



MAINE LAND PROTECTION REVIEWER ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES 2023

The Maine Community Foundation is searching for individuals to help review proposals for the Maine Land Protection grant program. We are recruiting community members who can bring their unique perspectives to help inform our grantmaking. We are particularly interested in hearing from younger people, people who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (BIPOC) and/or as LGBTQ+, as well as those from communities with limited access to opportunities to explore the outdoors.

About Maine Land Protection Grant Program

Maine Land Protection provides grants to purchase land or to create legal agreements (known as conservation easements) that increase access and build strong connections between people in Maine and the land and water. The Maine outdoors is a uniquely special place, and we believe all people in Maine should have the opportunity to experience nature. This grant program provides 5-7 grants per year of up to \$50,000. Projects funded by this program must:

- **Create or increase permanent access** to land and water, particularly to marginalized and historically excluded populations (such as those with low incomes, disabilities, mental health conditions, limited English proficiency; people of color or racial minority groups; immigrants and/or refugees; and those who identify as LGBTQ+) and communities with limited conservation opportunities
- **Involve and have support from** community members and interested stakeholders, (for example, other non-profit organizations, local businesses, and municipal officials or committees, etc.)
- **Include a vision or plan for the future use** of the land or easement, including strategies to engage people and communities in developing uses and organizational plans to care for the land over time.

For more details about the program, please visit our website [here](#).

Reviewer Overview

The primary role of a reviewer is to read proposals, provide comments, and recommend funding based on the program criteria and priorities. We are recruiting a diverse group of reviewers with a broad range of experiences and backgrounds and a passion for the outdoors and the many benefits that access to land and water can provide. Your comments and recommendations will be taken into consideration by MaineCF staff and a small committee who will make the final funding decisions.

Training & Support Provided:

- Reviewers are offered a stipend of \$350

- Reviewers will have access to the staff for questions and support
- Reviewers will receive training with an overview of MaineCF, the grant program, and the proposal review process, including using our online system.

Time Commitment/Schedule:

- October 4, 12-1 PM: One-hour orientation and online review training
- October 5 – October 25: Reviewers must commit to reviewing 8-10 proposals which we estimate will take approximately 6-8 hours. *NOTE: Time commitment may vary depending on the number of reviewers recruited and the number of proposals received.*
- October 25: Deadline to submit reviews

Qualifications & Skills Needed:

- Reviewers should have general knowledge of land conservation and environmental organizations in Maine, but no technical knowledge is required. Reviewers do not need to have a professional affiliation with an environmental organization, but if so we welcome staff or volunteers at any level.
- Reviewers should have access to the internet and a computer and be comfortable using an online system.
- Reviewers should have the ability to evaluate proposals based on specific criteria.

Conflict of Interest:

It is in the best interest of Maine Community Foundation to be aware of and properly manage all conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict of interest. Volunteers are expected to disclose all conflicts of interest to ensure that the review process is conducted in compliance with our conflict-of-interest policy.

Next Steps:

If you are interested in being considered as a volunteer reviewer, please complete the online form [HERE](#) by September 8. MaineCF staff will consider all complete submissions, responding no later than September 15. For more information, contact Stephanie Cesario, Program Officer, at scesario@mainecf.org or (207) 412-0824.

We thank you for your time and interest.