

2026 Requests for Proposals: Transportation and Lodging Services for Maine Cancer Patients

About Maine Cancer Foundation

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.

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 driver of health and a critical factor in determining the health and wellbeing of individuals. Maine's expansive geography, limited public transportation options, and the high costs associated with traveling to and from treatments pose significant challenges for cancer patients statewide. Patients receiving treatment require a high level of care with many visits to healthcare providers and supportive care. In rural areas, patients may need to travel long distances to their appointments, and without a ride or a place to stay nearby, patients may delay or forgo necessary treatments. These barriers lead to preventable disparities in health status and disease outcomes.

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.**

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. Additionally, please refer to MCF's updated [Maine Cancer Patient Transportation and Lodging Needs Assessment](#), which may be helpful to reference during application development.

Health Equity

Health equity is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health. Achieving this requires focused and ongoing efforts to address historical and contemporary injustices; overcome economic, social, and other obstacles to health and healthcare; and eliminate preventable health disparities.

Maine Cancer Foundation is committed to addressing health inequities, ensuring all Mainers have equitable access to critical cancer prevention, screening, and treatment resources. Proposals that address social drivers 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 4pm on Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Awards will be announced by November 30, 2026. 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.

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.

All current and past MCF grants must be in good standing for an organization to submit an application. Organizations with overdue grant reporting requirements are not eligible to apply for additional grant funding.