Hello! This is the application for Out in the Open's Rural LGBTQ+ Power and Belonging Network Fellowship Pilot Cohort.

Applications open Monday June 5 at 9 a.m. and close Wednesday June 28 at 11:59 p.m.

In support of different forms of expression, you are invited to email this application and other materials that support your application (audio files, other types of expression) to grace@weareoutintheopen.org You may send your application via mail to Out in the Open attn: Out in the Open, PO Box 607, Monroe ME 04951. Applications mailed to Out in the Open must be received by June 28 - please allow at least 7 business days to account for rural delivery times.

You will receive an email confirmation when your form is received, or a phone call/text if you list them as a preference.

This Fellowship is based in and for people residing in Waldo and Penobscot counties in Penobscot Territory/Maine. Read on for more information about Out in the Open, this fellowship, and to apply.

Out in the Open connects rural LGBTQ+ people to build community, visibility, knowledge and power. Based in Wabanaki Territory in Windham County, Vermont and Waldo County, Maine we work locally and regionally.

We envision a resilient community of communities that works toward the transformation of our economic, social, and political relationships. We are building a multi-issue, multiracial social justice movement of rural LGBTQ people.

If Out in the Open is new to you, here are our values as a way to get to know us. Welcome!

Rural can be queer: Rural places are and should be welcoming homes to people of all genders, identities, and orientations. We believe in building, renewing, and supporting rural LGBTQ+ people, and in prioritizing those voices.

Intersections: Out in the Open understands that LGBTQ+ people bring multiple identities to all they do, and honors all aspects of people’s whole selves.
Celebrating resistance: We inherit a tradition of radical people making radical change in their communities and the wider world, and strive to honor them through our work as part of that tradition.

Connections: We believe that all people and the environment have needs that must be met, and actively seek solidarity and collaborations with other organizations and individuals working toward justice.

Anti-racism: Understanding that we are limited by our history as a predominantly white-led organization, and working within the specific political context of Northern New England, Out in the Open strives to be an anti-racist organization. We believe that white people need to work alongside people of color toward ending white supremacy.

Joy: Our work must be joyful, fun, and empowering.

You can learn more about what we are up to at www.weareoutintheopen.org!

The pilot cohort of Out in the Open’s Rural LGBTQ+ Power & Belonging Fellowship will start in August 2023. These fellowships are the foundation for our Rural LGBTQ+ Power & Belonging Network, and will occur four times before the end of 2024.

The application will close June 28 at 11:59 p.m. and applicants will be notified of their participation in the cohort by July 14 at 5 p.m. There will be 10 participants selected for this pilot cohort.

Fellowship members will receive a $1750 stipend for their participation. Participation includes two 2-day in-person retreats (in September and February), four 5 hour sessions that may be broken out into one or more gatherings (August, October, November, January, and carrying out one event in your community (by January 2024). Time outside of retreats and sessions will be required to plan the community event.

Infants in arms are welcome throughout. Childcare and transportation stipends are available. If invited to join the cohort, we will follow up with you to learn about these needs.
Please note: Application questions in bold and with a * are required questions. If you need more paper, please feel free to add more paper to the application.

1. What's your name?* Whatever you would like to be called when the cohort gathers!

2. What are your pronouns?

3. What's your email address?*

4. What's your phone number?

5. What is the best way to get in touch with you?* (Choose as many as you like)
   a. Phone call (and it's okay to leave a voicemail)
   b. Phone call (please don't leave a voicemail)
   c. Email
   d. Text messages
   e. Other _________

6. Are you 18 years old or older?* (If you are under age 18 and seeking resources to connect with other rural LGBTQ+ people, email us at summits@weareoutintheopen.org)
   a. Yes
   b. No

7. Are you willing to take a PCR-level COVID-19 test on-site prior to cohort gatherings, and mask as-needed depending on the group needs?* (Out in the Open will provide LAMP nasal-swab tests and PPE for all attendees.)
   a. Yes
   b. No
8. Are you able to commit to attending two in-person weekend-long retreats and five-hours of fellowship meeting time during the other months? What days of the week and times of day would be ideal for you to attend? What are the barriers you anticipate facing to meet this commitment?*

9. When would you prefer to have the 2, two-night retreats take place?
   a. Monday - Friday
   b. Friday - Sunday
   c. Thursday - Saturday
   d. Other

10. Where do you live and what is your relationship to that place?* (This Fellowship is for people who are currently residing on Penobscot Territory/Maine in Waldo or Penobscot counties.)

11. How do you describe your gender identity and/or your sexuality?* This Fellowship is for people who identify as LGBTQ+.

12. What other aspects of your identity or experience do you want to share here?
13. The following questions are related to living in rural communities.
   a. What do you love about rural communities and what are some challenges you face in a rural context?

   b. Are there stereotypes or misunderstandings about rural communities that you or your community work against or are aware of? If yes, please describe what the stereotypes are and how it impacts your lives.

   c. What is happening right now in your community that you want to address or work on with others where you live? Feel free to elaborate or give more than one example.

   d. Are there topics, themes, or issues that your community finds it easy to agree on or work together to resolve? Feel free to elaborate or give more than one example.

   e. What issues, topics, or themes are creating conflict where you live? How does this show up?
14. There will be nine other LGBTQ+ members of the cohort, in addition to OITO staff and guest experts, who you will get to know throughout your time. Do you have experience being in LGBTQ+ -only spaces? Tell us about how that was for you. If you have not had that experience, what do you hope to gain from being in an LGBTQ+ - only space?

15. An aspect of this Fellowship is hosting a public event in your community, in affiliation with the cohort and Out in the Open. What is your level of comfort having your name/self associated with LGBTQ+ -centric movement building? What kinds of support do you think you might need?

16. The next 3 questions are about working in a group setting.
   a. Tell us about your experience working as a part of a group or in a group setting.
   b. What do you feel your strengths are when working in a group? What are your areas for growth?
c. What supports or elements of facilitation help you succeed in group environments?

17. This Fellowship will support you to build and explore your skills for collaborating with people who are different from you. What are your thoughts about and experience with interacting with people who may say or do things that are homophobic, transphobic, racist, classist, or divisive in other ways?

18. Each Fellowship participant is expected to conceive of, coordinate, and host a public gathering in the community where they live. Out in the Open will offer a budget to each participant, and ongoing staff support. Other Fellowship participants will also support each other’s events and processes.
   a. What are your thoughts on hosting an event for people of all identities in your community?

   b. Do you have an idea of a community event that creates or increases belonging in your town, neighborhood, or community?

   c. What skills and experiences would support your ideas for building community where you are from?

19. What are you hoping to gain from the Fellowship experience?
20. Here is some space for questions or comments that you did not find a place to express elsewhere.

Thank you for taking the time to complete an application for the Out in the Open Rural LGBTQ+ Power & Belonging Fellowship pilot cohort!

Optional **virtual info sessions** are scheduled for Friday June 2 at 9:00 a.m, Thursday June 8 at 5 p.m., and Monday June 19 at 12 p.m.

You can register for an info session at [http://www.weareoutintheopen.org/powerandbeloning](http://www.weareoutintheopen.org/powerandbeloning)

Please reach out to Grace via phone or email to sign up or coordinate an alternate time to chat:

207.808.0623, [grace@weareoutintheopen.org](mailto:grace@weareoutintheopen.org).

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Mail this application to:

Out in the Open
PO Box 607
Monroe ME 04951