



Maine Community Integration

MAINESHARE QUARTERLY

Winter 2025: Immigrant Flourishing





Participants in the 2024 Immigrant-Led Organizations Fund Grantmaking Retreat.

Dear Reader,

Maine Initiatives has been committed to supporting immigrant-serving organizations in our state for over a decade. In our current climate, where immigrant communities are once again being targeted and scapegoated for political gain, we reaffirm our support and uplift the voices of trusted community leaders who can help lead the way.

We know this to be true: Maine benefits from a robust and diverse ecosystem of immigrant-led and immigrant-serving nonprofit organizations working across geographies, sectors, program areas, languages, national origins, and immigrant status. These organizations provide direct services, organize people, advocate, and build bridges between communities. They are anchors for immigrants in Maine, and they deeply enrich the state’s culture and economy for all of us.

In this second edition of the MaineShare Quarterly, we spotlight 7 organizations led by and serving immigrant communities in Maine and hear their priorities at the start of 2025. These organizations have joined the MaineShare platform from two different paths: either by being selected through the community-led, participatory grantmaking process of Maine Initiatives’ **Immigrant-Led Organizations Fund**, or as legacy members of MaineShare with a respected commitment and track record of serving immigrant communities across the state.

We encourage you to learn about **these immigrant-serving organizations**, and **all our partner organizations**, who will be vital forces of resistance and protection for the years ahead. Tell your community about them and support them. Donating on the **MaineShare platform** is a great way to do so.

At MaineShare, we continue to write our story, a story of the Maine we want to be, and the just, vibrant, and supportive communities we seek to be a part of. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Amanda Scarpone, MaineShare Director

Genesis Community Loan Fund

Elyse Tipton

“A key focus of our work at the Genesis Community Loan Fund is expanding access to safe, stable, and affordable housing for Maine’s immigrant communities by supporting immigrant-led organizations and entrepreneurs to develop housing projects.

In 2025, we’ll continue to provide loans and expert guidance to immigrant-led organizations and individuals, to support their investment in housing that’s tailored to their communities’ needs. Key initiatives include our ongoing partnership with ProsperityME, which made Genesis the recipient of its Community Partner Award in 2024, to expand their housing program.

We are also working with immigrant community leaders to organize a series of informational sessions for immigrant and BIPOC community members and leaders to learn about affordable housing development. Our shared goal is to expand housing and see Maine’s most recent immigrant families and individuals build wealth and assets over time.

MaineShare contributors play a critical role in enabling Genesis to work in partnership this way, at no cost to those we serve, to create housing solutions. Genesis also offers its own interest-earning impact investing program for individuals and institutions who wish to participate directly in this work. Using this approach, Genesis has made 8 loans supporting immigrant/BIPOC-led housing projects in just the past 2 years. Together, we can continue making a meaningful impact for those who seek the same opportunities for their families and communities as generations of immigrants to America always have.”

Generational Noor **Amran Osman**



“In 2025, Generational Noor is committed to deepening community engagement by fostering intergenerational dialogues that bridge gaps, amplify voices, and inspire collective action on critical issues like substance use, mental health, and violence. We aim to provide holistic support systems that address immediate needs while empowering immigrant and BIPOC communities through mentorship, workforce development, and culturally responsive programs. Your support is vital—whether through volunteering, donating, or partnering with us to create opportunities and advocate for systemic change. Together, we can build a future where every voice is heard, every need is met, and every individual has the chance to thrive.”

In Her Presence **Claudette Ndayinahaze**



“In Her Presence empowers immigrant women and families through services including language learning, job opportunities, direct service, maternal health, and community connections.

There are multiple ways that the community can support these efforts including: Board development; assisting with internal protocols and operational support; assisting with training and development; assisting with fundraising; and investing in our Mission.

To learn more, visit inherpresence.org/ or contact [contact@inherpresence.org.](mailto:contact@inherpresence.org)”

Khmer Maine **Marpheen Chann**

“Khmer Maine will be ramping up fundraising for our \$10 million capital campaign to build Maine’s first Asian American Community Center. For the over 25,000 Mainers of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage and beyond, the Center is envisioned to be the focal point around which AAPI-led and serving organizations will converge to collectively build a brighter future together. Plans for trails, gardens, offices, and event space are city-approved and ready-to-go. Maine’s community of donors, philanthropists, businesses, and foundations are invited to be a part of this bold and visionary project that will enrich Westbrook, Greater Portland, Southern Maine, and beyond.

Learn more at [www.aaccmaine.org.](http://www.aaccmaine.org)”



Maine Community Integration Fowsia Musse



“We are excited to share our transformative priorities and invite donors, foundations, and community partners to join us in driving meaningful change.

In 2025, we will expand our groundbreaking work through transformative mental health programs integrating cultural wisdom and modern psychology, offering trauma-informed care uniquely designed for immigrant and refugee communities. Through youth-led initiatives like the City of Us framework, we will empower young immigrants as leaders in addressing pressing issues such as violence prevention, climate resilience, and equity—ensuring the voices of the next generation shape Maine’s future. Our workforce development pathways will redefine economic integration by blending immersive language acquisition, digital literacy, and green job training, creating opportunities for immigrants to lead and excel in Maine’s economy. Building on our strong two-generation approach, we will continue to nurture intergenerational healing and success by supporting immigrant parents and youth together, fostering resilience and unity within families. Lastly, community-driven projects like Re-Root will transform urban spaces into thriving, sustainable hubs of inclusion, pride, and belonging.

