

2016 Economic Security Initiative Grant Guidelines and Application



►MISSION AND VISION

The mission of the Maine Women's Fund is to transform the lives of Maine women and girls through strategic grantmaking, community engagement and support to nonprofit organizations dedicated to social change. The Fund's vision is a just and caring society in which Maine women and girls thrive so communities prosper. Since 1989, the Fund has granted \$1.8 million to organizations across the state.

►FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

The Maine Women's Fund makes grants to programs that advance **economic security** for women (of all ages) and girls in Maine. Eligibility is limited to nonprofit organizations or groups that demonstrate tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax-exempt 7871 federally-recognized tribal organizations, or groups that submit an application through a fiscal sponsor that meets these requirements.

TYPES OF FUNDING

1. **General Operating Support:** Operational costs that maintain and sustain the ongoing work and programs of an organization, i.e. salaries, benefits, rent, copying, phone, etc.
2. **Program or Project Grants:** Existing program/project costs or those that may be in addition to an organization's regular programming.

FUNDING AREAS

1. **Education:** Programs that offer education and training which build confidence, self-reliance, independence, and safety.
2. **Financial Skills & Literacy:** Programs that increase the financial skills, opportunities and/or literacy of individuals or the 25%+ of Maine's businesses that are woman-owned.
3. **Healthcare:** Programs that provide access to and/or improve the quality of healthcare for women and girls.
4. **Leadership:** Programs that develop and sustain a critical mass of diverse women leaders capable of driving change by supporting self-empowerment and actively building inclusiveness that encompasses, but is not limited to, race and socioeconomic class.
5. **Personal Safety:** Programs that ensure freedom from and care for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other issues that threaten personal safety.
6. **Policy:** Programs that identify gender-based disparities and implement the policies to correct them.

GRANT SIZE

The Fund will consider proposals for as much as \$10,000. The funding request may not exceed 10% of the overall organizational budget.

DURATION

Applications shall be for one budget year. The grant period will begin July 1, 2016 and end June 30, 2017.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

We invite applications from organizations based in and serving women and girls in Maine.

FIVE INDICATORS OF CHANGE

Applicants will be asked to identify the long-term impact of work to be funded within one or more of the following parameters (using examples from the environmental community):

1. **Shifts in definition or reframing of issues:** The issue is defined. *For example, “going green” becomes a mainstream definition as the result of environmental awareness and action.*
2. **Shifts in individual or community behavior:** People are behaving differently. *For example, people recycle at greater rates and buy energy efficient appliances.*
3. **Shifts in engagement:** People in the community or larger society are more engaged. *For example, people attend talks and information sessions on environmental issues, and share the information with friends.*
4. **Shifts in policies:** An institutional policy or practice has changed. *For example, the local school district enacts a “no idling” policy for school buses.*
5. **Maintaining progress:** Earlier progress has been maintained in the face of opposition. *For example, an effort to reduce clean water standards is defeated, leaving existing standards in place.*

►THE FUND DOES NOT MAKE GRANTS TO/FOR:

- Organizations outside of Maine.
- Individuals seeking scholarships to a university, college, or technical program.
- Capital campaigns.
- Religious activities.
- Retroactive funding.
- Fundraising events.
- Direct services not linked to the enumerated social change indicators.
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, age, gender, ability level or sexual orientation.
- Organizations that limit or oppose women’s right to self-determination.
- Agencies of state or federal government, unless they are part of a community collaborative that includes eligible organizations.
- Individuals seeking personal assistance.

►FUNDING DECISIONS

The grants committee of the Maine Women’s Fund includes its board members and others they appoint. The grants committee makes final recommendations to the board, which makes all final grant decisions.

►APPLICATION DEADLINE(S)

All Letters of Interest must be submitted online no later than Friday, November 20 at 5 pm.

For those invited to submit full applications, they are due no later than 5 pm on Friday, February 5. Submit the full application (including all supporting documentation) to kelly@mainewomensfund.org as a **single PDF file**.

►CONTACT INFORMATION

For any additional questions after reviewing the application and materials contact:
Kimberly Crichton, Grants Coordinator | 207-441-4710 | kimberly.crichton@gmail.com

To assure fairness for all applicants, anyone going over the page limit for each section will have those pages removed from their application. Applications that have included any additional information will not be eligible for review. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.

FULL APPLICATION

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW (maximum 2 pages)

- What is/are the need(s)/issue(s) your proposal addresses?
- What are the proposal goals and how do they advance the economic security of women and girls in Maine?
- How does the proposal fit within the organization's mission and what relevant experience does the organization have in addressing such issue(s)/need(s)?
- If there are leadership components to the proposal, please explain them using concrete examples and identifying any specific populations reached.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS (maximum 1 page)

- Please outline the strategies to achieve the desired goals and the timeline for achieving them.
- Please describe how the project will engage stakeholders and specific organizations with which yours will collaborate, if any.

BUDGET(S) (1 or 2 pages, depending on type of request)

- If you are requesting project support, provide a one-page project budget.
- All budgets should include line items that identify where the MWF grant would be applied and sources of committed and/or anticipated revenue, including those organizations applying for general operating support.
- All applicants must provide a current-year organizational operating budget.
- Maximum request is \$10,000.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT (maximum 1 page)

- Indicate the short and long-term measurable outcomes that will be achieved by this grant and the organization's evaluation process to track and measure the effectiveness of your project.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Include the following supporting documents at the end of your application:

- Current/Final 501(c)(3), or federally recognized tribal government, IRS determination letter (for your organization or your fiscal sponsor's organization).
- If the organization has a fiscal sponsor attach a copy of the letter of agreement between the organization and the fiscal sponsor and their current Section 501(c)(3) determination letter.
- If the organization has a fiscal sponsor attach a copy of their current year organizational operating budget, in addition to the materials requested in the BUDGET(S) section for the organization.
- Most recent audited financial statement (in full) for the organization (and the fiscal sponsor if you have one). If the organization has no audited statement, send the most recent unaudited financial statement. Do not send any 990s.
- Letters of agreement if collaborating with another organization/s.
- List of current board of directors.

For more information prior to submission contact Kimberly Crichton, Grants Coordinator at 207-441-4710 or kimberly.crichton@gmail.com.

To submit application, email as a single PDF file to kelly@mainewomensfund.org by 5 pm on Friday, February 5, 2016.

Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.

Maine Women's Fund | 74 Lunt Rd, Suite 100 | Falmouth, ME 04105