



Evaluation of Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program

Final Report

February 14, 2025

Prepared by

Judy Lee, Ph.D.
True North Evaluation Inc.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Description of evaluation project.....	3
Evaluation Questions	3
Methodology	4
Evaluation Survey Findings.....	5
Response Rates	5
TABLE 1. RESPONSE RATES BY SURVEY TYPE	5
Application Criteria & Communications	6
FIGURE 1. APPLICATION CLARITY AND EASE	6
FIGURE 2. AWARD DURATION AND AMOUNT	7
FIGURE 3. PROGRAM COMMUNICATIONS.....	8
TABLE 2. EXPLANATIONS OF RATINGS REGARDING APPLICATION	8
Publicity.....	13
FIGURE 4. AWARENESS OF GRANT PROGRAM	13
TABLE 3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING PUBLICITY AND PROGRAM AWARENESS.....	14
Re-application.....	15
FIGURE 5. KNOWLEDGE OF RE-APPLICATION.....	16
FIGURE 6. WILLINGNESS TO RE-APPLY	17
TABLE 4. REASONS WHY RESPONDENTS WOULD BE WILLING TO RE-APPLY	17
FIGURE 7. SUBMISSION OF MULTIPLE GRANT APPLICATIONS	21
Likelihood of Applying.....	21
FIGURE 8. LIKELINESS OF SMALL ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING	21
TABLE 5. REASONS WHY SMALL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD OR WOULD NOT APPLY.....	22
Grants Received.....	24
FIGURE 9. GRANT RECEIPT	24
TABLE 6. IMPACT OF PDK GRANTS	25
Strengths and Opportunities for PDK Program	28
TABLE 7. STRENGTHS OF PDK GRANTS PROGRAM	28
TABLE 8. SUGGESTIONS FOR PDK GRANTS PROGRAM.....	30
TABLE 9. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	32
Conclusion	35
Recommendations.....	37

Appendix A: Survey for All Applicants Pre-2021	38
Appendix B: Survey for Grant Recipients 2021-2024	42
Appendix C: Survey for Declined Applicants 2021-2024	46

Introduction

Description of evaluation project

Klingenstein Philanthropies contracted with Dr. Judy Lee in June 2024 to conduct an evaluation of the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program. The primary strategies to inform this evaluation would be three online surveys administered to 1) recent grant recipients (2021-24), 2) recent declined applicants (2021-24), and 3) all applicants pre-2021 (2012-2020). For additional context, Dr. Lee observed the grant review and selection process and conducted a focus group interview with the selection committee.

For five months, Judy collaborated with the Patricia D. Klingenstein (PDK) Grants Program Advisory Committee¹ to refine and finalize the purpose, goals, and structure of surveys. In addition to frequent email communications, there were three meetings on July 26, August 16, and October 25, 2024. Dr. Lee also observed in-person the grant review and selection process for 2024-25 awardees, which took place in Belgrade Lakes, Maine on August 22, 2024. Following the selection process, Judy conducted a focus group with nine members of the Grants Selection Committee. Observational and focus group data from the onsite meeting informed survey design and program recommendations, offered in the Conclusion of this report.

Archival evidence also helped crystallize the purpose of the evaluation surveys, survey items for inquiry, and the intended use of findings. Evidence included: 1) Foundant Platform with documentation from Emilie Knight (Reviewer Guide, Summary Workbook, Committee Folder with grant-making history database); Award Recommendations Summaries (prepared by Emilie after grants selection meetings in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023); 3) Google Slide Presentation Winter 2023 (prepared by Emilie in response to committee request for history of grantmaking by category, to understand themes underlying awards between 2007-2023); and Database of Contacts, containing organizations' names, contacts for each application declined or funded, project descriptions, and links to final reports submitted by grantees between 2019-2023.

In November 2024, the three surveys were finalized, uploaded to True North Evaluation's Survey Monkey platform, pilot-tested, and administered.

Evaluation Questions

The evaluation surveys of all applicants (2012-2020, grant recipients (2021-2024), and declined applicants (2021-2024), were designed to collect data to answer three questions:

¹ Throughout the project, Advisory Committee members included Eliot Brenner, Kathleen Pomerantz, Emilie Knight (consultant), Sally Martell, and Tory Klingenstein.

- 1) How does the program compare with other organizations' grantmaking in Maine?
- 2) Are processes supporting grant applicants so desired impacts may be achieved? What processes work well, and what may be improved?

Methodology

The surveys were designed so that all respondent groups, those with recent as well as those with more dated experience applying for a PDK Grant, could review the current application guidelines and provide feedback. Surveys also included specific questions for different respondent groups. For example, recent grantees were asked to describe the impact of the grant on their program operations or target populations. Declined applicants were asked if they knew they could re-apply. Surveys collected both quantitative and qualitative data; closed-ended and rating items were followed by open-ended questions that provided respondents the opportunity to explain and clarify multiple and force-choice items in their own words.

Please see Appendix A for the final version of the Survey for All Applicants Pre-2021, Appendix B for the Survey for Grant Recipients 2021-2024, and Appendix C for the Survey for Declined Applicants 2021-2024.

On November 14, 2025, Emilie Knight sent an alert email to potential respondents of all three surveys. The alert email was followed on November 15 by invitations sent via Survey Monkey containing a link to each survey. After 3 reminders to non- and partial respondents, the surveys closed on November 27, 2024.

Throughout survey administration, True North Evaluation updated the initial respondent lists, communicating with Emilie when appropriate for assistance in identifying current program contacts. Dr. Lee responded on a case-by-case basis to respondent inquiries and communications regarding new program officers. On almost a daily basis, email addresses were updated, deleted (if emails bounced back or program domains were no longer functioning), or replaced with current program contacts.

Evaluation Survey Findings

Below are the quantitative and qualitative findings from all items asked of respondent groups. Please see Appendix A for the Survey for All Applicants Pre-2021 (2012-2020), Appendix B for the Survey for Grant Recipients (2021-2024), and Appendix C for the Survey for Declined Applicants (2021-2024).

Response Rates

All three surveys yielded respectable response rates, presented in Table 1. Not surprisingly, recent grantees were most likely to respond to their survey, yielding an exceptionally high response rate of 79%. According to best practices in survey administration, response rates of 50% or higher are most desirable. Given the ever-changing, fluid landscape of small non-profit organizations, it is impressive that surveys to declined applicants and previous applicants (prior to 2021) yielded response rates that approach this standard, contributing to an overall average response rate of 55%.

TABLE 1. RESPONSE RATES BY SURVEY TYPE

	Google Sheet Initial N	Bounce backs & Undeliverables	Adjusted N	Complete or Near- Complete Responses	Response Rate
Grantees 2021-24	53	1 (2023 grantee) ²	52	41 (34 through SM, 4 through universal link, 3 through unique IDs)	79%
Declined Applicants 2021-24	38	5 (3 2021 applicants, 1 2022 applicant, 1 2023 applicant)	33	14 (13 through SM, 1 through universal link)	42%
All Applicants 2012-20	101	45	56	24 (15 through SM, 9 through universal link)	43%
				Total N=79	Average Rate 55%

² There were 6 emails in this cohort that needed updating: two from 2021 grantees, three from 2022 grantees, and one from 2024. These are not included in the count of bounce backs and undeliverables. However, they indicate the number and frequency of transitions among recent grantees.

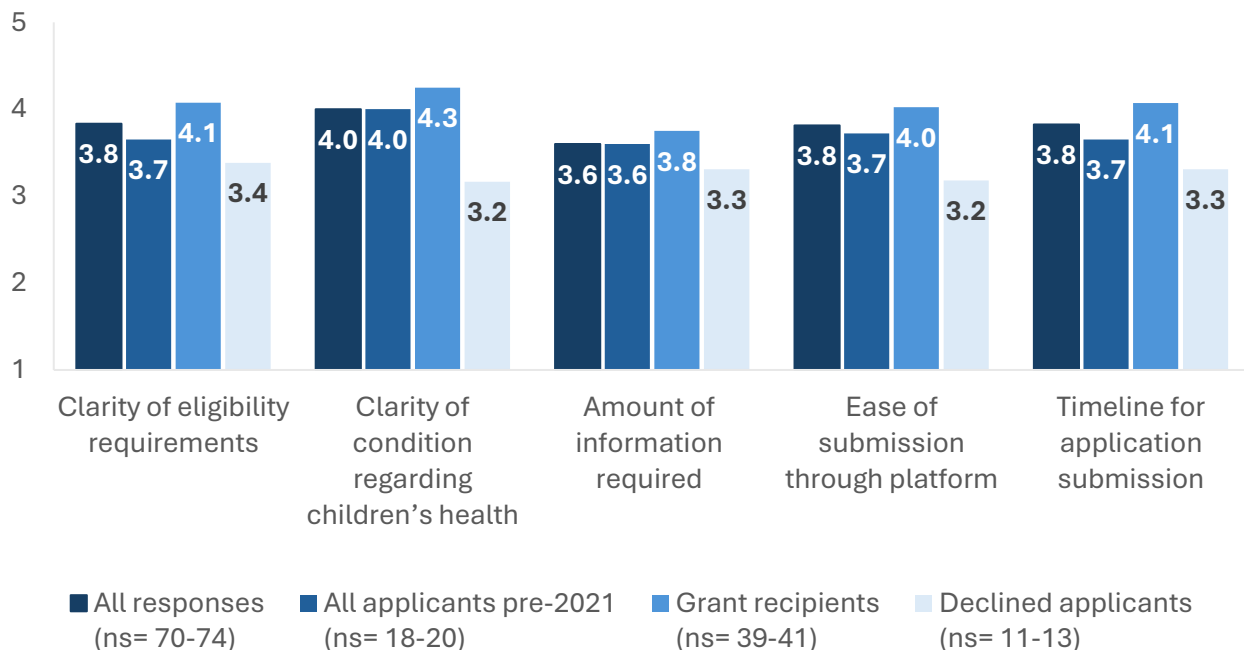
Application Criteria & Communications

All three surveys included this item: “Compared to other grant programs in Maine, please rate the following aspects of the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program.”

