

# FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE BEQUEST GRANT INFORMATION & APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF MAAP

## GRANT PROPOSAL

### OVERVIEW

**Why this project now, and will it engage with or benefit the FMC community? If so, how?**

Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) has a long and deep relationship with the Material Aid and Advocacy Program (MAAP) that stretches back decades. The basement space under our Meeting House has been MAAP's home since it began as a program of AFSC in 1944. In 2017, our community helped MAAP in its transition to become an independent nonprofit organization and many members of the FMC community have made contributions of time, labor, and funds to this beloved organization over the decades. Since the pandemic, the FMC community has made more of its space available for MAAP to use. One of MAAP's refrigerators lives in our foyer, and two days each week our Meetinghouse is used as a place of respite for our unhoused neighbors. Since we are already so involved with MAAP in a variety of ways, why should we also contribute a significant portion of our bequest to this organization?

The most powerful reason is that our support of MAAP is the clearest way that we, as a community, express our testimonies of peace, equality, integrity, community, and stewardship to the world. Folks in need of MAAP's services have doubled since the pandemic, but contributions and staffing have not. Giving MAAP use of our space is one way that our building becomes a living part of our testimonies, but we can do more.

MAAP is tending to both the immediate and the systemic needs of our most vulnerable neighbors in partnership with the folks who are most affected by current injustices including poverty, homelessness, and inequality. When we aid MAAP, we contribute to making a real difference in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of individuals in our community now and in the future. It is among the best uses that we make of our property, our resources and our volunteer hours. In addition, by using these funds to hire a QVS Fellow, (see below) we multiply our impact by helping a young person to learn about Quaker values, social activism, and communal living.

**How will this project deepen the spiritual life of FMC and reflect its testimonies?**

Although MAAP is no longer a program of AFSC, or program of another Quaker organization, its mission, vision, staff and board embody the values Quakers hold most dear. The staff of MAAP responds to the humanity of each community member who comes to them for material aid or other services with loving kindness. Community members are treated with dignity and respect, whether they are in need of food, clothing, a safe place to lie down, internet service, or help connecting with legal aid or healthcare partners. Local leaders and policy makers know MAAP staff well because they are informed and vocal in speaking truth to power when it comes to the needs of our unhoused community members. MAAP staff deplore both outward violence and the more subtle forms of coercion that unhoused folks must often endure and are tireless in advocating for peaceful solutions. Members of FMC often bemoan the lack of diversity in our community. MAAP offers us an example of what a truly inclusive Beloved Community can look like. The FMC community has much to learn from MAAP because they have learned to draw a circle that takes so many in. Sharing our wealth is one important way that we can partner with them in doing "God's work." When members of the FMC community are able to volunteer their time with MAAP, they also share in the Beloved Community. The need for volunteers at MAAP is regularly changing and evolving.

**How much is being requested, and what do you hope these funds will accomplish? Will you personally oversee execution or will it involve another organization or non-FMC persons? Over how many years will the funding be used?**

As people who are unhoused are increasingly being cast out and erased from the broader community

through coercion into so-called treatment, criminalization, decentralization, and sweeps, MAAP continues to be a safe and welcoming space for community members regardless of how they show up or what challenges they may be navigating. Each Tuesday and Thursday, they welcome over fifty community members to their low-threshold community drop-in space, share material aid (clothing, survival supplies, hygiene and first aid items), food and coffee, connections to resources, and access to technology for telemedicine and other work. They offer harm reduction training and work with community members to develop safety plans, host a housing navigator from the City of Cambridge, and connect community members to our legal partners when needed. Community members sleep and rest in their respite space in the meeting house, and spend time contributing to their collective care and work - caring for each other, problem solving and developing strategies to navigate the systems that are causing them harm, and helping run their space.

We are requesting \$63,000, the equivalent of 15.75% of the total bequest, to support MAAP in hiring an additional community care organizer to offer direct support to unhoused and underhoused community members at their twice-weekly community drop-in space. The person in this position would also organize and support volunteers; and engage in organizing, advocacy, and community education. The requested funds would be used over three years to compensate a person in this role. MAAP's intention is to apply for a full-time Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellow in January of 2024, and if accepted to the program compensate that fellow using these funds. If hiring a QVS fellow is not possible, funds would be used to hire a part-time organizer to work 16 hours per week.

With only 1.5 full time staff members, the MAAP team has been working beyond their capacity supporting 40-60 community members each day they are open, offering encampment sweep support and outreach, leading community organizing efforts, and offering community education and trainings. Hiring an additional team member would enable the MAAP team to better support community members at the MAAP drop-in space. MAAP needs additional staff to give community members the time, connections to resources, and care they need and deserve, but that they aren't always able to provide given their current capacity (see attached examples\*). Additional staffing would also allow for MAAP to return to hosting a regular community organizing meeting and groups for community members (book club, grief circle etc), and generally increase the team's capacity to work more strategically. With a larger team, the organization would be able to seize mission-aligned programmatic and advocacy opportunities they have had to turn down due to current staffing shortages.

