

2024 Tastemakers

Thank you for joining us!

Please put your name and company/org in the chat



Maine-based community development financial institution (CDFI)

CEI works to build a **just, vibrant and climate-resilient future** for people and communities in Maine and rural regions by integrating **finance, business expertise and policy solutions** in ways that make the economy work more equitably.



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Growing Quality Jobs in Maine

FocusMaine seeks to accelerate the **creation of quality jobs** in Maine by investing in three of the state's globally competitive and high-growth fields—**agriculture, aquaculture, and biopharmaceuticals**—and by strengthening Maine's workforce capacity.





TASTEMAKERS

GROWING MAINE'S FOOD & BEVERAGE COMPANIES

The CEI Tastemakers Initiative helps established food and beverage companies expand and improve production capacity, create jobs, and meet targeted growth goals.

<https://www.ceimaine.org/advising/natural-resources/agriculture/tastemakers/>



Funding Areas

- strategic growth opportunity
- Human Resources capability
- Facility design(construction costs are not covered).
- Purchasing equipment
- Research and development for new products or product improvements.
- Quality management systems
- Process improvement



Eligibility

- Source from Maine agriculture, aquaculture or fishery
- Food and beverages for human consumption.
- Recipients of Tastemakers funds in 2023 are not eligible to apply for 2024 funding.
- Projects must be 'shovel ready'.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.



Priorities

- Increase revenue and add 'good jobs'
- BIPOC, Women and Veterans (more than 50% ownership)
- Increase sourcing of Maine grown products.
- Innovative projects
- Everyday, healthy foods.



Additional Details

- ~9-15 grants of up to \$25,000 each will be awarded.
- Applications are due by Friday, March 1st at 11:59pm.
- Awardees will be notified by March 31, 2024.
- Projects must be completed by December 1, 2024.
- Selection through a competitive application process.
- Awardees will be required to report on impacts for three years after the grant.



Thank you!

ceimaine.org



KEY CONTACTS



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