



## **Land for Communities Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **If not purchasing land, what types of project costs are eligible?**

Projects focused on the program criteria may include, but are not limited to, costs associated with land access (such as lease agreements or right of way agreements), infrastructure on a property (such as a building or structure for community use), technical support programs for land access, field-building activities (such as creating alternative easement language), land-based convenings, stewardship needs to increase community use on a property, and/or staff time dedicated to the project.

### **What types of food projects are eligible?**

This program supports food cultivation as a pathway to relationship with land for underserved geographies and populations. This may include community agriculture (such as community food gardens, agroforestry, working farms); wild food cultivation and harvesting (such as hunting, fishing, community fisheries, working waterfront); and farmland protection or farmland access for food production. Food security or food-based organizations must have a project tied to land and/or land access to apply.

### **Can my farm business or food business LLC apply?**

For-profit businesses are not eligible to apply. MaineCF grant programs fund nonprofits, municipalities, public schools, tribal governments, state agencies, or groups without an assigned tax status with a fiscal sponsor. See [Fiscal Sponsorship](#) and [Eligibility and Grant Guidelines](#) for detailed information.

### **What types of land return projects are eligible?**

This program funds the purchase or transfer of land to a Wabanaki Nation or Indigenous-led organization in Maine. In situations where transfer of ownership isn't the best option for project partners, this program also supports cultural use, harvest permits, reworking easements, and other repatriation efforts to restore Wabanaki presence in and stewardship of land. Land for Communities prioritizes projects that include cultural use and/or the ability for a property to transition into trust or ownership by a Wabanaki Nation in the future. MaineCF will continue to respond to shifting needs in the field as this work evolves.

### **Are outdoor recreation or environmental education programs eligible?**

This grant program does not support projects solely focused on outdoor recreation or outdoor education, without a focus on land return or land access for food. Other Maine outdoor recreation or outdoor education grant opportunities include [MaineCF's Community Building grant program](#), the Quimby Family Foundation, Onion Foundation, Sewall Foundation, and Maine Outdoor Equity Fund grant programs. For additional support, see [MaineCF Grantwriting and Grant Research](#).



While we do not have a formal system for sharing ideas that aren't submitted to a competitive grant program, when staff hear of projects that either don't meet the guidelines for any competitive grant programs or the request is time sensitive, we share this information with donors who may be interested. Please speak to a member of the [grantmaking staff](#) who covers your organization's geographic region.

**Will my proposal be shared with donors?**

All eligible proposals that meet the grant program criteria are added to our online donor portal for donors to review and consider funding. Staff contacts 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. Proposals determined by staff to be ineligible because they don't meet the eligibility guidelines or Land for Communities criteria will not be shared with donors.

**Do I need to include any materials with my proposal?**

Yes, all applicants must provide a list of the members of your organization's board or advisory committee, including town/city of residence and occupation. Supporting letters may also be required- if your project is partnering with a tribe, municipality, or school. Additionally, a letter from a partner organization(s) is required if the project cannot be completed without the partner's participation. If submitting a land acquisition proposal, applicants should include a map of the property.

**What if I'm still unsure if my project is eligible?** We encourage you to reach out to the staff member for the program, Caitlyn Barker [cbarker@mainecf.org](mailto:cbarker@mainecf.org).