

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Dear Community Partners,

We are delighted to inform you that Bowdoin College will again offer the Common Good Grant through the McKeen Center for the Common Good. The Common Good Grant provides over \$10,000 to local non-profits that serve the greater Brunswick community. With the intent of maintaining current programs as well as funding new initiatives that serve local communities, the grant is made possible by an anonymous donor interested in providing students the opportunity to learn about the field of philanthropy while developing relationships with non-profit organizations. Additionally, the Common Good Grant Development Committee works to supplement these initial funds by soliciting support from community members. In the past, the Development Committee has increased our grant base by as much as 200 percent.

Grants will be awarded by the Common Good Grant Committee, a group of twenty-seven Bowdoin students advised by the staff of the McKeen Center. **We are requiring a Letter of Intent (LOI) from interested organizations as the first phase of the application.** This LOI must be emailed to Sam Cogswell (s.collins@bowdoin.edu) by Monday, November 6th at 12 p.m. EST. You will be notified by mid-December regarding your status and, should you advance, be invited to submit a full grant application electronically in January.

Mission Statement

The Common Good Grant provides over \$10,000 in grants annually to local non-profits that serve the greater Brunswick area (Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Brunswick, Durham, Freeport, Georgetown, Harpswell, Lewiston, Lisbon, Lisbon Falls, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, Wiscasset, Woolwich, and Yarmouth) as well as organizations throughout Maine that hosted 2023 McKeen Center Orientation Trips to maintain current programs and to fund new initiatives that positively impact local communities. These grants are awarded by the Common Good Grant Committee, a group of Bowdoin students interested in the non-profit sector and philanthropy. The funding for these grants is provided by an anonymous donation of over \$10,000 and is supplemented by fundraising done by students serving on the Common Good Grant Development Committee. Over the past five years we have traditionally been able to grant over \$25,000 spread between six and ten non-profits each year.

Sincerely,

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COMMON GOOD GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who May Apply?

Any registered, equal opportunity non-profit organization located within 20 miles of Brunswick that serves the greater Brunswick area may apply. Organizations outside of this radius, but who are BIPOC-led or who worked with Bowdoin's 2023 orientation trips may also apply.

What CAN'T We Fund?

We are unable to fund capital efforts and contribute to endowments. Individual grants will not exceed the amount of \$4,000. Funding requests must have relevance to the program and organization size. We cannot fund organizations that received a grant from the Common Good Grant Committee last year, or who have received a *total of three* within the *last eight years*.

What Must be Included in Your Letter of Intent (LOI)?

Your organization's letter of intent (LOI) should be no more than one page, single spaced, and written, if possible, on the letterhead of your organization. In the letter, addressed to the Common Good Grant Committee, we ask you to provide the following information:

- A brief history of your organization and its programs;
- How much funding you are applying for (\$4,000 or less) and what your objectives are with the funding;
- What outcomes you expect from the grant;
- Additional support, financial or programmatic, your organization has for the grant;
- Contact information for your organization's grant steward.

A helpful guide to writing an LOI can be found here:

<https://www.grantwatch.com/grantnews/how-to-write-a-loi-letter-of-intent-letter-of-interest-grants-2022/>

How are Requests Evaluated?

Requests will be reviewed by the student members of the Common Good Grant Committee. All applications will be considered on a competitive basis. Programs will be judged on several criteria, including:

- realistic funding and implementation plans;
- accessibility and ability to address a clear public need;
- clarity and organization of the proposal and program goals.

What are the Committee's areas of emphasis this year?

Over the last few years, the Common Good Grant Committee students have identified certain areas of need that they wish to emphasize in a given year. This year, the committee has made a commitment to fund at least one organization providing services in the following four areas:

- Justice, Equity, and Culture
- Health and Basic Needs
- Adult and Youth Education and Development
- Environment, Agriculture, and Sustainability

The committee will likely fund more than one grant from some of these categories, but this commitment is based on the committee recognizing the importance of diverse group of non-profits that do many different types of important work.

The committee has also committed to funding at least one organization with Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) leadership. BIPOC-led organizations working anywhere in Maine may apply for Common Good Grant in 2023/24. They can, but do not have to, fit into any of the above four areas of emphasis.

LOI Submission Deadline: *Monday, November 6, 2023 at 12 p.m. EST*

All applications must be emailed to Sam Cogswell (s.collins@bowdoin.edu) on the date listed above. Organizations will be notified of their status by Friday, December 15, 2023. Organizations invited to formally apply for the grant will submit their applications in January. Common Good Grant committee members will set up site visits with all finalists in February and March with final funding decisions made by the first week of April. Final grants will be awarded in the last week of April at Bowdoin's Common Good Grant Awards Ceremony. This grant is intended for use during the time-period between May 2024 and April 2025.