2018 Grant Applications

Betterment Fund

Project Name*

You may indicate "operating support" as a project name if applicable. However, if the name of your project is something generic like "operating support" or "building campaign", please add the name of your organization at the beginning of the project title. Acronyms here are fine if generally recognized for your organization.

Character Limit: 100

Proposal Description*

Please provide a succinct summary of your grant proposal

Character Limit: 500

Grant Cycle by Deadline*

Please select the Betterment Fund grant deadline for which you are applying. Final grant decisions are usually made within twelve weeks of the application due date.

Choices

Due March 15, 2018
Due July 15, 2018
Due November 15, 2018

Total Amount requested*

State the total amount of support requested. If this is a multiple year request, state the total amount request for all years. The Betterment Fund's minimum annual grant for this process is $10,000 and the maximum usually does not exceed $35,000. The average annual program grant is $13,500 to $15,000.

Character Limit: 20

Number of Years Requested for Support (1 to 3 years)*

Character Limit: 5

Calendar or Fiscal Year?*

If Fiscal, please state final month of the fiscal year.

Character Limit: 100

Amount of Request for 2019 or 2018/2019 Fiscal Year

List as 0 if not applicable.

Character Limit: 20

Amount of Request for 2020 or 2019/2020 Fiscal Year

List as 0 if not applicable.

Character Limit: 20

Amount of Request 2021 or 2020/2021 Fiscal Year

List as 0 if not applicable.

Character Limit: 20

Primary Program Areas*

Please indicate the program area that best fits your proposal.

Choices

Community Support
Conservation
Education
Health
Cross Sector Area as defined below

Cross Sector Areas:

If and only if you choose the Cross Sector Area above, please choose one option below:

Choices

Creative Economy
Early Childhood
Economic Development
Moving Communities to Health
Philanthropy
N/A (one of the Primary Program Areas selected)

Is your organization a member of:*

Choices

Maine Philanthropy Center
Maine Association of Nonprofits
Both
Neither

Geographical Area*

Indicate the geographical area in Maine primarily served by your proposal. The Betterment Fund has a historical and continuing focus on the Western Mountains region of Maine. We also make grants in other rural areas around the top rim of the state of Maine down to the Downeast region. We do relatively little funding in the geographic regions of Mid-Coast Maine, Southern Maine and Portland.

Choices

Aroostook County
Cental Maine (L/A, Augusta & Bangor areas)
Downeast (Schoodic & Washington County)
Mid-Coast Maine (Brunswick to Bar Harbor)
Northern Woods
Portland

Southern Maine
Western Mountains (Oxford, Franklin & Somerset Counties)
State-Wide

Grant Support Strategy*

Please indicate the type of funding that best describes your proposal.

Choices

Capital Projects/Equipment
Endowment
General Operating Support
Project Support

SECTION 1: QUALIFYING INFORMATION

Tax Status*

Please indicate your organization's tax status. If selecting "Using Fiscal Agent", please review the requirements on our How To Apply page.

Choices

501 (c)(3) publicly supported organization
Governmental Entity
Using Fiscal Agent

If you selected "Using Fiscal Agent" for your response to "Tax Status", please provide the Fiscal Agent's (FA) name in the text box below **AND *upload the following documents in one file:***

1. A brief statement addressing the following:
    - Why your organization is not itself recognized as a public charity
    - Whether your organization has filed an application for recognition of its tax exemption (Form 1023) with the IRS
    - For the organization serving as FA:
        1. Name of organization
        2. Contact name, email and address
2. A copy of FA agreement signed by the FA. The FA agreement must reflect dedication of grant funds to a tax-exempt purpose and the administrative charge. If you are in doubt about what should be included in the agreement, you may download a sample form of fiscal agency agreement.
3. A copy of the sponsoring organization's board resolution authorizing it to serve as your FA.
4. A copy of the Balance Sheet for the FA's most recently completed fiscal year.

Fiscal Agent Information

Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Previous application to Betterment Fund*

Have you made an application to the Betterment Fund previously?

Choices

Yes, more than 12 months ago
Yes, less than 12 months ago
No

Previous Betterment Fund Grants

If you have received a grant from The Betterment Fund in the past five years, please provide the following details: Years of funding, amount of funding each year and a short statement of the purpose of the grant, limited to 100 characters per grant. Additionally, please attach a copy of latest grant report.

Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Twelve Month Rule

You may make application at least 12 months after the previous application, measured from the previous application due date to the current application due date.

If your organization has received a grant payment, you may apply for a new grant only after your previous grant has been completed and you have filed a final report covering the complete period of administration. If you are making a submission earlier than otherwise permitted, please furnish the name of the Betterment Fund trustee who has approved submission of this application.

Character Limit: 250

SECTION 2: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Board Membership and Executive Staff*

Attach a list of the members of the governing Board of your organization, including name, board position/office, occupation including former occupation if retired (if available), and a listing of your executive staff members.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Major Staff and Board Changes

If there have been any recent major staff changes or Board resignations, please describe them.

Character Limit: 500

Staff, Volunteers and Members*

How many (a) full-time staff (b) part time staff (c) volunteers and (d) members, if any, do you currently have?

Character Limit: 50

Website

Please provide your website, if any.

