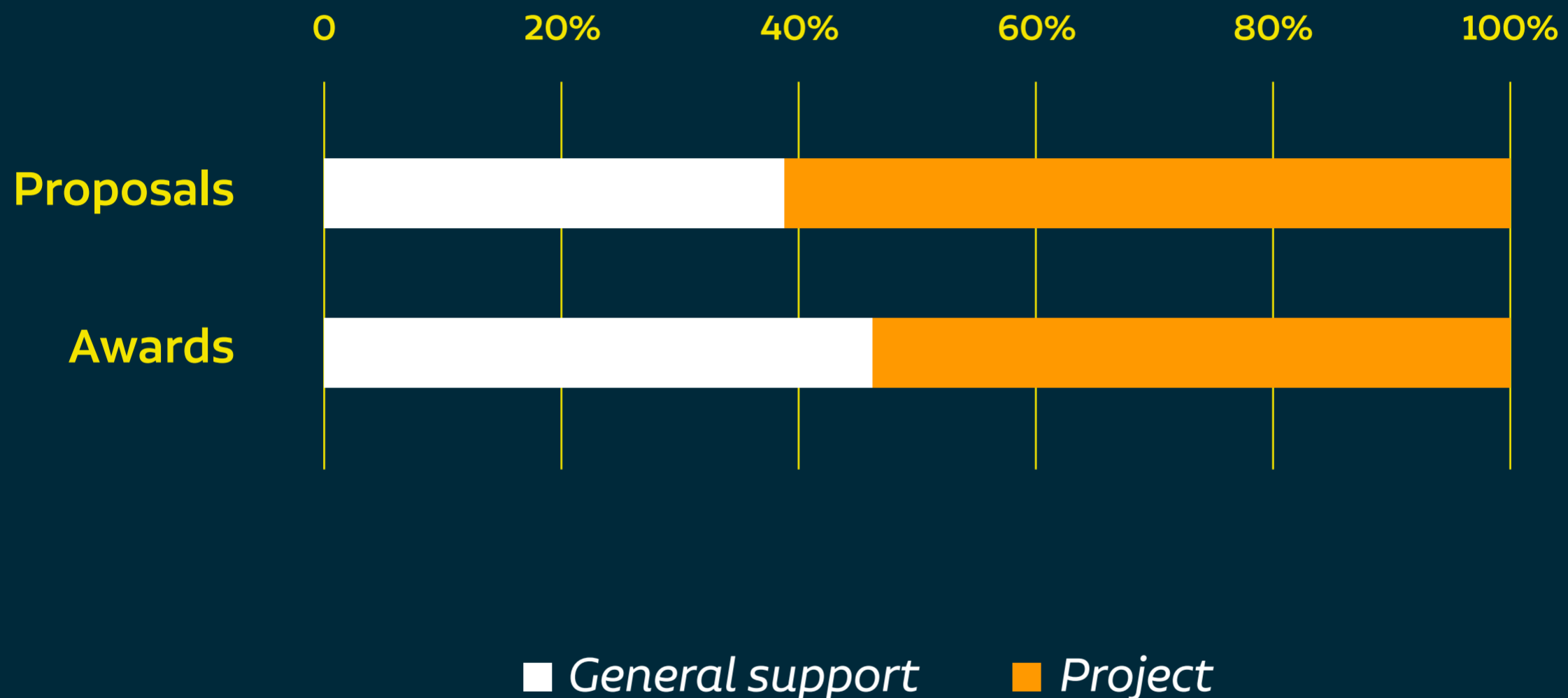
Awards by county

■ Committee awarded ■ Donor awarded



The Community Building Grant Program is administered through MaineCF's County and Regional Program. Grant decisions are made by county and regional committees, each comprised of eight to 12 local volunteer county advisors. MaineCF's county and regional committee grant budgets vary depending upon the age of the county fund, the amount of annual gifts received, and the availability of other county-focused funds.

Percentage of general support vs. project support requests



The Community Building Grant Program provides both project support and general support. We encourage committees to make awards that maintain the general percentage balance between the two types of requests.

