Please click after the question and type in your answers.

Press TAB to move to next answer

Before completing this Request, please review the attached Grant Guidelines. *Please pay special attention to Section II Priorities*. It helps with evaluation to show how many of these Priorities are included with your application

**Date**:

**ORGANIZATION**

Name:

 Address:

**YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

 Name/Title:

Email address:

Telephone number:

Your organization must have 501c3 status (nonprofit), a fiscal sponsor with that status, or be the Town of Chebeague or the Chebeague Island School to receive a grant.

 Organization’s Employer Identification Number (EIN):

 Fiscal Sponsor (if your organization is not a 501c3) :

**ORGANIZATION’S MISSION**:

**FINANCIAL**: Please provide basic financial detail from your most-recent completed fiscal year here:

 **Revenue**:

 **Expenses**:

 **Net Surplus**:

Attach your operating budget.

Attaching additional information such as a 990 form or expected significant changes in your upcoming fiscal year is helpful to our decision making.

**GRANT REQUEST SUMMARY**: In 2024, Regular Grants may be requested for new or expanding projects, for equipment and facilities, for capacity building, and/or for operating funds.

Amount Requested:

Grant Purpose: Provide a brief description by completing the following sentence:

We seek funding from The Recompense Fund to:

*If your request is for a project, for equipment or facilities or for capacity building, please complete Section A. If your request is only for operating funds, please complete Section B.*

1. **FUNDING FOR PROJECTS, FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT OR CAPACITY BUILDING**

**GRANT REQUEST EXPLANATION:**

**Project Activities**: Describe exactly what you plan to do. Consider including who will participate, what and where it will be done, and when you expect to begin and complete the project:

**Project Goal:** What do you hope to achieve and how is it consistent with your mission and with the priorities of The Recompense Fund set forth in Section II of our Grant Guidelines?

**GRANT USE AND REASONABLENESS:**

**Budget**: What is the total budget for this project and what are its principal piece parts? For what part of it would a Recompense grant be used? (A grant request in this section may include 20% in the budget for overhead operating expense.)

**Reasonableness**: Please explain the reasonableness of the project budget. Attach (when possible) two or more quotes for goods or services. Explain your choice of provider and any estimated amounts in the budget.

1. **FUNDING SOLELY FOR OPERATING EXPENSES**

**Mission**: Unless it is clear from your Organization’s Mission response above, what is the community issue your organization seeks to address and how does it align with the Recompense Fund priorities set forth in Section II of our Grant Guidelines?

**Desired Results**: What are the results you seek to achieve as an organization? What are the community segments that will be most affected?

**Strategies and Measurements**: What strategies will you use to achieve your desired results? Why do you believe those are the correct strategies? What measures do you use to determine how effective your strategies are in achieving your desired results?

**Capacity**: What is your current capacity and how does it allign with what is needed to achieve the results you are seeking. How will Recompense funding of operating costs maintain or enhance that capability? If operating funds are granted this year, will your organization be able to absorb its operating costs in the future?

**FOR ALL GRANT REQUESTS**

**OTHER FUNDING SOURCES**: List any other sources of support you will seek.

**Source Name Amount**

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**LIST YOUR BOARD MEMBERS:**

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**Checklist – *please make sure you double check these. It will give everyone more time for questions and answers.***

***Please Attach:***

* Operating budget.
* Photos
* Competitive quotes
* Any additional information such as a 990 form or expected significant changes in your upcoming fiscal year that is helpful to our decision making.
* Please make sure this application is complete.
* Please review our Grant Guidelines below and include any information which shows how this applications support elements of “Section II Priorities”

After your submission, we will respond within 3 weeks with requests, if any, for additional information about your application.

By signing this applicant form, the applicant hereby indicates agreement with the following terms and conditions:

 1. The information contained in this application and in any attachments is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

 2. Any funds received as a result of this application will be used only for the purpose specified in the award letter.

 3. Any funds received as a result of this application will be expended by September 1 of the year following the award.

 4. A report detailing the project status and expenditures from this grant will be submitted by April 1 of the year following the award.

Signature

Title

Date.

If you have questions about this application, or when it is complete, please forward to: recompensefund@gmail.com

**Grant Guidelines (Revised 1/18/24)**

The Recompense Fund (the “Fund”) is a Maine nonprofit corporation that makes grants to exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The income and principal of the Fund are dedicated exclusively to organizations on and benefitting Chebeague Island, ME.

**I. Background**

With the donations of year-round and seasonal residents, businesses and friends, The Recompense Fund supports the work of the Chebeague Island nonprofits that answer and anticipate the needs of the island community. Board members, who are either year-round residents or have a significant connection to Chebeague Island, decide how to distribute Fund resources by evaluating grant requests.

**II. Priorities**

The Recompense Fund strives to sustain and grow a diverse, vibrant year-round island community while nurturing a healthy relationship with its seasonal islanders.

The Fund encourages nonprofits to develop grant applications that address island priorities. Collaborative projects are encouraged.

