Broad Reach Foundation

Funding for Maine Coastal and Marine Climate Action

Application Deadline: **October 1, 2026**

This funding effort seeks to support projects that are aligned with coastal and marine related recommendations of Maine's climate plan. Grant awards range from $20,000 to $200,000.

Eligibility

The goal of this fund is to support coastal and marine work that falls within funding gaps, is needed to leverage other resources, or supports foundational, or baseline studies and/or plans needed before other resources can be secured and actions can be taken.

Please reference the Coastal Marine Working Group recommendations. The fund is targeting efforts that are related to the third theme: Monitor, conserve and increase resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems. See pages 6, 7, and 18-23: of "A Report from the Coastal and Marine Working Group of the Maine Climate Council."

Strategies may include monitoring, research, convening, and planning and should have actionable results, which could include policy outcomes. Potential projects should address one or more of the following:

- Coastal and marine habitat conservation, restoration, or resilience: salt marshes, eel grass, seaweed, and other coastal habitats
- Coastal or ocean acidification understanding, monitoring, and mitigation
- Blue Carbon sequestration and science to enable the study of emissions
- Coastal or marine ecosystem monitoring, data collection, baseline environmental studies, etc.
- Data analysis and understanding impacts in the marine environment
- Understanding impacts on species, including distribution shifts

Funding requests for meetings and convenings that bring together practitioners and other stakeholders to share data or best practices are encouraged.

Applications must be submitted by a nonprofit or academic institution, municipality, state agency, or tribal government. For-profit companies may serve as project partners. Given the enormity of challenges we face, the review committee will favor projects that are collaborative and demonstrate a spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit.

Organizations that received funding in the past may submit proposals for new projects; however, the committee will prioritize organizations that have not received funding. Due to uncertainty of other funding sources, proposals may be submitted for expansion of or new phases of ongoing work from both previously funded projects and projects not previously funded by this opportunity.

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Ineligible Projects

Activities that are part of the organization's mission with no clear start or end date.
Equipment expenses that are not part of a defined project.

Though projects may have economic development implications or outcomes, these funds are not intended to be used exclusively for business/industry innovation or adaptation. The funds will also not support municipal or regional construction. However, planning and modeling efforts that increase resilience to climate impacts using nature-based solutions will be considered, such as tidal flow restoration projects, living shoreline projects, and habitat improvement projects.

Project Evaluation Criteria

- Alignment with the Maine Climate Action Plan and the Coastal and Marine Working Group's recommended strategies. Reference pages 6, 7, and 18-23 in "A Report from the Coastal and Marine Working Group of the Maine Climate Council."
- Measurable benefit or contribution to the understanding of coastal and marine climate change trends
- Connection to coastal and marine habitat
- Timeliness and urgency of the proposed activity
- The Committee will prioritize projects that include plans for collaborations/ connections. Collaborations/connections with Tribal communities and/or other priority or frontline populations will be given heightened consideration and should include detail regarding how those populations will be engaged in the project. For tribal communities, this might include a letter or other agreement to participate.
- Interdisciplinary approach (i.e., includes multiple forms of knowledge, recognizes that knowledge comes from different sources, and considers both social and environmental issues related to the challenge)
- Demonstrated technical expertise, including traditional ecological knowledge and interdisciplinary approach
- Clearly articulated actionable results that are realistic for the scope of the project

Timing

Deadline for application: October 1, 2026
Funding decisions will be made before the end of 2026.
Grant period: up to 24 months.

Application Materials

The complete application packet should be emailed as one PDF document to mcmc@broadreachfdn.org by October 1, 2026.

Materials to include:

- Cover sheet with:
  - The name and address of the organization that would receive the grant

- Project Coordinator with email address and phone number
- Fiscal Contact (responsible for payment detail, if project is awarded) with email address, mailing address, and phone number
- Start date and end date for project (grant funds will be released by the end of December 2026)
- Amount Requested

- List of key personnel with qualifications (please limit to one paragraph per person)
- Project budget with expenses and revenue, including in-kind support and income from other sources. 20% max indirect (financial match is not required)
- Current fiscal year organizational Budget to Actuals (not required for municipalities, state agencies, or tribal governments)
- If seeking Tribal partnership, include a letter of support from the Tribal council or Tribal government.
- Letters of support from collaborating entities are welcome, but not required.
- A 2-3 page narrative with the following sections:
  - Problem statement: What is the problem you intend to address and how is it related to climate change and coastal or marine habitat?
  - Solutions: How will you address this problem? What specific strategies, activities, or products will you produce? If you have policy outcomes, how will you ensure success?
  - Maine Climate Action Plan: How does your project align with the State's climate plan and the Coastal and Marine Working Group recommendations?
  - Capacity: Who is involved in this project and why is this group well positioned to do the work you propose? Also, how will the group seek the participation of community members and stakeholders that aren't normally involved in conservation? How will the group accommodate different stakeholders' abilities, comfort level, or willingness to participate or be involved in projects?
  - Limiting factors: Are there any specific challenges or limiting factors that could shape your ability to achieve success in your project?

Questions

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This funding effort is a collaboration that involves the Broad Reach Foundation, the Maine Community, and several anonymous funders. An advisory committee comprised of scientists, agency staff, and other stakeholders will review proposals and make funding recommendations.