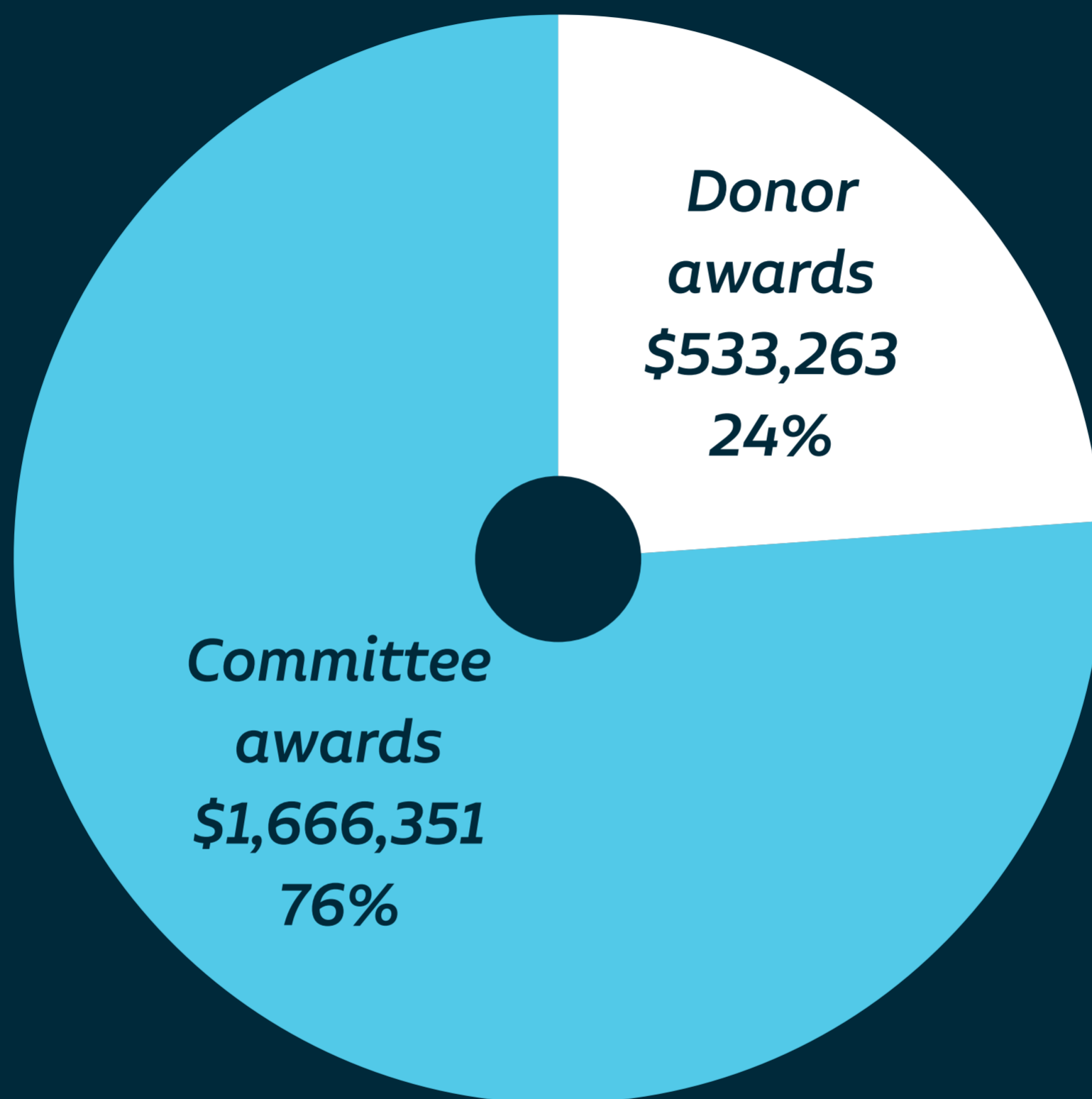
General Support grant story

General support grants allow a committee to support organizations meeting ongoing critical needs in their communities without requiring them to begin a new project or program.

In discussions at a meeting this winter, advisors on the Oxford County Committee identified substance use disorder as an issue of particular concern.

