



Healthy People Healthy Places *Washington County Focus Area*

Available funding in 2024: up to \$167,500

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

Washington County is a landscape where the people are inextricably interconnected with the environment and where the natural resources have shaped the region's economic base and remain among its greatest assets. Non-native organizations are increasingly exploring ways to support and partner with the Passamaquoddy Tribes at Motahkomikuk and Sipayik and other Wabanaki people and native-led organizations, but much work remains to acknowledge tribal sovereignty and self-determination, systemic racism and inequities, and historical injustices. Because of its remoteness and strong relationships between leaders and communities, organizations continuously put shared goals and values above individual missions to collaborate, leverage resources, incubate creative solutions, and deliver amazing results. These strengths will be needed as the region faces significant challenges that threaten its long-term viability. The county population is drastically decreasing in each 10-year census period and a disproportionate number of working-age adults will be exiting the workforce in the next 10 years. Multi-generational poverty and trauma, coupled with substance use, requires systems change approaches to social service and educational delivery. And the Gulf of Maine is one of the fastest warming waterbodies in the world and both climate change and shifts in global markets are impacting the region's socio-economic fabric. In response to these significant challenges, networks of leaders are engaging community voices to create a future that is resilient and adaptive to the changes ahead.

Priorities

We seek to strengthen collaboration, build capacity, deepen equity, increase shared prosperity, and center the voices of those who live and work in the region, including Wabanaki people. The Sewall Foundation's funding in Washington County will be focused on the following areas:

- **Organizational Capacity:** Providing operating support so organizations and initiatives have the human capacity to advance regional priorities and the financial resources to participate in collaborative work.
- **Transformative Initiatives:** Resourcing projects that have regional impact and high levels of readiness to implement in the next 3 years (2022-2024).
- **Collaboration:** Supporting the backbone organization of collaborative efforts so they are well-coordinated, resourced to follow through on meetings, plans, and shared priorities, and able to communicate effectively with stakeholders. Specific collaborative projects may also be considered.
- **Healing and Racial Equity:** Supporting applied racial equity learning for staff, organizations, and collaborations/partnerships that will lead to healing, true partnership, and shared prosperity with Wabanaki people; tribal sovereignty being acknowledged and reflected in all work in the region; and a region that welcomes new and diverse residents, visitors, and ideas.

- **Evaluation:** Supporting [developmental evaluation](#) to drive meaningful change and measure impact.
- **Convening & Capacity-Building:** Helping organizations and people to gather for shared learning, to develop skills and capacities across organizations, or for emergent discussions. Planning (ex. Strategic planning, financial planning, etc.) and consulting support also fall under this area.

Contact

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