This work is about more than programs—it’s about transforming lives and communities. By investing in MCI, donors will be directly contributing to a Maine where immigrants and long-time residents alike thrive together. Your support fuels the innovation, leadership, and cultural richness that will shape Maine as a national model of integration and equity. Join us in building a future where every immigrant family has the opportunity to lead, succeed, and belong.”

New Ventures Maine **Jennifer DeJoy**

“New Ventures Maine works with adults in work/life transitions and individuals experiencing significant and systematic barriers to accessing resources and succeeding in Maine's changing workforce and economy. NVME classes and services are designed to fit the values, culture, and interests of a given population and we meet folks where they are. Meeting the immigrant population where they are involves working with partner organizations that are helping with aspects of transition to life in Maine.

In 2024, New Ventures Maine (NVME) partnered with Catholic Charities, Capital Area New Mainers, and the Women Lead program to serve immigrants in our three program areas: workforce development, microenterprise, and money management. We look forward to working with these and other immigrant-serving organizations in 2025 to help New Mainers succeed in the changing economy and achieve economic security for themselves and their families. For information about partnering with NVME or contributing to our mission, visit newventuresmaine.org.”



In partnership with Women Lead at the Immigrant Welcome Center in Portland, 15 immigrant women completed an expanded and targeted Business Basics class. The class covered topics including: developing business ideas, business goal-setting, legal and regulatory structures for business, developing a business plan—from customers and marketing channels to financial planning, and business plan progress sharing. Photo courtesy NVME/Gina Platt.

ProsperityME **Ellen McFarland**



“ProsperityME is proud to announce the opening of our 2025 PROSPER Academic Scholarship Program. Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2025. This two-year academic program assists asylum seekers in earning their associate degree and covers tuition and books at any accredited community college or university in Maine. Students are paired with mentors to help make the most of their college experience. In addition to our PROSPER Scholarship, we are also accepting applications for our IDA Program. The Individual Development Accounts (IDA) matched savings program gives immigrants, refugees, and asylums seekers the chance to receive one dollar for every dollar they save towards a productive asset up to \$5,000.

This program helps newcomers at or below 100% of area median income pursue education, small business start-up, or business expansion with new technology. These programs and more at ProsperityME are so necessary in facilitating the success of our neighbors, and we encourage the greater community to learn more and support— prosperityme.org.”

MaineShare
Giving Simplified. Action Amplified.

You can support justice and equity right here in Maine.



maineinitiatives.org/maineshare



MAINESHARE FOCUS AREAS

Community Organizing

Environmental Justice & Animal Welfare

Immigrant-Serving

Wabanaki Sovereignty & Self-Determination

Economic Justice

Gender Justice

Racial Justice

Education, Arts, & Culture

Health Equity & Safety

Social Justice

MAINESHARE PROGRAMS

Grants for Change Immigrant-Led Organizations Fund Outdoor Equity Fund The Giving Project MaineShare Legacy

MAINESHARE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Alpha Legal Foundation

Bicycle Coalition of Maine

Black Owned Maine

Bomazeen Land Trust

Capital Area New Mainers Project

Community Organizing Alliance

Consumers for Affordable Healthcare

Defend Our Health

Democracy Maine

Disability Rights Maine

Equality Maine

Food for All Services

Friends of Casco Bay

Generational Noor

Genesis Community Loan Fund

Hardy Girls

Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine

In Her Presence

Indigo Arts Alliance

Intercultural Community Center

Journey ONederland

Juneteenth Downeast

Khmer Maine

Kivulini Afro Yoga Project

Maine Access Immigrant Network

Maine Alliance for Arts Education

Maine Animal Coalition

Maine Association for New Americans

Maine Audubon

Maine Black Educators Collective

Maine Center for Economic Policy

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Maine Community Integration

Maine Council of Churches

Maine Equal Justice

Maine Farmland Trust

Maine Federation of Humane Societies

Maine Hospice Council and Center for End-of-Life-Care

Maine Indian Tribal State Commission

Maine Inside Out

Maine Labor Group on Health

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Maine Peace Fund

Maine People's Resource Center

Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

Maine Resource Recovery Association

Maine Soccer Development

Maine State Prison NAACP

Maine Veterans for Peace

Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund

Maine Youth Justice

Maine's Black Future Podcast

Mano en Mano

Mawita'nej Epjijj (Welcome to the Gathering Place)

More Women+Surf

Natural Resource Council of Maine

New England Arab American Association

New Ventures Maine

Nibezun

Niweskok

Presente! Maine

ProsperityME

Resources for Organizing and Social Change

Sierra Club Foundation, Maine

Sipayik Resilience Committee

Somali Bantu Community Association

Southern Maine Workers Center

Sunlight Media Collective

Tender Table

The Third Place

Viles Arboretum

Wabanaki Commission on Land and Stewardship

Wabanaki REACH

Wabanaki Youth in Science (WAYS)

WERU Community Radio

Youth Led Justice

99 Years Podcast



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