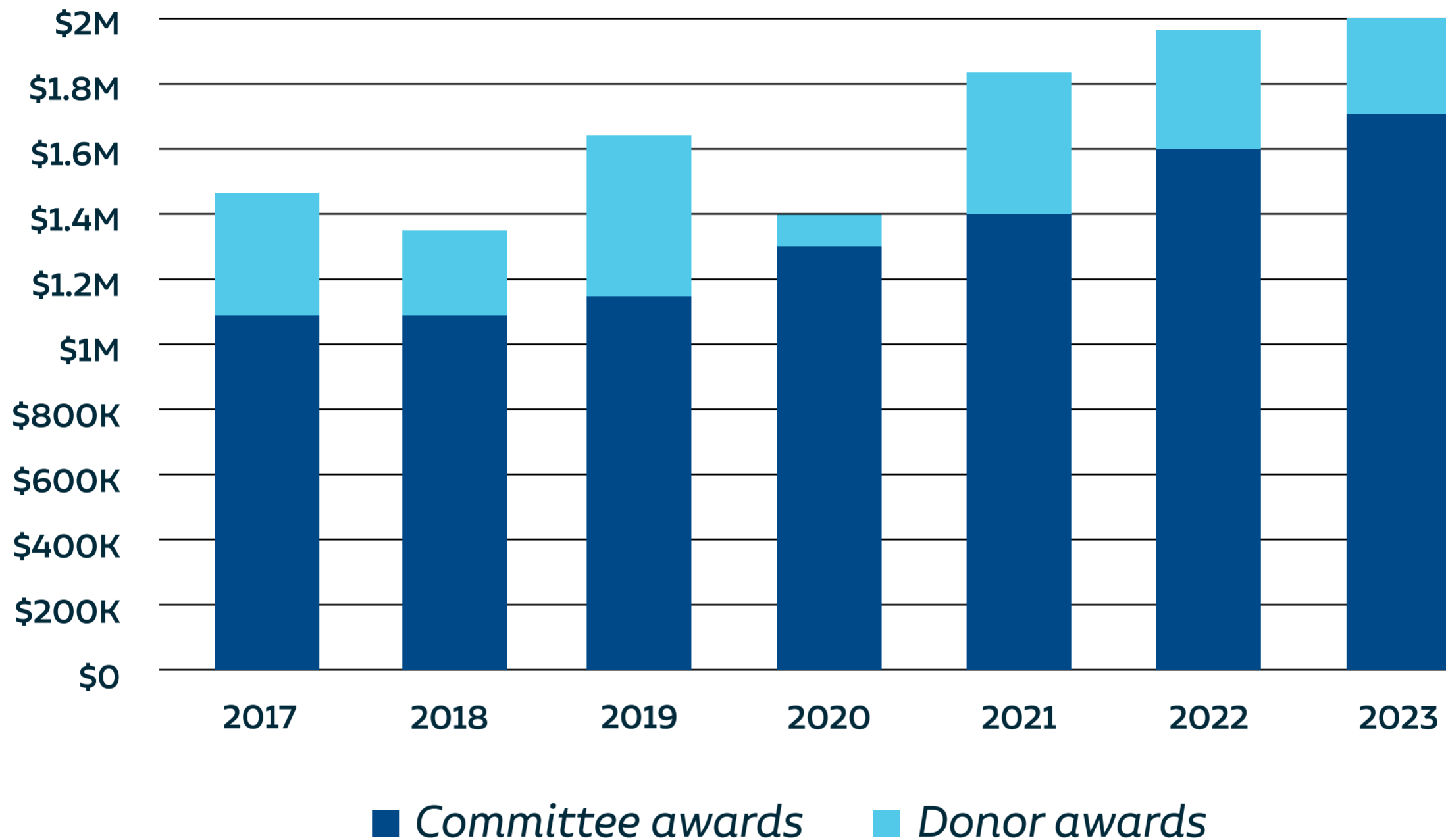
This spring the Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative (WMARI) applied to the Community Building Grant Program to build out their peer support program, provide stipends for recovery coaches, and fund other programs focused on addressing the rise in overdoses in the county. By awarding WMARI a general support grant from the Oxford County Fund, the committee directly addressed an identified concern.