Aspects presented were ‘Clarity of eligibility requirements,’ ‘Clarity of condition that programs must advance Maine children’s health,’ ‘Amount of information required in the application,’ ‘Ease of application submission through online platform,’ ‘6-week timeline for application completion (April 15 to May 31),’ (shown in Figure 1); ‘Duration of award (one year),’ and ‘Amount of award (up to \$25K in 2024)’ (shown in Figure 2). Respondents used a 5-point Likert scale where 1 = Much Worse/Less Helpful, 2 = Slightly Worse/Less Helpful, 3 = Same, 4 = Slightly Better, and 5 = Much Better.

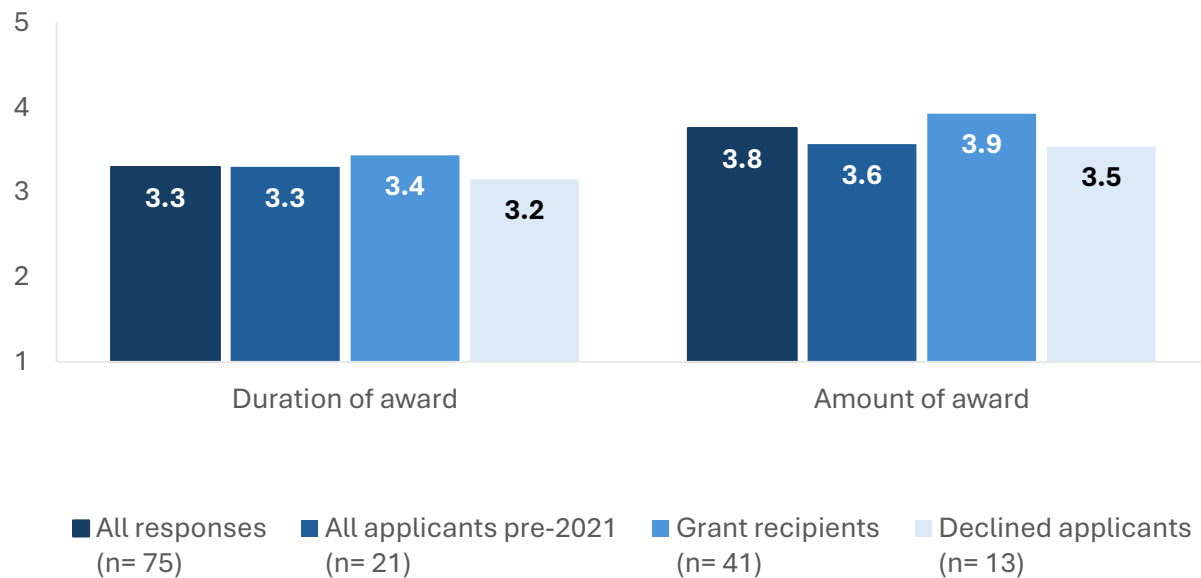
Overall, respondents rated the clarity and ease of the PDK Grants Program application, as well as the amount of the award and program communications, as ‘slightly better’ than other grant programs in Maine. Only duration of the award was rated the ‘same’ as other grant programs. Recent declined applicants rated every aspect of the PDK Grants Program lower than other respondent groups.

FIGURE 1. APPLICATION CLARITY AND EASE³



³ For each item, 5-9 respondents selected “Don’t Know” (these responses are not included in the chart).

FIGURE 2. AWARD DURATION AND AMOUNT⁴

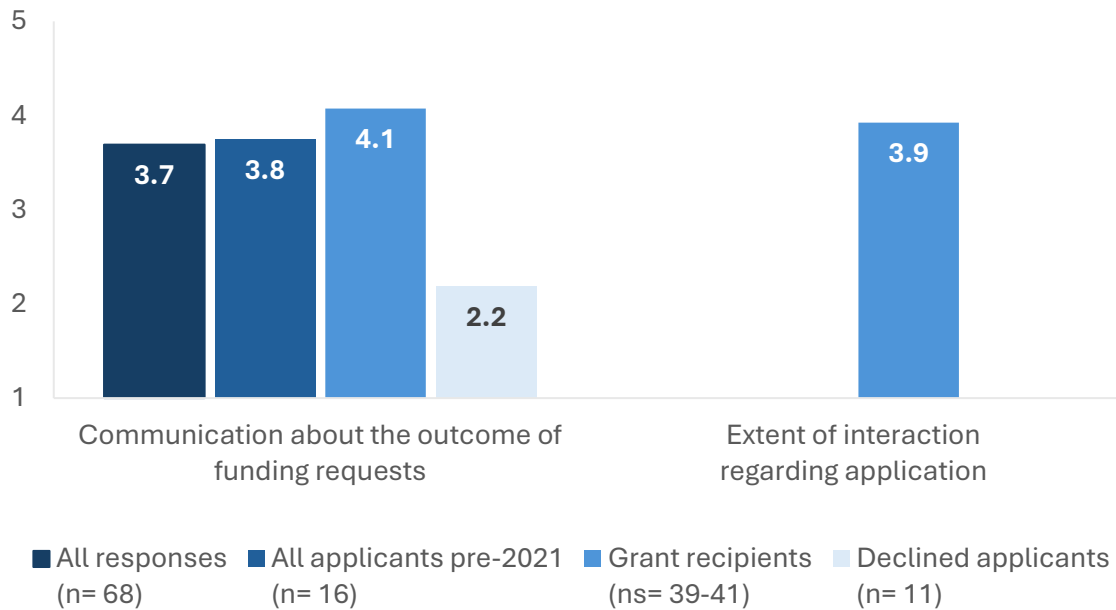


All three surveys also asked respondents to rate communications about the outcome of funding requests, using the same 5-point Likert scale (shown in Figure 3). Prompts varied depending on the respondent group. All applicants pre-2021 were asked to rate, “Communication that your request for funding was either accepted or denied.” Recent grant recipients were asked to rate “Communication that your request for funding was accepted and the subsequent requirements to receive funds.” Recent declined applicants were asked to rate, “Communication that your request for funding was denied.”

Only recent grant recipients were asked to rate the “Extent of interaction during or after the application process.”

⁴ For each item, 4 participants reported “Don’t Know” (these responses are not included in the chart).

FIGURE 3. PROGRAM COMMUNICATIONS⁵



All three surveys included an open-ended item⁶ for respondents to explain any ratings or offer suggestions for improvement. More than half of all respondents (n=42/79 or 53%) provided explanations, presented by theme below.

TABLE 2. EXPLANATIONS OF RATINGS REGARDING APPLICATION
(N=42)⁷

Application	Specifics
Positive: Fair, clear process on par with others (n=17)	Our experience has been stellar. The regular, professional communications about the award—and even about this survey—have been top notch. It’s clear the trustees of the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation understand our work is crucial to Maine youth and that our efforts are best spent on direct service rather than lengthy applications or administrative logjams. We’re so pleased to be a recipient of this grant that elevates mental and physical wellness experiences for kids. And we appreciate being asked how the process was for us. Reciprocity and relationships are what our organization is built on, and the goals and ideals we strive to instill in youth. Thank you for modeling this in real world practices.

⁵ For each item, 2-11 participants reported “Don’t Know” (these responses are not included in the chart).

⁶ Responses to open-ended items are presented verbatim in tables throughout this report, corrected only for grammar, readability, or to preserve anonymity where possible.

⁷ Some respondents provided more than one explanation.

Application	Specifics
	Grant applications can be very overwhelming. I've found the Klingenstein process to be fair and straightforward, allowing the applicant to explain intent but not be forced to reiterate sections or process by answering multiple overlapping questions.
	We had a relatively uncomplicated experience completing the application and wonderful interactions with those affiliated with the organization. Thank you for a streamlined process!
	Overall, I found the foundation's application process and platform to be user-friendly and easy to navigate. The amount of information was more or less on par with many of the other larger foundations.
	This application allows room for explanation which is appreciated.
	Have found the application process pretty straightforward and while rare, found staff helpful in responding to questions. I believe program staff have reached out in the past with questions and/or an interview which our staff appreciated.
	We really like the new portal. Thank you for making it user friendly.
	Staff were very easy to communicate with and supportive of our work!
	The requirements are very clear, and the process is similar to many other funders making grants in Maine.
	Thank you for asking for our feedback.
	We applied for funding in 2023. It was a smooth process. I had a question, emailed the program officer, and received a prompt response, which I greatly appreciated.
	Our grant writer expressed ease in all categories above - thank you!
	I have completed this application for a number of years and have been a grantee and have always found this process to be great. It was good experience from application to grant award and reporting. We appreciate the support!
	Your web site is very clear, and the process seems very simple/user-friendly.
	The requirements and process seem on par with other grants, which I think is great!
	The overall process was improved and similar to others with respect to the amount of information needed and details around the request.
Constructive: Requirements, processes, clarity (n=13)	It would be helpful to have a little more flexibility in the character limits. I understand brevity is important given the volume of proposals you need to review but it can ease some burden in preparing proposals if there is more flexibility. Multi-year grants are also very helpful for program planning and impact.
	The two-part application (being invited to submit a full proposal after an initial request) is a bit more work than many foundations require.
	The "clarity of condition that programs must advance Maine children's health" still seems broad. Adding examples of the likelihood programs would be very helpful, especially for immigrant-led organizations.
	Clarification on the amount of request is appreciated.
	Extend application period to 8 weeks.

