

2025 Requests for Proposals: Transportation and Lodging Services for Cancer Patients

About Maine Cancer Foundation

Our Vision & Mission

Our vision is a Maine where every person is empowered with the knowledge, resources, and support to minimize the effects of cancer, promoting healthier individuals and communities statewide.

MCF leads a statewide effort to reduce the impact of cancer in Maine. We invest in the most promising and effective programs that advance cancer prevention, increase screening, and improve access to care for all Maine people.

Our Values

- **Equity:** Promoting fair and just access to reduce cancer-related health disparities for all Maine people.
- **Community-Centered:** Empowering communities to develop and implement solutions that will work best for them.
- **Collaboration:** Working together with partners to accomplish our shared goals.
- **Adaptiveness:** Embracing and supporting new and emerging needs.
- **Compassion:** Transforming lives and communities through empathy and action.
- **Evidence-Informed:** Using data and lived experience to guide our approaches.

Funding Criteria

Access to healthcare is an important social determinant of health and a critical factor in determining the health and wellbeing of individuals. For Maine cancer patients, transportation and the costs associated with travel to cancer care can be a significant barrier, leading to preventable disparities in health status and disease outcomes.

Cancer patients are particularly vulnerable to a lack of transportation for several reasons. Patients receiving treatment require a high level of care with many visits to healthcare providers. The cost of transportation and dependent care, with consequent lost wages, can quickly become a financial burden. Many cancer patients cannot drive themselves due to their illness and either pay for transportation services or rely heavily on family and friends to drive them to appointments.

Maine Cancer Foundation and John T. Gorman Foundation recognize the important role transportation to and from cancer care and lodging close to healthcare facilities plays in helping cancer patients. In support of this effort, **Maine Cancer Foundation is now accepting applications for transportation and lodging services for Maine cancer patients.**

In 2017, MCF partnered with Market Decisions Research to conduct a [Maine Cancer Transportation Needs Assessment](#). We strongly encourage you to read through [the report](#) and the section titled “Solutions to Transportation Issues in Maine” may be helpful as you formulate your overall project plan.

Areas of Focus

- Transportation services for patients to access cancer care. Care may include cancer screening, treatment, or supportive care;
- Lodging to increase access to care for cancer patients;
- Education and outreach about transportation services for Maine cancer patients;
- Partnerships that serve to create system-wide solutions to address transportation barriers for Maine cancer patients; and/or
- A combination of the above.

Organizations may request funding for existing programs. The Foundation encourages but does not require collaboration among Maine organizations.

Health Equity

To achieve health equity, the differences in health due to systematic social or economic disadvantage must be reduced. Health equity is the “attainment of the highest level of health for all people.”^[1] Maine Cancer Foundation is committed to addressing health inequities, ensuring all Mainers have access to critical cancer prevention, screening, and treatment resources. Proposals that address social determinants of health will be prioritized.

Grant Term & Request Amount

Applicants may request a 1- or 2-year grant. Request amounts up to \$30,000 per year will be accepted. The maximum request over two years is \$60,000.

What We Will Not Fund

- Organizations that are not a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization, educational institution, government entity or other public, non-profit entity (e.g. health department, university);
- Business investments or loans;
- Programs that do not benefit the people of Maine;
- Capital campaigns or contributions to endowments.

Application Process

Draft Applications

We recommend applicants contact Maine Cancer Foundation to discuss your proposal prior to submission or if you have any questions about your eligibility. **To ensure your application is complete and meets the requirements of this RFP, we strongly encourage you to submit a draft application for review and feedback.** Please send questions and drafts to Tricia Jamiol, Program Coordinator, at tricia@mainecancer.org.

Deadlines

Applications must be completed by 5pm on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. Awards will be announced by November 30, 2025. Funds are distributed upon receipt of a signed contract provided by Maine Cancer Foundation.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted online only. [Click here to open the application](#). Completed applications will be reviewed by a grant review committee and applicants may be contacted for additional information.

Please note, MCF started using a new grants management software in 2024. All new and existing grantees must create a new account by clicking the link above. If you need to reference a prior grant or have questions about the new system, please contact Tricia Jamiol, Program Coordinator at tricia@mainecancer.org.

Additional Information

Geographic distribution of grants will be considered and multiple grants to the same institution or system may be limited.

Maine Cancer Foundation will not knowingly support projects that discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

A grant recipient's work must support MCF's mission. Funds may not be diverted to benefit any individual. The results or benefits of any Foundation supported initiative or program are required to remain in the public domain for the benefit of Maine people.