



Let us take good care of what has returned

Wolankeyutomone Kisi Apaciyewik Fund

Photo by Nolan Altvater (Passamaquoddy)

Request for Proposals

APPLICATIONS DUE
Friday, March 14, 2025



WABANAKI
COMMISSION
ON LAND AND STEWARDSHIP

The Wabanaki Commission on Land and Stewardship is accepting proposals for the 2025 Wolankeyutomone Kisi Apaciyewik Fund, which seeks to repair, rebuild, and sustain Wabanaki relationship, kinship, and access to place by directly helping Wabanaki people and institutions to fulfill their care-taking responsibilities of lands and waters across Wabanaki Traditional Territory, in what is now known as Maine.

Overview

2025 Funding Cycle

The Wabanaki Commission on Land & Stewardship is now accepting applications to the Wolankeyutomone Kisi Apaciyewik (“let us take good care of what has returned”) Fund, which seeks to repair, rebuild, and sustain Wabanaki relationship, kinship, and access to place by directly helping Wabanaki people and institutions to fulfill their care-taking responsibilities of lands and waters across Wabanaki Traditional Territory, in what is now known as Maine.

The Fund is a Wabanaki-led, participatory grantmaking program that provides unrestricted, general operating support to Wabanaki tribal governments, Wabanaki NGOs, and Wabanaki citizens.

Funding Period

Grants received from the Wolankeyutomone Kisi Apaciyewik Fund are flexible 1-2 year awards starting from the grantee award notification date, based on the needs of the grantee.

Award Notification

The Commission anticipates making award notifications for the 2025 application year at the end of April.

Eligibility

- ◇ **Wabanaki Tribal Governments:** any of the five federally recognized tribal governments in what is currently known as Maine
- ◇ **Wabanaki NGO:** a non-governmental organization or non-profit organization with a majority (50% or more) of Wabanaki citizens or descendants that make up the board of directors, staff leadership, and community organizers
- ◇ **Wabanaki Individual:** a citizen of one of the five federally recognized tribal governments in what is currently known as Maine

Funding Levels

- ◇ **Wabanaki Tribal Governments:** \$75K
- ◇ **Wabanaki NGO:** \$50K
- ◇ **Wabanaki Individual:** \$25K

Funding Focus Areas

The Commission is committed to funding people and organizations who do the following:

- ◇ Build involvement around land and culture, and bring elders and community members together around traditional uses of land and stewardship
- ◇ Create opportunities around cultural healing and Wabanaki connections to land
- ◇ Support Wabanaki access to places using appropriate access-building strategies (e.g. policy work, knowledge sharing, education about current opportunities)
- ◇ Help Wabanaki people who want to make their livelihoods through relationship with land (such as through guiding, canoeing, harvesting, hunting, etc.)
- ◇ Incorporate tribal language education in land stewardship activities
- ◇ Recognize the importance of our spiritual relations with one another, places connected to our ancestors and their activities, and our non-human relations

How to Apply

The deadline for completed applications is Friday, March 14, 2025 by 11:59PM

1. Confirm your eligibility:

Please confirm you or your organization meet the eligibility criteria listed in the RFP above. Please contact us if you are unsure whether you are eligible.

2. Ensure your work aligns with our focus areas:

Successful applications will describe how core aspects of their work align with *at least one* of the focus areas listed in this RFP.

3. Complete and submit your application:

Your application can be submitted in the following ways: **(1)** Using the Google Form linked below. Please note your progress can only be saved if you are logged into a Google account. We recommend drafting your responses in the working document provided and pasting your answers into the form fields when you submit. **(2)** Using the fillable PDF attached to this RFP. PDF documents must be emailed back to apply@dawnlandreturn.org. A confirmation email will be provided when your email is received. **(3)** Schedule a Zoom call with the Collaborative Fund Manager to record your responses via video.

[Access Google Form](#)

Questions? Please contact the Collaborative Fund Manager for support.

