



## Healthy People Healthy Places *Lewiston-Auburn Focus Area*

**Available funding in 2024:** up to \$1,510,000

### **General description**

Sewall Foundation supports organizations that work together to improve the health and well-being of people and the environment in Lewiston and Auburn (L-A). Currently we are doing this through a 3-year pilot process (2022-2024) to implement an [L-A Systems Approach Workplan](#) that was co-designed with community organizations in L-A in 2021. The goal of this pilot is to develop processes and structures that support organizations working collectively over the long term to address complex systemic issues identified by the community. L-A's systems approach is designed to strengthen collaboration, build capacity, deepen equity, and center community leadership, particularly by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and youth.

Sewall grants support work in L-A that has been prioritized through a broadly participatory, community-based, collaboration-building process. In addition to grants, multiple strategies – including capacity building and technical assistance, impact investment, convening, and shared learning opportunities – will be used to advance collective work in partnership with the Lewiston-Auburn community and other L-A funders.

### **Priorities**

Grants and other strategies will support collective work in Lewiston-Auburn that addresses one or more of these **five Priority Areas**:

- Equitable Municipal Systems
- Workforce Access and Economic Development
- Community Health and Wellness
- Healthy, Affordable Housing
- Healthy Local Food Systems

**Preference** will be given to organizations:

- that participate in the collaboration-building process introduced in [the L-A Systems Approach Workplan](#)
- that promote equitable civic leadership, especially by Black, Indigenous and People of Color and youth
- that support resilience for people, land and waters in Lewiston and Auburn

### **2024 Grants**

In 2024, grants in the Lewiston-Auburn focus area will support two purposes.

1. \$650,000 will be available to amend existing grants and support new ones to further L-A's collaborative work in 2024. (An additional \$995,000 has already been committed for 2024, including a total of \$110,000 that was deferred in 2023 for special collaborative projects in Housing, Health, and Equitable Municipal Systems.)
2. Up to \$750,000 will be available to support mid-term and longer-term emergency response efforts following the shootings in Lewiston in October 2023.

It is anticipated that new grants and grant amendments in L-A in 2024 will be for one year. Funds will be allocated through the collective decision-making process described below.

### **Funding Allocation Process**

Since 2022, dozens of organizations working in Lewiston and Auburn have been participating in quarterly collaboration-building sessions facilitated by consultants from Tamarack Institute and S. E. Foster Associates. Through those sessions, organizations working in each of the priority areas listed above identified shared goals and priorities, existing collaboratives doing that work, and gaps where more collaboration is needed. Each priority area has designed a collaborative structure and process to support their collective work and shared decision making. **Sewall grants in the Lewiston-Auburn Focus Area are allocated through L-A's collaborative process.**

In January 2024, L-A organizations will meet by priority area to determine how to equitably distribute available resources to advance their collective work. These sessions will be via Zoom on these days and times:

- Healthy, Affordable Housing: Thursday, January 18 at 10am-noon
- Workforce Access and Economic Development: Thursday, January 25 at 1-3pm
- Equitable Municipal Systems: Monday, January 29 at 10am-noon
- Community Health and Wellness AND Healthy Local Food Systems: Thursday, February 1 at 10am-noon

**Guidance for new applicants:** All new applicants to the Lewiston-Auburn focus area are encouraged to participate in a collaboration-building session in order to begin connecting with L-A organizations and the process they are designing to lower competition, increase transparency and trust, and engage in shared decision making about their work and resources to support it. Please contact Laress Lawrence ([LLawrence@sewallfoundation.org](mailto:LLawrence@sewallfoundation.org)) to discuss possible alignment with L-A's funding priorities and process and to request a link to a virtual session. After the session, she will provide a link to the grant application and guidance on how to complete it.

**Guidance for organizations with current one-year grants:** Please attend the quarterly session in January that best fits your schedule and that aligns with the work which Sewall funded in 2023. In that session, you will decide collectively how to allocate funding for 2024. Current one-year grants can be amended for an additional year of funding in alignment with the collective decision, without completing a new application.

Organizations in Lewiston and Auburn that are not being funded by Sewall are still welcome to participate in the quarterly sessions, and some organizations (regardless of funding status) may wish to contribute to shaping the collective work in more than one priority area. In addition, several funders, including Sewall, will continue to meet regularly in 2024 to explore how to work more closely together to support collective work in L-A.

### **Contact**

Please reach out to Laress Lawrence ([LLawrence@sewallfoundation.org](mailto:LLawrence@sewallfoundation.org)) if you have any questions or wish to discuss focus area alignment and receive the Healthy People Healthy Places grant application link.