



BIPOC Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 12/5/2023

Can the organization I work with apply to the BIPOC Fund?

Maine Community Foundation has general “eligibility and grant guidelines” for all grant programs. These are the rules for applying to all competitive grant programs at the foundation. See this webpage to read the guidelines and check that your organization is eligible to apply: <https://www.mainecef.org/apply-for-a-grant/help-for-applicants/grant-guidelines/>

The BIPOC Fund also has specific criteria (requirements). Your organization must be able to answer yes to these four questions.

- My organization has a Maine address.
- My organization offered programming for the community last year (2023) that served mostly Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color.
- My organization involves Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color in leadership positions on the board and staff of the organization.
- My organization involves Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color in the design, delivery, and evaluation of our programs and services.

The criteria and priorities can be found here: <https://www.mainecef.org/apply-for-a-grant/available-grants-deadlines/black-indigenous-and-people-of-color-fund/> .

What type of funding and how much is available through the BIPOC Fund?

Organizations tell the foundation that General Support grants are the best kind of funding because the organization can use the funds for anything they need. The organization chooses to use the funds to support programming or operations or both.

In 2024, we will only accept proposals for General Support. We will not accept proposals for projects support.

New this year, we will award TWO YEAR general support grants. If awarded, the first grant of \$10,000 will be awarded in May 2024. A second year of funding in the amount of \$10,000 will be awarded in 2025 to those same organizations after they complete an online progress report.

The BIPOC Fund grant program WILL NOT accept proposals for support in 2025.

Who should I contact if I have questions about if my organization is eligible to apply?

Please contact Gloria Aponte C., Senior Community Partner, at gaponteclarke@mainecf.org or call 207-412-0847.

Why are faith-based organizations not eligible to apply for General Support?

MaineCF's eligibility and grant guidelines state we will not fund without exception religious activities, including, but not limited to, religious services, promotion of religious beliefs, or activities that are restricted to church or religious group membership. Faith-based organizations may be eligible to apply for project support from some of the foundation's other grant programs.

Is there a Word version of the application that I can use offline?

Yes! You can find a Word document with all the application questions along with some guidance on our website: <https://www.mainecef.org/apply-for-a-grant/available-grants-deadlines/black-indigenous-and-people-of-color-fund/>. You can use this document to work offline. Then, copy and paste text into our online system. Please notice that there are word count limits so you will want to allow time to make sure your answers fit within the word count allowed. Our online system allows you to save your work so the application can be filled out over a few days. It also allows you to add other people who can read and edit the application so more than one person can add information.

Please note we do not accept paper copies or PDF/Word versions of the application.

Do you have translated versions of the application?

Yes! Translated versions will be available in December in Arabic, French, Portuguese, and Spanish on our website: <https://www.mainecef.org/apply-for-a-grant/available-grants-deadlines/black-indigenous-and-people-of-color-fund/>

How do I start the online application?

Step-by-step instructions can be found here: <https://www.mainecef.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/How-to-Start-an-Online-Grant-application.pdf>

If you still have difficulty starting an online application, you can send an email to grantproposals@mainecf.org or call Community Impact Associate Joey Lendaro at 207-412-0835.

If our organization is new, are we eligible for general support?

New organizations are only eligible to apply if they have offered programming for the community last year (2023) that served mostly Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color and meet all of the BIPOC Fund criteria and the foundation's eligibility and grant guidelines. We encourage you to use the Word document with all the application questions along with some guidance on our website: <https://www.mainecef.org/apply-for-a-grant/available-grants-deadlines/black-indigenous-and-people-of-color-fund/>

What if I have a fiscal sponsor?

Please review what you need to do when using a fiscal sponsor on our website. You should answer all questions on the application as the applicant organization. In the Organizational Financial Information section, use your group's financial information, not the fiscal sponsor's information. <https://www.mainecef.org/apply-for-a-grant/help-for->

applicants/fiscal-sponsorship/

What is the process for reviewing proposals?

All proposals received are reviewed by staff to make sure they are eligible. Depending on the number of proposals received, a subcommittee may consider alignment with the criteria to limit the final pool of proposals. All proposals included in the final review pool are assigned to a BIPOC Fund advisor or staff member who will serve as the lead reviewer and follow up with the applicant contact by telephone in late March or early April. The BIPOC Fund advisors review all the proposals included in the final review pool and decide which proposals to fund.

Will my proposal be shared with donors?

MaineCF works with many individual donors. All proposals that meet the grant program criteria will be added to our online donor portal for donors to review and consider funding. Staff also share proposals of interest directly with donors who choose not to use the online portal. Donors may choose to partially or fully fund a proposal. Please note proposals that don't meet the eligibility guidelines or BIPOC Fund criteria will not be shared with donors.

When a donor makes a grant, we will send a letter and check by regular mail. This means that you may get a check before the review committee meets. The proposals will remain in the donor portal for approximately one year.