



The Compass Workforce Grant provides financial support for young adults from Maine's unbridged islands to help pay for workforce expenses associated with pursuing a certificate or credential that leads to high value employment. [APPLY HERE](#)

WHAT'S THE AMOUNT?

Applicants can receive up to \$500.

WHEN IS THE DUE DATE?

The due date for Compass Workforce Grants is rolling. Applications are due on the first of the month and will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Applications will be available by January 4, 2021. Completed applications will be reviewed and decided on within 2-4 weeks.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application is filled out with *Smarter Select*. Additionally, an informal informational interview must be done in person, via video conference or over the phone.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

You must be a young adult (age 17-26) on one of Maine's unbridged islands.

AND you must meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Live or work on the island for at least a year
- Have a family or community connection to an unbridged Maine island
- Have attended and/or graduated from the island school (if there is one)
- Exceptions and special circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis

WHAT CAN THE FUNDS BE USED FOR?

Expenses that help the applicant work towards earning a certificate or credential that leads to high value employment. This includes:

- Technical and vocational training programs
- Community College classes
- Short courses
- Online courses
- Apprenticeship programs
- Internship programs
- Materials/supplies (including tools, equipment, uniforms, books)
- Travel and lodging (including bus/train/airfare, mileage reimbursement and/or hotel or lodging costs associated with training programs)

DISTRIBUTING FUNDS

Funds will be distributed directly to the program when possible. Funds that are distributed directly to the recipient will require a completed W-9 form to be completed and may have tax implications.

FOLLOW UP

Recipients will be required to provide a reflection—either written or spoken (in person or over the phone)

- What about your project went well?
- What were any challenges or obstacles you faced?
- Budget— were there any changes or surprises?
- What's next for you?

Recipients are also encouraged (though not required) to provide photos—please send up 1-3 photos associated with your project.

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS AND TRAININGS FOR THE COMPASS WORKFORCE GRANT

[Maine School of Masonry in Avon, ME](#)

[Cianbro Institute in Pittsfield, ME](#)

[MidCoast School of Technology Adult Education in Rockland, ME](#)

[Early College Career Exploration Pathways and Certificates - UMaine System](#)

[Short Term Training Courses - Maine Community College System](#)

EXTERNAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUNDERS

Maine Community Development Foundation

[Adult Learner Scholarship Fund](#)

[Maine State Grant for Adult Learners](#)

Planning and Financial Literacy Resources

[iGrad Financial Literacy Platform](#)

[FAME's Lifetime Learning Kit](#)

[MaineSpark Adult Promise Hub](#)