

Onion Foundation Equitable Outdoor Access Info Session

Wednesday, February 28
2024



Welcome!

Environment Program: Equitable Outdoor Access Info Session

We invite you to use the chat box to share your:

- Name and Pronouns
- Organization
- Where you are beaming in from today

We are recording this session. The recording and slide deck will be available on our website soon on the Environment Program page.

The Onion Foundation is committed to making our events accessible to everyone. If you require an accommodation or service to fully participate, please message Sally, and we make every effort to support your participation.



Agenda

- Onion Foundation mission and history
- Environment Program overview
- Equitable Outdoor Access Grant Program
 - Eligibility
 - Guidelines
 - Evaluation process
- Grantmaking system
- Q & A



Mission

To build a more equitable, healthy Maine by deepening the connection of all people to the arts and nature.

History

Susan and Fritz Onion formed the Foundation in 2014.

Susan and Fritz chose to work on the arts and the environment because both areas bring their family joy and fulfillment.

To date, the Foundation has awarded more than 1600 grants to 514 organizations totaling nearly \$19M.



Environment Program

The Onion Foundation Environment Program aims to enable all Maine residents to enjoy the state's natural resources and to develop the knowledge, skills, and motivation to protect Maine's environment.

The Environment Program focuses its resources on the people of Maine, whose lives and behaviors will shape environment and climate change outcomes, rather than on capital investments and land acquisition.



Environment Program Strategies

STRATEGY 1: Equitable outdoor access so that all Maine residents feel comfortable outside, connected to nature, and develop an ethic of care.

Open now! Deadline: 3/27/24.

STRATEGY 2: Expand nature learning that gives Maine residents the knowledge they need to take action in their communities.

Opens: 5/8/24. Info Session: 5/20/24.

STRATEGY 3: Advocacy and movement-building that enables Maine residents to protect the environment and mitigate the climate crisis.

Invitation only.



Enable all Maine residents to enjoy the state's natural resources and to develop the knowledge, skills, and motivation to protect Maine's environment.

Equitable Outdoor Access

Nature Learning

Advocacy and Movement Building

Land trusts/
Freshwater

Eliminate
barriers to
access

Catalytic
regional
networks

Nature
learning for
rural youth

Youth
advocacy
skills

Multi-issue
mobilization

Strategy 1: Equitable Outdoor Access

Increase access to the outdoors so that Maine residents are comfortable outside, feel connected to the natural world, and develop an ethic of care for nature

Priorities:

- A. Encourage Maine land trusts and watershed organizations to develop equitable organizations, inclusive programs, and easy access to the outdoors
- B. Eliminate barriers to accessing the outdoors confronted by underserved groups
- C. Support statewide or regional networks, initiatives, and infrastructure that strengthen and connect the outdoor access sector



Strategy 1: Equitable Outdoor Access

Priority A: Encourage Maine land trusts and watershed organizations to develop equitable organizations, inclusive programs, and easy access to the outdoors

Goal: Land trusts and watershed organizations have the capacity and take steps to engage a diverse and growing number of Maine residents.

- ❖ **Land trusts** that have previously received OF support can now apply to the Land Trust Grant Fund Program at Momentum Conservation (Opens 4/10)
- ❖ **Watershed and freshwater organizations** that have previously received OF support will be invited to apply for grant funding, working directly with Susan.

VISIT MOMENTUM'S WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO: momentumconservation.org



Strategy 1: Equitable Outdoor Access

Priority B: Eliminate barriers to accessing the outdoors and nature confronted by underserved groups.

Goal: Improve outdoor access for Black, Indigenous, and people of color and for people living with disabilities.

- ❖ The term “people living with disabilities” includes adults and children in Maine who identify as having mobility, cognition, independent living, hearing, vision and/or self-care disabilities (as defined by the CDC) and their families, friends, caregivers, and educators.

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW UNTIL 3/27/24!



Strategy 1: Equitable Outdoor Access

Priority C: Support catalytic statewide or regional networks, initiatives, and infrastructure resources that strengthen and connect the outdoor access sector.

