

# 2024 Direct Services Grant Program

The John T. Gorman Foundation's 2024 Direct Services Grant Program (DSGP) is open to **programs and organizations that address or connect people in Maine experiencing poverty to basic needs supports** (e.g.: food, shelter, clothing, physical and mental health, transportation, English language classes, case management support, domestic violence, etc.).

While the work of the Foundation focuses on the well-being of children and families, the DSGP is open to organizations serving the basic needs of **all people in Maine** who are experiencing the adverse effects of poverty.

The Direct Services Grant Program provides both program/project funding and general operating support. The Foundation will only consider programmatic requests that support the ***provision of direct services to clients*** versus support for *organizational infrastructure needs* (e.g.: database creation, strategic planning, staff training, organizational evaluation, etc.). Applicant organizations applying for unrestricted general operating support must have a mission that centers on serving Maine residents who are experiencing poverty. They should also have a successful track record of providing services to address immediate basic needs. Organizations who are **exclusively serving people in Maine who are experiencing poverty** are encouraged to apply for operating support to access the most flexible source of funding.

The Foundation will consider grant requests of up to \$30,000 from a broad spectrum of non-profit organizations that provide direct services under existing programs over a 12-month period. **Applicant organizations may submit only one request for funding under the Direct Services Grant Program per year.**

## Eligibility Criteria

To apply, organizations will need to meet the following criteria:

- Be a non-profit with 501(c)(3) status, have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status, **or** be a public school, municipality, or tribal government. Applicants cannot be a private foundation under I.R.C. § 509-(a);
- Have a mission that includes serving people in Maine who are experiencing poverty;
- Be able to demonstrate, through data, that their proposed efforts are addressing an unmet need;
- Be able to demonstrate a track record of successfully meeting those needs; and
- For program/project funding requests, be able to identify the results sought for the populations in question, the plan for achieving those results, and how they will be evaluated.

The Foundation **will** support:

- Existing programs
- General operating support for organizations whose missions center on serving Maine residents who are experiencing poverty
- Programmatic requests that support the *provision of direct services to clients*
- One-time only grants spent over a twelve-month period

The Foundation **will NOT** support:

- New programs or new positions unless there is guaranteed funding beyond 12 months

- Capital campaigns
- Annual fund appeals
- Endowments
- Projects requiring a multi-year commitment

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The John T. Gorman Foundation encourages applicants to contact our staff with any questions they may have as they apply for DSGP funding.

To ask questions about organization eligibility, to discuss your planned funding proposal (including if you should apply for programmatic or general operating support), or to ask technical questions about applying (including webform or application portal support), connect with James Patefield, Grants and Data Associate. [Set up a 15-minute call](#). [Send an email](#).