Application	Specifics
	I didn't do a lot of digging, but in looking briefly, I am unclear exactly what is meant by/how broad is "must advance children's health."
	Please define "children" - does this include infants, babies, adolescents? Specify that health can mean physical, mental, emotional (behavioral) if that is indeed the case. Is one allowed to apply for a grant that would help only boys or only girls?
	I had a question regarding my organization's specific eligibility (we work in Maine but are not headquartered there).
	One thing I recall from your application process was the video requirement. This was a great process for us, but out of our normal processes and therefore a greater/different challenge than we have experienced in other grants of this size, given our staff expertise at the time.
	It is clear that this organization is trying to acknowledge that the process of applying for grants needs to be more equitable and accessible for non-profits. A summary of what is going to be requested in order to apply is very helpful.
	Preference for organizations under 5 million puts our organization clearly at a disadvantage here. We are a larger organization with diverse services for children and families and growing needs and gaps.
	There is a statement that a grantee must wait two years to be reconsidered, but we received a grant in 2022 and have been told we won't be considered for two years or 2025. By my reckoning that would be three years. It's confusing.
	More clarity on "health" - does it include mental health, nutrition, etc. Application is a little more lengthy and involved than others with a small grant size.
Constructive: Award size and duration (n=8)	Thank you for asking for this feedback! Our partnership with fund grantors is essential to the health of our organization. Due to the importance of those relationships, I hope this feedback is helpful as you plan for future grant decisions. [Note: It does not appear that we have applied for a grant in several years; however, we will rectify that this Spring.] The application process for the Klingenstein grants appears to be similar to the other grants we apply for. While each process may have been streamlined, the fact remains grant funders use a wide variety of platforms, they gather similar information but in different formats, and that the majority of grants are only for one year, means that it becomes quite costly for organizations of our size to pursue grants. In order to submit a quality grant application and required report, nonprofits have to spend more money on fundraising staff time vs investing it in program expansions and improvements that would allow us to serve more children. It means we are starting from scratch every year with every grant we apply for, which is not efficient. The one-year funding cycle means that we are working on and submitting applications often to the same foundations year after year for the same grant. We celebrate every grant we receive but also know that we will have to complete the time-consuming process again in 12 months. This is also the case with corporate partnerships and many individual donors. Essentially, we start the beginning of every year back at \$0 and have to raise the same dollars from the same donors every year. If funders, major corporate partners, and donors were able to commit to a 2- or 3-year funding commitment, nonprofits could refocus their

Application	Specifics
	fundraising energy on applying to new foundations, creating new corporate partnerships, and engaging new donors in our work, thus growing our funding streams every year. It would allow organizations to reduce fundraising costs and/or grow revenue year after year. This action would add stability to nonprofits that is badly needed. A great example is three major donors we cultivated in Spring 2023. Each one of them committed to giving \$50,000 a year for the next 5 years. We continue to meet and communicate with them, letting them know the impact of their gift and sharing any special updates on programming and the organization. The difference is that we know we can count on that \$150,000 every year, through 2027, and we don't have to go through the solicitation phase with them because they have already committed to us. Now we can focus on cultivating more major donors to join them at that level, creating a stable foundation of funding at the beginning of every year that we can launch from. We have worked hard over the past 5 years to become more efficient in our program delivery, without diminishing our standards of child safety or losing any quality of services. If funders can work together to make the application process more efficient for nonprofits, it would ensure that an even higher percentage of donated gifts would go toward program investment instead of fundraising costs. Thank you again for asking for feedback. We are committed to leading nonprofit in quality services and efficient operations. We are thankful for the many foundations across the State of Maine, like the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF)/Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program, who support our work that has proven to improve kids' lives and help them meet their full potential.
	All non-profits crave multi-year grants.
	I'm sure you receive more applications than you can fund but it would be helpful if one could apply annually vs. waiting 2 years if you successfully applied in a given year.
	Some Maine foundations are leaning into trust-based philanthropy and awarding multi-year grants. This increases organizational capacity and reduces the burden on nonprofits so we can do more mission work and spend less time looking for financial support.
	I would say that the amount of the funding is great, However, I will suggest that it go beyond one period (for example, \$50k for two years or \$75k for three years).
	The duration of an award could be increased. For some programs, a second or even a third year of funding could be offered if the first year is successful.
	It's hard to pay anyone to organize and implement a project for \$25,000.
	With inflation and all-around costs of maintaining operations for our organizations, massively increasing over the last four years, it is disheartening that foundations – which are earning far more than they ever did before – are not increasing their philanthropic contributions or award ceilings at the same rate. We simply cannot keep up with the need in the community, which has tripled at least with the same funding awards. This is not specifically geared towards your foundation whatsoever – this is a widespread concern among those of us running organizations that respond and support marginalized, low income, under insured populations in

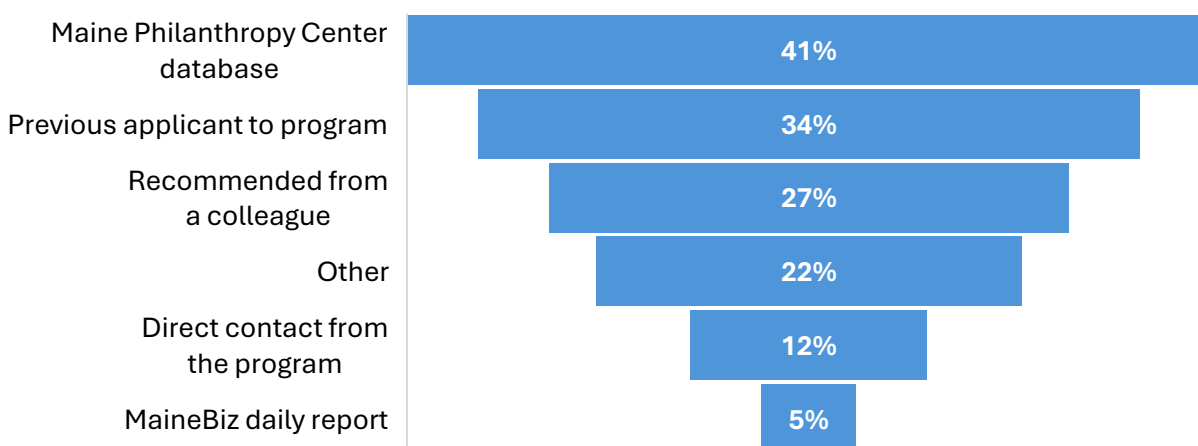
Application	Specifics
	America, that are not otherwise being adequately supported by government programs. Philanthropy is charity, and it is incredibly important to the fabric of this capitalist economy to ensure that we are taking care of everyone. But it's also important for us in the trenches, on the ground with the community, to be able to share more of the truth of how difficult it is to survive in this country than it was 10 years ago, even. Either governmental policies need to improve, or philanthropy will unfortunately have to massively increase its contributions to meet the rate of need.
Constructive: No feedback (n=5)	My application was declined, and my agency would have benefited from knowing why. It would be helpful to know if it's worth our time and Klingenstein Grant's time for us to continue to seek funding in the future. Any feedback would be so helpful.
	It was a long time to find out that our request was denied, and it came with no rationale for why.
	It would be helpful in the communication regarding the request to have feedback on the application (strengths and weaknesses), where the application 'fell short', and recommendations for ways to improve the proposal in the future.
	According to our records, we never received a response once our application was submitted.
	We appreciate the opportunity to submit our proposals and the work you do to support organizations like ours. However, we would like to express some concerns regarding the feedback and process we've experienced with our applications. Firstly, preparing these proposals has been quite time-consuming for our small, people-of-color-led organization. As we have limited staff capacity, the extensive effort required to provide detailed information without clear feedback on prior submissions has been a significant challenge. Secondly, we feel there has been a lack of transparency in the decision-making process. Our proposals have been declined three times, yet no clear explanation or constructive feedback was provided to help us understand how we could improve or better meet the requirements. This leaves us uncertain about whether our mission and work were fairly considered, despite aligning closely with your stated priorities. Lastly, as a smaller organization, we strongly believe that equity and inclusion should extend to the application review process. Given that our mission aligns with your goals, we hope you will consider offering more transparent and constructive feedback to ensure that organizations like ours can have an equitable opportunity to access these critical resources. We kindly request more clarity about what specifically has not met your criteria, as well as suggestions on how we could better align with your expectations in the future. Your insights would not only help us improve but also ensure that we can continue working toward our shared mission effectively.
Constructive: Interactions (n=4)	Some foundations create a strong base of communications between grantee and grantor and aim to form relationships, while others keep a distance. Sadie Harris provided some communications as well as a relationship, but this was not consistent year to year.

Application	Specifics
	The only one marked lower is the extent of interaction - it's always great to have calls or visits with our funders, and we haven't had that yet with the Klingenstein Grants Program.
	I appreciate the enthusiasm in any communications. I know it isn't always feasible but we always love to share the program in person so the grantor can fully appreciate the power of our program.
	What I've found works well with some of our funders is having an assigned person (connected to the grantor) who is responsible for X number of grantees. This representative for your foundation would create a clear point of contact and follow up at scheduled dates.

Publicity

Only recent grant recipients were asked, “How did you find out about the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF) Children’s Health/Patricia D. Klingenstein Grant Program?” They were allowed to select multiple options, presented below.

FIGURE 4. AWARENESS OF GRANT PROGRAM⁸
(N = 41)



All three surveys included this item: “The Foundation wants to reach as many small organizations in Maine as possible. How might the Foundation increase publicity or knowledge of the program? Please suggest news organizations, online communities, or other common

⁸ No respondents selected “News source (e.g., Sun Journal, Bangor Daily).” “Other” responses included MEHAF newsletters and searches on Grant Watch, Grants Station, Instrumentl, and Google.

sources of grant opportunities.” More than half of all respondents (n=44/79 or 56%) provided guidance, presented below, including four (5%) who acknowledged that the Foundation “does an excellent job at this.”

