2023 Conservation for All
Info Session August 2, 12-1 PM

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Today's Agenda

We will be recording this session and posting it on the website. These slides will be shared as well.

- Introductions – *Use the chat to share your name and your organization or community.*
- Maine Community Foundation Quick Overview
- Conservation for All Overview
  - Criteria and Priorities
  - Statistics
  - Grant Types
- Timeline
- Q & A
MaineCF Overview

**Vision**
Maine is a vibrant and equitable place where all people and communities thrive.

**Mission**
To bring people and resources together to build a better Maine.

**Values**
- **Integrity:** We earn trust by being honest & open in everything we do.
- **Respect:** We treat everyone with dignity and civility.
- **Stewardship:** We manage the resources entrusted to us responsibly.
- **Equity:** We promote just and fair access to opportunities for all people.
- **Collaboration:** We work with others to achieve common goals.
MaineCF Overview

2022 Numbers

- Number of funds: 2,200+
- Competitive grants: $4.1 million
- Scholarships: $2.6 million
- Donor grants: $44.7 million
- 320 Nonprofit Agency funds
- Total grants: $59+ million
The Maine Community Foundation is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and ensuring that Maine is a welcoming place for all people.

We believe that all Maine people:

• should feel welcome, safe, and accepted;
• should be treated with respect and dignity;
• and should have equitable access to opportunities to improve their lives and the lives of their families.
The "Fund for Maine Land Conservation" grant program started in the early 1990s. In 2018, MaineCF received a major donor bequest which created 2 new land-based grant programs:

1) **Maine Land Protection**, which offers support for community-based land acquisition or conservation easements.

2) **Conservation for All**, which offers project and general support to build strong connections between people in Maine and the land and water.

Photo: Kittery Land Trust
Purpose

The Conservation for All grant program invests in organizations and projects that build strong connections between people in Maine and the land and water.

**General support grants** to land trusts in Maine whose work meets program criteria

**Project grants** to organizations implementing projects that meet program criteria.

Maximum award: $15,000
The organization or project must:

• **Create or facilitate access to and use** of land/water for marginalized and/or historically excluded populations. This means:
  
  • Taking *specific actions* to increase opportunities for those who are not accessing or using the outdoors by, for example, reducing physical or economic barriers, increasing awareness, or creatively encouraging participation

• **Engage people** who will benefit or be impacted by involving them in the design, implementation, and/or evaluation of the work.
Conservation for All Priorities

**Additional Priorities:**

- Have an annual operating budget of $750,000 or less
- Engage a range of people within organizational leadership, including marginalized and historically excluded people as decision-makers at the board or staff level
- **Address impacts of climate change** on communities and people who are most affected.

Photo: Western Foothills Land Trust
2022 Stats

- Applications received: 43
- Total requested: $535,135
- Number of grants: 12
- Grant dollars awarded: $153,000
- Average Award: $12,750
- 28% of applicants received grants
- Additional grants by donors: 7 grants totaling $34,400
Conservation for All
2022 Grants

- **Blue Hill Heritage Trust**, to create an accessible trail: $15,000
- **Friends of the Presumpscot River**, *Westbrook*, to hire an education and outreach employee to increase the scope of its educational programming, especially for youth and immigrants: $15,000
- **Harpwell Heritage Land Trust**, to expand its impact and reach in the Harpswell community through conservation, education, and access to land and shore: $10,000
- **Intercultural Community Center**, *Westbrook*, to expand accessibility for environmental education: $10,000
- **Kennebec Land Trust**, *Winthrop*, to increase access to conservation land for underserved populations: $15,000
- **Land in Common**, *Greene*, to collaborate with communities directly impacted by injustice on projects that create land access for affordable housing, foodways, ecological stewardship, social transformation, joy, and liberation: $15,000
- **Land Peace Foundation**, *Bangor*, to expand environmental- and climate change-focused programs: $15,000
- **Main Street Skowhegan**, to purchase a fleet of whitewater kayaks: $12,500
- **Maine GearShare**, *Portland*, to increase its inventory and break down barriers for people who can’t access gear: $12,500
- **Monson Free Public Library Association**, to expand its gear library: $11,000
- **Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative**, *Portland*, for conservation that addresses social equity, climate change, organizational efficiency, and collective impact: $15,000
- **Women for Healthy Rural Living**, *Milbridge*, for its Outdoor Women Lead program: $10,000
Defining Terms

What do we mean by marginalized and/or historically excluded populations?

*Communities with limited safe, equitable outdoor opportunities:*
  * Black, Wabanaki, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC),
  * LGBTQ+ and/or TGNC people,
  * People with low incomes/experiencing poverty
  * People experiencing disabilities,
  * People experiencing mental health conditions,
  * English Language Learners,
  * Immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers
Clarifying General Support vs. Project

• General Support—land trust organizations whose work meets the program criteria
  • *If you are applying for general support, please list ongoing programs or activities that a grant would support.*

• Project Support—organizations implementing projects that meet the program criteria
  • *If you are applying for a project, this should be a description of specific project activities and goals.*
1. Proposals screened by staff for eligibility
2. All eligible proposals reviewed and scored by Advisory Committee based on the program criteria
3. Advisory Committee makes award funding decisions
4. Award decisions notified by email and awards are sent via snail mail
5. Eligible proposals not funded by Advisory Committee remain on donor portal for 1 year
6. Grantees submit reports 1 year from funding
Conservation for All 2023 Timeline

• Deadline September 15th
• Review September through November
• Decisions early December 2023
• Reports Due September 2024
Thank you for joining us today!

Questions any time:
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