Frances Soctomah (Passamaquoddy)

fsoctomah@dawnlandreturn.org

(207) 404-6660





Wolankeyutomone Kisi Apaciyewik Fund

A program of the Wabanaki Commission
on Land & Stewardship

2025 Application

The Wabanaki Commission on Land & Stewardship is now accepting applications to the Wolankeyutomone Kisi Apaciyewik (“Let’s Take Good Care of What has Returned”) Fund, which seeks to repair, rebuild, and sustain Wabanaki relationship, kinship, and access to place by directly helping Wabanaki people and institutions to fulfill their care-taking responsibilities of lands and waters across Wabanaki Traditional Territory, in what is now known as Maine.

SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION

This section asks for general information about you or your organization. Groups that do not identify as organizations can receive funding using a fiscal sponsor.

1. Application type. (select one)

Wabanaki Tribal
Government

501(c)(3) non-profit
or
 Fiscally sponsored
group

Wabanaki individual

2. Organization or individual name. (For individuals, complete this question then proceed to question 7)

3. If you are using a fiscal sponsor, please list the name of the organization here.

4. Organization EIN.

5. Organization mission statement. (2-3 sentences)

6. What year was your organization founded?

7. What is your mailing address? (For individuals, complete this question then proceed to question 10)

8. Organization website or social media page.

9. Organizational budget. Please share your operating budget for the most recently completed fiscal year. Operating income may include in-kind contributions.

a. Operating income for the most recently completed fiscal year \$

b. Operating expenses or the most recent completed fiscal year \$

10. What tribe(s) are represented or served in your work? For individuals, select the tribe where you are a citizen then proceed to question 12. (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians | <input type="checkbox"/> Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mi'kmaq Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> Penobscot Nation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk | <input type="checkbox"/> Wabanaki-wide |

11. Who is the primary contact person for your organization? (This might be the executive director, board president, or other most prominent spokesperson)

Name _____

Title _____

Office Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

12. Who is the primary contact for this proposal, if different from the person named above? (For individuals, complete this question then proceed to section c)

Name _____

Title _____

Phone _____

Email _____

SECTION B: ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP & STAFF

This section will help our grantmaking committee gain a clearer picture of people closely involved with your organization.

1. Does your group or organization have paid staff?

Yes

No

If yes, what percentage of total paid staff are Wabanaki?

2. Does your organization have a Wabanaki majority of key staff leaders of the organization – 50% or more – in leadership roles?

Yes

No

3. Does your organization have a Wabanaki majority of key members on the board of directors or decision-making body – 50% or more – in governing decision-making roles?

Yes

No

4. Does your organization have a Wabanaki majority of organizers – 50% or more – on-the-ground community interfacing staff/volunteers?

Yes

No

Not applicable

5. If your organization does not meet requirements for 50% or more of total staff leadership, decision makers, and/or Wabanaki organizers for intentional strategy considerations, please explain below:

6. Please provide a full listing of your current board members and/or primary advisory council members or governing body members, including their tribal affiliations.

SECTION C: NARRATIVE PROPOSAL


Use the space provided to tell the Wabanaki Commission and advisory committee about your work. There are no required word limits. Applicants are encouraged to write their proposal in whatever way best reflects their work and vision for their communities.

1. Which of the following do you do in your work? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Build involvement around land and culture, and bring elders and community members together around traditional uses of land and stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wabanaki people who want to make their livelihoods through relationship with land (such as through guiding, canoeing, harvesting, hunting, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create opportunities around cultural healing and Wabanaki connections to land | <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate tribal language education in land stewardship activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Wabanaki access to places using appropriate access-building strategies (e.g. policy work, knowledge sharing, education about current opportunities, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize the importance of our spiritual relations with one another, places connected to our ancestors and their activities, and our non-human relations |

2. Please explain what you seek to achieve during the proposed funding period.

3. How does your work support the cultural traditions and lifeways of Wabanaki people? How does it support the well-being of living human and non-human relatives as well as the next seven generations?



4. How will you know that your efforts are successful in your vision for supporting Wabanaki people, non-human relatives, and homelands?



5. What previous funding or in-kind donations have you received, if any, to support your efforts?

SECTION E: ANYTHING ELSE (OPTIONAL)

On no more than one (1) additional page, please share with us anything you wish we would have asked but didn't or anything that will help our grantmaking committee make decisions.