

## Criteria 1: General Information, Eligibility and Applicant Information

Volunteer Maine is inviting applications for a series of Betterment Fund and Maine Volunteer Foundation supported ConSERVE Maine grants of up to \$10,000 to support conservation projects that build community action through service and volunteerism to address needs related to energy efficiency, environmental education, flood resilience, and community health in Oxford, Franklin, and Somerset counties. All funded projects must have at least two individuals engaging in service which can be a combination of any of the following: interns engaged in service-based projects or service learning, volunteers that commit to specific tasks whether or not they are stipended, fellows that engage in service projects, and/or Corps members from other Corps programs.

### **Examples of potential projects include but are not limited to:**

- a. Creating a Community Garden
- b. Coordinating a site clean-up that includes volunteers from the community
- c. Developing and leading a series of workshops on climate education such as green energy, composting, plastic reduction, native species planting, etc.
- d. Community art installation that brings awareness to climate issues
- e. Using nature-based solutions to build climate resilient infrastructure along river or lake shorelines
- f. Engaging in invasive species removal or management

Volunteer Maine is committed to making climate solutions accessible to communities throughout Maine especially focusing on those areas that are under-resourced. Funded projects should be developed through community collaboration, including Indigenous collaboration, ensuring solutions are created with and for local residents. The impacts of climate change disproportionately affect low income and marginalized communities so it is important to promote solutions that will benefit those that will be most affected. Applicants should include potential benefits and how accessibility to those benefits will be managed in their project proposals.

Volunteer Maine plans to allocate up to \$30,000 this grant round. The maximum award amount is \$10,000. Grants are anticipated to be awarded by mid-August with start dates as early as September 1, 2026 and as late as November 1, 2026. Projects can be up to nine months in duration.

### **Eligible Uses of Funds**

Expenses must be related to the implementation, management, and support of conservation projects that build community action through service and volunteerism to address energy efficiency, environmental education, flood resilience, and community health in Western Maine counties of Oxford, Somerset, and Franklin.

Project expenses must support the conservation project and engagement of volunteers in the implementation, management, and support of the proposed conservation project. These may include supplies, travel, indirect costs, venue rental fees, and volunteer support. These cannot include staff salaries, fringe benefits, land purchases, or equipment such as vehicle or computer purchases.

Applicants are encouraged to utilize ConSERVE Maine grants as match to leverage other federal, state, or philanthropic grant funds as allowed by those programs. ConSERVE Maine grants may also be used to close project funding gaps for other state funding programs, in accordance with the criteria above. It is the applicant's responsibility to consult the rules for the federal or state funding programs if the ConSERVE Maine grant will be designated as cost-share or match. If applicable, applicants should explain any anticipated use of ConSERVE Maine grant funds as match for another funding program.

Questions about this Program Statement should be sent via email to [lucy.martin@maine.gov](mailto:lucy.martin@maine.gov)

**Eligibility:**

- Be a municipal government, non-profit organization, tribal government, individual community, plantation, township, or unorganized territory in or that serves Oxford, Franklin, or Somerset Counties
- Have a community-centered conservation project that focuses on energy efficiency, environmental education, flood resilience, and community health
- Promote service and volunteerism as a component of that project to increase sustainability of the project. All funded projects must have at least two individuals engaging in service which can be a combination of any of the following: interns engaged in service-based projects or service learning, volunteers that commit to specific tasks whether or not they are stipended, fellows that engage in service projects, and/or Corps members from other Corps programs.

NOTE: Non-profit organizations must include, as a supplementary document, a letter of support from the municipality where the proposed project will be implemented.

\* I confirm that I meet the eligibility requirements for this mini-grant application

Yes

No

SAMPLE

## Criteria 1: General Information, Eligibility and Applicant Information

### \* Applicant Information

**Name:**

**Company/Organization:**

**Professional Title:**

**Postal Address:**

**City/Town:**

**State:**

**ZIP:**

**County:**

**Email Address:**

**Daytime Phone Number:**

### \* Please select under which category your organization falls:

- Municipal Government
- Non-profit organization
- Tribal Government
- Individual Community
- Plantation
- Township
- Unorganized Territory

## Criteria 2: Community Characteristics

\* Please select which county(ies) this project will serve

- Oxford
- Franklin
- Somerset

\* Please identify the population characteristics of those communities (250 words or less)

SAMPLE

### Criteria 3: Grant Focus Area Priorities

**Volunteer Maine recognizes that climate issues are intersectional and applicants are encouraged to think broadly about how their projects relate to these categories: energy efficiency, environmental education, flood resilience, and community health.**

\* Please select which of the following area priorities this project falls under

- Energy Efficiency
- Environmental Education
- Flood Resilience
- Community Health

\* Please explain how the proposed project falls under this category (250 words or less)

