

## 2023 Requests for Proposals: Transportation and Lodging Services for Cancer Patients

### About Maine Cancer Foundation

#### Our Mission & Goals

Maine Cancer Foundation is dedicated to reducing cancer incidence and mortality rates in Maine. 100% of funds raised by the Foundation are used to benefit the people of Maine.

#### Our Goals

**Foster Prevention Practices:** The best cancer is the one that never occurs. Prevention strategies have a proven impact on reducing cancer incidence rates.

**Increase Cancer Screening:** Early detection saves lives. Cancer screening tests can detect cancer in its earliest stages, when it is most treatable.

**Improve Patient Outcomes:** Maine Cancer Foundation supports efforts to improve patient outcomes by increasing access to care and ensuring the best cancer care is available for all Mainers.

#### 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.”<sup>1</sup> 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.

### 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 treatment 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 as well as dependent care, with consequent lost wages, can quickly become a financial burden. Many cancer patients are unable to drive themselves due to their illness and either have to pay for transportation services or rely heavily on family and friends to drive them to appointments.

---

<sup>1</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. [The Way Health Should Be: Social Determinants of Health in Maine 2019](#).

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 Needs Assessment Report. It can be accessed [here](#).** The section titled “Solutions to Transportation Issues in Maine” may be helpful as you formulate your overall project plan and grant application.

### **Areas of Focus**

- Transportation services for patients in order 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.

### **Grant Term**

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 this RFP’s requirements, **we highly encourage applicants to submit a draft application for review and feedback.** Please send questions and drafts to Tricia Jamiol, Administrative Associate, at [tricia@mainecancer.org](mailto:tricia@mainecancer.org).

## **Deadlines**

Applications must be completed by 5pm on Friday, September 29, 2023. Awards will be announced by October 31, 2023. Funds are distributed upon receipt of a signed contract provided by Maine Cancer Foundation.

Please note, all applicants that receive awards will be required to report on their grant results to Maine Cancer Foundation during the grant period.

## **How to Apply**

Applications will be accepted online at <https://mainecancer.communityforce.com>. Completed applications will be reviewed by a grant review committee and applicants may be contacted for additional information.

Please contact [tricia@mainecancer.org](mailto:tricia@mainecancer.org) with any questions regarding the application process.

## ***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.