



## **Broad Recovery Efforts & Organizations Fund**

### **Final Protocol Overview**

The Broad Recovery Efforts & Organizations Fund was established in response to the October 25, 2023, mass shootings in Lewiston, Maine. The Fund will distribute grants to nonprofit organizations located in the L-A region that are addressing current and emerging needs and supporting the healing and recovery of the community. The grants are for unrestricted general operating support and have no reporting requirements.

Decisions about eligibility and distribution are made by the local Steering Committee with intentions of transparency, integrity, compassion, and fairness. This Final Protocol was informed by the protocol established for the Victims' Fund, which was informed by the experience of many similar efforts after mass casualty events. The Final Protocol incorporates feedback received by steering committee members and by a broad network of L-A community-based organizations.

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The Final Protocol proposes eligibility for nonprofit organizations located in the Lewiston-Auburn region that provided and are continuing to provide relevant services and support to people who were present at the shootings and others in the community who suffered psychological trauma as a result of the shootings.

An online application will be available on or around February 5, 2024.

All interested parties should sign up for the Fund's contact list by filling out and submitting the form on [www.maineef.org/Lewiston](http://www.maineef.org/Lewiston). Emails will be sent regarding:

- When the application is available
- When the deadline for submitting an application is approaching

MaineCF staff are available to help answer questions through phone calls or meetings. Email [Lewiston@mainecf.org](mailto:Lewiston@mainecf.org) with any questions or to set up a meeting.

## Steering Committee

Rebecca Swanson Conrad, Chair	RSC Consulting
Joleen Bedard	United Way of Androscoggin County
Kevin Bohlin	Maine Association of the Deaf
Nathan Davis	Gateway Community Services Maine
Virginia Dearani	Thomas College
Julia Harper	Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn
Jake Langlais	Lewiston Public Schools
Muhidin Libah	Somali Bantu Community Association
Leslie Ogilvie	Tri-County Mental Health Services
Julia Sleeper-Whiting	Tree Street Youth

The committee will be facilitated by the following MaineCF staff:

- Laura K. Lee, VP of Community Impact
- John Ochira, Community Partner

### Final Protocol, February 2, 2024

This is the Final Protocol which will govern distribution of the Broad Recovery Efforts & Organizations Fund (the Fund). It was modeled off the Final Protocol of the Victims & Families Fund, which was developed by Jeff Dion and his associates. This Final Protocol will incorporate relevant feedback from the Steering Committee and the broader network of nonprofits in the L-A community.

All aspects of this Final Protocol, including, without limitation, the eligibility categories, distribution criteria, application process, and timetable, may be revised and are subject to the full and complete discretion of MaineCF as the Fund Administrator. Funding levels are determined by the Steering Committee.

The Fund was enhanced through the generosity of individual donors, businesses, and foundations. It will be used to support nonprofit organizations located in the L-A region that provided relevant services or support to people who were present at the Just-In-Time Recreation and Schemengee's Bar and Grill during the shootings on October 25, 2023, and to people who suffered psychological trauma as a result of the shootings.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM ON MARCH 4, 2024, TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT.

The amounts awarded from the Fund will take into consideration variables that include: (1) the balance in the Fund when it is closed for donations on February 20, 2024; (2) the

completion of the review of all submitted applications; and (3) the review and approval by MaineCF staff and the Steering Committee.

## **SECTION ONE: ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for a grant from this fund, a nonprofit organization must be located in the L-A region and must have provided or are continuing to provide relevant services or support to people who were present at the time of the shootings at Just-In-Time Recreation and Schemengee's Bar and Grill in Lewiston and/or support to people in the L-A region who suffered psychological trauma as a result of the shootings.

Examples of relevant services or support may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Mental health services such as therapy, counseling, and other trauma response treatments
- Emergency food and supplies
- Transportation, ASL interpretation, cultural brokering, and other forms of assistance in navigating support services
- Trauma-informed health and social-emotional wellness education and people-focused support programming i.e., yoga, meditation, art, peer support, etc.
- Victims focused legal and social services.

## **SECTION TWO: PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

Eligible nonprofit organizations must submit an online application to receive a grant from the Fund. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DEADLINE OF 11:59 PM ON MARCH 4, 2024. MaineCF reserves the right in their sole discretion to grant a deadline extension.

The process and procedures for consideration of eligible applications will be as follows:

- A. The Final Protocol to govern the Fund and a link to submit an online application for a grant will be emailed to all known potential applicants who have signed up for the Fund's contact list on the MaineCF website: <https://www.maineef.org/initiatives-impact/lewiston-auburn-area-response-fund/broad-recovery-efforts-and-organizations-fund/>. The Final Protocol and information concerning the application process will also be available on the MaineCF website beginning on or about February 5, 2024. MaineCF staff will administer and process the applications. Questions regarding the completion of an application should be sent via email to [Lewiston@mainecf.org](mailto:Lewiston@mainecf.org).
- B. MaineCF staff circulated a Draft Protocol to a broad network of L-A nonprofit organizations and invited input and comments. Information collected through this process, meeting with the local steering committee, and correspondence with applicants and other interested parties were considered in creating the Final Protocol.
- C. Shortly after the deadline for submission of all financial contributions and the final review and determination of all eligible applications by MaineCF staff, grants will be

issued. MaineCF staff will propose grant determinations to the Steering Committee for approval.

- D. After grants have been issued, MaineCF will publicly share award information on its website.

### **SECTION THREE: OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION**

- A. MaineCF may conduct outreach to organizations that may be eligible for a grant from the Fund by telephone, email, and other forms of electronic communication to provide information on the application process, answer questions related to completing applications and to work to ensure that all eligible organizations that wish to submit applications are able to do so before the March 4, 2024, deadline. MaineCF does not guarantee that all who may be eligible will be contacted, nor does it guarantee that all eligible organizations who are in contact with MaineCF will be included in the Final Distribution. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure that the application is submitted before the deadline.
- B. The Final Protocol and application information will be disseminated to all known organizations that have signed up for the online contact form on the MaineCF website. MaineCF staff will work directly with applicants as requested so that applications are submitted by the March 4, 2024, deadline.
- C. Applicants may request to schedule optional virtual meetings or by telephone with MaineCF staff during the time the application is open between February 5 and March 4, 2024. Meetings will be scheduled at mutually convenient times. To request a meeting, please email a request to [Lewiston@mainecf.org](mailto:Lewiston@mainecf.org).

### **PROPOSED TIMELINE**

- January 22, 2024: Meeting of Steering Committee; feedback on Draft Protocol
- January 25, 2024: Share Draft Protocol with broader network
- February 2, 2024: Final Protocol published to MaineCF website
- February 5, 2024: Application is available online. Application instructions are disseminated to all known applicants and potential applicants.
- February 5–March 4, 2024: Applications completed and submitted online
- February 20, 2024: Fund closes to donations
- March 4, 2024: Deadline for submission of applications. Online application closes at 11:59 pm.
- March 21, 2024: Steering Committee approves Funds Distribution Plan
- March 25–April 5, 2024: MaineCF processes grants and mails out checks.