SAMPLE

#### Criteria 4: Promotion of Volunteerism

**Applicants should identify how volunteerism will be promoted or utilized to attain the goals of the project and how the funds will be used to support that strategy**

\* My project will include at least two individuals that fit into at least one of these categories

*(i.e. my community garden project will utilize two volunteers that commit to mapping out the garden and organizing additional volunteers for the duration of the project -- multiple categories can be chosen i.e. if volunteers AND Corps members are engaging in the implementation of the project)*

- Interns engaging in service-based projects or service learning
- Volunteers that commit to specific tasks whether or not they are stipended
- Fellows that engage in service projects
- Corps members from other Corps programs

\* Please identify how volunteerism will be incorporated into the project *(250 words or less)*

## Criteria 5: Scope of Work

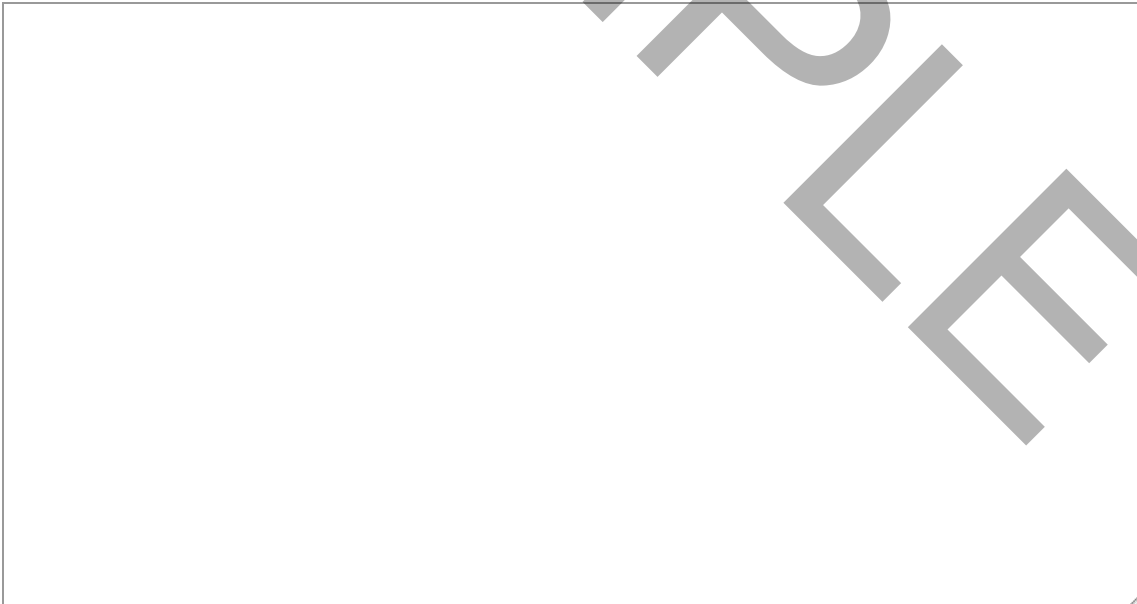
**Please keep this to 500-1000 words total not for each section**

\* Project Description: Describe the proposed project. Number and break down each specific task including the steps needed to complete each task and the deliverables that will result from each task.



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\* Project Timeline: Describe the timeline for completing the project outlining different task and their expected completion - this can be a range such as (1-2 weeks)



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\* Need for the Project: Describe the need for the project - why is it a community priority



\* Project Outcomes: Describe the expected outcomes from the project such as number of volunteers engaged (required), events planned, climate or conservation efforts completed, etc.



\* Project Management: Describe the roles and responsibilities that will be assigned to project participants

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\* Approach To Community Access and Engagement Considerations: Describe how the project will engage with community members during the development of the scope of work and continue to collaborate with them during the project implementation. Identify any specific stakeholders or community partners that you would be interested in working with, including underrepresented populations and those vulnerable to climate impacts

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## Criteria 6: Budget Proposal

**Applicants may provide a Budget Narrative where descriptions of each of the line items and/or justification for the associated costs is necessary however it is not required.**

**Eligible costs are limited to those incurred during the grant period. Expenses incurred prior to or after the grant period are not eligible to be included in the budget.**

\* Please upload your budget worksheet here

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

Optional: Budget narrative



## Supplementary Materials

**Requirement for nonprofit organizations:** a letter of support from the municipality that the non-profit organization will be serving that indicates the municipality is aware and in agreement with what the non-profit is proposing.

**Additional optional supplementary materials (all applicants):** may include pertinent maps, imagery, estimates of costs from vendors or project partners, or other essential (brief) supporting documents.

\* I am a nonprofit organization

Yes

No

SAMPLE

## Supplemental Materials for Nonprofits

\* Please upload your letter of support

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

Please upload supplemental materials

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No file chosen

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## Supplemental Materials

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