



Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) will award micro grants to help startups and early-stage small businesses purchase equipment, streamline operations, and/or provide working capital.

Funds Awarded: Grant awards are expected to range from \$500 to \$2,500.

Eligible Businesses: Businesses must:

- Be located in Washington County, Maine
- Be a new, or newly acquired, business in operation 0 to 3 years
- Be unable to find alternative funding elsewhere
- Comply with SCEC's grant guidelines

Eligible Purposes: Sunrise Seed grants may be used for asset purchases, construction, working capital and/or debt consolidation.

Funding Criteria: Applications will be reviewed per the following criteria:

- Extent to which the capital request addresses a documented need
- Whether the improvements will increase the overall success of the business
- Reasonableness of costs

Application Process: Applicants are required to complete the Sunrise Seed Grant Application and one-page business plan. Applications may be submitted anytime to the extent that funds are available.

Sunrise County Economic Council's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Team (Loan Program Manager, Entrepreneurship Program Manager, and Director) are primary contacts for questions about the Fund and its process. Completed applications will be submitted to the Loan Program Manager, who will present them to the Sunrise Seed Grant Committee at routine monthly meetings. In the event there are time-critical grant applications, the Loan Program Manager may request a special Grant Committee meeting.

Sunrise Seed Grant Contacts:

- ➔ Susan Hatton, Loan Program Manager shatton@sunrisecounty.org or 207-949-0336
- ➔ Katie Bragg, Entrepreneurship Program Manager kbragg@sunrisecounty.org or 207-620-2273
- ➔ Denise Cilley, Direct of Small Business & Entrepreneurship dcilley@sunrisecounty.org or 207-259-5103

Decision Process: Grant applications will be presented to the Grant Committee on a monthly basis or as necessary. Upon review of the application material, the application may be partially or fully approved,

declined, or tabled for more information. The Sunrise Seed Grant Committee will include individuals from the following organizations:

- Maine Community Foundation
- Machias Savings Bank
- R. H. Foster Energy
- Kingfish Maine
- Representation from Sunrise County Economic Council Board of Directors

Grant Awards: Selected applicants will sign a Grant Agreement and provide proof of expenditure of funds and a Sunrise Seed Grant report upon completion of the project.

SCEC will issue 1099s