



Healthy People Healthy Places *Nature-Based Education Focus Area*

Available funding in 2024: up to \$131,000

Special note on 2024 funding: Because of the limited funding available this year, our grantmaking will be by invitation only. We will either invite new applications (for new work or for organizations that aren't current grantees) or make amendments to existing grants. If you have work that you would like to have considered for invitation, please contact Tom Boutureira at tboutureira@sewallfoundation.org to discuss. Our general Focus Area approach remains unchanged and is outlined below.

General description

All Mainers deserve the opportunity to enjoy time outdoors, because the more people connect with nature the more we all benefit. When more people have more meaningful experiences outdoors, their quality of life, health and social well-being improve and in turn Maine communities become stronger and more sustainable. The Sewall Foundation's nature-based education funding supports collaborative and organizational initiatives that advance the field, build strong networks that change systems and policy, include and elevate diverse voices and leadership, and result in equitable outcomes for all Mainers.

Priorities

To achieve the impact described above, the Sewall Foundation will continue focusing on building the collaborative infrastructure and backbone for statewide and systems change efforts. That said, we also recognize that organizations and leaders in the field are always innovating and testing new ideas and approaches that can inform these broader efforts. The Sewall Foundation's funding in Nature-Based Education will be focused on the following areas:

Collaborative Funding (multi-partner initiatives):

- **Field-Building:** Strengthening the overall field of organizations and practitioners through increased capacity-building and professional development opportunities.
- **Network-Building:** Resourcing networks to address complex systems change work to increase equitable access and opportunity for all Maine students.
- **Diversity, Voice, and Equity:** Increasing diverse youth participation and voice in sector-wide leadership, networks, and decision-making and applying a racial equity lens in the sector. This can include funds for barrier removal to ensure all participants can engage fully.
- **Data & Evaluation:** Creating data sets and other evaluation tools and frameworks to identify barriers and underserved regions/populations, to develop a baseline from which to measure impact and progress and inform advocacy and policy actions, or to measure collaborative/initiative or statewide/fieldwide impact.
- **Advocacy & Policy:** Supporting efforts that advocate and enact lasting policy change and funding for statewide sector priorities.

Organizational Funding:

- **Transformational Opportunities:** General operating grants with priority for organizations led by groups historically underrepresented in the nature-based education sector including youth, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, differently-abled, and low-income communities that will have transformational impact for the field.

Contact

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