



# **Economic Security Initiative Grant Guidelines and Application**

## **MAINE WOMEN'S FUND GRANTMAKING HISTORY**

Since 1990, the Maine Women's Fund has been investing in the power of women and the dreams of girls. To date, we have invested \$1.5 million in programs that are creating a future where women and girls have economic security, without fear of violence and with access to health care.

Our past grantmaking experience has taught us many things. Most importantly, that a woman's ability to take care of herself, her family and her ability to contribute to her community, depend on her ability to obtain financial security. With financial security, a woman can access better housing, healthcare, nutrition, and employment. Because women are often the primary decision makers about health and education, her financial status directly impacts her family's situation.

We have found economic security to be the cornerstone of all aspects of our mission; without it, Maine women cannot meet their basic needs (like health, housing, and nutrition) and girls cannot reach their full potential.

## **THE GOALS OF THE ECONOMIC SECURITY INITIATIVE**

The Economic Security Initiative is our sole grantmaking focus.

The overarching goal of the initiative is to reduce the incidence of poverty amongst women and girls in Maine. To do this, we intend to:

- Build economically secure futures for women and girls across Maine by investing in the following strategic funding areas:
  - Entrepreneurship and Better Jobs & Wages
  - Education
  - Public Policy
  - Asset Building & Financial Literacy
- Ensure the sustainability of our grantees and their social change efforts by investing technical assistance in those individuals, nonprofits, and institutions delivering social services.
- Help all women feel economically secure through public education, cultural awareness, and policy changes.

## **FIVE INDICATORS OF SOCIAL CHANGE**

The Maine Women's Fund believes that social change is most recognizable in a successful program when certain changes can be observed, including:

- **Shifts in Definition:** The issue will be defined differently in the community or society. *Example: Domestic violence is seen as an economic security issue; definitions of women and children's safety are more comprehensive.*
- **Shifts in Behavior:** People are behaving differently in the community or larger society. *Example: Women seek and advocate for women-centered health care; the community provides better care.*
- **Shifts in Engagement:** People in the community or larger society are more engaged in the issue. *Example: Creating economic justice for low-income women by building political skills and leadership to help women advocate for and effect change in the welfare system.*
- **Shifts in Policy:** Institutional, legal, organizational or legislative policies or practices change. *Example: Paid sick leave is guaranteed for working moms through new legislation.*
- **Current Position Maintained:** Past gains maintained in the face of backlash or resistance. *Example: Protecting women's existing reproductive health choices.*

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Maine Women's Fund supports organizations that:

- Can describe outcomes of their social change work within the context of economic security for Maine women and point to one of the five social change indicators described above.
- Demonstrate a commitment to women's equality.
- Encourage women and girls to define their needs.
- Listen to the voices of women and girls and are willing to implement these ideas within the organization's structure and programs.

The Maine Women's Fund provides grants in the following forms:

- **Size:** The average grant size is \$7,500. However, we will consider exemplary proposals of up to \$15,000. For organizations asking for general operating support, we will not fund over 10% of an organization's annual budget. Applicants should request an amount that meets the needs of their type of request and is consistent with the Fund's funding range.
- **Duration:** We will consider one-year grant applications.
- **Geographic Range:** We invite applications from all areas of the state.

The Maine Women's Fund provides grants for the following uses:

- **General Operating Support:** Operational costs that maintain or sustain the ongoing work of an organization, i.e. salaries, benefits, rent, copying, phone, etc.

- **Program or Project Grants:** Existing program/project costs or those that may be in addition to or new to an organization's regular programming.
- **Start-up Grants:** New and emerging organizations that may or may not have a track record, but show significant promise for success and sustainability.

## **2010 FUNDING CRITERIA**

The Maine Women's Fund seeks proposals that mesh with the following four criteria:

- 1) Strategic Funding Areas (one or more)
  - Entrepreneurship and Better Jobs & Wages
  - Education
  - Public Policy
  - Asset Building & Financial Literacy
- 2) Priority Areas
  - Grow an existing social change effort.
  - Bring proven social change effort to hard-to-reach populations.
  - Innovate where an existing social change solution does not exist.
- 3) Work collaboratively or synergistically with other organizations.
- 4) Promote women and girls' economic security through their everyday work and beyond their grant application.

The Maine Women's Fund will fund:

- Organizations incorporated as not-for-profits.
- Collaborations of two or more organizations that are working together to achieve a common goal.
- Unincorporated organizations with a fiscal agent. (Please contact us if you need assistance identifying a fiscal agent.)

The Maine Women's Fund will not fund:

- Scholarships to a university, college, or technical program.
- Capital campaigns.
- Religious activities.
- Retroactive funding.
- Fundraising events.
- Direct services not linked to the five social change indicators.
- Organizations that may be deemed as discriminatory on the basis of race, age, gender, ability level or sexual orientation.
- Organizations that limit or oppose women's right to self determination.



