

Photo: Land in Common, MLP grantee



Maine
Community Foundation

Land for Communities

Zoom info session

July 23, 2025

Stephanie Cesario
Community Partner

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Community Partner

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About Maine Community Foundation

Founded in 1983, the Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine.

Values

Integrity: We earn trust by being honest and open in everything that 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.

To learn more about the foundation, visit mainecf.org.

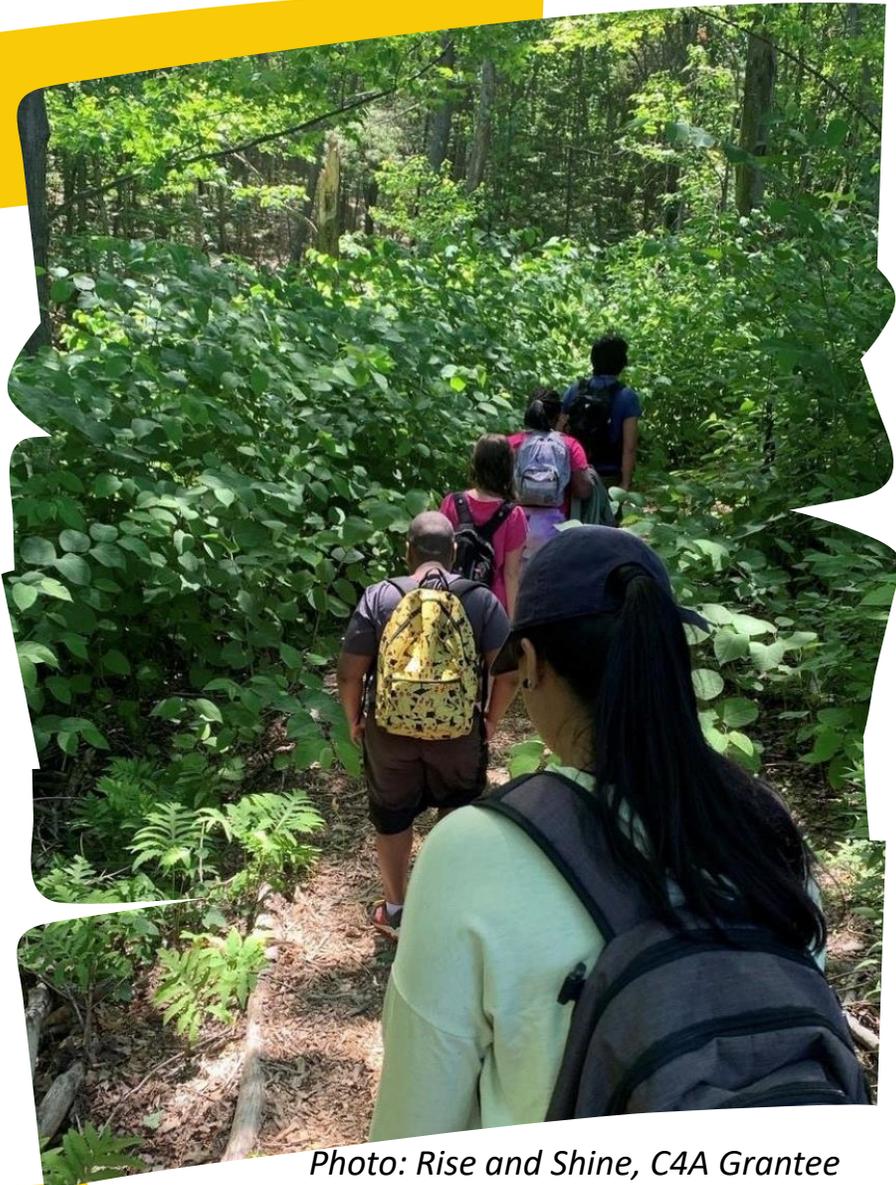


Photo: Rise and Shine, C4A Grantee

Background on Land for Communities Program

- Maine Land Protection and Conservation for All
- Strategic focus on climate and equity
- Conservation Field Scan and Funder Landscape
- Community advisory committee



Photo: Twin Villages Food Bank Farm



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Land for Communities Overview

- Project support
- Must meet criteria and eligibility
- Max award: \$50,000
- Open twice per year:
 - Application due dates Sept 15, 2025 and March 16, 2026

Land for Communities Criteria

1. Project located in Maine
2. Expand access for an underserved geography or population
3. Engage the people served in the design, delivery, evaluation, and/or leadership of the work.
4. Focus on land for community use, specifically one or both of the following:
 - Land return
 - Land for food



