

McKEEN CENTER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

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 \$20,000 to local non-profits that serve Mid Coast Maine and who collaborated on Community Immersion Orientation Trips 2024 with our office. 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-two 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 submitted by this form by Monday, November 18th at 5 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. This grant is intended for use during the time-period between May 2025 and April 2026.

Sincerely,

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COMMON GOOD GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who May Apply?

For organizations that work within or serve communities within 20 miles of Bowdoin College, we welcome applications from organizations that meet one of these parameters:

- Nonprofit, charitable organizations tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Municipalities
- Public schools
- Public agencies working for the State of Maine
- Indian tribal governments (or political subdivisions) recognized by the Department of the Interior
- Groups without any tax status may apply with a fiscal sponsor that is an eligible organization as described above.

If an organization is located outside of the 20-mile radius around Bowdoin College, they must still meet one of the parameters outlined above and one of the following criteria:

- Identify as a BIPOC-led organization.
- Have partnered with Bowdoin College Community Immersion Orientation Trips in fall 2024.

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.

We will also be holding a Grant Writing Workshop on 10/25 at 9:30 AM on campus for community partners and students. [Please register here if you are interested in attending.](#)

[Alternatively, here is a helpful guide to writing a LOI.](#)

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 each of the following four areas:

- Health and Basic Needs
- Adult and Youth Education and Development
- Environment, Agriculture, and Sustainability
- Social Impact, Community, and Culture

The committee will likely fund more than one grant from some of these areas, 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 2024-2025.

LOI Submission Deadline: *Monday, November 18th at 5 PM EST.*

[All applications must be submitted via this form](#) on the date listed above. Organizations will be notified of next steps to the process in mid-December. 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 early April. Final grants will be awarded in the last week of April at Bowdoin's Common Good Grant Awards Ceremony.