



## Backgrounder

Forward-thinking Maine foundations and corporations are collaborating on a new initiative to teach 3200 Maine middle and high school students about the value of hands-on community commitment and the principles of “smart” philanthropy. With \$1000 to donate in the school year, groups of students from more than 50 schools in Maine will work together to design a request for proposals (RFP), review applications from nonprofits, participate in site visits, interview nonprofit applicants, review budgets – and then award grants.

## Student Philanthropists

The 3200 students are participants in Jobs for Maine’s Graduates (JMG), a program offered in more than 50 middle and high schools and two youth centers across the state. Each school team will award up to \$1000.

## Program Founders and Funders

**Unity Foundation** – Jumpstart Our Youth was founded and is funded by the Unity Foundation based in Unity, ME. The foundation is the legacy of Bert and Coral Clifford who believed in the value of community participation in charitable giving. ([www.unityfdn.org](http://www.unityfdn.org))

**UniTel** – the program is also funded and guided by UniTel, a communications company that runs “UniKids”, a company program to teach community support principles to employees’ children. ([www.unitelme.com](http://www.unitelme.com))

**Maine Community Foundation** – MaineCF is a statewide leader in philanthropy that has supported youth philanthropy programs across the state since 1990. ([www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org))

**Jobs for Maine’s Graduates** – JMG is a nationally recognized leader in successfully preparing Maine’s young people to be responsible and productive employees, customers and citizens and will teach the curriculum. ([www.jmg.org](http://www.jmg.org))

## Goals

Before long, Maine’s young people will be running nonprofits, contributing to community causes and serving as board members of organizations that help Maine’s people and places. Building on the intensive community service and citizenship curriculum already offered by JMG, the students will learn the critical role that nonprofits play in meeting overwhelming community needs. They will come to appreciate that community service includes hands-on work as well as thoughtful grantmaking and stewardship. They will learn critical evaluation, collaboration, finance and operational skills as they determine how to award their grants.



## Contact Information

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