Photo Above: Land in Common; Photo below: Town of Stonington



Land for Communities Criteria

- **Land return**= Land back to Wabanaki Nations or Wabanaki-led organizations, restoring Wabanaki stewardship of lands and waters
- **Land for food**= Hunting, fishing, wild harvesting, working farms, community agriculture, working waterfront, community fisheries

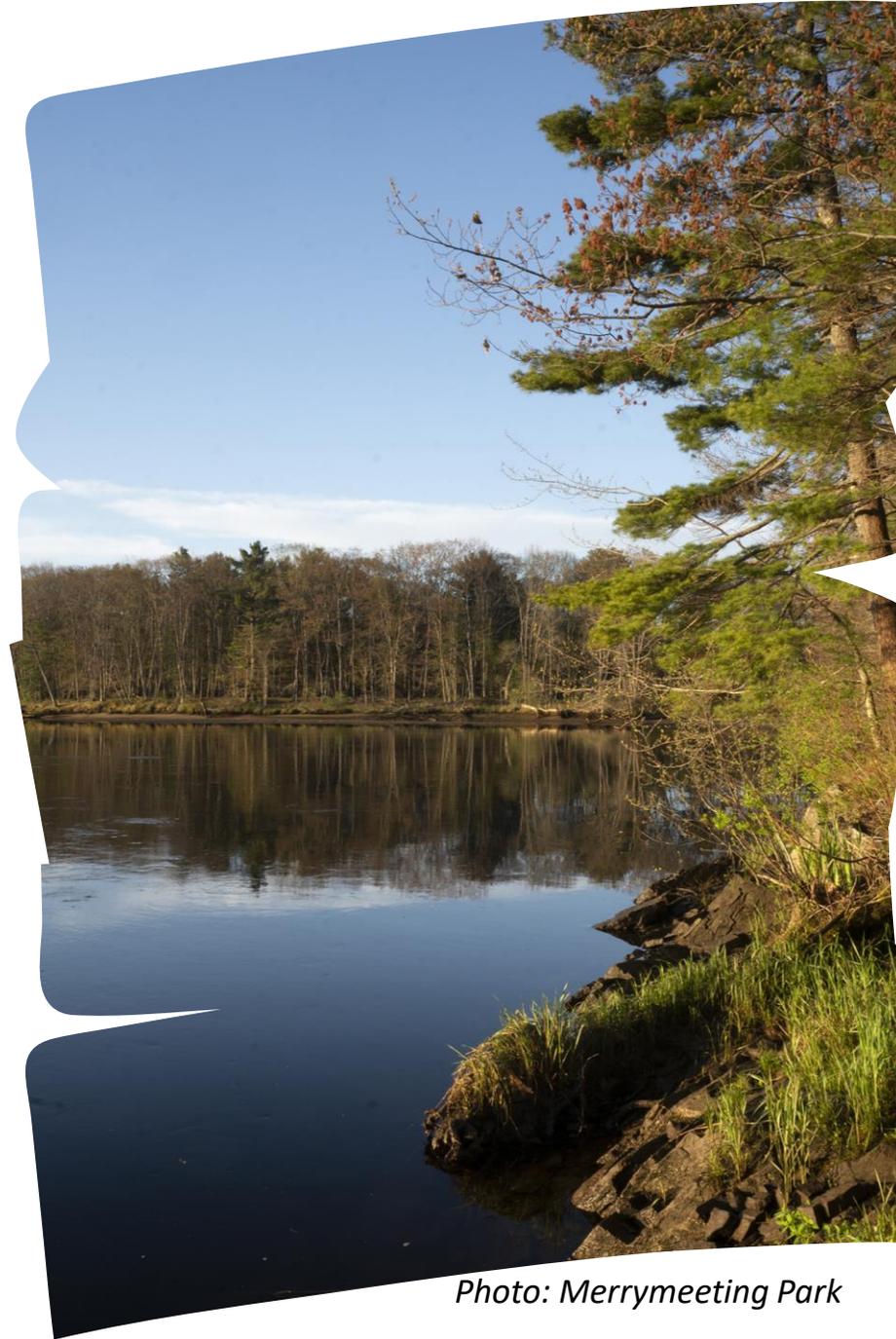


Photo Above: Land in Common; Photo below: Town of Stonington



Award Size

- **Up to \$50,000 towards land acquisition projects** (costs may include purchase price, closing costs, legal support, survey, appraisal or value assessments, lease agreements, stewardship funds)
- **Up to \$25,000 towards other land-based projects** (costs may include, but are not limited to, infrastructure, convenings, technical support programs, stewardship needs, staff time)



Timeline

- More responsive: **Fall and Spring opportunities each year**

1st deadline September 15, 2025
Notification by December 15

2nd deadline March 16, 2026
Notification by June 15

- Repeating each year



Significant program change

If your project does not meet the Land for Communities criteria:

○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 reach out to staff to share about your work!