TABLE 3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING PUBLICITY AND PROGRAM AWARENESS
(N=44)⁹

Effort or Specific Organization	Details	#
Maine Association of Non-Profits (MANP)		13
Maine Philanthropy Center		8
Organization and agency networks	- Groups that meet throughout state, including community hubs, coalitions of nonprofits, and organizations like Helping Hands with Heart (Piscataquis County), Community Caring Collaborative/The Connection Initiative (Washington County), and the early childhood group in Waldo County - Direct outreach and meetings, including non-profits in Northern Maine where “there are far fewer grants that are available...poverty levels are higher, and needs are greater.” - Including organizations funded by Foundation so they can share grant opportunities with stakeholders (e.g., smaller health organizations) - Word of mouth	8
Local and county level publicity	- Radio stations - Local news organizations and papers in communities the program wishes to support - Local chambers - Hospitals, clinics, and non-profits serving children - Request grant recipients submit press releases	6
Social media	Including LinkedIn	5
Email	Including all past recipients	4
MaineBiz		3
Maine Community Foundation		3
GrantStation		3
Maine Initiatives		2
Amjambo Africa	https://www.amjambofrica.com/	2

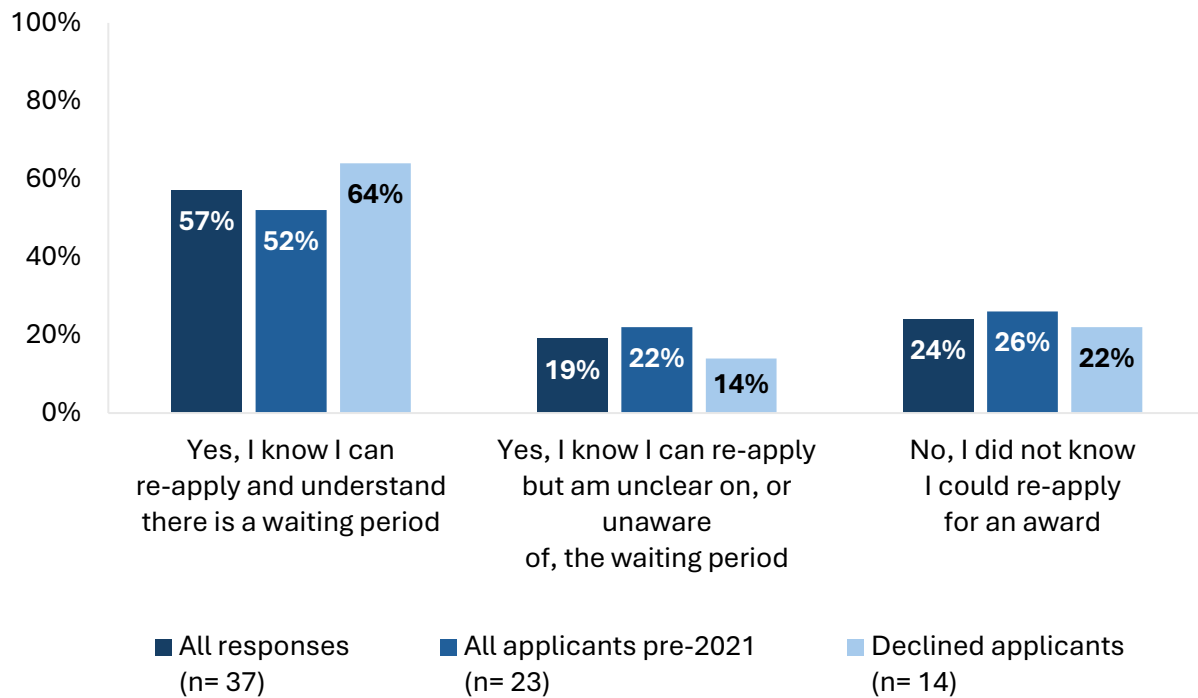
⁹ Several respondents provided more than one recommendation.

Effort or Specific Organization	Details	#
MIRC listserv	mirc-members@googlegroups.com	2
Impala		2
Candid's Philanthropy RFP Digest		1
Maine Public News Service		1
Maine Public Health Association		1
Maine School Nurses Association	For inclusion in state association journals and annual association meetings	1
State Board of Nursing	Including contact with school nurses	1
Diversity Hiring Coalition		1
Autism Society of Maine		1
Bangor Children's Home		1
Ronald McDonald House of Bangor		1
Challenger Learning Center		1
Grant Watch		1
United Way Network		1
Wabanaki Alliance in Maine	For outreach to Maine tribes	1
New Americans consulting group	To connect with existing and emerging community leaders	1
Sub-community groups	Create sub-groups focused on specific communities "like other foundations"	1
Listening tour	Conduct a listening tour of children's health stakeholders throughout Maine to learn about issues that community-based and other organizations are dealing with. This would help establish relationships with people who already know how to do good work but have little knowledge of the PDK Grants Program.	1

Re-application

All applicants pre-2021 and recent declined applicants were asked this item, "Do you know you can re-apply for an award?" More than half of all respondents were aware of the waiting period and eligibility to re-apply, although one-quarter of all respondents did not know they could re-apply, and about one-fifth of all respondents were unclear or unaware of the waiting period.

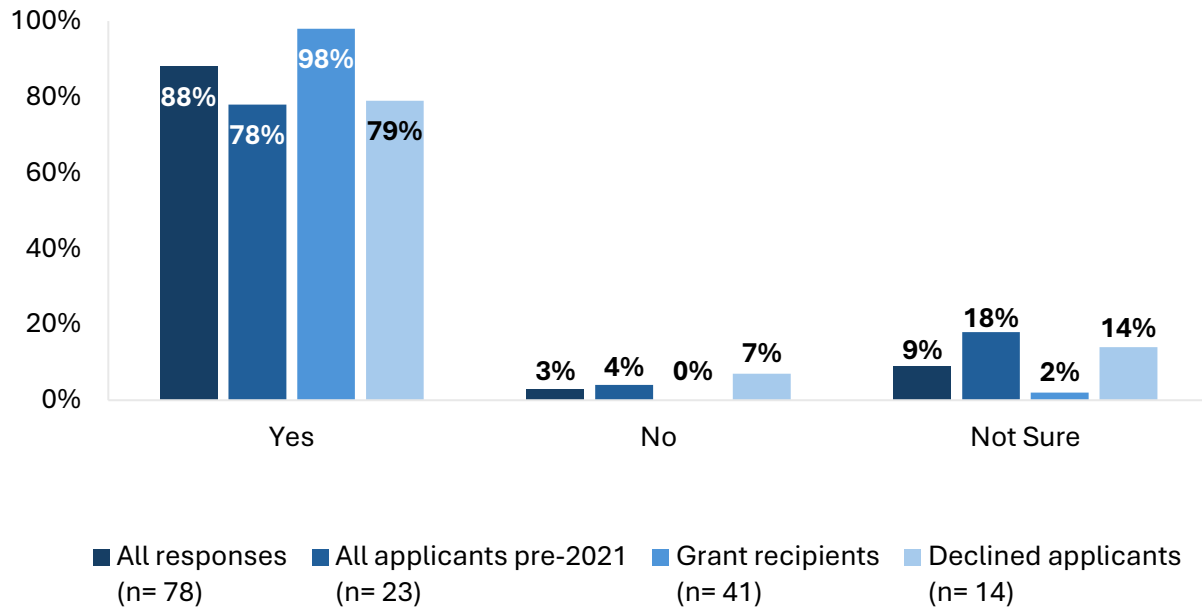
FIGURE 5. KNOWLEDGE OF RE-APPLICATION



All three surveys included an item about willingness to re-apply for a PDK Grant. Prompts varied depending on the respondent group. All applicants pre-2021 were asked, “Would you re-apply for a Patricia D. Klingenstein small grant, per the application guidelines?” Recent grant recipients were asked, “Would you re-apply for a Patricia D. Klingenstein small grant (re-applications are accepted every three cycles)?” Recent declined applicants were asked, “Would you re-apply for a Patricia D. Klingenstein small grant?”

The majority of all respondent groups indicated a strong willingness to re-apply. Less than one-fifth of all applicants pre-2021 (18%) and declined applicants (14%) were unsure.

FIGURE 6. WILLINGNESS TO RE-APPLY



All three surveys included an open-ended item inviting respondents to explain their answer regarding willingness to re-apply for a PDK Grant. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (n=49/78 or 63%) explained their answer, presented below. 42/49 or 86% explained why they would re-apply; 6/49 or 12% explained why they were not sure, and 1/49 (2%) explained why they would not re-apply.

TABLE 4. REASONS WHY RESPONDENTS WOULD BE WILLING TO RE-APPLY
(N=49)

Willing to Reapply	Reasons
Yes (n=42)	The grants and organizations are confusing Patricia D Klingenstein vs Harry and Sadie Davis, how they relate and/or have a different focus and rules
	It would also be helpful if applications were allowed for different programs (in different cycles but not waiting three cycles).
	Our organization is always striving for more offerings to help as many people as possible, and we are proactive.
	This was very helpful to our program. We would apply again.
	Would be very happy to apply again and appreciate the opportunity to do so!

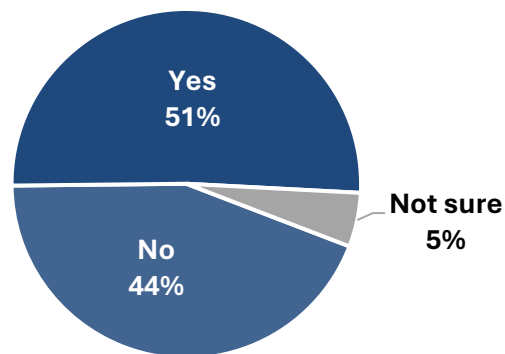
Willing to Reapply	Reasons
	In general, we tend to re-apply to grants that have been successful whenever it is permitted and to the extent that we are aligned with the foundation's mission and interests.
	Applicants vary from cycle to cycle which can affect how your application is viewed compared to others.
	Funding has enabled our organization to grow and respond to the growing needs of Mainers. Some of the funding received can be matched by other funders, which means the grants go much further in terms of being able to expand our capacity to serve Mainers.
	There is a large gap in services for culturally appropriate child health programs serving immigrant communities due to the challenges of partnering with mainstream organizations, cultural and language differences, etc.
	The process is clear and easy to follow.
	We really benefit from the assistance provided by the Patricia D. Klingenstein Foundation.
	This was our first time applying, and we were pleased to have success in our project. We anticipate applying again in 2026 as we had a great experience with the funder and in executing the outcomes of our project.
	The Foundation has supported our programs in the past.
	We would apply again. One question about the guidelines is the requirement to wait two years before reapplying. This is a different strategy than many of our funders, with whom we are building strong partnerships based on our shared priorities, with annual grants to sustain our work as part of the collaboration.
	We would be honored to reapply in three years. For complete transparency, it is often ideal to get a two-year grant award so that budgets, staff, and programming can be set into motion without unknown grant income arriving (or not arriving). This multi-year cycle is just as important when looking at the impact an award can make.
	We have been proud partners with the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program and look forward to again potentially partnering again although we wish we did not have to wait 3 grant cycles to reapply.
	The values of the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation align deeply with our organization's values and mission.
	Platform easy to use and understand.
	Our program has exploded in meeting the needs of children. Food is by far our most expensive out-of-pocket expenditure.
	We are thankful for the support and trust in our work and would reapply for future support and hope to share the program further.
	Why not?