**Is this a local proposal, elsewhere in the U.S., or international? Or for FMC itself?**

MAAP provides material aid and direct support to unhoused and underhoused community members locally in the Greater Cambridge / Boston Area. The majority of their advocacy is on the local - municipal and statewide level - though they engage in regional and national advocacy work as well.

**Who will carry out this project, both short-term and long-term if applicable? What are the roles, who will be doing them, and will there be adequate support?**

MAAP's Board of Directors and Executive Director has fiduciary responsibility over MAAP's funds including grants MAAP is awarded.

MAAP's Executive Director, Program and Outreach Organizer, and the Chair of MAAP's Board of Directors would oversee the hiring of the Community Care Organizer.

MAAP's Executive Director and Program and Outreach Organizer would carry out the training and onboarding, and ongoing support of the Community Care Organizer, including daily team debriefs and weekly team check-ins, offering additional training (skill sharing, role-play, and scenarios) as needed.

MAAP's Executive Director would provide supervision and connection to external training, support, and resources from MAAP's partners including [The National Harm Reduction Coalition](#), [The Lighthouse Learning Collective](#), [The Community Health Training Institute](#), and [SAD OD](#).

**MAAP Board**

Sarah Casey, Chair  
Abigail Kim, Treasurer  
Tehya Johnson, Clerk  
Jennifer Hogue, Director  
Jim Stewart, Director  
John Bach, Director  
Maia Raynor, Director

**MAAP Staff**

Cassie Hurd, Executive Director  
Rachel Bolton, Program and Outreach Organizer

**USE OF FUNDS****Does this proposal advise keeping some or all of the bequest for FMC's capital or budget use?**

This proposal is for a portion of the bequest funds. The authors of this proposal give no advice as to how the remainder of the bequest funds be used.

**Is this the only funding for this project or is it part of a larger effort?**

This funding is currently the only request MAAP has submitted for an additional community-care organizer as MAAP is currently focused on raising unrestricted funds to maintain existing staff capacity.

**Is it ongoing after these funds are depleted?**

Ongoing. We are requesting funds for three years to give MAAP a realistic time frame in which to increase their individual donor base and prospects for grant-based general operating or staff support to maintain this position beyond the grant period. With the current staffing deficit, it is challenging to both meet the daily needs of community members and build the organization's capacity.

**Is this funding for a start-up, a program already up and running, or is this for an expansion?**

This year, MAAP celebrated their fifth year as an independent organization.

**If being given to an existing program, what portion of that budget will this represent?**

The requested funds represent the entirety of funding for three years for an additional MAAP team member. These funds are not currently included in MAAP's FY24 budget.

**If an existing project, are members and/or attenders at FMC already engaged with this project, and if so, how? Are community members welcome to become involved and how?**

For as long as MAAP has existed, FMC members have been engaged in the work. Currently, FMC is MAAP's landlord. There are FMC members on MAAP's Board of Directors, there is an FMC-MAAP liaison sub-committee, and many members of the FMC community make individual donations - either financial, in-kind, or by supporting semi-annual Tag Sales.

**BUDGET****NOTE:**

- Up to 3 years is recommended

- Costs need to be quantified whether or not a grant is to be carried out by you or given to another organization to carry out.

EXPENSES	FY25 (July 24 - June 25)	FY26 (July 25 - June 26)	FY27 (July 26 - June 27)
<b>PERSONNEL</b>			
<b>COMMUNITY CARE ORGANIZER</b> QVS Stipend OR 16hr/wk PT staff member at \$25/hr (\$20,800/yr)	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$21,000.00</b>	<b>\$21,000.00</b>	<b>\$21,000.00</b>

**\* Examples of the kind of support that would be possible with an additional staff person:**

- Attending virtual court or an important meeting (last week was DCF) with a community member to take notes or be of support instead of just having a start & stop conversation with them between working with other folks and then handing off a laptop.

- Sitting with someone the entire time they are making detox calls until they find a bed and then coordinating transportation instead of having to tap in and out which can result in them becoming frustrated and giving up.

- Being available for more 1:1 time that is minimally interrupted for things like housing navigation, thinking through treatment options, problem solving legal or healthcare challenges, etc. Staff are currently unable to offer uninterrupted time - and sometimes aren't able to offer any time at all.

- Currently, when they have uninterrupted time with someone it is for crisis response & safety planning, for example:

- someone is experiencing suicidality,
- someone's partner has been locked up and they've never stayed outside by themselves before and have safety concerns,
- someone's psych meds were thrown out with their belongings by police and they are no longer experiencing a reality we share and they are in danger of being involuntarily civilly committed or incarcerated if they aren't able to access their meds
- wound care

- While one team member is involved in crisis response, the other team member has to try to support everyone else - which may be dozens of people. Community members are incredibly gracious and understanding when this happens, but it is stressful, inefficient, and much less effective than being fully staffed.