

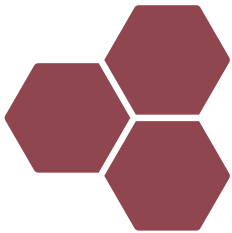
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APPLICATIONS DUE **SEPT. 10, 2023**

JOIN THE PARTICIPATORY  
GRANTMAKING PROCESS AS A

# PROPOSAL READER

# 2023



**Grants For  
Change Fund**

a program of Maine Initiatives

Maine Initiatives invites community volunteers to assist in the decision-making process for our 2023 Grants for Change (G4C) Program. This is an open call for volunteers to review and evaluate grant proposals from applicant organizations. Individuals are invited to apply to join our grantmaking process as Proposal Readers and to apply to join the 2023 G4C Grantmaking Advisory Committee. Proposal Readers will also have the opportunity to attend special trainings, workshops, and events related to the G4C Program.

# overview

## THE 2023 GRANTS FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

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.

This year's grantmaking is part of a three-year commitment, during which Maine Initiatives is making \$1.5 million in multi-year, unrestricted, general operating support grants to 36 BIPOC-led and -serving organizations furthering racial justice efforts in Maine. **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!**

## PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING

**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 broad-participatory 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.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

ABOUT OUR PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PROGRAM  
OR TO SIGN-UP TO PARTICIPATE AS A PROPOSAL READER



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2022 G4C RETREAT

# join in

## THE PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PROCESS



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### PARTICIPATE IN OUR GRANTMAKING PROCESS

- **Apply to serve as a Proposal Reader:** Complete [this application](#)
- **Become a Proposal Reader:** 5 to 10 hours of at-home commitment (September - October 2023)
- **Grantmaking Advisory Committee** (if selected): Proposal Readers can apply to be selected for the Grantmaking Advisory Committee, which entails a two-day in-person retreat (November 3-4, 2023) plus one additional day for grantmaking decisions (November 17, 2023).

### PROPOSAL READERS - HELP US EVALUATE PROPOSALS!

#### Who can be a proposal reader?

Anyone! No experience necessary. All proposal readers will receive training and guidance about the proposal 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?

Proposal Readers will be asked to review three (3) proposals. Each proposal will require approximately one to two hours to read, assess, and score. Additionally, Proposal Readers will be invited to participate in a one-hour Proposal Reader Orientation via Zoom on Tuesday, September 12, 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?

Proposal 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 2023 cohort selection.

### 2023 G4C GRANTMAKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Grantmaking Advisory Committee (GMAC) is a cross-race and cross class committee (majority BIPOC identifying), approximately 30-40 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.

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BY **SEPTEMBER 10, 2023, 11:59PM**

[maineinitiatives.org](http://maineinitiatives.org) | (207) 607-4070