Priority will be given to applications for projects that:

* help to reduce economic barriers to living on the island
* provide or increase access to educational and enrichment programs for Chebeague islanders of all ages
* preserve and protect the built and natural environment, including projects that reduce energy consumption
* sustain year-round social and cultural resources for the community
* provide access for persons with disabilities
* support training programs to fulfill island job opportunities
* help to sustain the island as a year-round community
* support efforts/projects that provide housing options for year-round residents
* provide improvements to transportation to and from and within the island
* achieve state-of-the-art cell and broadband/internet service
* enhance residents’ opportunities to remain on the island for their entire lives
* develop leadership skills for any island nonprofit organization
* support activities, projects, or programs that enhance healthy life habits and well-being

**III. Types of Support**

The Recompense Fund will award three types of grants during the regular annual grant cycle: project grants, equipment and facility grants, and capacity-building grants. The Fund also provides funding for a limited number of small, off-cycle grants and for overhead expenses.

**a. Project Grants for new or expanding projects**

To be considered for funding, projects must have a clear beginning and end (i.e., not be an ongoing project.) Expanding projects are those that serve new populations or those that have new or significantly different content.

**b. Equipment and Facility Grants (Capital Expenses)**

Grants under this section are for equipment and facilities improvements and generally must be supported by technical (engineering, architectural and the like) studies. In some cases, grants may be made for facilities assessments leading to facility plans or for other kinds of technical consulting support. Multiple pricing quotes should be shared when possible.

**c. Capacity-Building Support**

Capacity-building grants support operations and efficiency efforts for organizations that serve the island. Examples of support include:

* strengthening board and leadership engagement
* enhancing staff skills and accreditations
* improving existing services and programs
* creating new strategic plans
* building monitoring, learning, and evaluation efforts
* strengthening financial management and developing fundraising plans

**d. Small Grants**

The Recompense Fund understands that Chebeague nonprofits may face special opportunities or needs outside the Fund's annual grant cycle. Small grants of $500 may be awarded during any calendar year. The Recompense Fund has a total of $2,500 per year to disburse in small grants. An organization may apply for a small grant during the same year it applies for a regular grant.

Applications for small grants may be submitted as a letter to the Fund and address needs or special opportunities within the Fund's priority areas (see Section II above) at any time during the calendar year. Awards may be made at any time outside of the annual grant cycle, following a process that is transparent, fair, clear and speedy. The Executive Committee’s vote to approve a small grant award must be unanimous, in accordance with its bylaws.**e. Overhead expenses**

We understand that organizations have ongoing overhead expenses (sometimes referred to as operating or indirect costs) that cannot be directly linked to a project but are, nonetheless, critical for organizational health. Applications may include or be entirely for a request for overhead expenses. This money may be used at the discretion of the grantee.

**IV. Eligibility (other than “small grants”)**

Regular Annual Grants

Applications are posted on the Fund’s website, www.recompensefund.com, along with guidance for grant writing. Applications are due no later than April 15th of each calendar year. Results are communicated to applicants in June.

A maximum of three consecutive grants may be considered to support a single project. After receiving up to three grants to support such a project, an organization may apply for grants to support other new or expanding projects or capital expenses.

Progress Reports for all grants must be submitted no later than April 1 of the following year.

Grants for specific purposes may not be converted to another purpose without prior approval from The Recompense Fund board. Approval must be requested by submitting a letter to the board president. Any unapproved expenditures must be paid back to the Fund before an organization may submit a new grant application.

If there are unused funds after the completion of a project, the grantee will inform The Recompense Fund board.

If an approved project is not pursued and the grantee proposes a different but similar project, the board has discretion whether or not to grant approval. If the new proposal is substantially different from the original approved project, the board will request that the funds be returned to The Recompense Fund.

The Recompense Fund will not contribute financially to endowments or capital campaigns. This includes costs related to verbal or written requests for financial support such as appeal letters or fundraising events.

The following types of organizations are eligible to apply for grants:

* Nonprofit, charitable organizations tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and also classified as an organization described in sections 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) (not a foundation)
* The Town of Chebeague Island
* The Chebeague Island School
* Groups without any tax status may apply via a fiscal sponsor that is an eligible organization as described above

In addition, please note that grants cannot reimburse expenses that have already been incurred by an organization.

**V. Emergency Grants**

At any time during the year, by a three-quarters vote of the board members present at any full Board meeting for which due notice of the matter has been given, the Recompense Fund may make an exceptional grant to meet an emergency need of an island nonprofit organization otherwise eligible for funding under Section IV. Such grants will be rare. This authority is intended solely to give the Fund’s board flexibility to respond to unexpected and critical needs which might affect the sustainability of an organization or of individual programs.

Emergency grants may in whole or in part be applied towards general operating costs in support of a nonprofit’s mission, augmenting the working capital needed to sustain operations. A grant request must identify how the nonprofit plans to fund the shortfall in the future, to avoid a similar threat to its financial viability or the financial viability of a particular program.

Supporting documentation may include financial statements (current and future) identifying new or enhanced revenue sources and cost efficiencies for the period over which financial sustainability is achieved, and such additional information as the Board considers appropriate to the situation.

**VI. Annual Review and Amendments**

The Recompense Fund shall review these Grant Guidelines, at least annually, at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors. Grant Guidelines may be amended by the Board at any regular or special meeting by majority vote of those members present.

History (Grant Guidelines)

Adopted: January 7, 2021
Revised: February 15, 2022 (to reflect change in relationship with Maine Community Foundation)

Revised: October 30, 2022 (to eliminate cap on overhead expenses, adopt emergency grant section, and require annual review)

Revised: January 26, 2023 (change date of review from April 15th to April 8th, change emergency to need in small grant section)

Revised: January 18, 2024 (deleting Fund’s Rapid Response committee and changing date of application from April 30th to April 15th)