Willing to Reapply	Reasons
	Our programs align well with the foundation's mission, and we have been very pleased with the outcomes of our applications as well as the accessibility and responsiveness of the staff.
	Serving children in Maine is part of our core mission. We always want to provide as many services as are necessary, and funding is critical to our sustainability to do that.
	Our Maine program continues to be an important part of our overall programming, so Maine-focused fundraising remains important for us. Given the relative ease of the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation application and reporting process, we will likely apply again when we are eligible to do so.
	We would be so happy to work with you all again. The mission of our organizations reach similar values and goals.
	Our health program is a most important positive in our community, our community health workers, those train just to work with oral health issues in the community are making big impact in the refugees, immigrants' community by providing a support to connect the children with the local dental services, which sometimes took them more than a year to get appointments, however our community health workers are pushing the efforts.
	I would apply because I know that I could re-apply. The award range is good.
	The Foundation's focus on children's health aligns with our mission to help the most vulnerable populations in Maine - the limiting piece is it is noted that the Foundation strongly prefers to fund organizations with budgets under \$5 million - while we have a total operating budget that is higher - this is because we have over 20 programs and services; so it can be misleading in that our children's services do not have that budget on their own.
	Only concern is that we're a larger organization and the foundation prefers working with organizations with budgets under \$5M. The particular program would have a budget of less than \$5M. Also, while we have applied in the past, we have not been successful in being granted an award.
	I haven't applied in recent years because I remember there being a more complicated application process in the past (I think we had to film a video?) but I am pleased to see that it's simplified and look forward to applying!
	Yes, this is more expansive than my previous understanding of the Sadie and Harry Davis Foundation. It is clear we could be a good fit for your funding interests.
	The focus area is exactly aligned with the work we do. The only factor to consider is that we record data from the start of our fiscal year on July 1 to the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Any annual data we report to the foundation would run through these periods.

Willing to Reapply	Reasons
	We would love to apply as we have a program that is focused on children's health and would be a great fit!
	Help in reducing juvenile crime and gang activities with internship and job placement.
	I was unsure of the waiting period guidelines but am very interested in reapplying.
	We had an executive and development team transition, so as the new executive I look forward to reviewing your opportunity with my new development director and submitting an application if we are a good match for your funding priorities.
	We've had transition within our Development team and my predecessor had been the individual to apply for a grant, but I certainly would be interested in reapplying in the future.
	Would definitely apply event if for smaller amount to support the work, and grow a working relationship with foundation
	The support of children's health program is critical to our mission and will continue to apply as we're able.
	I believe that the Foundation is a good fit with our organization.
	We are interested in applying for a grant.
	We will consider applying in the future and will need to review the specific requirements of the award prior to applying. We believe our program directly supports children's health, although it is not in the medical field.
Not Sure (n=6)	As previously stated, we were declined. While it's understandable that not every application can be awarded, we will re-evaluate if submitting an application is appropriate in the future.
	Our organization is outside the preferred size range.
	We were awarded one year (2019) and denied (2020). It is not clear what our relationship is with the foundation.
	If a community need emerged that could be fixed by using \$25,000 or less, we would be excited to apply.
	Not sure it is worth the effort, never been funded.
	Not knowing why the proposal was denied makes it difficult to determine if future applications are worth the effort.
No (n=1)	Our agency is above the \$5 million threshold.

Only recent grant recipients were asked this item, “Have you or others in your organization applied more than once for a small grant from the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program?” Half (51%) reported they had applied more than once, 44% said they had not, and 5% were unsure.

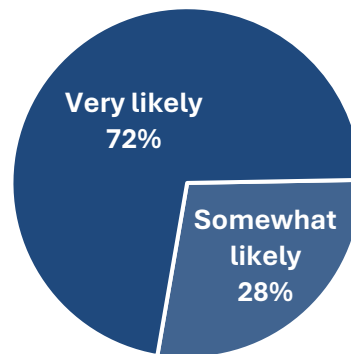
FIGURE 7. SUBMISSION OF MULTIPLE GRANT APPLICATIONS
(N=41)



Likelihood of Applying

Only recent grant recipients were asked this item, “How likely is it that small organizations would apply for a Patricia D. Klingenstein grant?” All respondents reported that small organizations would be somewhat or very likely to apply for a grant.

FIGURE 8. LIKELINESS OF SMALL ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING¹⁰
(N=40)



Only recent grant recipients were asked to explain their answer about the likelihood of small organizations applying for a PDK grant with details regarding positive or limiting aspects of the program. Two-thirds of respondents (n=27/41 or 66%) explained their answer, presented by theme below. Twenty provided details about the attraction of applying for a PDK grant, and seven provided details about the limitations of applying.

¹⁰ No respondent selected the “Not very likely” option.

TABLE 5. REASONS WHY SMALL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD OR WOULD NOT APPLY
(N=27)

Aspects that encourage or limit application	Specifics
Application: easy, helpful funding, alignment with program mission (n=20)	I think the dollar amount awarded and the ability to address issues that are important to small nonprofits make this very attractive. However, I think some small nonprofits have a hard time prioritizing grant applications, especially those that they view or assume have a lot of requirements and time to complete. I think this grant program should be very attractive to small organizations.
	For us, the range of funding aligns with our program budgets, and the areas of funding align with our mission.
	Easy to apply, and up to \$25,000.
	If a program is suitable for the criteria, the process is very fair and the foundation is incredibly generous. There is no reason an organization should not take the chance by submitting an application.
	If they fall into the eligibility requirements.
	Not sure why they wouldn't apply given the broad topic of children's health and the encouragement for all non-profits to participate.
	The application is well made and easy to access.
	The application process is relatively easy. The amounts of \$5-25K are the kinds of amounts small organizations can really benefit from.
	The grant process is fair, clear, and just takes doing.
	The support provided helped us grow the program within existing partners while also offering it to additional partners.
	There are very few funders who will fund programs in rural Maine.
	As a small organization, we are sincerely grateful for the opportunity to reapply to your esteemed foundation, with the hope of rekindling our partnership once again. While we wish the waiting period between grant cycles could be shorter, we cherish the impact that our collaboration has had on the lives of Maine children facing serious illnesses. We are especially relieved and appreciative that our recent application did not require the production of a video, as this aspect is beyond our expertise. Instead, we are focused on our heartfelt mission to innovate and improve our processes, ensuring that every contribution goes directly toward enhancing the emotional and educational well-being of the children we serve. We are optimistic about the potential for future opportunities to work together and create lasting positive outcomes for those in need.
	This is a great grant for small and mid-size organizations alike. The process is easy, and the grant focus is much needed.

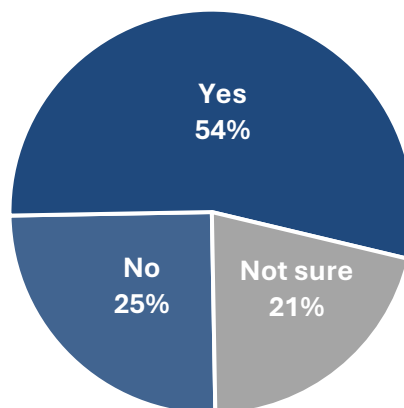
Aspects that encourage or limit application	Specifics
	Very accessible.
	We are a small organization, and we maintain a pretty robust link to other orgs like ours. We all do a great job of supporting one another with info and resource sharing. In other words - word travels fast among smalls orgs like ours.
	We do research of grantors and foundations that match our mission to apply for a grant. We use software applications to help us identify programs. We receive feedback from ambassadors we work with in Maine that hear about programs. When we find a match, we are grateful and wish to maintain the relationship partnering with them to do more.
	We had positive interactions with the program.
	We were very comfortable with the process. As a small organization focused on entrepreneurship and empowering rural Maine youth, we need more support from others like you.
	Your grant opportunities are clear and easy for small, band-width limited organizations to apply
	Your priorities are clear, the application process is relatively simple, and the awards are substantive.
Programs need more financial support (n=3)	As a non-profit organization in Maine, we struggle to support our programs each year. We are looking toward the future to expand our programs to year-round, which will increase our need for financial support.
	There are such limited grant funds available for Maine programs, and they're all incredibly competitive.
	The three-year waiting period creates a disincentive, as we are all looking for funders who commit to ongoing support or to at least consider funding us every year and/or offering multi-year support.
Programs lack capacity to apply for grants (n=3)	For small organizations, the simpler the application process the better. They are on the ground doing the work and generally don't have the capacity to spend a lot of time on grant applications. Inviting organizations to have a conversation before they submit an application is very helpful. If you're able to have information sessions on zoom a month or so before the grant deadline, where potential applicants can learn about the grant and ask questions, that can be helpful. Ideally only organizations with a good chance of receiving funding are filling out a detailed application. I think the other limiting factor is the one-year funding opportunity. For many, it's more beneficial to build relationships with funders that may continue to support them annually.

Aspects that encourage or limit application	Specifics
	Over half of our member organizations are small and serve very diverse communities; we would be applying on their behalf as their fiscal sponsor.
	I could see the application as being too much of a lift for very small organizations, but I think overall, the barriers are relatively low for small organizations. Factors that are helpful for small organizations include: audited financials are not required; ability to apply for general operating support; having the application questions available year-round (perhaps you could add the word/character limits so an organization could get started before portal opens).
Programs are not familiar with PDK Grants Program (n=1)	If this organization can be better known, many more applications would come your way.