Giving Together: 2023 support



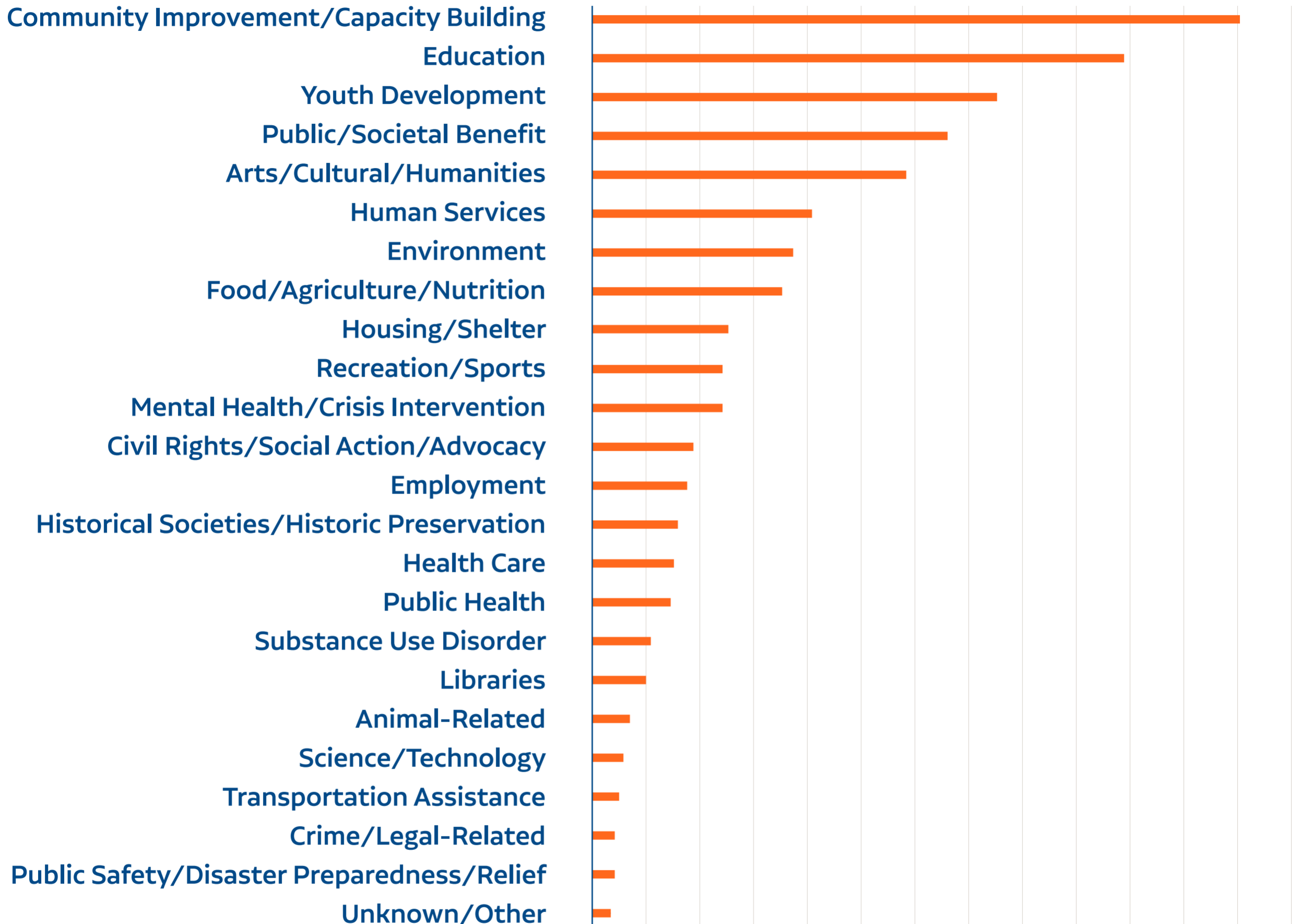
Through our Giving Together program, donor advised fund holders are able to find and fund proposals that meet their interest areas. In 2023, donor funding accounted for nearly a quarter of the awards made during the Community Building cycle.

Giving Together: impact over time



While donor support has varied from year-to-year, overall donor funding has been a growing part of the Community Building awards picture. This allows county and regional committee budgets to stretch farther and results in an overall increase in the number of requests that are funded. Eligible proposals remain on the Giving Together site for a full year, increasing their visibility and chance of being funded.

