



## Four-Season Island Agriculture Fund Guidelines

### About the Fund

The Four-Season Island Agriculture Fund (FSIAF) is an exciting program, launched in May 2009 to support sustainable-agriculture projects in Maine's 15 unbridged year-round island communities. The fund is currently inviting proposals for consideration in our second round of funding. The Island Institute cannot consider any project that does not have a school, community, or resident contribution, either financial or in-kind. The Island Institute staff is happy to discuss projects at any stage of development and to assist with their design. Please call us at any time.

### Funding Priorities

The fund is designed to support individuals and/or community organization with projects in the following areas:

- Capital-improvement projects: Many islanders have expressed interest in expanding their farming and gardening to increase the amount of locally produced food available on-island. Capital-improvement grants are intended to assist individuals and organizations in meeting this goal by funding projects such as cold-frame and/or greenhouse construction, or other farm/garden improvement projects. Priority will be given to those projects that have applied for or received funding from other sources, and where this money will serve as a match. Maximum grant: \$1,500
- Professional-development opportunities: There is growing interest from island schools and community organizations to incorporate farming/gardening into formal and informal, K-12 and adult-education initiatives. The professional-development fund is intended to assist individuals and organizations wishing to attend or lead workshops to gather and spread information about the practice and value of local sustainable agriculture. (Example: a curriculum-development workshop for teachers to incorporate school gardens in the classroom). Professional-development funding will be granted only to assist with professional-development or technical-assistance workshops that are not already being made available through the Island Institute's Island Agriculture program. Please contact us to discuss your project idea before applying. This area of funding could support workshop fees, travel, etc. Maximum grant per organization/individual: \$1,500.

We encourage potential applicants to contact us to discuss their project ideas. While we may occasionally considering funding projects that are outside our priority areas, preference will be given to projects that fit the above descriptions. If your project is outside these priorities, please contact us to discuss it.

Contact information: [silgrants@islandinstitute.org](mailto:silgrants@islandinstitute.org)

Phone: (207) 594-9209 x 115

### Deadlines

Applications are due **Monday, April 5th, 2010**. We understand that farming/gardening project funds are often needed in the spring and early summer. To best meet applicant needs, we anticipate making award decisions in mid-April.

Funds are limited, so future calls for applications will depend on the number of funding requests and awards made during this round.

### Guidelines

It is important to the Island Institute that our limited amount of funding is fairly distributed coast-wide. Individuals and community groups can submit only one proposal per funding cycle. 2009 applicants and awardees are permitted to apply again this round. However, any project requests submitted from individuals/organizations receiving previous FSIAF funding must be significantly different from previously funded projects.

Applications should describe how the proposed project or professional-development experience will contribute towards increasing the amount of locally produced food, and/or increase community awareness about island-based agricultural efforts and heritage. All projects must address a compelling need, with preference given to those that promote opportunities for community involvement. If additional funding is needed, applicants must explain how

that funding will be obtained. If a project is expected to be ongoing, the applicant will need to explain how it will be funded in the future.

**Criteria for Evaluation**

Project proposals should:

1. Describe a compelling need;
2. Provide benefits to the entire community and/or plan for community outreach;
3. Demonstrate plans to sustain the project after the funding cycle ends;
4. Provide both short-term and long-term benefits;
5. Describe project links to a community's agricultural heritage/reclaiming farmland;
6. Describe the budget clearly.