



Maine Initiatives

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# 2022 Grants for Change

Information Session

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# Recognizing philanthropy has been harmful and is still harmful today

- We recognize this process of applying for funding and being in connection with entities and those in close proximity to power, privilege, and wealth can be harmful for many communities
- We recognize that this process still needs evolutions and work
- We recognize the legacy of white supremacy, genocide, and slavery exists within systems, institutions, and philanthropy
- We are committed to forever evolving our process to reflect community needs
- We are committed to providing opportunities for the greater community to learn more about organizations through this process
- We are committed to providing opportunities to cohorts
- We are committed to listening and learning about any concerns you may have through applying

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The Grants for Change Program (G4C) at Maine Initiatives is a participatory grantmaking program that strengthens Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community-based, nonprofit organizations in Wabanaki Territory (Maine) through funding and relationship building opportunities.

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# 2022 Grants for Change: Overview

- Twelve (12) unrestricted, multi-year, general operating grants of \$15,000 each year, over 3 years (\$45,000 total). No reporting required.
- 2022 Priorities:
  - Black and Wabanaki-led groups prioritized, with all BIPOC-led groups considered
  - Hub, Community Building, and New & Emerging Organizations
- Returning to grantee cohort approach - 36 organizations next 3 years
- Participatory process includes Community Advisory Board, Grantmaking Advisory Committee, and Grantmaking Retreat

# Eligibility Criteria

We are prioritizing Black and Wabanaki-led and-serving organizations for 2022, however, all BIPOC-led and serving groups encouraged to apply (9/30 deadline)

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*Applicants are required to meet at least two of three of the following for the past two years:*

1. BIPOC key staff leaders of the organization - *50% or more* of the total in leadership roles
2. BIPOC members on Board of Directors - *50% or more* in governing decision-making roles
3. BIPOC activists - *50% or more* of on the ground, community organizers, staff/volunteers

In consultation with the Community Advisory Board, the G4C Directors have identified the need to support organizations playing distinct but complementary roles in collective efforts toward racial justice movement building in Maine, including both rural and more populated areas. We have designated priority pathways to accomplish community work as *Hub Organizations*, *Community Building Organizations*, and *Emergent Organizations*.

# 2022 Grants for Change

## ‘HUB’ ORGANIZATIONS

*These organizations might be or have:*

- Relatively more established (compared with other BIPOC-led or -serving organizations in Maine) with higher visibility to the general public
- Developed access to resources or established funding sources and relationships
- Sufficient capacity to provide resources or platforms for other BIPOC-led organizations
- Working across race and class identities or across geographic communities
- Working at the institutional or structural level to counter and dismantle legacies and expressions of racial injustice, racial inequity, and white supremacy (advocacy or policy work, for example)
- Annual budgets over \$250,000, approximately

## COMMUNITY BUILDING ORGANIZATIONS

*These organizations might be or have:*

- Smaller organizations (with fewer staff, smaller budget) that are not as visible or well-known in the broader community or to the general public, either by choice or because of structural barriers
- Focused on direct service or community support, mutual aid efforts, or grassroots organizing (base-building, for example)
- Offering community or individual healing work being done to respond to the trauma, harms, and legacies of slavery and colonization (harm reduction or communal healing ceremonies or sessions, for example)
- Working at cultural or systems levels, including arts and other forms of creative activity
- Focused on sustaining communal systems outside of dominant systems of oppression
- Land-access, Land-back, Land-based work, food justice, community food, and medicine
- Annual budgets under \$250,000, approximately



## EMERGENT ORGANIZATIONS

*These organizations might be or have:*

- Newer and/or emerging community-based organizations, typically within the first year or two of existence
- Underfunded, under-recognized, under-supported (in terms of staffing & organizational structure), under-resourced, and perhaps less visible to traditional funders and/or the general public
- Systematically excluded from resources or funding relationships
- Staffed by a few people, often in volunteer capacity
- Applying for first grant and/or seeking fiscal sponsorship
- Annual budgets under \$25,000, approximately

# Let's Get Into Details of the G4C 2022 Process

## WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING?

“Participatory grantmaking encompasses a range of models, methods, challenges, and insights. At its core, this approach to funding cedes decision-making power about grants to the very communities impacted by funding decisions.”

*(from Deciding Together: Shifting Power and Resources Through Participatory Grantmaking by Cynthia Gibson)*

# G4C Participatory Grantmaking Process

*You can sign up too!!!*

## Proposal Reader Process:

1. Community members will sign up to become readers
2. Readers offered a racial justice educational training
3. Readers read proposals, learn about organizations, evaluate proposals, and give feedback
4. Readers are committing to 3-6 hours at home this fall (Oct.-Nov.)

## Grantmaking Advisory Committee (GMAC):

1. Readers can sign up to an additional commitment, decision-making
2. Maine Initiatives (MI) Staff with support from Community Advisory Board choose the official 50 member GMAC
3. GMAC decision making decision-making retreat 1 & 2 takes place
4. Grantee Cohort is chosen by the GMAC, approved by MI Board of Directors
5. Announced by G4C Directors in December

# Evaluation Criteria

- Each reader evaluation criteria is connected to a question or set of questions in the grantee proposal
- This is what readers will use to evaluate your proposal
- Reader's evaluations will not be the final determination if your organization will be funded or not (the Grantmaking Advisory Committee will determine grantee cohort)

# Community Effort Areas, Roles, or Pathways

*Hub Organizations, Community Building Organizations, and Emergent Organizations*

- This section will help our Maine Initiatives Staff and Board, Proposal Readers, and Grantmaking Advisory Committee better understand the various areas, roles, or pathways a organization's efforts live in
- The designations are not exclusive nor are they exhaustive; many applicant organizations will identify with several of the areas
- Applicants will have a chance to explain why they chose the areas in a few sentences

# Grantee Cohort Approach

We want this program to “go beyond money”.

- Peer learning through networking and convening
- Capacity building
- Community engagement and awareness

# Application Overview

The application has 6 sections:

1. General Information
2. Organization Leadership
3. The Narrative Proposal
4. Community Effort Areas
5. Legal/Fiscal Organization & Budget
6. Anything Else? (media & how would you like the public to engage with your organization?)

# Narrative Section

- *No more than three (3) page answers to 4 questions*
- The narrative is meant to be a prompt to help applicants describe their work
- This is an opportunity to share more about who your organization is, what you do, and your vision for the future



# How to Apply for a Grant

1. **Read** the RFP announcement
2. **Watch** the information session
3. **Confirm** your eligibility
4. **Write, review, and submit** your proposal - please answer all the questions on the RFP and review your answers carefully before submitting to make sure your application it is complete. Include any additional attachments. Send proposals to [grants4change@maineinitiatives.org](mailto:grants4change@maineinitiatives.org)

**Questions?**