Interest areas of applications



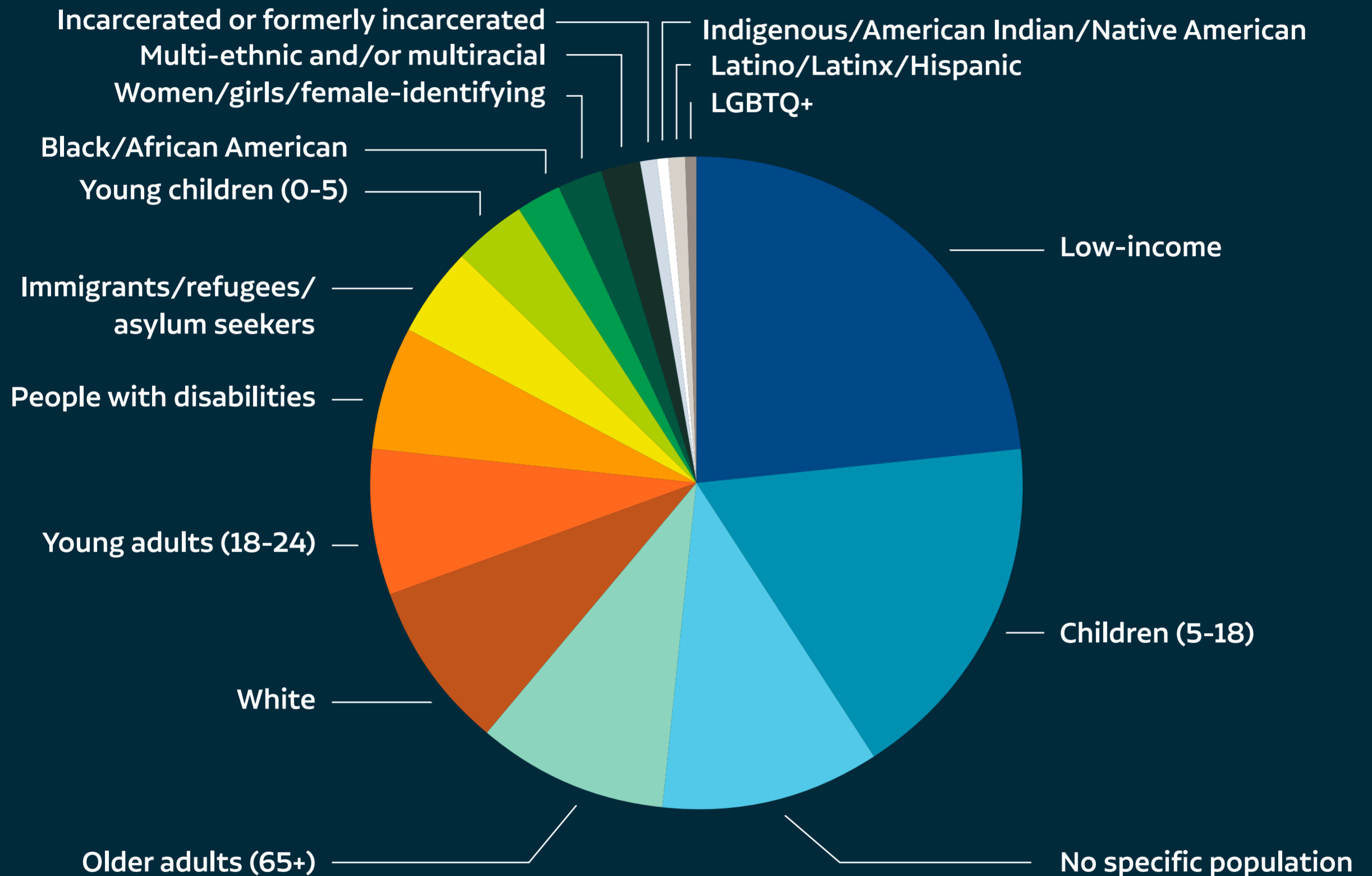
Every applicant to the Community Building Program can choose up to three interest areas that their proposal addresses. The interest areas do not play a significant role in the selection process; however they do provide a window into the issues nonprofits are addressing in Maine.

Project Support grant story

The Friends of Gesner Park in the town of Monroe has been actively working to improve the park to better meet the needs of their growing community. Through a needs assessment process, the Friends group has been building community buy-in and interest in maintaining this historic park and traditional gathering place. With a growing youth population and the nearest playground a significant drive away, finding ways to make the park work better for children and families was a high priority.

The Waldo County Fund Committee provided a \$10,000 project support grant to help the town install new playground equipment, spruce up the aging basketball court, and add a community equipment shed. This investment in community improvement will help broaden the park's appeal for all residents.

Populations served



For the first time in 2023, we asked applicants to select up to three populations that their proposal would serve. This will allow us to track our impact on specific populations over time. This chart shows the populations served by our grant awards in 2023.

Themes identified by staff

*substance use
disorder
crisis*

*need for general
support in rural
communities*

*libraries as
community
centers*

*need for basic
human needs/
human services
support*

*needed assistance
for immigrants/
refugees/asylum
seekers*

*mental health
needs, especially
for youth*

*housing
and food
insecurity*

*climate change/
stewardship*

*youth
organizing
youth*

After the Community Building Grant Program ends, MaineCF staff review the program and process to find potential areas of improvement and identify any learnings and trends. This year, staff identified the following trends across regions.

Looking Ahead

MaineCF staff are currently reviewing the Community Building grant program and considering changes/revisions for 2024.

The program will reopen Nov. 15, 2023 and the application deadline will be Feb. 15, 2024.

Feedback for the Community Building Program is always welcome. Feel free to contact the staff member for your region: mainecf.org/county