

# The Creative Opportunities Grant

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The Collaborative Youth Committee (CYC) offers grants to support youth in foster care or youth transitioning from care. The goal of this grant program is to support innovative projects and partnerships that will assist youth in foster care and the systems that serve them. Agencies, businesses, schools, individuals, and social service organizations are encouraged to apply.

*For additional information about the partners involved in the Creative Opportunities Grant and for a more detailed description of the priority areas please refer to our website at [www.ylat.org](http://www.ylat.org).*

**Maximum Award:** \$2,000

## Priority Areas

Funding will be given to projects focused on creating resources and opportunities for youth in the following areas:

1. Steady employment
2. Education and training in support of stable employment
3. Safe, stable and affordable housing
4. Access to transportation to work and school
5. Physical, dental and mental health care
6. Supportive relationships in the community
7. Permanent and lifelong connections

Eligible ideas include, but are not limited to:

- Outreach and special events (ex. fairs, conferences, promotional/educational materials etc)
- Apprenticeships and career training programs
- Mentoring and tutoring programs
- Life skills training and support programs
- Education and career awareness events (such as college visits)
- Initiatives related to transportation (e.g., driver's license support, driver's education, discounted bus tickets)
- Initiatives that reduce living expenses (including utility costs for youth in transition)
- Initiatives related to improving health and wellness
- Housing support or placement

## Previous Grant Recipients

- New Beginnings, Lewiston: To add recreational and cultural activities to the existing program to assist youth in making more connections with supportive adults, other youth, and local resources.
- Central/Western Workforce Development, Augusta: To offer the WorkReady™ program, a 60-hour work preparation training to youth in care.
- Community Care, Bangor: To expand the reach of the "Turning Points" program, which normalizes the stress that teens face in decision making about their lives, teaches practical life skills, and helps youth gain confidence in their innate strengths.
- Camp To Belong, Maine, statewide: To support youth scholarships for camp and to convene a team to design an array of sibling reunion events for brothers and sisters across Maine who have been separated by foster care, adoption or other out- of-home placement and to help with scholarships to Camp To Belong, Maine.
- Three former youth in care, statewide: To establish a Maine Chapter of the Foster Care Alumni Association of America group.

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## Application Instructions

Applicants are required to submit an application package including:

- A completed application form
- A project narrative
- A completed budget sheet

Young people throughout the state will be reviewing your application closely. Please explain acronyms. Review the questions carefully, following the requested lengths and formats as closely as possible. If access to technology is a barrier, please let us know.

Partners in this grant process are available if you need assistance in the crafting of your application or in the implementation of your funded proposal. Please contact either Maggie Vishneau at (207)780-5469 or [vishneau@usm.maine.edu](mailto:vishneau@usm.maine.edu) or Susan Burns Chong at (207)780-5845 or [sburnschong@usm.maine.edu](mailto:sburnschong@usm.maine.edu) should you need assistance.

**All applications must be received by 4:00 P.M. on October 31, 2011.** Although email is the preferred method, applications may also be sent by US mail or by fax. Only complete applications will be reviewed. Electronic applications should be sent to Leslie Pohl at [lpohl@usm.maine.edu](mailto:lpohl@usm.maine.edu).

Please note: If technology is a barrier and you are unable to email, please call Leslie at 228-8031 to announce the pending arrival of the application package. Then please mail or fax your application by the deadline to:

**Address:** Leslie Pohl  
Muskie School of Public Service  
University of Southern Maine  
34 Bedford Street / PO Box 9300  
Portland, Maine 04104-9300  
(207) 228-8406 (fax)

### Timeline

Grant applications will be reviewed in November. Grant recipients will be announced by December 2011, with funding to be available in January 2012. All projects are expected to be implemented during the calendar year, January 1, 2012-December 31, 2012.

### Ongoing Assessment and Support Process

Recipients will be expected to communicate with the Collaborative Youth Committee members throughout the year. Follow up phone calls with youth will occur in March and June. A final written report will be due at the end of the year, by December 31.

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## Application Form

Please complete the following:

### Primary Contact Person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of agency/business/school (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to be reached (phone, e-mail, mail) \_\_\_\_\_

### Secondary Contact Person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of agency/business/school (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

### Project Information

Name of project \_\_\_\_\_

Amount requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic area(s) of Maine impacted by your proposed project:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please check all of the issues that you will address with this project. (Please refer to previous page)

- Employment
- Education
- Housing
- Physical, Dental, and Mental Health
- Personal and Community Engagement
- Permanency and Family Connections

How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Project Narrative

Please respond to the following questions in your narrative, in size 12, Times New Roman font. Young people and adult partners will be reviewing all applications, so please use jargon-free, accessible language in your responses.

1. **Project Description** (½ -1 page): Please include the following information in the description of your project.
  - The need/problem that you would like to address through your project.
  - The target population, as well as others who will be impacted by the project.
  - The role of youth and adult partners in the project development and implementation.
2. **Goals and Strategies:** Describe your goals and objectives for this project. What are your strategies and activities to meet these goals and objectives? Please include a work plan if, applicable. (½ page)
3. **Program evaluation:** Describe how you will know you have accomplished your goal. How do you plan to assess and evaluate your success? (The Maine Community Foundation offers a helpful model for creating measures of success. Please refer to [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org). ) (½ page)
4. **Project Timeline:** Identify when you will start your program, complete it and any other important target dates in its development. (½ page)
5. **Organizational Capacity:** Describe your own organizational capacity to implement the proposed project including key staff and partners you will involve in your project. Is this a new project or will these grant funds be used to support an existing project? (½ page)

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## Project Budget Grant requests may be up to \$2,000.

Budget Category	Requested Amount	Additional Funding	Total Amount	Description of budget item
<b>Personnel/Contracts</b>				
<b>total</b>				
<b>Equipment/Materials/Supplies</b>				
<b>total</b>				
<b>Travel/Training/Conferences</b>				
<b>total</b>				
<b>Other Expenses</b>				
<b>total</b>				
<b>Total Expenses</b>				