- Reduction of an operating deficit or to liquidate existing debt.
- Agencies of state or federal government, unless they are part of a community collaborative that includes eligible organizations.
- Organizations outside of Maine.
- Individuals seeking personal assistance.

## **2010 FUNDING EXPECTATIONS**

The Maine Women's Fund is seeking to work in partnership with its grantees to promote economic security for women and girls across Maine. We expect that grantees will:

- Participate in the Fund at various events throughout the year including, but not limited to, the Annual Leadership Luncheon on **June 10, 2010**.
- Provide feedback and ideas for the Economic Security Initiative by submitting a Grant Status Report by **May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.
- Help the Maine Women's Fund make a public case for women's economic security across Maine by participating in our Making Change Happen Campaign.

## **2010 GRANTMAKING PROCEDURE:**

**3/1/10**- Grant Applications AVAILABLE on the Maine Women's Fund website:  
[http://www.mainewomensfund.org/philanthropy/economic\\_security\\_initiative](http://www.mainewomensfund.org/philanthropy/economic_security_initiative)

**4/12/10**- Grant Applications are DUE by mail to the Maine Women's Fund.

**4/16/10**- Grant Applications will begin being assessed by community members as part of a public review process.

**6/1/10**- Applicants will be notified by email and mail.

## **SEND APPLICATION TO:**

Maine Women's Fund  
P.O. Box 5135  
Portland, ME 04101  
Attn: Jessica Wallner

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If at any time you have questions about the application process, we encourage you to contact Jessica Wallner at 207-774-5513 or [Jessica@mainewomensfund.org](mailto:Jessica@mainewomensfund.org).



## Organization and Contact Information

**Name of Organization:**

**Name of Fiscal Agent, if different than organization:**

**Organization Address:**

**City, State ZIP:**

**Organization Website:**

**Organization General Email:**

**Organization Phone:**

**Primary Contact Person:**

Title:

Phone:

Email:

**Executive Director Contact, if different than Primary Contact**

Name:

Phone:

Email:

### Application Information

**Is your organization an IRS 501 (c) 3 nonprofit?** Yes No

**Is your organization a public agency or unit of government?** Yes No

**Is your organization a public, charter, or private school?** Yes No

**Can you find a fiscal sponsor?** Yes No

If you answer no, please explain:

**Funds are being requested for (check one):**

- General Operating Support
- Program/Project Support
- Start-up Costs

**Dollar amount requested: \$**

**Total annual organization budget: \$**

- 5 -

For more information contact Jessica Wallner  
via email at [Jessica@mainewomensfund.org](mailto:Jessica@mainewomensfund.org) or phone 207-774-5513.



**Name of program or project (for support other than operating):**

**Total project or program budget (for support other than operating):\$**

**Funding Request Description**

- 1) What is the issue or need this proposal addresses? (half page or less)
- 2) What is the specific change you wish to achieve with this proposal? (one paragraph or bulleted points)
- 3) Please describe the efforts that will achieve this change. (one page or less)
- 4) What strategies and activities will you use to achieve this change? (check up to three)

- Education and/or Outreach to women and girls
- Grassroots Community Organizing
- Leadership Development
- Arts
- Cultural Awareness
- Public Awareness
- Public Policy
- Direct Service
- Research
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe the outcomes your proposal will achieve in its duration.**

- 5) Please describe the outcomes your proposal will achieve in the course of your current strategic plan and please indicate the time frame. (1 paragraph or bulleted points)
- 6) What evidence of progress and criteria for success will you use? How will you know you have achieved the outcomes you desire? What will you see? (1 paragraph or bulleted points)
- 7) In addition to this application, how will you advance economic security for women and girls in Maine? (1 paragraph or bulleted points)
- 8) To help us understand your capacity needs, please describe the factors which advance your efforts, internally and externally. (1 paragraph or bulleted points)



9) To help us understand the web of organizations important to your success, please list three other organizations/programs that contribute to your success through synergistic or collaborative work. (bulleted points)

10) What county or counties will you serve if funded?

**What indicator(s) of social change best applies to your program? (check up to two)**

- Shifts in Definition
- Shifts in Behavior
- Shifts in Engagement
- Shifts in Policy
- Current Position Maintained

**Supporting Documentation**

Please attach and check off the following supporting documents:

- Current organization budget, and if applicable, budget for program or project for which funding is requested.
- Cash flow, confirmed revenue, and anticipated revenue for current calendar year (or 12-month period).
- Most recent Form 990 tax return.
- Audited financials, if available.
- Most recent annual report or relevant organizational document.
- Current planning document (strategic plan, logic model, theory of change, business plan).

If you do not have access to one or more of these documents, please explain why:

**Authorization**

Name and title of executive director or board chair:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_