

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

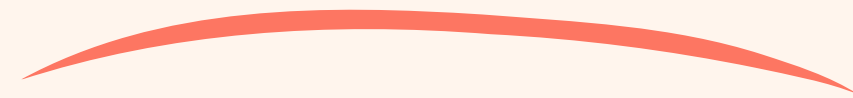
Council for Strong America

- 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



COUNCIL FOR A
STRONG AMERICA



**Maine
Children's
Alliance**



maineaeyc

Maine Association for the Education of Young Children



Helping People. Changing Lives.

MeCAP

Maine Community Action Partnership

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

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.

FINANCING & DATA COLLECTION

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

History Timeline



100 new child care programs enrolled to increase access to 800 more children

2018

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



164 services were completed in the first pilot year across 8 counties.

2019

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.



Child Care Stabilization grants reduced closures and help build licensed capacity back to pre-pandemic levels.

2020

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



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.



7,500 educators receiving monthly stipends raising average hourly wage to \$15.60

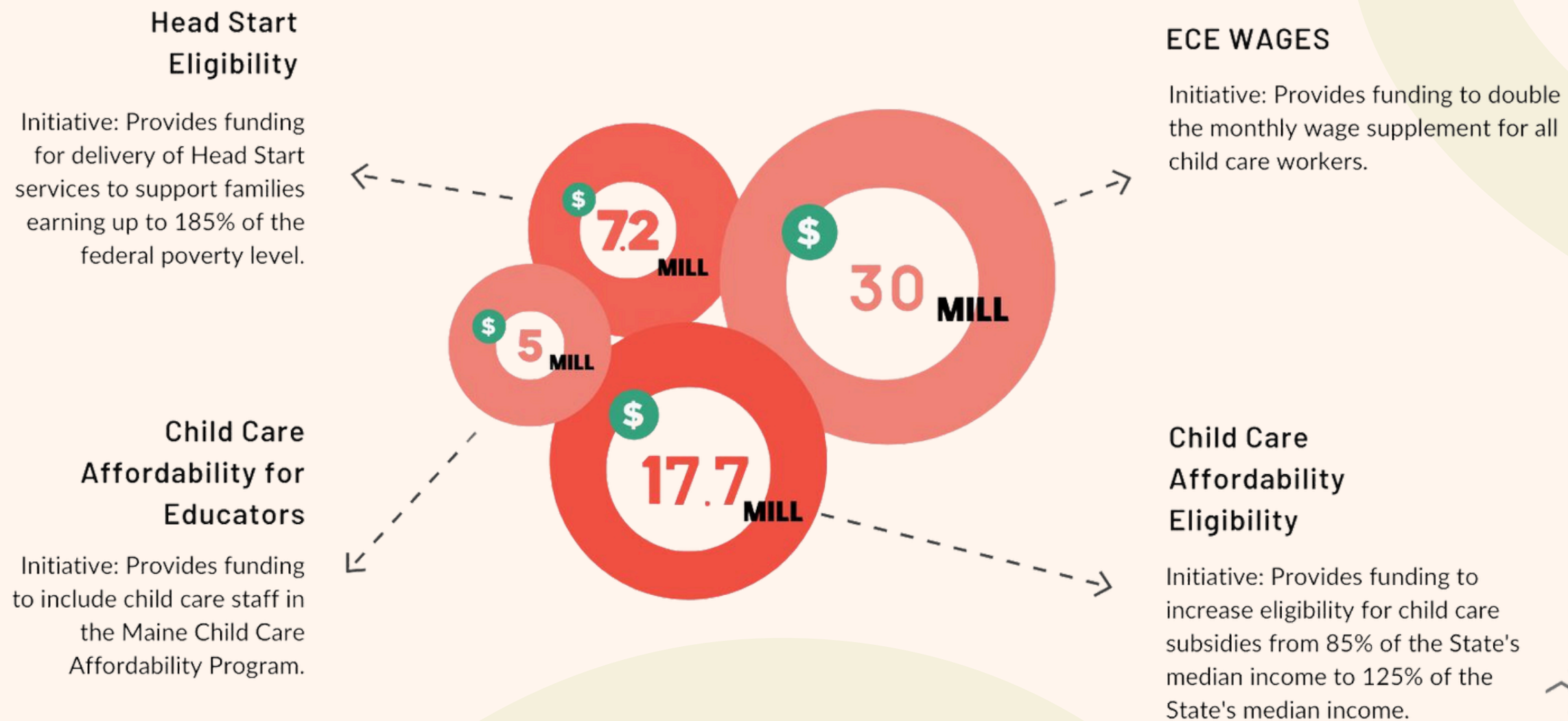
2022

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

2023-2024

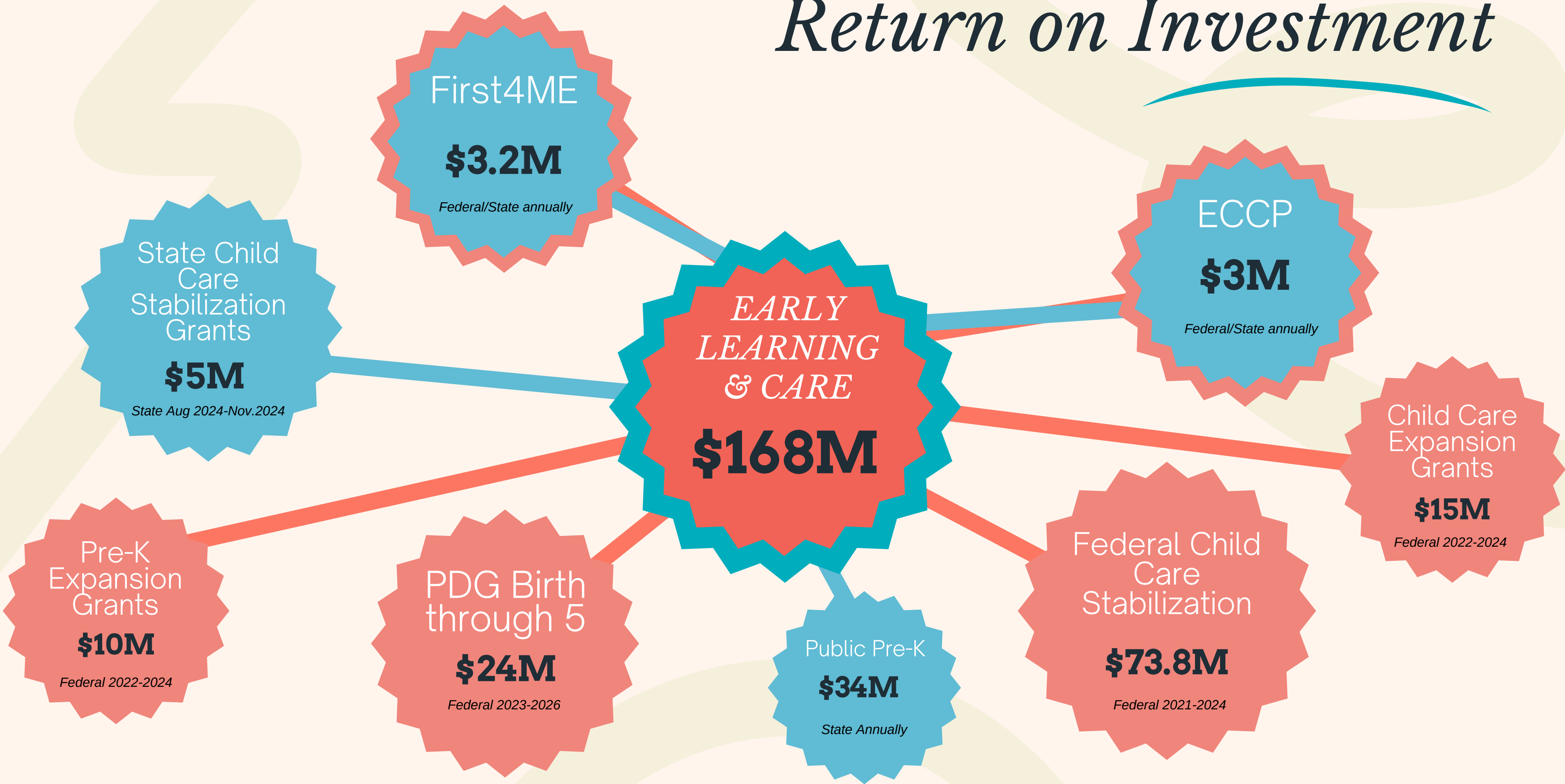
A Pre-K Commission was created to provide suggestions to the Education Committee regarding the expansion of publicly funded pre-K, focusing on full-day programs with a mixed delivery approach.

