Healthy People Healthy Places

**Wabanaki Communities and Tribal Governments Focus Area**

Available funding in 2023: up to $625,000

General description

Sewall Foundation seeks to be a good partner to Wabanaki-led community organizations and tribal governments by supporting work on community priorities through grants, capacity-building and technical assistance, convening, shared learning and impact investment. Understanding that how we work is as important as what we work on, we are committed to ongoing organizational learning about the true history of what is now Maine from indigenous perspectives, to decolonizing our philanthropic practices and perspectives, and to working with the understanding that tribal governments are sovereign entities. Beyond this focus area, Sewall invests and partners with Wabanaki-led efforts by integrating awareness and participation of indigenous perspectives and organizations across all our work.

2023 Grants

Generally, grant funding levels in this focus area are:

- Individual organizations/efforts: $10,000 to $50,000
  - Increased funding amounts may be available to organizations that work on priority areas across all tribal governments and/or communities
- Collaborations/efforts involving multiple organizations/groups: up to $200,000
  - Occasionally, organizations may apply for both organizational and collaborative
- Transformational opportunities: variable funding levels
  - The purpose and intended impact of transformational efforts is to address critical community priorities and create sustainable, systemic changes. Generally, funding is limited to one to two years.

Priorities

Our commitment to being responsive to community priorities, needs, and opportunities leads us to take a holistic approach in this work. We rely on ongoing conversations with grantee partners and other Wabanaki community leaders, while also being guided by what we heard during the 2021 community listening sessions. You can read about the listening sessions here: Listening+to+Community+Priorities+in+Wabanaki+-+2021.pdf (squarespace.com)

Generally, we will support work that is focused on sovereignty, self-governance and self-determination; collective wellbeing; community culture and community building; and indigenous leadership and resourcing across communities.

Funding in this focus area is restricted to organizations and efforts that meet the following criteria:

1. The organization is led by majority Wabanaki and indigenous people (staff and board).
2. Most of the work of the organization is focused on and/or serving Wabanaki people, communities, and interests.
3. All or most of the work takes place in what is now Maine.

2023 Updates and Activities
In 2022, all the grants in this focus area were multiyear grants. As a result, there will be limited opportunity for new grants in 2023, as most of the funding has already been committed. While up to $1,690,000 is being invested in the Wabanaki focus area in 2023, most of this funding has already been committed to multiyear grants, so up to $625,000 will be available for new grants in 2023.

In 2022, Sewall held its first grantee convening for this focus area, and we look forward to gathering again in 2023.

Contact
Please contact Gabriela Alcalde, galcalde@sewallfoundation.org if you have any questions or want to discuss focus area alignment and receive the Healthy People Healthy Places grant application link.