# Right FROM THE Start





## WORKING TO ENSURE ALL MAINE CHILDREN THRIVE

Maine's children need to be a priority – Right from the Start. If we want Maine's future to be in good hands, we need to develop a strong bench – a generation of young people who can lead our communities and grow our economy.

## Our Goals

The Right from the Start Coalition is working to ensure that all Maine children have equal opportunity for healthy development. In short, that means providing early care and education that is accessible and of high quality, from birth to eight, and no matter where families live in our state.

# FOUNDING PARTNERS

#### Council for Strong America

- Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Maine•
- Mission: Readiness Maine
- Ready Nation Maine

Maine Association for the Education of

Young Children

Maine Children's Alliance

- •Maine Community Action Programs
- Maine Head Start Directors Association







Maine Association for the Education of Young Children



# Coalition Partners

- •American Heart Association, Maine
- •Coastal Enterprises Inc.
- Community Caring Collaborative
- •Demont Associates
- Educare Central Maine
- •Educate Maine/Maine Early Learning Investment Group
- •Faith Linking in Action
- •Family Child Care Association of Maine
- •Food AND Medicine
- •Kennebec Valley Organization
- •Maine Center for Economic Policy
- •Maine Chapter American
- Academy of Pediatrics
- •Maine People's Alliance

- •Maine Chiefs of Police Association
- •Maine Children's Trust
- •Maine Community College System
- •Maine Community Foundation
- •Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
- •Maine Education Association
- •Maine Equal Justice Partners
- •Maine Energy Marketers Association
- •Maine Montessori Association
- •Maine Principals' Association
- •Maine Resilience Building Network
- •Maine School Boards
- AssociationYMCA Alliance of Maine

- •Maine Sheriffs' Association
- •Maine State Chamber of
- Commerce
- •Maine State Parent Ambassadors
- •Maine Women's Lobby
- •Mid Maine Chamber of Commerce
- Portland ConnectED-Starting
  Strong
- •United Way of Androscoggin County
- United Way of Aroostook County
- •Heart of Maine United Way
- •United Way of Southern Maine
- •United Way of Mid Coast Maine
- •United Way of the Tri-Valley Area YMCA Alliance of Maine

EARLY LEARNING & CARE FINANCING & DATA COLLECTION

By 2030, Maine families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers will have access to affordable, high quality early care and education in child care programs and elementary schools in partnership with home visitors, early childhood service providers, and employers.

By 2030, Maine will create a comprehensive and integrated early childhood system that functions as a public good with dedicated funding to ensure that children and families can thrive. The early childhood workforce is valued as a vital part of Maine's education system and economy. By 2030, establish a public funding mechanism to ensure that jobs in child care programs include benefits and competitive wages, commensurate with experience and credentials/degrees, reflecting the importance of the work.

> WORKFORCE ADVANCEMENT

Vision

By 2030 Maine will have an early childhood system with regional coordination and connection, with no wrong door for families to access services.

> FAMILY SUPPORTS & SERVICES

100 new child care programs enrolled to crease access to 800

#### 2018

Increased subsidy reimbursement rates to 75th percentile of Maine Child Care market rates

#### 2019

64 services were ompleted in the first pilot year across 8

Legislation passed to begin Maine's Early Childhood Consultation Partnership to support social/emotional learning in birth through 3rd grade programs. This expanded statewide in 2023.

Bed CARE Economy Can't ECOVER out CHILD CAR

#### 2020

Engaged in federal advocacy over Covid-19 that saw over \$50 billion in emergency funding dedicated to child care in the U.S.

History Timeline

Maine is piloting First4ME in four communities.

2021

Legislation passed to begin up to 5 First4ME programs across Maine based on the Skowhegan ElevateME project and implement Help ME Grow. Pre-K expands through covid grant funding.

2022

7,500 educators

receiving monthly nds raising averag

vage to \$15.

Legislation passed to provide \$200 monthly wage supplements to educators working in licensed child care programs

# 2023-2024

A Pre-K Commission was created to provide suggestions to the Education Committee regarding the expansion of publicly funded pre-K, focusing on full-day programs with a mixed delivery approach.

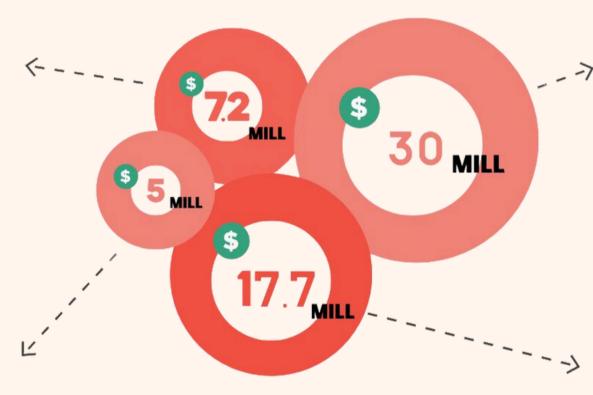
#### WHAT WAS ADDED IN THE BUDGET?

#### Head Start Eligibility

Initiative: Provides funding for delivery of Head Start services to support families earning up to 185% of the federal poverty level.

#### Child Care Affordability for Educators

Initiative: Provides funding to include child care staff in the Maine Child Care Affordability Program.





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\*This chart is biennal budget funding won in the 131st Legislature



#### ECE WAGES

Initiative: Provides funding to double the monthly wage supplement for all child care workers.