Grants Received

Only applicants pre-2021 were asked this item, “Did you receive a grant from the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF)?” Over half reported they had received a grant.

FIGURE 9. GRANT RECEIPT
(N=24)



All applicants pre-2021 and recent grant recipients were asked to explain the impact, or anticipated impact, of the grant on their program (e.g., operations, direct services) as well as on

their target audience, local community, or state. Over half of all respondents (58% or 38/65) described the impact of the grant, presented below.

TABLE 6. IMPACT OF PDK GRANTS
(N=38)

Impact on Programs and Target Populations
Anticipated impact: Students at ---- Middle School in Portland who are at risk of justice system involvement will create and perform original theater based on their lived experiences, engaging the community in dialogue. The project is designed to support children's social and emotional health and increase feelings of belonging in order to interrupt the school to prison pipeline.
Funds provided essential food security to over 1,000 children in schools across Mid Coast Maine.
General operation and multi-year grants are the unicorns in giving circles.
Help in training and support for youth services and help in creating job placement for 100 youth in Lewiston/Auburn Maine.
In 2016 we received \$10,000 to train 60 Head Start teachers with our early education learn outside guide.
Our grant from the foundation directly supported our camp programs in Maine in Summer 2024, with 313 campers in attendance. Our camp programs continue to show positive impacts on bereaved children in Maine, with pre- and post-camp surveys showing positive impacts on children's ability to talk about their grief, feel that they have a community of support around them, and feel confident to try new things.
Our grant had significant impact on the number of children we were able to serve.
Receiving support from the grants program enabled our program to spend less time chasing smaller contributions and multiple discounted purchasing opportunities and more time delivering services. In a word: efficiency.
Support for program expansion and our scholarship fund which gives access to participants who cannot afford a program fee.
Support from the former Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation aided the organization in more deeply serving young children in our communities, providing tools to support them to be calmer, more resilient and more successful in navigating life's challenges big and small.
Supported parenting programs to reduce childhood trauma.
We received grants in both 2021 & 2022 for our program, and we will be applying again in 2025. The grant amount each year - \$10,000 - was SIGNIFICANT in allowing us to meet the increased need. In 2025, we are hoping to add another partner community to expand this program further.
The application is reasonable and has been well worth the time and effort. Substantial grants of \$10,000 or more have greater impact than 10+ grants of \$1,000 because they require less overall staff time. That means more resources are available for our core work, which benefits our program participants.

The organization is serving more young families than ever before. The grant we received from the Sadie and Harry Davis Foundation enabled us to scale our operations to meet the needs of our fastest growing segment, children. In addition to purchasing more fresh fruit, we created a program entitled 'After School Specials' which is a prepackaged assortment of kid-friendly snacks to help families fill in the gap over weekends and when school is not in session.
The Foundation's grant will enable us to expand our current programming and meet the ever-growing needs of our clientele.
The funding from the Sadie and Harry Davis Foundation supported school garden and food programming as a critical strategy for combating childhood food insecurity; providing engaging, hands-on, evidence-based learning opportunities in Lewiston public elementary school classrooms, gardens, and cafeterias.
The funding we received during the 2024 cycle will bolster our delivery and evaluation procedures of our four cornerstone programs for youth. Our strategies will impact over 1000 youth across 10 counties in Maine while affording us the opportunity to continue making connections in the other 6, more remote counties in our geographically spread-out state.
The funds will help maintain and sustain the robust infrastructure of our ECBO's grassroots community health programs and networks, which we established during our COVID-19 pandemic response work. These initiatives are at risk of collapsing due to the ending of COVID-related funding. Community health systems in immigrant communities primarily rely on diverse and linguistic "Community Health Workers" (CHWs), who serve as the vital link between these communities and formal healthcare facilities. They deliver essential health services at the grassroots level.
The grant helped support our parenting youth focused program that offers free services and connection to resources.
The grant helped us continue our mission to provide healthcare to marginalized communities.
The grant is truly transformation for our nonprofit. It will cover our variable costs that allow us to directly bring our running and reading program to 4th and 5th grade girls in Franklin County. Our numbers continue to grow, and this grant lets us continue to serve our community.
The grant we received enabled us to provide direct services to local youth who were experiencing homelessness.
The impact is tremendous. We are now in need of a larger space. We receive approximately 5 new youth program applications every week; the demand is wonderful but overwhelming. We need to build capacity.
The impact of our grant is quite substantial. It has allowed a program to continue that may not have without this funding.
The impact this grant has on our internal team is enormous. It says you believe in our work and are an active member in helping Maine youth. Secondly, it helps us organizationally to plan programming and staffing and other resources because the support for general operations empowers us to spend the funds in a way that is most meaningful (and impactful) for youth and community. Empowering our non-profit to spend these funds on our scholarships for free programming, or provide direct programming is a game changer. Your unrestricted support puts power in our hands locally so that we are nimble and responsive to the evolving needs of kids and families in our community.

We worked with 3 pediatric practices in Maine to help implement multiple evidence-based interventions to help increase HPV vaccination rates or overall aggregated adolescent vaccine rates, as well as promote and educate patients and families about the important message that HPV vaccination is cancer prevention. Each practice reported learning new evidence-based strategies to promote HPV vaccination at 9 y/o and we shared resources with all members.
This award helped take our project to the next level. Funding from the Patricia Klingenstein small grant program gave our organization the financial resources needed to mature the project, help more families, and built a foundation that allowed the project to bring in new resources that will create future growth. This is a prime example of how a small grant program can lead to much larger outcomes when paired with the right organization and the right programming.
This award translates to improved nutrition for children and families in our very poor region.
This grant allowed us to continue to provide (and in the process expand) our offerings to economically disadvantaged youth, 73% representing the immigrant or "new Mainer" population.
This grant has been directed towards the health of the children we serve in our childcare program specifically related to food. This program requires supplemental grant funding as often small grants like CACFP orgs receive from the state only reimburse for a portion of the overall program needs. This allows us to adequately staff and purchase the food needed to serve our kids and keep them healthy as a wraparound community support.
This grant supports the purchase of an isolette that will be used by Maine's only critical care air ambulance service. The organization provides Maine's tiniest patients have an increased chance of survival.
We fly children to the lifesaving medical care they need for free. We fly them as long and as frequently as they need.
We have not applied for a 2024 award because we were the recipient of a 2023 award. The anticipated impact of a further partnership is community youth engagement and growth for healthy living. We're continuing to see a trend of engagement that with the right support could see lasting impacts on our community members.
We improved the environment for family physical activity through signage and built environment improvements. Additionally, we developed a protocol for walking school bus events that continue to this day.
We received a grant in 2022 of \$5,000 which was a critical time for our organization with transition in staff. We are in a stable yet growing phase within many communities in Maine.
We were able to bring new programming to families that otherwise would not have happened.
We were able to provide 6 weeks of programs for over 59 students at 0 cost to them. Our students shine and grow in this program thanks to our funders.
Youth program delivery.

Strengths and Opportunities for PDK Program

Only recent grant recipients were asked, “What is one positive aspect of the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program? Please think of a quality or approach that is unique to the program.” Over two-thirds of respondents (n=29/42 or 69%) explained the most valuable aspect of the program, presented by theme below.

TABLE 7. STRENGTHS OF PDK GRANTS PROGRAM
(N=29)¹¹

Strengths of program	Specifics
Mission and focus (n=13)	It has been indispensable for us to address food insecurity in Knox County
	Promoting health of Maine's children is a broad topic and this foundation recognizes the nuances to health of children from a variety of impacts including nutritious food and access to food for children especially when they are out of the home for many hours of the day.
	Reaching small programs as well as larger programs
	Its focus on health and youth.
	It is helpful to have a clear focus on children's health while also supporting a variety of strategies that meet that focus area.
	and the target populations the program aims to support are certainly in need in Maine.
	The broad definition of children's health.
	The emphasis on underserved youth and minoritized populations is directly aligned with our work and it is so critical. There is so much need, and those fortunate enough to be provided an opportunity, they may otherwise never have, is so valuable and impactful in their lives. There is so much hope, love, and appreciation among these youth.
	The strong desire to positively impact the health (including mental wellbeing) of Maine children and the recognition of organizations like ours that are doing this work in groundbreaking ways.
	The wide range of programs that could fall into supporting Maine children's health.
	We appreciate the broad definition of promoting health, as it enables effective and innovative programs that don't fit narrow categories to receive funding.
	We believe the Program holds true to its mission. The focus of the Sadie and Harry Davis Fund on the health care needs of Maine children, including oral health, is important as there is still much to do in this area.

¹¹ Some respondents described more than one strength of the program.

Strengths of program	Specifics
	The program highlights the critical connection between children's health and outdoor engagement, emphasizing inclusive access to nature for all. By fostering a deeper appreciation for the environment and promoting active participation in outdoor activities, this initiative not only enhances individual well-being but also redefines community perspectives on conservation and access, making it a vital part of the organization's mission.
Application (n=9)	Clear, concise, transparent process
	Ease of applying.
	For smaller organizations like ours, I feel that the application process is fairly simple and straight-forward. Some foundation applications are pretty taxing on small non-profits.
	I felt the guidelines were better than most-- very clear and precise.
	The application guidelines are clear and easy to follow.
	The application process was very streamlined.
	The clarity and specifics of the program.
	The open application process (not invite-only) allows new organizations to have a shot at getting a first-time grant. More and more foundations are closing their application process (probably due to the overwhelming number of applications they receive, which I sympathize with!), and this is making it harder and harder for nonprofits to get a first-time grant from a foundation.
	The Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants program gives all non-profits a chance to get a grant due to the restrictions of 2 years between awards.
Funding (n=6)	Allocating unrestricted support as a result of an intentionally human-centered application process is wholly unique in the philanthropic world, and we're eternally grateful for your trustees' consideration of the time and staffing it takes to execute a response to an RFP.
	Funding for a project that might not have appealed to a larger funding agency.
	The approach of the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation in providing operational support to nonprofits is a powerful testament to your unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Maine children. This vital funding not only sustains the day-to-day operations of nonprofits but directly empowers us to fulfill our mission of delivering critical resources and emotional support to brave young individuals. By ensuring that our foundational needs are met, we can focus on creating meaningful experiences that foster connections and ultimately help these children thrive despite their challenges. Together, we can continue to make a

Strengths of program	Specifics
	profound difference in their lives, illuminating their paths with hope and resilience.
	The fact that you're seeking out small organizations to fund, with grant amounts that can be significant for them.
	The flexibility of the budget and use of funds. It is super helpful to allow nonprofits to propose how they want to best utilize resources for the largest impact and not have to avoid particular categories of expenses to suit the funder!
	The grants have helped build the infrastructure of our ECBO's grassroots community health programs, especially during and post-COVID-19 in the last five years.
Personal involvement (n=5)	The engagement and desire to connect with us. We wish we had more personnel to be more available.
	Personal service
	Encouragement
	I enjoyed seeing the program representatives engage in Maine Philanthropy Center events. It was encouraging to have seen them involved at that level.
	The engagement and desire to connect with us. We wish we had more personnel to be more available.
	Access to Emilie!