WHAT WAS ADDED IN THE BUDGET?

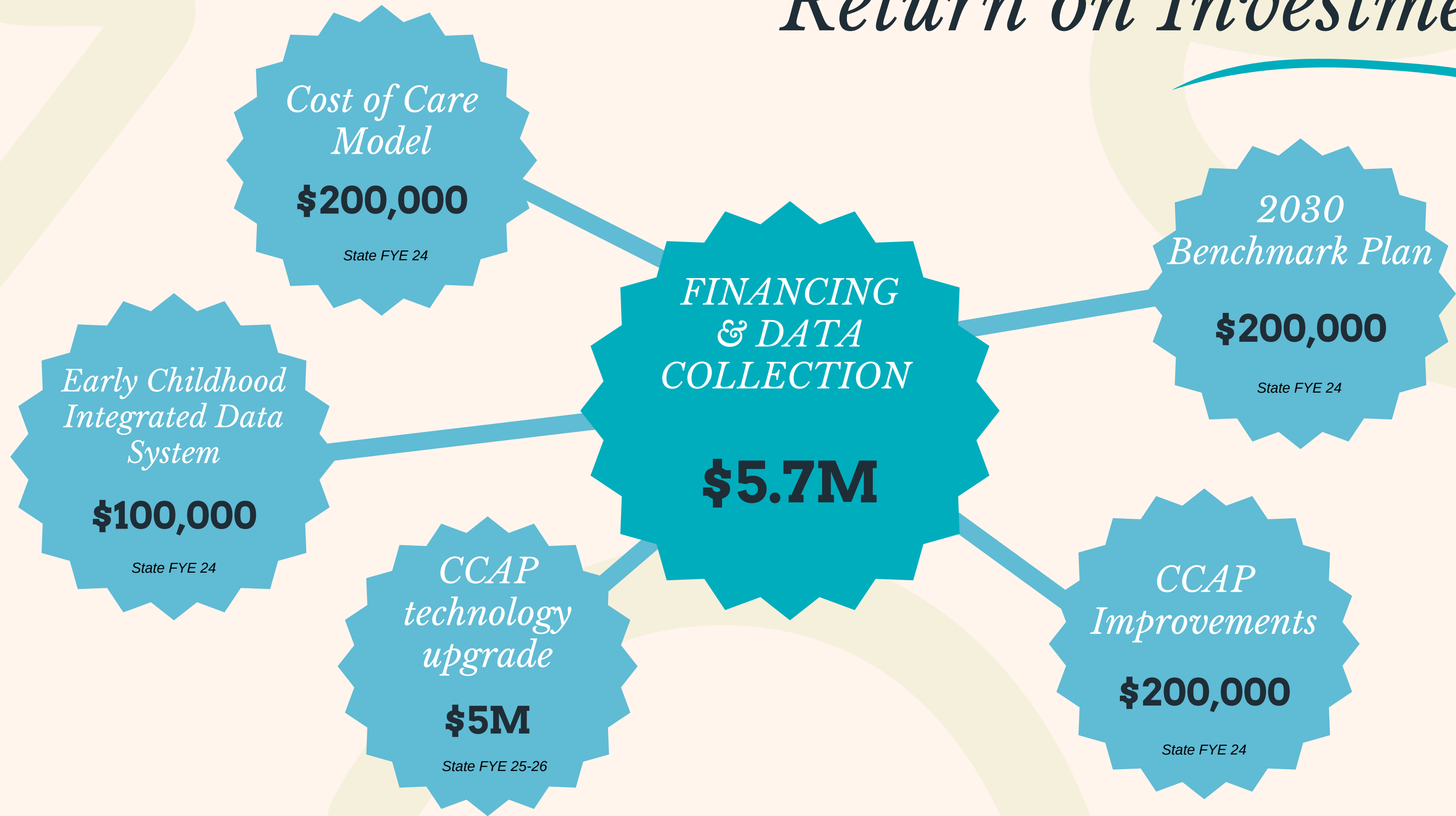


*This chart is biennial budget funding won in the 131st Legislature

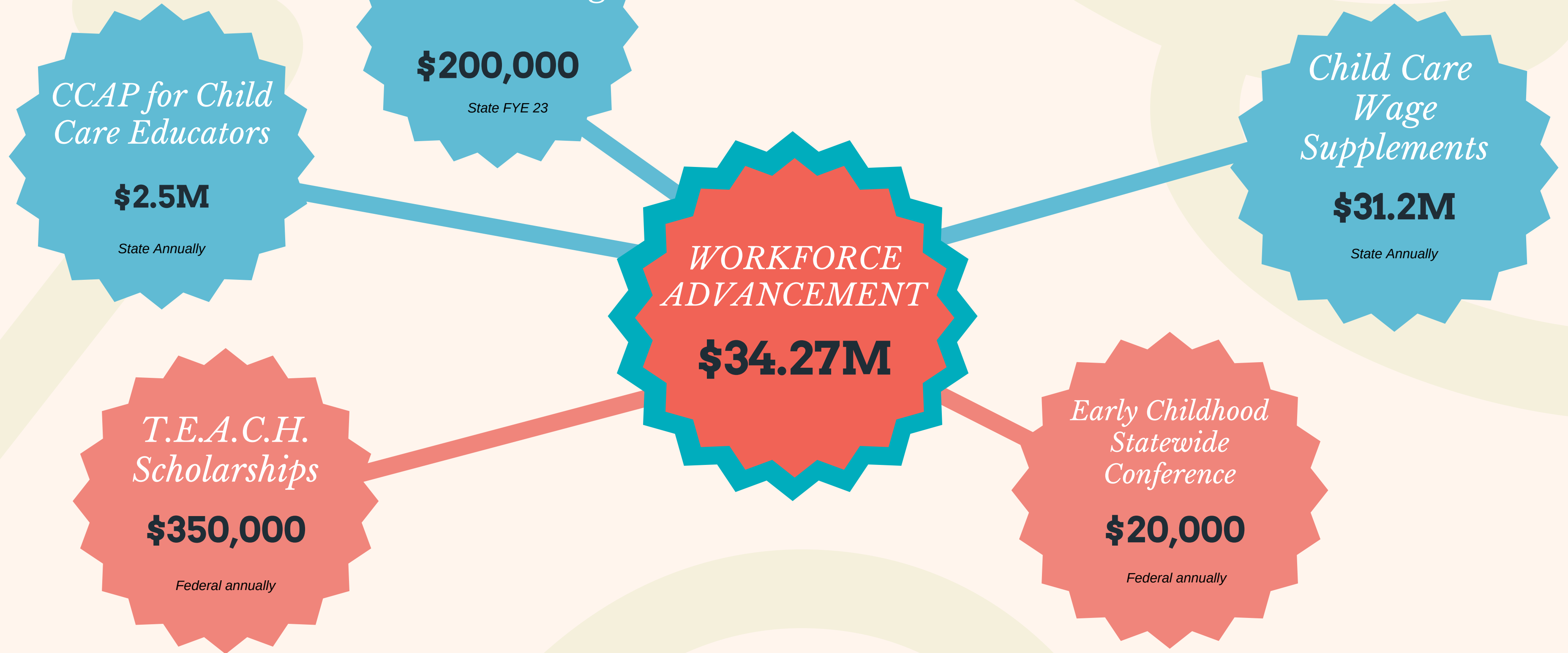