○MaineCF Community Building program



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How are Grant Decisions Made?



Photo: Town of Stonington



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- Screened for eligibility – grant guidelines and criteria
 - Reach out to staff before applying for support on your application
- Land for Communities Advisors read applications
 - Interested in being a community advisor? Reach out to staff!
- Collaborative grant decision meeting

Application Questions – MaineCF Common App

1. What is the project's overall goal? What are you trying to achieve? How does your project address the grant program criteria?
2. List up to 4 specific activities or things your organization will do to achieve the goal you described above.
3. How will your organization know if your project is successful? How will you track results?
4. Describe the people or community directly served by your project. How does your organization involve the people you serve in the project?
5. Are you partnering with any other organization for this project?

Application Questions – Land for Communities

- Select the focus area most closely aligned with your project:
 - Land Return
 - Land for food – select which focus area best applies
 - Hunting or Fishing
 - Wild food cultivation and/or harvesting
 - Farmland protection/access
 - Community agriculture
 - Community fisheries/working waterfront

If a land acquisition project:

- Estimated total number of acres to be purchased or stewarded
- Map of the property



Application Attachments

- **All Applicants:**
 - List of Board members names
- **Land acquisition**
 - Map of the parcel
- ***Attached Letter only if:***
 - Working with a school, tribal government, municipality
 - Partner org - if the project cannot be completed without the partner's participation
 - Using a Fiscal Sponsor



What MaineCF *Can Not* fund

- For-profit businesses
- Expenses that already happened
- Regranting to a secondary grantee through a competitive process
- Political campaigns
- Lobbying in the form of calls to action on a specific vote
- Religious activities, including, but not limited to, religious services, promotion of religious beliefs, or activities that are restricted to church or religious group membership.

Land for Communities Grant Program

Date	Activity
September 15, March 16	Application Due Date
October, April	Grant staff review
Oct-Nov, April-May	Proposal review by advisors and donors
November, May	Grant decision meeting
November, May	Process decisions
December, June	Decisions e-mailed

Online Access

The screenshot shows the website mainecf.org. At the top left is the logo for the Maine Community Foundation, which consists of a stylized graphic of horizontal bars in yellow, orange, blue, and black, followed by the text "Maine Community Foundation". To the right of the logo are three buttons: "Apply" (orange), "Log In" (yellow), and "Give Now" (dark blue). Below the logo and buttons is a dark teal navigation bar with the following menu items: "ABOUT US", "INITIATIVES & IMPACT", "SUPPORT/START A FUND", "GRANTS", "SCHOLARSHIPS", "ADVISORS & ATTORNEYS", and "PLANNED GIVING". A search icon is located on the far right of the navigation bar. A large red arrow points down from the "GRANTS" menu item to a large banner area. The banner features a dark teal silhouette of the state of Maine on a light gray background. Overlaid on the silhouette is the text "Give to the Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund" in yellow. At the bottom of the banner, the word "LEWISTON" is partially visible in yellow and orange.



Online Access

https://www.maineef.org/apply-for-a-grant/available-grants-deadlines/

ABOUT US INITIATIVES & IMPACT SUPPORT/START A FUND GRANTS SCHOLARSHIPS ADVISORS & ATTORNEYS PLANNED GIVING

Competitive Grant Programs & Deadlines

All competitive grant programs only support work in Maine and benefiting people and communities in Maine.

To start a grant application, please use the APPLY button on the top right of this page. For more information, visit our [Online Application Information page](#).

Deadlines are listed on the individual grant program webpages. Applications **must be completed and submitted by 11:59 p.m.** on the day of the deadline. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be 11:59 p.m. on the nearest business day (before or afterward).

February

- **Community Building** supports projects and organizations focused on making communities stronger.
- **Hospice Fund** supports hospice services in Cumberland and York counties.
- **PF Fund for the Baldwin Area** supports projects that focus on efforts to bring residents together and improve life in the community.



March

- **Land for Communities** supports community land projects that increase relationships to land for underserved geographies and populations in Maine.

