Healthy People Healthy Places

Keystone Focus Area

The health and well-being of people, animals, and the environment are inextricably linked. The Sewall Foundation seeks to support and make more visible these connections and support shifts from extractive, harmful ways of being to those that are regenerative, equitable, and support the health and well-being of all life. Sewall’s approach to systems change is informed by Waters of System Change.

Available funding in 2023: Up to $673,000

General Description
The Keystone focus area seeks to connect and support policy, advocacy, accurate narratives, and field and movement building efforts that are contributing to a culture of interconnected well-being that will be reflected in narratives, structures, policies, and the ways in which organizations and communities operate.

Keystone work is viewed through a climate justice lens. This calls for racial justice, regenerative and inclusive economies, and humane ecosystems. It calls for Tribal Sovereignty. It calls for free and fair elections and equitable access to broadband and other essential infrastructure as a means of inclusion. Keystone work is further guided by the Just Transition Principles and focuses at the regional or statewide level.

Work in Keystone is supported through grants, capacity-building and technical assistance, convening, shared learning and impact investment.

2023 Application Process
A limited number of grants will be made in 2023, primarily on an invitation basis. Organizations identified by the Foundation over the course of the 2022 will receive a direct invitation to apply by December 20, 2022.

We recognize that our efforts will not identify every organization that meets our priorities. If, after reading the information below, you feel this is the case for your organization please contact Megan Shore after January 4, 2023 to discuss your work. Be aware that opportunities will be limited.

2023 Grants
In 2023 we anticipate making both 2-year operating grants and project grants, which will be single-year in most cases.

Operating grants (Typical grant size $15,000 - $40,000/year)
- To support organizations and coalitions whose primary focus is policy, advocacy, and/or narrative change work
- To support grassroots movements and organizations working for climate justice
- To support networks and field building organizations whose work creates the conditions for complex change and climate justice through connecting, learning, and practice
Project grants

- To support capacity building and learning opportunities focused on racial and climate justice. *Please note this is not intended for learning within individual organizations but focused on population or sector level learning. (Typical grant size $5,000 - $20,000)*

- To support limited transformative opportunities that clearly advance climate justice, have broad impact, and contribute stories and content that support narrative change. *(Please contact Megan Shore to discuss, prior to applying. Grant size and term will be variable.)*

Priorities

Keystone Focus Area will support organizations and efforts that:

- Demonstrate a clear commitment to climate justice;
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to advance a culture in which the interconnectedness of human, environmental, and animal well-being are recognized;
- Work to create conditions necessary for a just, healthy, sustainable future; with a primary focus on policy, advocacy, narrative change, and/or field and movement building efforts; and
- Work statewide or regionally (in Maine or New England, with clear impact in Maine)

Funding will be prioritized for applicants:

- Led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color, rural Mainers, and women;
- Working collaboratively across sectors; and/or
- Whose work will leverage and enhance public frameworks, funding, or collaborative efforts (e.g. Maine Won’t Wait; Ending Hunger in Maine by 2030; Working Communities Challenge; Justice 40.) infusing a focus on climate justice

2023 Updates and Activities

The Sewall Foundation invested $1.41 million dollars through Keystone grants in 2022, many of which were multi-year. Total grant funding for 2023 will increase to approximately $1.47 million with up to $673,000 available for new grants.

In addition to grants, Sewall provided capacity building support to 200 nonprofit partners through its relationship with Catchafire. Sewall launched Ecology Shifts – a cohort-based program focus on supporting shifts in the environmental field toward equity and justice. Such efforts will continue in 2023 along with additional convening and related activities.

Contact

Please contact Megan Shore at mshore@sewallfoundation.org if you have any questions or want to discuss focus area alignment.