



Funding research. Finding hope.

About Us

The Maine Cancer Foundation was established in 1976 with funds donated by Mr. Harmon Hugo and the Morris Sandler Family. Both had lost loved ones to cancer and felt compelled to make a difference in the fight against this disease. From its founding, all funds raised have stayed in the state of Maine.

Originally known as Maine Cancer Research and Education Foundation, the name was changed to Maine Cancer Foundation in 2001, but the mission has remained the same: to improve the health and well-being of Maine people by

- funding scientific laboratory and clinical cancer research,
- sponsoring professional and public education regarding knowledge and advances in cancer medicine, and
- sponsoring cancer patient support programs.

The Human Genome Project and other molecular biological advances of the late 1990's created an opportunity for the Foundation to translate these discoveries into meaningful benefits for the people of Maine. The Foundation feels the optimal use of its resources is in the investigation of science-based evidence.

Funding Criteria

Maine Cancer Foundation allocates at least 50% of its available funds to research. The remaining funds apply to cancer education and patient support proposals. Over the past several years, research applications have warranted 80% of grant awards.

Proposals

The Foundation only accepts proposals that reflect measurable fact-based science through investigations of a clinical or laboratory nature that:

- explore the molecular basis of cancer
- improve cancer prevention, detection and treatment
- implement translational findings
- analyze treatment outcomes

Proposals must be short-term (one year) with clearly defined goals and measurable results. Grant recipients may re-apply in subsequent years; however, the Foundation is more interested in providing start-up funding than sustaining programs from year to year.

A grant recipient's work must further the charitable purposes outlined by MCF. Funds may not be diverted to benefit any individual. The results or benefits of any Foundation supported investigation or program are required to remain in the public domain for the benefit of Maine people.

Unsuccessful proposals are welcome to re-apply keeping in mind reviewer comments. No more than one request per applicant may be submitted per year.

A written narrative and finance update is required at six months (by Dec. 31) and a concluding written report is required by June 30. Full or excerpted reports are published in the Foundation's Annual Report and in broader media markets when appropriate.

What We Will Not Fund:

- Direct support to individuals for cancer prevention, detection or treatment
- Services, equipment or supplies
- More than 15% institutional overhead
- Non science-based cancer prevention and treatment methods
- Personnel for political advocacy or lobbying efforts
- Business investments or loans
- Special events and fundraisers to benefit groups other than MCF
- Institutions or investigators not based in Maine
- Advertising, either print, TV or radio except in unique situations

Application Process**Deadlines**

Complete Research Applications must be received in the MCF office by April 1 to be considered.

During April, May and June the Grant Review Committee reviews proposals and drafts a recommendation of awards. The recommendation is reviewed by the Board of Directors, which has final approval. Awards are announced and funds distributed by June 30.

How to Apply

1. Complete the Application form.
2. Include a list of Board of Directors or Trustees from your institution.
3. Be sure the application is signed.
4. Mail 8 copies to:
Maine Cancer Foundation
970 Baxter Blvd., Suite 204
Portland, ME 04103

Additional Information

- No fax or e-mail applications are accepted. Please do not submit proposals in plastic covers, binders or sheet protectors. Photographs, videotapes and other supporting materials may be included – send one copy only. Please do not phone or email to check on the status of your application. You will be informed on a timely basis.
- Be sure your proposal is clear, concise and understandable and that steps to measure its effectiveness are included. Collaborations with other agencies are welcome. List in-kind support. Include endorsements when possible.
- If a grant proposal is denied, applicants should consider reviewer comments and may re-apply the following year.
- The Grant Review Committee does not grant interviews to prospective grantees nor do they normally make site visits.
- The Maine Cancer Foundation will not knowingly support projects that discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, marital status or sexual orientation.
- The Foundation reserves the right to make grant awards at the discretion of its board members. Organizations that receive such funding are selected by the board and may be reviewed outside of the normal application process.

Scoring Criteria

A sample of the scoring criteria is included for applicant's consideration.

SAMPLE SCORING CRITERIA

MAINE CANCER FOUNDATION
Research Grant Proposal Review

Core Research Topics:

Does the request address one or more of these topics?

- Explore the molecular basis of cancer
- Improve cancer prevention, detection and treatment
- Implement translational findings
- Analyze treatment outcomes

Organizational Values:

Measurable, fact-based science is the basis for investigation. Does the premise presented in the application meet this standard?

- Yes
- No

Funding Criteria

With a score of 1 (low) to 5 (high), rate the application on well it meets these criteria

- Objectives are clear and contain methodologies to reach them
- Budget is appropriate, cost effective and justified
- Based on prior experience, personnel, infrastructure, and preliminary work there is a high likelihood of achieving success
- Timeline is realistic
- There is a clear, effective plan to assess outcome
- The proposal addresses a defined statement of need
- Institutional support is defined, or if no support is evident a statement explaining its lack is provided
- Importance/Impact of contribution is evident

Bonus Points (Give 1 point to each)

- Project addresses an underserved population in Maine
- Plan is compelling in its unique approach to an existing problem
- Applicant involves collaboration and partnerships to assure success

Reviewers overall impression of proposals merit
