



## Healthy People Healthy Places *Katahdin Region Focus Area*

**Available funding in 2024:** up to \$195,000

**Special note on 2024 funding:** Because of the limited funding available this year, our grantmaking will be by invitation only. We will either invite new applications (for new work or for organizations that aren't current grantees) or make amendments to existing grants. If you have work that you would like to have considered for invitation, please contact Tom Boutureira at [tboutureira@sewallfoundation.org](mailto:tboutureira@sewallfoundation.org) to discuss. Our general Focus Area approach remains unchanged and is outlined below.

### **General Description**

The Katahdin Region (which includes the towns of Mt. Chase, Patten, Island Falls, Stacyville, Sherman, Medway, East Millinocket, and Millinocket) has been in a transition for decades predating the closure of two papermills and other significant employers in the region. The Sewall Foundation is focused on the shift from extractive uses of the land and waters to regenerative community and economic development. Our early funding supported the efforts of organizations responding to emerging opportunities in tourism, downtown revitalization, and recreational trail development. In 2018-2019, we supported the [Katahdin Gazetteer: A Roadmap to the Future](#) – a community-informed visioning and planning process that defined shared regional principles and articulated six big ideas.

Since then, Sewall has increasingly aligned our strategies to the goals and action-items outlined in the Katahdin Gazetteer to galvanize regional collaborations, resource-sharing, and capacity-building while validating the community vision. While non-native organizations are increasingly exploring ways to support and partner with the Penobscot Nation and other Wabanaki people and native-led organizations, much work remains to acknowledge tribal sovereignty and self-determination, systemic racism and inequities, and historical injustices.

### **Priorities**

We seek to strengthen collaboration, build capacity, deepen equity, increase shared prosperity, and center the voices of those who live and work in the region, including Wabanaki people. The Sewall Foundation's funding in the Katahdin Region will be focused on the following areas:

- **Organizational Capacity:** Providing operating support so organizations and initiatives have the human capacity to advance regional priorities and the financial resources to participate in collaborative work.
- **Transformative Initiatives:** Resourcing projects that align with the Katahdin Gazetteer, have regional impact, and a high-level of readiness to implement in the next 3 years (2022-2024).
- **Collaboration:** Supporting the backbone organization of collaborative efforts so they are well-coordinated, resourced to follow through on meetings, plans, and shared priorities, and able to communicate effectively with stakeholders. Specific collaborative projects may also be considered.
- **Healing and Racial Equity:** Supporting applied racial equity learning for staff, organizations, and collaborations/partnerships that will lead to healing, true partnership, and shared prosperity with Wabanaki people; tribal sovereignty being acknowledged and reflected in all work in the region; and a region that welcomes new and diverse residents, visitors, and ideas.
- **Evaluation:** Supporting [developmental evaluation](#) to drive meaningful change and measure impact.

- **Convening & Capacity-Building:** Helping organizations and people to gather for shared learning, to develop skills and capacities across organizations, or for emergent discussions. Planning (ex. Strategic planning, financial planning, etc.) and consulting support also fall under this area.

**Contact**

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