



Racial Justice Fund

Grant Award Guidelines

Background

The Racial Justice Fund of the Maine Justice Foundation was formed by 23 founding donors in the summer of 2020. The first round of grants was awarded in early 2021.

The Racial Justice Fund supports education and advocacy aimed at achieving racial justice and eliminating racism. The Fund will support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color by forging social, systemic, and economic solutions to combat racism in Maine.

Goals

Grants from this fund will be made to qualified organizations for programs to advance racial justice throughout Maine. Specifically, grants will be made to:

1. Implement programs, processes, education, and systems at every level of Maine society, including, but not limited to, the legal system, healthcare, education, the workplace, food insecurity, the courts and housing that address racism.
2. Identify interpersonal and systemic racism in organizations and systems, and create solutions; and
3. Assist in the creation of policies, and organizational cultures devoid of racism.

Grant Amount

Grants from the Racial Justice Fund will be up to \$10,000 for any given project and may be renewed up to three years. Funding will not normally be granted to a project for more than three grant cycles.

Eligibility

Applicants must be Maine-based and must demonstrate the involvement and participation of Maine residents who are Black, Indigenous or People of Color.

Applicants must be engaged in, and grant funds may only be expended for, charitable or educational work in Maine. Grants will not be made to annual fundraising appeals, political entities, capital campaigns or endowments, or for program expenses that have already been incurred.

Grant recipients will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, age, handicap or national origin against (a) any person applying for employment or employed by the applicant with respect to any personnel action proposed or taken concerning the applicant or employee; or (b) any person seeking participation in, or the benefits or proceeds of, the work supported in whole or part by this grant.

Reporting

Grant recipients will be expected to submit a brief six-month status report that includes a summary of work accomplished and an itemization of expenses incurred, grant funds spent and an accounting of unspent grant funds. An annual report is required at the conclusion of the grant (normally one year after award). Failure to submit grant reports or comply with other grant conditions may jeopardize an applicant's continuing eligibility for grants from the Racial Justice Fund.

The Racial Justice Foundation will designate a Fund point of contact for each grant recipient. This individual will conduct one or more site visits and/or interviews with project staff during the period of the grant.

Funding Decisions

The Advisory Committee of the Racial Justice Fund considers many factors in the decision making, including, but not limited to: 1) the strength of the applications; 2) diversity of applications funded (including geographic and demographic distribution); and 3) opportunities to make the greatest impact. The Advisory Committee makes final recommendations to the Board of the Maine Justice Foundation, which votes upon the grant recommendations in accordance with the Charter for the Racial Justice Fund.

Return of Unspent Grant Funds

Grant funds may only be used for the project outlined in the grant proposal/application. Grant recipients will return any grant funds unexpended or uncommitted at the end of the grant period to the Maine Justice Foundation Racial Justice Fund.