

The Maine Land Trust Network (MLTN) strengthens and connects Maine's land conservation organizations so that they can support healthy, resilient communities. Established in 1995, MLTN serves as a central hub for information and connection. The Network provides a broad array of programs, services, and resources that build the capacity and sustainability of land conservation organizations throughout the state.

Here are some updates about our programming and grants for 2026. Details for all these grant programs are available at [MLTN.org/resources/regrants](https://MLTN.org/resources/regrants).

### **L.L.Bean Maine Land Trust Grant Program**

#### **Applications due Friday, September 25**

L.L.Bean has been a key partner of Maine land trusts for years, both as a Lead Conference Sponsor making this event possible and also helping Maine Coast Heritage Trust create and continue the L.L.Bean Maine Land Trust Grant Program. This year, the Program will distribute \$50,000 in grants for stewardship, preserve management, and programming. Join us in thanking L.L.Bean for their generous support.

### **Round 2 of MCHT's Climate Resilience Conservation Fund**

#### **Applications due Monday, May 18**

In 2024, the State of Maine was awarded a \$69 million climate resilience grant from NOAA to protect Maine's communities, environment, and working waterfronts from extreme storms, flooding, and rising sea levels. As part of these efforts, Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) and the Maine Land Trust Network administer the Climate Resilience Conservation Fund (CRCF), a fee and easement acquisition grant program. The second round of the program is currently underway.

### **Sustained Collaboration & Merger Assistance Fund**

#### **Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

The Sustained Collaboration & Merger Assistance Fund provides financial support to Maine-based land conservation organizations seeking to strengthen organizational health and effectiveness through sustained collaboration and/or merger. The Fund includes 3 categories of grants, aligning with different phases of sustained collaboration processes:

- *Exploration and feasibility grants.* For organizations that are committed to a formal exploration of sustained collaboration with one or more other entities
- *Implementation grants.* For organizations that have committed to pursue a merger.
- *Unifying and strengthening merged organizations grants:* Operating support for organizations that have recently implemented a merger.

Grants in each category generally do not exceed \$25,000 with a total maximum of \$100,000 per sustained collaborative effort. Organizations are welcome to apply to this fund more than once. Interested organizations are encouraged to contact Megan Shore ([mshore@mcht.org](mailto:mshore@mcht.org)) with questions.

## **New Grant Programs**

MLTN is excited to announce several new program and grant opportunities.

### **Organizational Assessment and Capacity Support Program**

#### **Expressions of interest are welcome at any time**

This new program provides direct support and funding to land conservation organizations who seek to enhance their effectiveness through learning, assessment, strategic alignment, and tailored capacity building. The program emphasizes reflection, learning, communication, and strategic alignment as tools for enhanced capacity and organizational effectiveness. Through the program, participating organizations are guided through an organizational assessment process designed to help the organization better understand its strengths and areas for growth. Following the assessment, funding is provided to help the organization implement key recommendations. Organizations are eligible for up to \$25,000 to cover the costs of the assessment and implementation of key recommendations. Contact Megan Shore ([mshore@mcht.org](mailto:mshore@mcht.org)) with questions.

### **Leadership Coaching for MLTN Member Staff and Board**

#### **Expressions of interest are welcome at any time**

MLTN is pleased to offer professional coaching services to MLTN member organizations. Through coaching, MLTN member staff and/or board members (regardless of position) are supported to grow in their leadership, clarify their thought processes, and take actions that support their goals and are in line with their values. Coaching provides a tailored approach to meet individual and/or group growth and effectiveness and generally entails an initial commitment of 6-12 1-hour sessions scheduled over 3-8 months. Interested organizations are encouraged to speak with Megan Shore ([mshore@mcht.org](mailto:mshore@mcht.org)) for more information.

### **The Transaction Assistance Grant (TAG) Program**

#### **Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

The TAG program seeks to accelerate the pace of land conservation by providing financial assistance to land trusts for transaction-related project costs. TAG responds to immediate conservation needs and is designed to get funding on the ground efficiently and effectively. Applications for TAG grants will be accepted on a rolling basis as long as funds are available. Keep your eye on the MLTN funding resources page for more information on the application process. Contact Angela Twitchell ([atwitchell@mcht.org](mailto:atwitchell@mcht.org)) with questions or to discuss a project before submitting an application.

### **Maine Land Trust Accreditation Assistance Program**

#### **Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

is designed to increase the operational effectiveness and sustainability of Maine land trusts as they prepare to apply for accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Awards of up to \$15,000 per land trust are available until funds are depleted. Funds can be used for a wide range of activities that land trusts identify as important to them as they prepare to apply for accreditation (LTAC fee, consultants or temporary staff, completion of criteria required for accreditation, etc.) Applications will be received on a rolling basis. Please contact Angela Twitchell at [atwitchell@mcht.org](mailto:atwitchell@mcht.org) to discuss potential applications. More information will be available at MLTN.org soon.

## **Resources and Help**

MLTN provides help, resources, and networking opportunities, plus news and information on issues and activities relevant to land conservation.

**MLTN.org:** Our website provides data and contacts for Maine's local land trusts, and a free land trust job board. MLTN.org also provides sample policies and documents, consultant lists, videos, funding sources, land conservation publications, and a member forum to "converse" with peers on land trust issues.

**Infoline:** Our weekly electronic newsletter keeps you abreast of meetings, trainings, funding opportunities, policy updates, and resources that can help you achieve your conservation goals. Subscribe at [MLTN.org/about/newsletter](http://MLTN.org/about/newsletter).

**MLTN Member Forum:** We host an online forum where members can post questions, raise issues, and float ideas with their peers who work and volunteer protecting and caring for Maine's special places. Sign up at [MLTN.org/about/forum](http://MLTN.org/about/forum).

**Call us!** MCHT Land Trust Program is here to help. If you have a sticky issue or burning question that you'd like to talk to someone about, give us a call at 207-729-7366. We'll do our best to help and if we don't have the answer, we'll help you find someone who does.

## **Maine Land Trust Regional In-Person Meetings This Fall!**

We hope to see you this fall when we host meetings for land trust staff, board members, volunteers, and other partners in six regions around the state. Dates will be announced in late summer and will be announced in Infoline, on the MLTN Member Forum, and on our website.