April

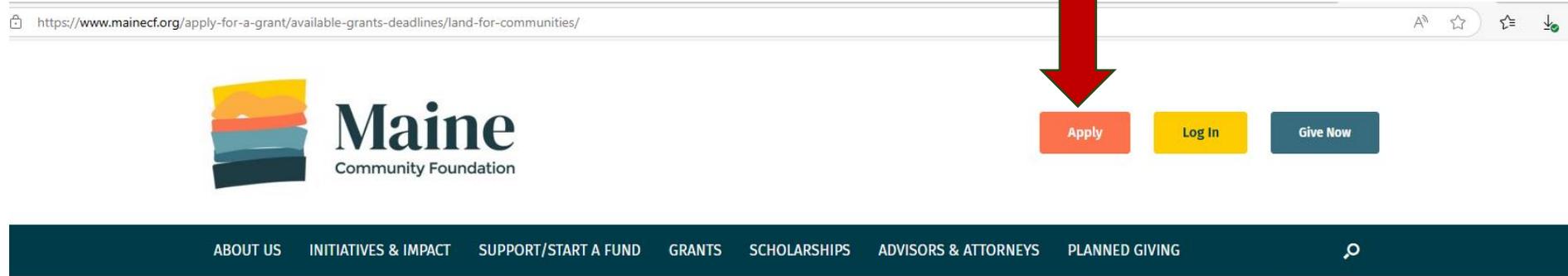
- **Frances Hollis Brain Foundation Fund** supports nonprofit organizations and projects that serve underserved communities in Auburn, Bath, Biddeford, Brunswick, Greater Portland, Lewiston, Saco, and/or Sanford.

September

- **Animal Welfare** provides three-year general support grants to organizations dedicated to advancing animal welfare for small companion animals in Maine, primarily cats and dogs.
- **Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Fund** supports early childhood and youth engagement programs in Greater Portland.
- **Equity Fund** supports projects and organizations that serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) community of Maine.
- **Land for Communities** supports community land projects that increase relationships to land for underserved geographies and populations in Maine.
- **Maine Expansion Arts** provides general support grants to arts organizations in Maine focused on an underserved geography or population with limited access to arts programming including dance, music, theater, visual, and/or traditional arts.



Online Application System



Grants Competitive Grant Programs & Deadlines Land for Communities

2025 New Program: Working Toward Greater Impact

Maine Community Foundation continually evaluates and adapts its competitive grant programs to reflect community needs, the foundation's strategic initiatives and commitment to equity.

As part of MaineCF's climate initiative, the foundation in 2024-2025 embarked on a field scan and funder landscape with Momentum Conservation on needs and gaps in the field. Using this landscape analysis and MaineCF's internal program analysis, MaineCF worked with community advisors to redesign its conservation grant programs.

As a result, the Conservation for All and the Maine Land Protection grant programs closed to create an opportunity for one new program: Land for Communities. This new grant program aligns with recommendations from Maine's climate plan and the First Light community while addressing gaps in the field identified in the collaborative redesign process.

Land for Communities Webinar

MaineCF will offer a webinar on Wednesday, July 23, from noon-1 p.m. to provide an



