

# Maine Land Trust COVID-19 Response Grant

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption in the work land trusts do to conserve Maine land. Land trusts are being forced to operate in new ways, resulting in unexpected costs and organizational stress in an uncertain funding environment. To help ensure that Maine's land trusts can continue to provide important benefits at this critical time, a very generous individual has provided funds to MCHT which will be re-granted to selected Maine land trusts to offset expenses related to this disruption. These are one-time grants that will be awarded in the late fall of 2020.

## Grant Size:

- Approximately 15-20 grants will be given in amounts not to exceed \$10,000.

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicant must be a 501(c)3 non-profit
- Applicant must be a current member of the Maine Land Trust Network
- Applicant must have national accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission or have adopted LTA's Land Trust Standards & Practices

## Purpose:

The COVID-19 Response Grant Program seeks to partially offset expenses incurred due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Proposals should fall into one of three areas, (or be a combination):

- Costs associated with the increased burden of stewarding and managing lands given the heavy use of preserves experienced in 2020, and that are expected again in 2021.
- Costs associated with outreach programs initiated to make your lands more accessible to more people during 2020 and 2021, including programs to help people that traditionally face obstacles to accessing the outdoors.
- Upgrades in technology required for remote work, virtual donor stewardship, virtual events and enhanced cyber security made necessary by the pandemic.

Proposals can include future expenses addressing these issues or 2020 expenses already incurred (with appropriate documentation/receipts) in any of these areas. Proposals with a combination of already incurred and future expenses are also acceptable.

## Evaluation:

Proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to solve challenges that arose, or will arise, because of the pandemic. A proposal to purchase technology that allows for virtual preserve tours needed after canceling staff-led tours, for example, might be a strong proposal. Proposals that are unrelated to the stress placed on Maine land trusts this year because of the pandemic, (e.g., rent for an office already being used, salaries for existing staff, or pre-pandemic plans for stewardship at existing preserves) would not be considered strong proposals.

## Application Process & Deadline:

Please answer the questions on the Grant Application Form, adhering to the following procedural requirements:

- **Please send application, project budget, and any supporting maps, documents or photos in a single PDF.** Other accompanying documentation may be attached in a second PDF or as separate documents.
- **Applications must be submitted electronically to [dbissett@mcht.org](mailto:dbissett@mcht.org).** Contact us if that presents you with a challenge and we will make alternative arrangements.
- Applications must be received by **Friday, November 20th, 2020**. We will respond to confirm receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please call Donna at (207) 607-4577.
- Applications by fax will NOT be considered.
- Limit your narrative to two (2) pages

Contact:

Questions about the COVID-19 Response Grant may be directed to Warren Whitney at (207) 607-9057 or [wwhitney@mcht.org](mailto:wwhitney@mcht.org).