

INTRODUCING 2020 BLACK-OWNED BUSINESS GRANT

In this unprecedented time of economic uncertainty, we are pleased and proud to share with you our first 2020 Black-Owned Business Grant as we open this application process to you.

In 2020, we saw two extraordinary things happen. We first met the COVID-19 crisis in the spring and saw local businesses across our state shut down overnight. In this quarantine, we also saw the long-awaited call for action for the Black Lives Matter movement, where our local neighbors were wanting to help – especially asking how and where to support Black-owned businesses here in Maine.

Black Owned Maine was created to fill a void within the commerce industry of Maine. Before deciding to create this project there was not a single concise source showcasing Black-owned businesses in Maine. National directories simply left our beautiful state out completely. Black Owned Maine has challenged this truth and offered a solution.

As we offer this 2020 Black-Owned Business Grant, we reaffirm our commitment to amplify our voices, be understood, and to be celebrated while helping local Black-owned businesses regain their footing from the devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, or to get financial assistance from pre-COVID financial needs.

We prioritize any independent, local, Black-owned business (non- or for- profit) that is at least 50% owned (people of African diaspora) and doing business primarily or exclusively in Maine. We recognize that the local Black community has been and continues to be overlooked and unrepresented in Maine. We firmly believe that now is the time to showcase Black-owned businesses and put these local products and services at the forefront of a more equitable Maine economy.

We look forward to working alongside our community partners and allies throughout the Black-Owned Business Grant process.

Sincerely,
Black Owned Maine

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