Only recent grant recipients were asked, “What is one suggestion to strengthen the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program, so it may improve its ability to support organizations focused on the health needs of Maine’s children?” Over half of respondents (n=24/42 or 57%) offered suggestions to strengthen the program, presented by theme in the table below. An additional three respondents (7%) explained that the program “is already strong” and should “keep up the good work!”

TABLE 8. SUGGESTIONS FOR PDK GRANTS PROGRAM
(N=24)

Areas to strengthen	Specific suggestions
Annual funding (n=12)	Allowing annual applications, even if awarded the previous year.
	General operating, multi-year grants, please.
	If you're able to consider supporting grantees for consecutive years, that would greatly benefit small orgs that are cobbling together funding each year.

Areas to strengthen	Specific suggestions
	Imagine the profound impact that reducing the reapplication cycle from three cycles to just one could have on our grants program as well as others.
	It would be a huge change in your process, but allowing annual applications would be a huge benefit. We were fortunate to receive funding for 2 consecutive years (2021 & 2022 - not sure why, but we are very grateful!), but it has been a struggle to wait two years as the program continues to expand and meet a critical need in the health and welfare of children in our community.
	Make grants unrestricted so that organizations can use funds where it's needed most.
	More frequent funding rounds.
	Multi-year funding
	Multi-year grant awards are my only suggestion. Continuity is so vital for small organizations.
	Multi-year grants (2 or 3 years) are always helpful to nonprofits, so they know they have stable funding to continue a program beyond 1 year.
	Multi-year grants would allow for more impact as well as support small organizations' sustainability and stability.
	The 25k award cap is great. Maybe reducing the 3-year wait period for re-application would be helpful.
Support applicants and grantees (n=5)	Conduct grant information sessions for our underserved ECBOs once the grant has been posted.
	Zoom interviews to determine who is authentic and learn more through the interview process.
	Easy grant reporting.
	We love to meet with grantors and learn from them about facets of helping children.
	One of our challenges is to build awareness. While we provide 100's of free flights for children in Maine we know there still are many that are not aware of our services. We use google search, and we have families who are ambassadors in their community spreading the word. We are constantly looking for ways to improve. We would welcome any feedback you get from organizations on this question to help us do a better job.
Enhance processes (n=4)	I think that an additional focus on the emotional well-being of Maine children would be great. These kids need to also need positive peer groups and activities.
	More publicity.
	Seek out nonprofits doing work that you may be interested in investing in.

Areas to strengthen	Specific suggestions
	The successes we have seen have come from the combined strength of stakeholders. Continue to engage with other organizations promoting child well-being.
Connect grantees (n=3)	I think there is incredible value in experiencing the programs you support. You're providing amazing opportunities supporting incredible work. I also have found it helpful for organizations to introduce the programs they support to each other.
	I would love an opportunity to connect with the other successful awardees. Since this program is specific in its objectives, I feel there would be shared interest in the other projects and possible connections and learnings that could be found.
	Perhaps a convening of grantees (virtually would be OK) to learn more about other efforts so we can try to dovetail or enhance/support each other's work.

All three surveys included an open-ended item that invited respondents to offer additional comments, insights, or suggestions to strengthen the PDK Grants Program. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (n=34/78 or 44%) provided an additional comment, presented by theme below.

TABLE 9. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
(N=34)

Positive/Thank you (n=17)
We are tremendously thankful.
Thank you for the opportunity to do this great work - regarding our project specifically, vaccine education is so critical and makes such a difference.
Thanks for all you do.
Thank you for being a supportive partner for the work that we do.
Thank you for supporting Maine youth and families and for taking our feedback on the program!
Thank you for inviting this feedback through the survey!
You are valued. The work you do changes lives. Five hundred kids will get outside, learn to play, connect, steward the land and their inner awesomeness because of your intentional giving.
We are so grateful. Thank you!
Just want to say thank you for your past support of the the organization and all you do. Wonderful foundation!
Thank you - we are honored to be recognized as a valuable resource to vulnerable youth. We are so thankful to continue this critical work thanks to the generous support of generous foundations like yours.
We had a positive experience with the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation and hope to continue to work together in the future! Thank you!

Thank you! We're happy to create dialog like this and complete the survey. I can tell your organization is truly involved with its community advancement and have much respect for this.	
We are so grateful for the support. In 2024 we registered 256 additional households, and your support made it possible to add more cereal, more fresh fruit and granola bars!	
I think your funding range is really good. Too often grant limits are set at \$5,000 or \$7,500 - too little to really fund what is needed and make applying worthwhile.	
I think it looks great from what I've seen so far.	
I thought the process was easy, fair, and required an appropriate amount of reporting.	
Unrestricted funds are so crucial for the overall health of small organizations so having that as an option is wonderful—thank you!	
Constructive (n=20)	
Change application processes (n=8)	If larger organizations are not competitive, be clear about that up front in the grant guidance.
	Being able to apply year after year as needs change would be great!
	In the past, it seemed to be a direct yet narrow focus for support but after reviewing and understanding the updated foundations guidelines I believe there may be an alignment within our Youth Development work through our social emotional programs. I look forward to discussing this in more detail to determine the viability of future partnerships.
	If possible, longer duration support is very useful for implementing and sustaining community-engaged health-promotion and advocacy work (2-3 year project periods with interim reporting and monitoring vs annual projects).
	The grant application was little hard to find for us.
	Consider tailoring a version of the grant specifically for general operating funds.
	It would be helpful if a response were to be sent following an application is submitted and after a funding decision has been made.
	We would welcome the opportunity to talk with trustees about the most appropriate fit for funding for our organization and the foundation. In this way, time is not lost on the part of the either organization in crafting a proposal and in the foundation reviewing proposals that may not be the best fit.
Connect with grantees (n=7)	We would love to Zoom with you anytime!
	If you're not already having calls or meetings with grantees or seeing their projects in person, I would encourage you to do that too.
	Sometimes it's great to meet with the grantees, as learning cohort discussion we are happy to facilitate and provide a place to meet in Lewiston area.
	Email past recipients.

	I don't see a "sign-up" to receive email notifications of funding opportunities on the website.
	I think regular email communications and updates would be helpful.
	If you receive feedback in this survey that helps your organization build more awareness that would help us accelerate spreading the word about our mission, we would be grateful for any feedback. We know we could do more.
Connect with organizations (n=2)	More direct outreach and meetings with organizations. More frequent site visits to provide organizations with additional info to the fund.
	Network with other foundations that support small nonprofit organizations within the same service areas.
	Work with a local groups.
Survey applicants (n=2)	I applied for this grant almost 17 months ago and have applied for many since. I honestly do not remember what stood out as a positive or negative. While I understand the value of survey (and use them myself), I would recommend having a survey closer to the application date and the grant report date. For example, both the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation and the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation take you to a survey immediately following the application submission.
	Having submitted this application several months ago, I don't feel like I can really provide helpful feedback in this survey. If I had been asked to complete it within a week of having submitted the application, I could have provided more useful responses.

Conclusion

Data from the evaluation surveys of the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program suggest that the experiences of award recipients have been positive, program application processes and funds achieve the desired impacts, and the program is on par with grantmaking in Maine. The objective of the evaluation was to address the three key evaluation questions. These are listed below along with the respective quantitative and qualitative survey findings that inform them. Surveys administered in November 2024 to three distinct respondent groups (all applicants pre-2021, recent grantees, and recent declined applicants) received respectable response rates, yielding data that may be interpreted with confidence.

How does the program compare with other organizations' grantmaking in Maine?

All respondent groups compared PDK Grants Program processes to those of other grant programs in Maine and rated the clarity of eligibility requirements, clarity of the condition to address children's health, amount of information required, ease of submission through online platform, timeline for application submission, amount of award, and program communications (about outcome of funding requests and extent of interaction) as 'slightly better' than other grant programs.

Duration of the award (one year) was rated the 'same' as other grant programs.

Are processes supporting grant applicants so desired impacts may be achieved? What processes work well, and what may be improved?

Data from multiple items address these questions. Clearly, the application and award process, as well as program communications, are satisfactory, given the better than average ratings on almost all PDK Grants Program dimensions.

Willingness to re-apply for a PDK Grants Program also indicates that processes support applicants. Over three-quarters of respondents to each survey reported strong willingness to re-apply. They described either positive experiences with applying or positive opinions of the program and its current application guidelines (available in a link embedded in each survey). Notably, 51% of recent grant recipients reported applying more than once for a grant, and 100% reported that small organizations would be somewhat or very likely to apply for a PDK Grant, providing additional evidence that processes support applicants.

Publicity of the program is strong. Among grant recipients, more than half indicated various sources that contribute to their awareness of the program. Similarly, more than half of all applicants pre-2021 and recent declined applicants know they can re-apply for a PDK Grant and understand the waiting period.