Goal: Statewide and regional organizations increase learning, sharing, reach, efficacy, and efficiency among outdoor access organizations and reduce costs leading to a stronger sector.

- ❖ If you think this applies to you, please reach out to Roz. Grants for this priority area will be by **invitation only**.



Eligibility

Types of Eligible Organizations:

- 501(c)(3) public charity
- Operating under a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) public charity
- Public education institution
- Maine governmental unit

Must be based in Maine, focused on benefitting Maine's people, and meet the mission and priorities of the Onion Foundation.

General operating support **OR**
project/program-specific support

Check our [Environment Program](#) page FAQs to see which types of grants we generally do not fund.



Eliminate Barriers Grant Program

- Grant range: \$5,000 - \$30,000/year
- Grant term: up to two years
- Requests for two-year grants must describe two years of work with a two-year budget.
- Online submission deadline is Wednesday, 3/27/24 (notification in late May)
- Preview the [grant application](#) in Google Doc



Eliminate Barriers Grant Program

Characteristics of a strong grant application:

1. Qualified leadership
2. People of color and/or people living with disabilities represented in the development and implementation of the work
3. Durable, relevant partnerships that support the participation of people of color and/or people living with disabilities
4. Thoughtful integration of the initiative into the community
5. Direct experiences with nature and the outdoors
6. Program design and communications that create a sense of belonging
7. Reduction of participant-specific barriers to participation



Strategies 1 & 2 – What's the difference?

STRATEGY 1: Equitable Outdoor Access – Eliminate Barriers

- Focused on people of color and people living with disabilities
- Addressing barriers to people getting outside with the goal of **cultivating meaningful experiences in nature**
- **Open now! Deadline 3/27/2024**

STRATEGY 2: Expand Nature Learning

- Focused on school-aged Maine residents
- High-quality, **natural systems-based, and experiential education programs**, especially in underserved areas of the state
- **Opening 5/8/2024**



Eliminate Barriers Grant Program: Evaluation

- We carefully read all applications, and sometimes we reach out with questions.
- We consider the organization or program's potential to eliminate barriers for the priority groups.
- We consider how well each applicant meets those 7 characteristics.
- Other considerations: geographic diversity, overall impact on the sector, and how to fit as many awards to high-quality work as possible into our grantmaking budget.

GivingData Grantmaking Portal

Eliminate Barriers Grant Application:

<https://onionfoundation-portal.givingdata.com/campaign/outdooraccess>

At this link you can:

- Register for a new account
- Login to existing account
- Start a new application

Step by step instructions are also available.

Environment Program Application Dates

Equitable
Outdoor
Access

SPRING 2024 • EQUITABLE OUTDOOR ACCESS

Eliminate barriers confronting underserved groups

- Grant range: \$5,000 - \$30,000 per 12 month period
- Application available in our grantee portal:
 - [Click Here to Start an Application.](#)
 - Step by step instructions for registering a new account and starting an application are [available here](#).
 - Once you have started an application, you can return to the application by [logging in to the portal here](#).
- Online application submission deadline:
 - Wednesday March 27, 2024 (notification in early June)
- Application Preview:
 - [Preview of application questions](#) available on Google Docs
- Information Sessions (via Zoom):
 - **Equitable Outdoor Access, February 28, 2024 at 1:00 PM**
[Register here via zoom](#)
Recording, transcript and slides will be posted here after the meeting.

For More Information

Our website is the place to go for tips and updates. www.onionfoundation.org

If you have particular questions about your organization or eligibility, you can contact us. We respond to email most quickly:

For programmatic questions:

Environment Program Officer

Rosalind Erwin (she/her)

Email: rosalind@onionfoundation.org

For technical and process-related questions:

Grants and Office Administrator

Sally Struever (she/her)

Email: sally@onionfoundation.org

Phone/Text: (207) 713-4121

Questions

We invite you to use the 'raise hand feature' to ask questions or type them in the chat.

<https://calendly.com/rosalind-of/30min>

Thank you!