Online Application System

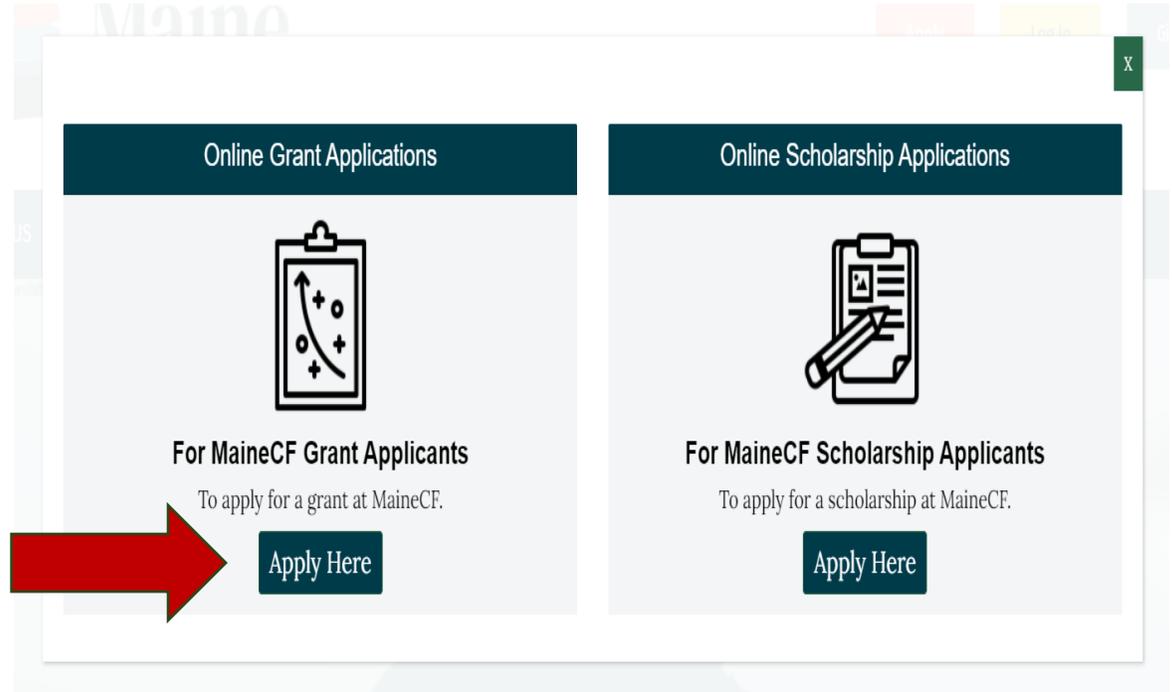
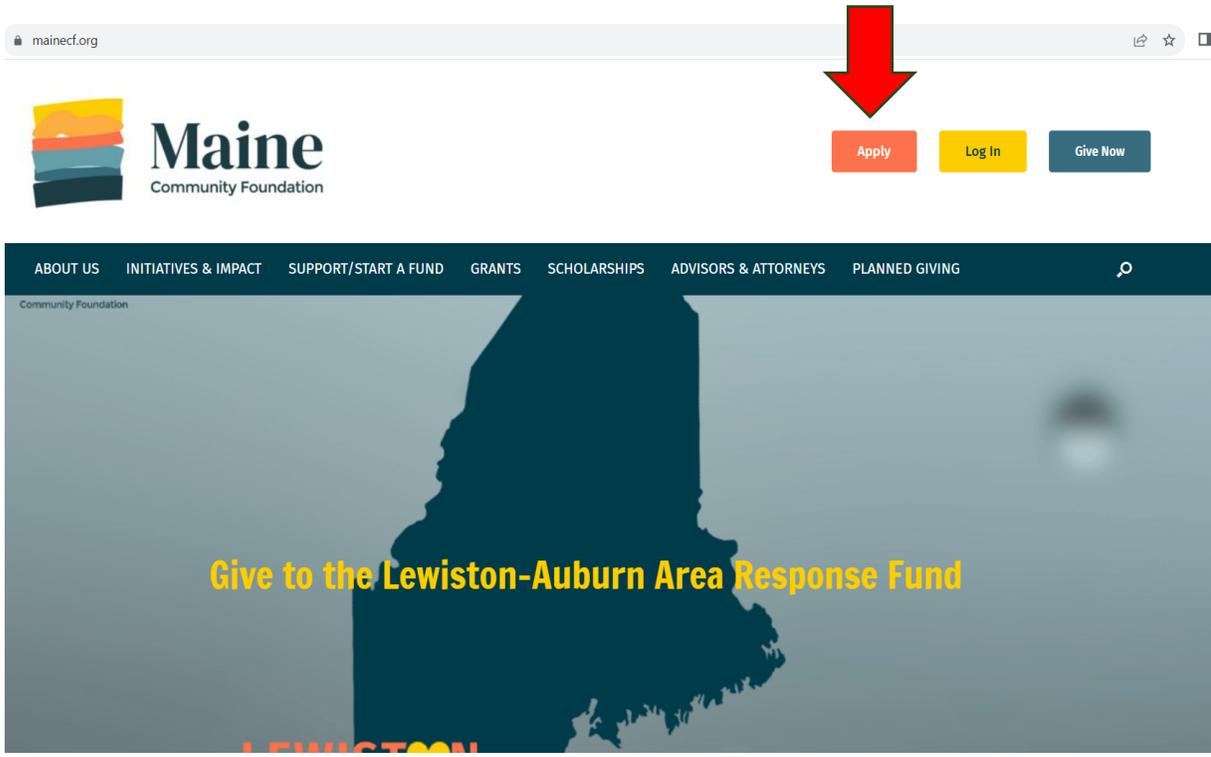




Photo: Portland Parks Conservancy Riverton Park, C4A Grantee



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Thank you for joining us today

QUESTIONS?

Stephanie Cesario
Caitlyn Barker

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