

Realize Maine Network Grant Opportunities

The Realize Maine Network (RMN) program is making available competitive, incentive and support grant opportunities to regional affiliate group members who have current memorandums of understanding (MOU). These grant opportunities are designed to further the overall mission of the RMN by supporting local, regional and statewide efforts, including:

- A yearly statewide project that furthers the RMN mission and benefits all affiliate group members.
- Collaborative partnerships to promote a region as a place to live, work and/or start a business.
- Performance-based incentive and support grants for contributing to the workload of the RMN.
- Marketing grants to support new groups who join the RMN.

Reporting:

Unless otherwise noted below, upon completion of the grant, awardees will be required to provide a summary of how the grant was used, including an outline or narrative, project timeline, and key performance indicators of results, which will be made available to Realize Maine Network members as a how-to primer for reference in duplicating the project.

Statewide Realize Maine Project Grant - \$5,000 total

Funds to support a yearly project that furthers the mission of the Realize Maine Network to the benefit of all regional affiliate group members. The statewide-project grant will be awarded to the lead affiliate group who takes on the development, organization and execution of the event.

Availability: 1, distributed as \$2,500 per fiscal year

Regional Collaboration Grants - \$2,000 each

Competitive grant opportunity that encourages partnerships among affiliate groups or with a Maine Downtown Center, a Regional Economic Development or Tourism group, or a business-led organization such as a Maine SHRM chapter, Chamber of Commerce or Trade Association, in order to coordinate event(s) or promotion of the local area as a place to live, work and/or start a business.

Availability: 4

Eligibility:

- Must have a current, signed Realize Maine Network MOU;
- Group must have attended a minimum of 2/3 of monthly meetings, including the Regional Showcase;
- Group must be, or have a fiscal agent who is, a 501c(3) or 501c(6)
- If applicable, group must be in good standing with previous RMN grant awards, including fiscal responsibility and on-time reporting; and
- Grants cannot be used to purchase alcohol or recreational marijuana.

Incentive Grants – up to \$3,000 total

Performance-based discretionary funds awarded to a group whose representative commits and contributes to a Realize Maine Network steering committee leadership position or to a workgroup that benefits the Realize Maine program.

Steering Committee Leadership Positions - \$1,500 total

Availability: Chair (\$500), Vice Chair (\$500), Marketing Officer (\$500)

Workgroup: \$1,500 divided by the number of groups contributing

Distribution Example: One workgroup with five regional groups contributing would be \$300 each ($\$1,500 / 5 = \300). If a group has multiple people contributing they would count as one regional group.

Availability: 1 per fiscal year

Incentive Grant Eligibility:

- Must have a current, signed Realize Maine Network MOU;
- Must have completed their officer term or workgroup activities;
- Must have a signed Realize Maine MOU for the upcoming program year;
- The officer or regional group has participated in the annual Showcase; and
- *If Officer:* The officer has attended or contributed to at least 75 percent of the steering committee meetings during their term; or
- *If Workgroup:* The regional group has participated or contributed to a significant portion of the workgroup's activities as determined by workgroup partners.

New-Group Marketing Grants - \$500 each

These funds will be available to new Realize Maine Network affiliate group members upon the signing of a MOU and are to be used for social media or online marketing, traditional media marketing, or a membership-driven event.

Awardees will be required to provide a narrative of how the funds will be used, including an objective, and the results of the marketing's key performance indicators.

Availability: up to 3 per fiscal year