#### Child Care Affordability Eligibility

Initiative: Provides funding to increase eligibility for child care subsidies from 85% of the State's median income to 125% of the State's median income.





# Return on Investment

State Child Care Stabilization Grants

**\$5M** 

State Aug 2024-Nov.2024

\$3.2M

First4ME

Federal/State annually

EARLY LEARNING & CARE \$168M

Pre-K Expansion Grants

\$10M

Federal 2022-2024

PDG Birth through 5 **\$24M** 

Federal 2023-2026

Public Pre-K \$34M

State Annually

## ECCP \$3M

Federal/State annually

#### Child Care Expansion Grants

Federal Child Care Stabilization



Federal 2021-2024

Federal 2022-2024

\$15M

Cost of Care Model

#### \$200,000

State FYE 24

Early Childhood Integrated Data System

\$100,000

State FYE 24

CCAP technology upgrade

\$5M

State FYE 25-26

FINANCING & DATA **COLLECTION** 

\$5.7M

## Return on Investment

#### 2030 Benchmark Plan

#### \$200,000

State FYE 24

#### CCAP Improvements

#### \$200,000

State FYE 24



# Return on Investment

#### CCAP for Child Care Educators

#### \$2.5M

State Annually

State FYE 23

\$200,000

#### WORKFORCE ADVANCEMEN1

T.E.A.C.H.*Scholarships* 



Federal annually

\$34.27M

Child Care Wage Supplements



State Annually

Early Childhood Statewide Conference



Federal annually

# Return on Investment

Help ME Grow



State Annually

FAMILY SUPPORTS & SERVICES

**\$90.4M** 

## Head Start

\$55M

\$48M Federal \$7M State

Federal/State Annually

## CCAP for child care subsidies

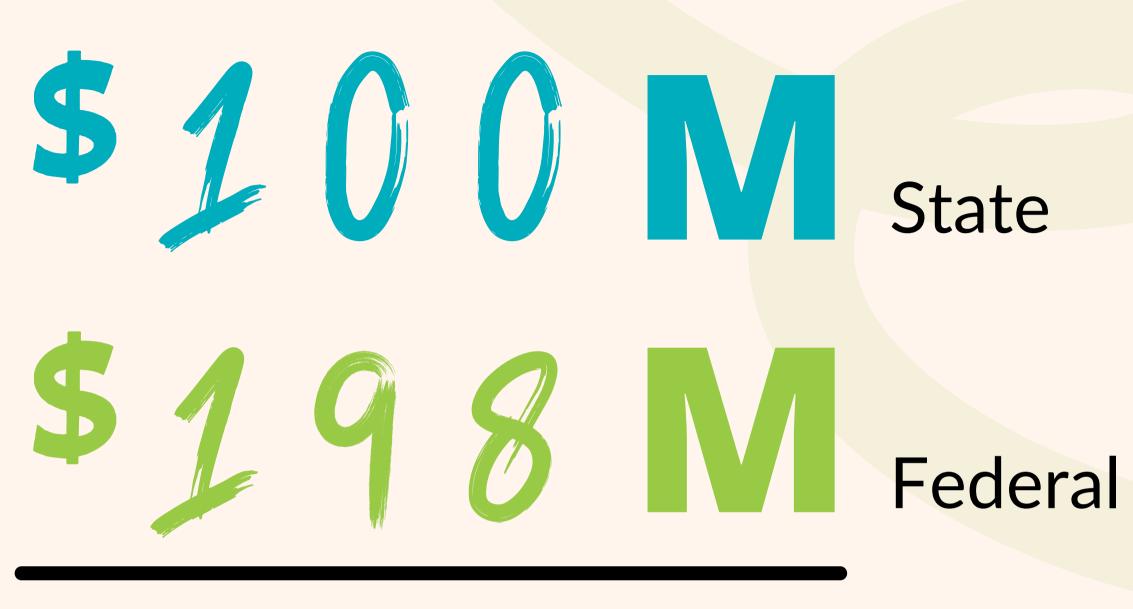


Federal Annual (from CCDBG)

### CCAP eligibility increase **\$10.2M**

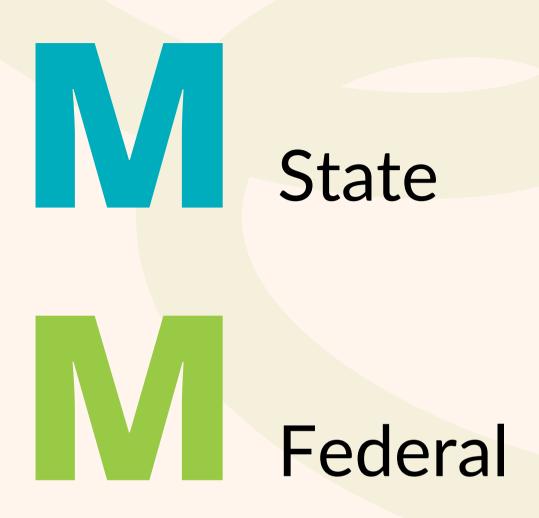
State Annually





**One Time Funding** \$133.5M

**Ongoing Funding** \$164.5M



# **5**208 Total

No family pays more than 7% of income on child care by 2030

Maintain and grow Right from the Start wins

> Statewide Expansion First 4 ME

## Right Start

Build Legislative Champions

What's Next?

Implement True Cost of Care into Child Care Affordability Reimbursemnt

2026 Gubernatorial Race Mixed Delivery Univeral Pre-K for 4-year-olds



Thank You

Maine Early Childhood Funders Network