



RAPID RESPONSE FUNDING

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2025

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A: INTRODUCTION

The Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center (MAIC) has a program to support projects that can quickly respond to pressing issues affecting aquaculture in Maine, promoting sustainability and resilience in our seafood sector. The program aims to provide financial support to Maine organizations to address urgent challenges in Maine's aquaculture sector. The program encourages collaboration among researchers, industry stakeholders, and community partners.

B. FUNDING, DURATION, AND ELIGIBILITY

Funding: MAIC can fund applications **up to \$5,000** and applicants must be able to **match** all requested funds. Funding will be awarded based on the potential impact, feasibility, and innovation of the proposed solution.

Duration: Projects should be no longer than 2 years.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant organizations must be registered in Maine
- Proposals are invited from individuals, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and businesses engaged in aquaculture or related fields.
- Projects must demonstrate a clear connection to the aquaculture sector in Maine and provide a rapid response to documented urgent, current needs or challenges.

Match Policy:

It is MAIC policy that all funding is matched 1:1. To be eligible for this grant, applicants must detail match, meaning for every \$1 of grant funding received, the applicant must contribute an additional \$1 from their own funds towards the project costs. The match can be one or a combination of the following:

- Simple cash match: Applicants must provide a cash match equivalent to the grant award amount.
- In-kind match: The required match can be provided through in-kind contributions, such as staff time, with documented valuation.

C. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications must contain the following elements and sub-sections described below. Applications that fail to include all the following elements will not be reviewed. Proposals must be limited to a maximum of 5 pages, including the budget and budget justification (12-point font, double spaced, 1-inch top and bottom margins). **Email completed applications to info@maineaquaculture.org with the following subject line: LAST NAME, FIRST INITIAL-Rapid Response Grant App.** (Example: *Smith, J- Rapid Response Grant App*).

Ensure that your application includes the following information:

- Title Page
 - Organization name and mailing address
 - Principal investigator name and contact details (including phone number)
 - Other investigators and collaborators
- Project Narrative
 - Introduction
 - Justification
 - Goal and objectives
 - Methodology
 - Outcome measures
 - Timeline
- Budget (including match funds)
- Budget justification

Budget and Budget Justification:

The budget should contain at least three columns; titled requested funding, cash match, and in-kind match. Applicants must include a detailed itemized budget justification of what the requested funds will be used for. MAIC cannot cover salary and will not make purchases or bookings on behalf of the applicant.

Example Budget:

PROJECT TITLE: Co-growing sea scallops and sea urchins in lantern nets

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Jane Doe			DURATION (months): 18			
A. SALARIES AND WAGES:		people-months				
	No. of People	Amount of Effort	Requested Funding	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Total Funds
<i>1. Personnel</i>						
a. (Co) Principal Investigator	1	0.01			\$750	\$750
b. Staff						
c. Intern	1	3			\$2400	\$2400
d. Other:						
B. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT:						
1. Marker buoys					\$550	
C. EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT:						
1. Purchase of scallop seed (5,000 at \$0.05/animal)			\$250			
2. Purchase of juvenile sea urchins (1,000 at \$0.50/animal)			\$250	\$250		\$500
3. Purchase of pearl nets (10 at \$100 each)			\$1000			
4. Purchase of lantern nets (15 at \$130 each)			\$1950			
D. OTHER COSTS:						
1. Fuel for boat			\$500			
TOTAL COSTS (A through D):			\$3950	\$250	\$3700	\$7900
TOTAL MATCH (Cash and in-kind)						\$3950
TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDS						\$3950

Example Budget Justification:

- A. **Salaries and Wages:** The PI (Jane Doe) will devote 0.01 person-months at \$750 for project kick-off and management. A summer intern will be hired for 3 person-months at \$2400 and will be responsible for initial stocking, net maintenance, and measuring growth and survival of scallops and urchins. Personnel time on the project is contributed as an in-kind match.
- B. **Permanent Equipment:** We will be using buoys that we already own to mark the nets, which is contributed as an in-kind match of \$550.
- C. **Expendable Supplies & Equipment:** A total of 5,000 scallop spat will be purchased from Green Sea Farms at a rate of \$0.05 per animal for a total of \$250 in requested funds. A total of 1,000 juvenile sea urchins will be purchased from Blue Research Center at a rate of \$0.50 per animal for a total of \$500, \$250 of which is requested funds and \$250 is a cash match. We are requesting funds to purchase 10 pearl nets at \$100 each and 15 lantern nets at \$130 each from Great Aquaculture Supply Company, for a total of \$1000 for pearl nets and \$1950 for lantern nets.
- D. **Other Costs:** We are requesting \$500 to be used for fuel costs for our farm boat.

D. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION

Review Process:

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis (monthly). Applications will be reviewed monthly at the beginning of each month.

Evaluation:

The evaluation of applications is a multi-step process:

1. Applications will be reviewed by MAIC staff to ensure the application is complete.
2. Once complete, applications will be reviewed by a review committee. All applications received by the end of each month will be reviewed together.
3. The applicant may be asked to provide further information.
4. The applicant will be notified of the application outcome.
5. Applicants will be asked to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

E. CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about the program or how to apply, contact Sydney Avena at savena@maineaquaculture.org.