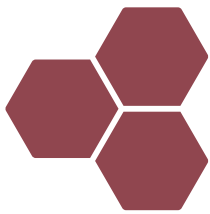




The 2023 Grants for Change Grantmaking Advisory Committee. Photo credit: Luke Kaneb.

# READER OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



## Grants For Change Fund

a program of Maine Initiatives

Maine Initiatives invites community volunteers to assist in the decision-making process for our 2024 Grants for Change (G4C) Program. This is an open call for volunteers to read and evaluate submitted applications from three applicant organizations. Individuals are invited to apply to be Readers with the option to apply to join the 2024 G4C Grantmaking Advisory Committee, as well. Readers will also have the opportunity to attend special events related to Maine Initiatives programming.

APPLICATIONS DUE **JULY 26, 2024**

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP](#)

# overview

## 2024 GRANTS FOR CHANGE

We understand that racial justice and equity are not achieved through perfect grantmaking, but are relational: requiring people to come to a deeper understanding of themselves in relation to others in the community. We seek to foster this type of transformation through our participatory grantmaking process. We open our process up to the full community to create opportunities for individual reflection and collective conversation about the needs of a robust and sustainable racial justice movement across Maine, unceded Wabanaki territory. Through our community-led grantmaking process, we create opportunities for people to learn about and be inspired by the work currently being done across Maine to advance racial justice and equity. In doing so, we seek to engage people as active agents of greater racial justice in Maine and to mobilize and leverage new financial, social, and human resources to advance racial equity in our communities.

## PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING

Grants for Change at Maine Initiatives is a participatory grantmaking program that funds and strengthens Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) community-based, nonprofit organizations in Maine, unceded Wabanaki territory. The program seeks to organize people and resources in support of efforts across the state that intervene on legacies of white supremacy, settler colonialism, and racialized capitalism by creating or reclaiming liberatory possibilities for today and future generations.

The G4C Program and Fund, centers Black and Wabanaki voices, visions, and leadership, based on the recognition that:

- ▶ the root causes of racial inequality today in this country are anti-Black racism and settler colonialism;
- ▶ the legacies of settler colonialism, genocide, and chattel slavery are foundational injustices that continue to inhibit our ability to achieve social, economic, and environmental justice;
- ▶ the pervasive and persistent realities of bias, discrimination, and structural & institutional racism impact Black and Wabanaki communities in unique and acute ways, despite the extraordinary leadership and advocacy efforts of leaders from within these communities; and
- ▶ the work in support of and led by Black and Wabanaki communities has been and continues to be systematically undervalued and underfunded in Maine.

This year's grantmaking is part of a three-year commitment, during which Maine Initiatives is making over \$1.5 million in multiyear, unrestricted, general operating support grants to 36 BIPOC-led and -serving organizations (view a list of our Grantees [here](#)) furthering racial justice efforts in Maine.

**We are calling in community to help inform the selection of this year's G4C cohort of twelve (12) organizations who will receive unrestricted, general operating grants of \$45,000 paid out over three (3) years, \$15,000 per year!**



**Grants For  
Change Fund**

a program of Maine Initiatives



Maine  
**Initiatives**

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

[maineinitiatives.org](https://maineinitiatives.org)

# join in

## THE PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PROCESS

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- **Apply to be a Reader:** Complete [this application](#) by July 26, 2024.
- **Read and evaluate your assigned applications:** approximately three (3) hours of at-home commitment (August - September 2024)
- **Grantmaking Advisory Committee** (if selected): Readers can apply to be selected for the Grantmaking Advisory Committee, which entails a two-day in-person retreat (November 8-9, 2024) plus one additional day for grantmaking decisions (November 22, 2024).

### READERS HELP US EVALUATE APPLICATIONS!

#### Who can be an Application Reader?

Anyone! No experience necessary. All Application Readers will receive training and guidance about the application evaluation process, the evaluation criteria, and the online system, as well as training and resources about racial justice.

#### What level of time commitment is required?

Application Readers will be asked to review three (3) applications. Each application will require approximately one to two hours to read, assess, and score. Additionally, Application Readers will be invited to participate in a one-hour Application Reader Info Session via Zoom on Tuesday July 16, 2024 from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

#### What if I am a board member, staff member, or otherwise affiliated with an applicant organization?

That's okay! We are deeply committed to engaging a range of voices in our decision-making process and actively seek to include individuals directly involved with racial justice work. We have designed our process to permit us to identify and mitigate potential conflicts of interest in this process. We will make every effort to structure each individual's participation in such a way that avoids any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

#### How will reader evaluations be used?

Application Reader evaluations (both comments and ratings) will be compiled and summarized by Maine Initiatives staff and shared with the members of the Grantmaking Advisory Committee members to inform their decision-making about the 2024 cohort selection.

### 2024 G4C FUND GRANTMAKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Grantmaking Advisory Committee (GMAC) is a cross race, cross class committee (majority BIPOC identifying) of approximately 40 individuals—prioritizing those most impacted by our grantmaking, while also reflecting geographic, demographic, and other forms of diversity within the Maine Initiatives community.

Committee members may include representatives of the following groups:

- past G4C grantee organizations;
- current G4C applicant organizations;
- individuals with specific proximity to and knowledge about racial justice organizing and activism in Maine;
- BIPOC individuals with an expressed interests in greater proximity to racial justice efforts in the state;
- Maine Initiatives volunteers, donors, or institutional funders; and
- individuals with peer and partner organizations with a clear commitment to deepening their learning and funding of racial justice organizing and activism.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP](#)

BY **JULY 26, 2024, 11:59PM**