Return on Investment



Return on Investment



Return on Investment



Return on Investment



Totals

\$ 1 0 0 0 M

State

\$ 1 9 8 M

Federal

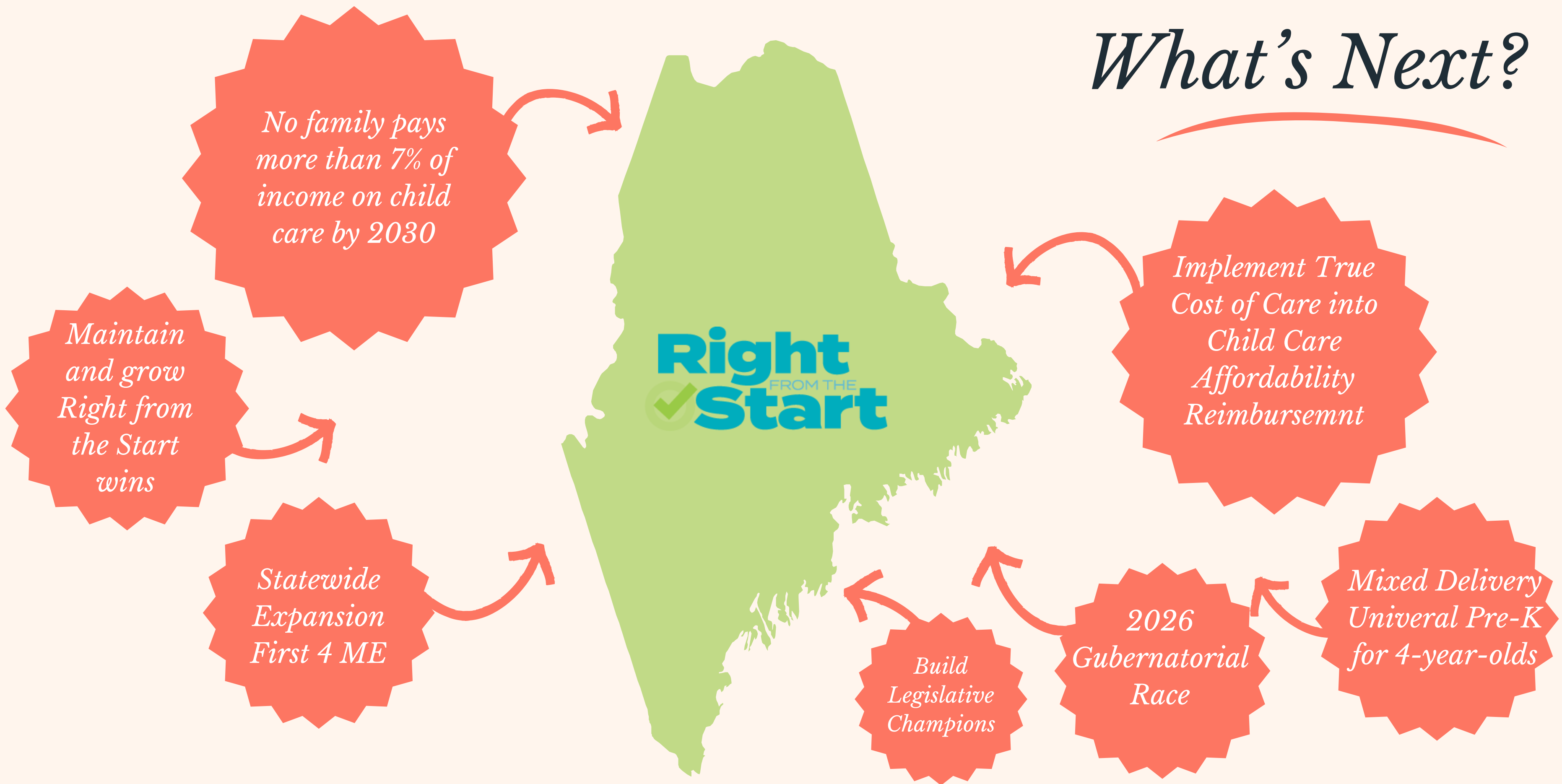
One Time Funding
\$133.5M

Ongoing Funding
\$164.5M

\$ 2 9 8 M

Total

What's Next?





Thank You

**Maine Early
Childhood
Fundors Network**