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Leveraging

Advantage

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**Leveraging Advantage** members commit to intentional mobilization of our resources and privilege on behalf of justice and equity in our community.



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# MISSION



# & VALUES

**Leveraging Advantage** is a member-led network of progressive individuals with financial or class privilege, coming together around shared values and interests to examine the intersections of wealth and social, economic, and environmental issues.

By participating in this program, Leveraging Advantage members seek to explore our own identity and relationship to wealth and the advantages that are connected to it, including power, privilege, and opportunity. Through cross-pollination of ideas, strategies, and experiences of wealth, members shape our individual philanthropic action to align with our personal values. Leveraging Advantage fosters

learning and community building, while exploring possibilities for collectively leveraging our class privilege to advance justice and equity. We ground our work in shared values that include curiosity, empathy, respect, and confidentiality.

The program is housed at Maine Initiatives, a community-based foundation supporting social, economic, and environmental justice through grants and other support to grassroots organizations in Maine. A volunteer Steering Committee of Leveraging Advantage members meets regularly to provide advice, input, planning, and logistical support to Maine Initiatives staff regarding program design and implementation.

# ENGAGEMENT



# & CONVENINGS

## THEMATIC SMALL GROUPS

to allow for member-led, intimate small group conversations and relationship-building

Leveraging Advantage members have the opportunity to participate in two thematic small groups:

- 1) **Identity, Relationships & Values**, and
- 2) **My Philanthropic Practice**

These thematic groups meet regularly, as determined by the participants, and allow members to explore topics in a comfortable setting, promoting greater individual and collective learning and deepening relationships. These small groups build solidarity and synergy, creating space and opportunity for individual and collective action. These groups are member-led and hosted and facilitated by member volunteers. These groups are member-led, hosted, and facilitated by member volunteers.

## TOPICAL WORKSHOPS

to delve deeper into specific topic areas

Topical workshops feature outside experts and allow participants to engage more deeply on specific issues that emerge as areas of common interest and concern among the participants. Potential topics for 2019 include: Progressive Tax Policy, Raising Children in the Context of Financial Wealth, and A Reparations Framework for Community Philanthropy.

## ALL-GROUP CONVENINGS to bring together the full Leveraging Advantage network

Twice per year, the full-group will come together to build community, discuss lessons learned, and identify shared interests for future programming. These all-group meetings will also serve as opportunities to welcome new members.

## MAINE INITIATIVES SPONSORED EVENTS to engage Leveraging Advantage members in community events that reflect program themes around justice and equity

Maine Initiatives sponsors a variety of community events related to themes of justice and equity. We will extend specific invitations to Leveraging Advantage members to join us at a number of events that have particular connections to the themes and interests of the group. Such events may include the following:

**June 6-7:** Immigrant & Refugee Funder Bus Tour

**June 13:** Changemakers Celebration

**June 26:** Mark Watson, Boston Impact Initiative, co-hosted with Slow Money Maine

**September TBD:** Edgar Villanueva, Vice President, Schott Foundation, author of Decolonizing Wealth