Character Limit: 2000

Conflict of Interest*

Identify any potential conflicts of interest affecting the organization. such as a Board or staff member (or family of such person) who is also a founder, lender, creditor, substantial contributor, Board or staff member or paid consultant. Answer "None" if this does not apply to your organization.

Character Limit: 500

SECTION 3: GRANT REQUEST INFORMATION

Grant Narrative*

Please use the following to supply a narrative of your grant request and include the following elements, spelling out any acronyms or abbreviations when first used:

- brief history of organization
- detailed description of grant proposal
- basic issues or opportunities to be addressed, location, description and number of persons to be served
- goals in measurable specific terms
- specific actions to be taken
- involvement of persons who are the anticipated constituents or beneficiaries of the proposed program in the design of the program
- other entities involved in issues or project
- greatest challenge your organization faces other than funding
- experience of project leader and organizational capacity
- sustainability and learning

Character Limit: 10000

Evaluation*

How do you intend to evaluate your progress/success of your efforts if funded by a grant? What are some of the specific criteria you plan to use? Do you have the funds available to do this evaluation? If not, how do you plan to raise them?

Character Limit: 1500

Program/Project Start Date*

Please indicate the anticipated start date for the grant being considered.

Character Limit: 10

Program/Project End Date*

Please indicate the anticipated end date for the grant being considered.

Character Limit: 10

Collaborative Projects

If you are proposing to work with any other organizations, please attach letters from such organizations expressing their specific commitment to the collaborative work.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Important Reminder: Please SAVE your application after each file upload.

PDFs are strongly preferred, but uploaded files may be PDFs, Word Documents, or Excel Spreadsheets as long as they adhere to the file size requirements. In some cases more than one document may be required to be combined into a single upload. If you have paper documents that you would like to attach to the application, the simplest method is to convert them into a single PDF. If you don't have a method for scanning or converting to PDF, you may use Foundant's Fax-to-file system. The top right button on your Applicant Dashboard screen will walk you through the process.

Note: The financial reporting requirements are detailed. Only complete responses will be reviewed.

Organization Budget for Current Year*

Attach a copy of your organization's current operating budget. If you are more than three months into your fiscal year, please include year-to-date results for both income and expenses.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Multi-Year Grant Requests Only: Projected Annual Budgets for Each Grant Year

If your grant request covers more than one year, please include projected organizational operating budgets for each year of a multi-year request as an additional page, or sheet within your one document.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Grant Budget

Attach a copy of the budget for the entire project involved in your grant request, for each year of the request, listing the expenses required to achieve your objectives by categories including personnel, office rental, equipment and travel and showing the part of the budget for which you are seeking funding from The Betterment Fund. Be sure to list other committed sources of support. You may also want to mention pending grant applications. This budget is not required for operating support requests.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Grant Budget Comments

Please add any comments here about your budget which might be helpful. If your project involves work in states other than Maine, please identify the portion of the budget applicable to Maine activities. Also, please state the proportion of total support you are seeking from the Betterment Fund. (Please note that 100% funding usually will not be granted.) If payment of the grant at a certain time would be important, such as meeting a matching fund deadline or having the payment in a particular tax year for the organization, please let us know. Unless you are using audited statements, please eplain the use of any abbreviations or acronyms.

Character Limit: 1500

Balance Sheet as of Last Year*

Attach a copy of the Balance Sheet for your organization's most recently completed fiscal year. This should include total assets and total liabilities. If applicable, please explain any changes that affect your financial position. If you have audited financial statements, you may supply this information from such statements. If you choose to attach a full set of audited financials, please do only once, at this question.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Income/Expenses Statement for Last Year

Attach a copy of the Income Statement/Statement of Activities/Expenses for your organization's most recently completed fiscal year. This should include total income/revenue and total expenses for that year by major categories, with a comparison to that year's budget. If applicable, please explain any changes that affect your financial performance.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Major Sources of Support for Last and Current Year

If not already detailed in your financial information, attach a list of the major foundation grants received in the last fiscal year and to date in this year. Please also identify any other source of

20% or more of your annual budget. Individuals need not be named specifically but listed collectively as "board members" or "members" or "alumni," etc.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

SECTION 5: OTHER INFORMATION UPLOADS

Important Reminder: Please SAVE your application after each file upload.

You may upload PDF files, Word Documents, or Excel Spreadsheets as long as they adhere to the file size requirements. In some cases more than one document may be required to be combined into a single upload.

Grant Request Documentation

Attach any relevant document to support your grant request such as a graph, photograph, report, newspaper article or brochure. If you want to attach more than one item, see the instructions at the beginning of the financial information uploads about creating a PDF.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Grant Request Documentation #2

File Size Limit: 2 MB

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

Submission of this form constitutes agreement with the following statements: My organization's Board of Directors has authorized the filing of this grant proposal. The information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I am an authorized representative of this organization.

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. We will carefully review your application and may have questions thereafter to ask you. As you know, our Foundation, like others, has far fewer resources than would be required to fund all the good proposals that come to us. We have to make difficult judgments based on our own defined set of priorities. We appreciate your participation in informing us of work in the State of Maine which might not otherwise come to our attention. If we cannot fund your project, we hope that others will.
The Betterment Fund Trustees