Impact of PDK Grants on programs and target populations is significant. More than half of all respondents (to the pre-2021 applicant survey and recent grantee survey) explained in great detail the substantial impacts of the award.

Qualitative feedback enhances the quantitative data. The majority of respondents who answered open-ended items about the PDK Grants Program identified many strengths, including an application process that is fair, straightforward, and user-friendly; helpful and flexible funding; and a mission that aligns with Maine's small nonprofit organizations. Half of all respondents answered the final question on each survey, expressing gratitude for program funding and efforts to meet the needs of programs so they may address children's health needs.

Constructive comments offer opportunities to improve aspects of the PDK Grants Program. Suggestions include clarifying application requirements (e.g., focus on children's health, location of applicant, size of eligible organizations), revising award processes (e.g., communications about declined applications), enhancing interactions with and among grantees, and increasing both the duration of the award and the amount (at least for successful applicants).

To increase reach of the PDK Grants Program, more than half of all respondents suggested specific organizations and strategies for increasing publicity and program awareness.

Finally, the significance of excellent response rates to all surveys (79% for recent grantees, 42% for recent declined applicants, and 43% for all applicants pre-2021) cannot be overlooked. Willingness to complete surveys indicates the importance of the program and respect for its mission and processes.

Recommendations

Although the data from surveys are very positive and confirm the program's funding and application processes are on par with grantmaking in Maine, they (along with observational data of the grant review and selection process and focus group data) offer the Klingenstein Philanthropies Board of Trustees and PDK Grant Selection Committee concrete suggestions for enhancing the PDK Grants Program. By considering the suggestions from survey respondents and this evaluator, detailed in the report and summarized above, the program can strengthen its processes for applicants, grantees, and selection committee members.

Appendix A: Survey for All Applicants Pre-2021

Survey of Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program

Introductory Welcome Screen

As a previous applicant [2012-2020] to the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF), we invite you to participate in a very brief survey. The Foundation is seeking feedback about its updated processes. Your input will inform the Foundation about what is working well and what it could improve to strengthen its ability to support the critical work of small organizations.

This survey should take less than 5 minutes. All responses will remain confidential. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Lee, external evaluator for Klingenstein Philanthropies, at judy@truenorthevaluation.com.

We appreciate your time and look forward to receiving your response no later than xxx.

Thank you for your valuable feedback,
Judy Lee, Ph.D.

President, True North Evaluation (external evaluator for Klingenstein Philanthropies)

Application Process

- 1) The Foundation recently renamed its small grants program to the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program. In addition, the program has streamlined its application to a one-step submission through an online platform without a Letter of Intent; changed its practice to fund requests fully; and increased the award amount to \$25K. You may learn more about its updated processes here: <https://klingenstein.org/sadie-harry-davis-foundation/patricia-d-klingenstein-grants-program/applying/>.

Compared to other grant programs in Maine, please rate the following aspects of Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program:

	Much Better	Slightly Better	Same	Slightly Worse/Less Helpful	Much Worse/Less Helpful	Don't know
Clarity of eligibility requirements						
Clarity of condition that programs must advance Maine children's health						
Amount of information required in the application						
Ease of application submission through online platform						
6-week timeline for application completion (April 15 to May 31)						
Duration of award (one year)						

	Much Better	Slightly Better	Same	Slightly Worse/Less Helpful	Much Worse/Less Helpful	Don't know
Amount of award (up to \$25K in 2024)						
Communication that your request for funding was either accepted or denied [different]						

- 2) Please explain any ratings or offer suggestions for improvement (e.g., the amount and types of information required):

Impact

- 3) Did you receive a grant from the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF)?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
- 4) [If yes] In one or two sentences, please explain the impact of the grant on your program (e.g., operations, direct services), as well as on your target audience, local community, or state:

Next steps

- 5) Do you know you can re-apply for an award?
- Yes, I know that I can re-apply and understand there is a waiting period.
 - Yes, I know that I can re-apply but am unclear on, or unaware of, the waiting period.
 - No, I did not know that I could re-apply for an award.
- 6) Would you re-apply for a Patricia D. Klingenstein small grant, per the application guidelines at this link: <https://klingenstein.org/sadie-harry-davis-foundation/patricia-d-klingenstein-grants-program/applying/>?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
- 7) Please explain your answer, with details regarding positive or limiting aspects of the program:

- 8) The Foundation wants to reach as many small organizations in Maine as possible. How might the Foundation increase publicity or knowledge of the program? Please suggest news organizations, online communities, or other common sources of grant opportunities:
- 9) Please offer insights or suggestions to strengthen the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program (e.g., communications, application process, determination of eligibility, funding amount):

Thank you for your time and effort!

Appendix B: Survey for Grant Recipients 2021-2024

Survey of Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program

Introductory Welcome Screen

As a current or recent grant recipient [2021-2024] of a Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF) Children's Health/Patricia D. Klingenstein small grant, we invite you to participate in a brief survey about your experience. The Foundation is seeking feedback from grantees about its application processes, program communications, and supports. This information will inform the Foundation about what is working well and what it could improve to strengthen its ability to support the critical work of small organizations.

This survey should take about 5 minutes of your time. All responses will remain confidential. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Lee, external evaluator for Klingenstein Philanthropies, at judy@truenorthevaluation.com.

We appreciate your time and look forward to receiving your response no later than xxx.

Thank you for your valuable feedback,

Judy Lee, Ph.D.

President, True North Evaluation (external evaluator for Klingenstein Philanthropies)

Application Process

- 1) Compared to other grant programs in Maine, please rate the following aspects of the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program (found here for reference:

<https://klingenstein.org/sadie-harry-davis-foundation/patricia-d-klingenstein-grants-program/applying/>):

	Much Better	Slightly Better	Same	Slightly Worse/Less Helpful	Much Worse/Less Helpful	Don't know
Clarity of eligibility requirements						
Clarity of condition that programs must advance Maine children's health						
Amount of information required in the application						
Ease of application submission through online platform						
6-week timeline for application completion (April 15 to May 31)						
Duration of award (one year)						
Amount of award (up to \$25K in 2024)						

	Much Better	Slightly Better	Same	Slightly Worse/Less Helpful	Much Worse/Less Helpful	Don't know
Communication that your request for funding was accepted and the subsequent requirements to receive funds [different]						
Extent of interaction during or after the application process						

- 2) Please explain any ratings or offer suggestions for improvement (e.g., the amount and types of information required):

Application Frequency

- 3) Have you or others in your organization applied more than once for a small grant from the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
- 4) Would you re-apply for a Patricia D. Klingenstein small grant (re-applications are accepted every three cycles)?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure

- 5) Please explain your answer above:

Publicity

- 6) How did you find out about the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF) Children's Health/Patricia D. Klingenstein Grant Program? Please select all that apply:
- Maine Philanthropy Center database
 - MaineBiz daily report
 - News source (e.g., Sun Journal, Bangor Daily)
 - [If selected] Please specify:
 - Recommended from a colleague
 - Direct contact from the program
 - Previous applicant to program
 - Other (please specify):

- 7) The Foundation wants to reach as many small organizations in Maine as possible. How might the Foundation increase publicity or knowledge of the program? Please suggest news organizations, online communities, or other common sources of grant opportunities:
- 8) How likely is it that small organizations would apply for a Patricia D. Klingenstein grant?
- a. Very likely
 - b. Somewhat likely
 - c. Not very likely
- 9) Please explain your answer, with details regarding positive or limiting aspects of the program:

Impact

- 10) In one or two sentences, please explain the impact (or anticipated impact if you received a 2024 award) of the grant on your program (e.g., operations, direct services), as well as on your target audience, local community, or state:

Feedback

- 11) What is one positive aspect of the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program? Please think of a quality or approach that is unique to the program:
- 12) What is one suggestion to strengthen the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program, so it may improve its ability to support organizations focused on the health needs of Maine's children?
- 13) Please feel free to offer any other comments:

Thank you for your time and effort!

Appendix C: Survey for Declined Applicants 2021-2024

Survey of Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program

Introductory Welcome Screen

As a previous applicant [2021-2024] to the Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation (SHDF) Children's Health/Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program, we invite you to participate in a very brief survey about your experience. The Foundation is seeking feedback from applicants about its application processes. Your input will inform the Foundation about what works well and what it could improve to strengthen its ability to support the critical work of small organizations.

This survey should take only 3 minutes. All responses will remain confidential. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Lee, external evaluator for Klingenstein Philanthropies, at judy@truenorthevaluation.com.

We appreciate your time and look forward to receiving your response no later than xxx.

Thank you for your valuable feedback,
Judy Lee, Ph.D.

President, True North Evaluation (external evaluator for Klingenstein Philanthropies)

Application Process

- 1) Compared to other grant programs in Maine, please rate the following aspects of the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program (found here for reference: <https://klingenstein.org/sadie-harry-davis-foundation/patricia-d-klingenstein-grants-program/applying/>):

	Much Better	Slightly Better	Same	Slightly Worse/Less Helpful	Much Worse/Less Helpful	Don't know
Clarity of eligibility requirements						
Clarity of condition that programs must advance Maine children's health						
Amount of information required in the application						
Ease of application submission through online platform						
6-week timeline for application completion (April 15 to May 31)						
Duration of award (one year)						
Amount of award (up to \$25K in 2024)						
Communication that your request for funding was denied [different]						

- 2) Please explain any ratings or offer suggestions for improvement (e.g., the amount and types of information required):

Next steps

- 3) Do you know you can re-apply for an award?
- a. Yes, I know that I can re-apply and understand there is a waiting period.
 - b. Yes, I know that I can re-apply but am unclear on, or unaware of, the waiting period.
 - c. No, I did not know that I could re-apply for an award.
- 4) Would you re-apply for a Patricia D. Klingenstein small grant?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
- 5) Please explain your answer, with details regarding positive or limiting aspects of the program:
- 6) Please offer insights or suggestions to strengthen the Patricia D. Klingenstein Grants Program (e.g., communications, application process, determination of eligibility, funding amount):

Thank you for your time and effort!