

Governor Mills' Children's Cabinet

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future

Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children: All Maine Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared to Succeed

Access



Increase access to affordable early care & education, preventive and early intervention services for young children and their families.

Quality



Raise the quality of our early care and education system and support families to access quality programming.

Workforc



Recruit, prepare and retain a diverse early childhood workforce.



Children's Cabinet Plan for Youth: All Maine Youth Enter Adulthood Healthy, Connected to Workforce and/or Education

Basic Needs



Ensure basic needs of youth and their families are met.

Prevention



Increase prevention services and programming in schools and at the community level.

Treatment



Increase access to needed behavioral health, including substance use disorder, screenings and treatment.



Stabilizing Maine's Early Childhood Education System

Assistance From Federal COVID Relief Funding 2021 & 2022 Through the Office of Child and Family Services



Quarterly grants in 2021: OCFS administered CRSSA funds providing four rounds of grants to licensed child care providers in 2021. \$90 per licensed slot. Additional amounts provided based on quality rating and participation in Child Care Subsidy Program.



Monthly grants started Oct 1, 2021 for one year: OCFS has been providing monthly Child Care Stabilization grants since October 2021 with ARPA funding. **\$100 per licensed slot per month.** Additional amounts provided based on quality rating, participation in CCSP and non-traditional hours. Includes \$200 per month stipend for educators and staff working directly with children.



OCFS Strategies in Strengthening the Child Care Subsidy Program to Improve Access for Low to Moderate Income Parents

- **Waiving co-pays for families on CCSP** until July 2022. With ARPA funds, continue to waive of co-pays for 70% of the families on CCSP through September 2023.
- **Encouraging inclusion with increased reimbursements.** Child care programs will receive a 35% increase in their CCSP reimbursement for serving children with special needs.
- **Increase overall quality bumps for QRIS over two years.** Increase child care quality payments to 3%, 10%, 15% for 2-years to support an increase in high-quality programs.
- **Provide more stability in CCSP payments to providers** by reimbursing based upon enrollment versus attendance for 2 and a half years.



OCFS Plans and Strategies in Supporting the Early Childhood Education Workforce

- **Implement coaching and training opportunities for child care teachers and staff.** Federal ARPA funds will support the implementation of CLASS for approximately 200 programs across the state. Coaching will be a component of the First 4 ME program as well.
- **Train early care and education providers on Maine Early Learning Development Standards**
- **Continued support for TEACH,** providing scholarships and other assistance to help early childhood educators attain associates and bachelors degrees in early childhood education.
- **Monthly \$200 Stipends for Educators and Staff Working Directly with Children.** Stipends are available for one year. These stipends will run through Sept 2022. Over this past summer and fall a small working group led by OCFS examined policy options for increasing compensation for early childhood educators. They also held listening sessions with child care directors and educators and meetings with key stakeholders.



Governor's Supplemental Budget Proposal

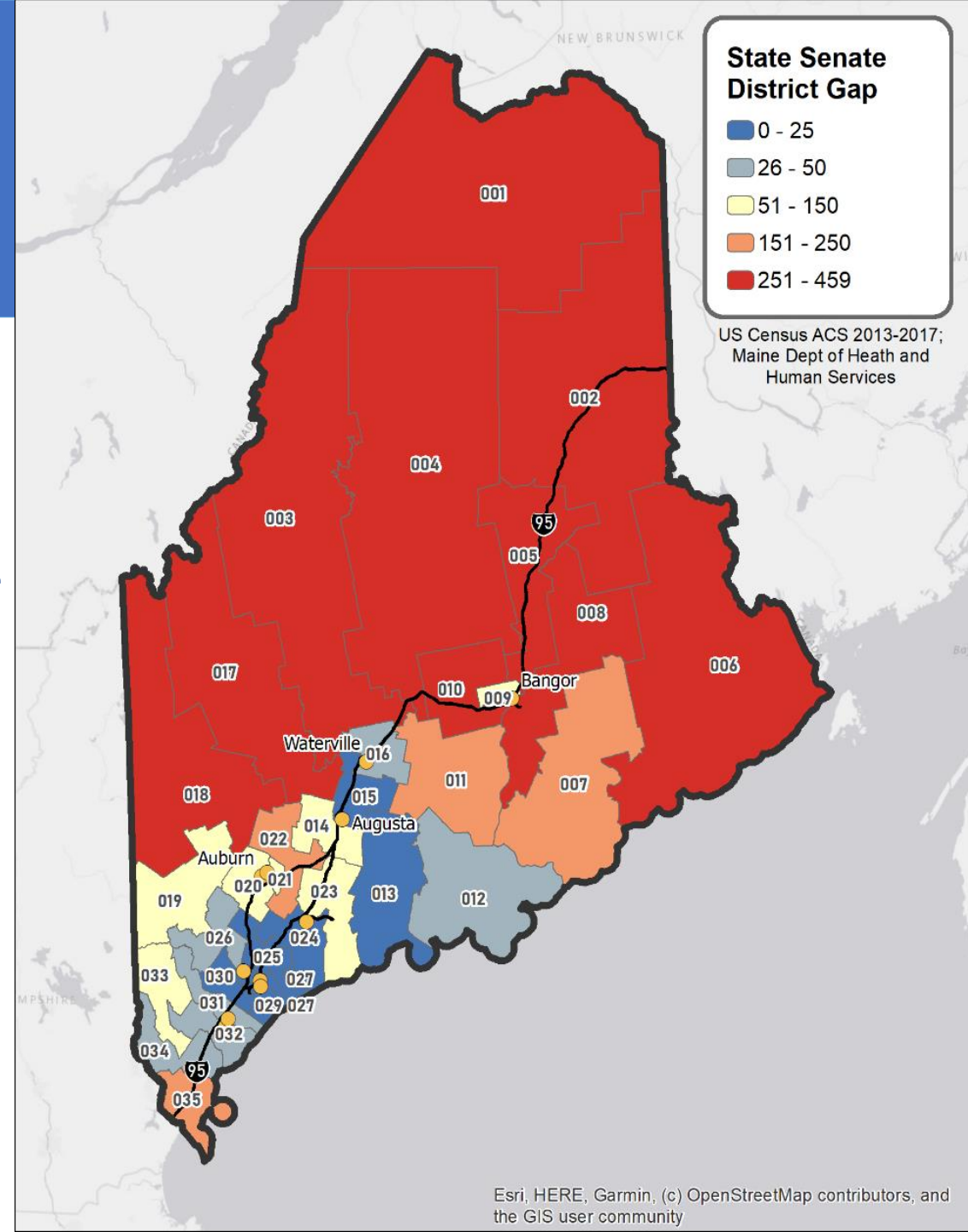
- The Governor's Supplemental Budget Proposal makes a significant investment in the child care and early childhood workforce by **providing more than \$12 million for salary supplements for child care and early childhood educators in licensed child care programs** along with funding for implementation.
- If approved, these supplements will continue the existing monthly stipends when federal funding ends. By July 1, 2023, OCFS will establish a program of tiered supplements based upon experience and education.

Expanding Child Care Infrastructure

GAPS IN CHILD CARE SUPPLY: Maine (OCFS) participated in the Bipartisan Policy Center's Child Care Gap Analysis Project in the winter of 2019. The results showed overall there was a 9.2% need of care gap across Maine for children under the age of six with all available parents working. Rural areas of the State saw the most significant gap in the need versus the supply, which is shown in red in map.

GRANTS TO EXPAND CHILD CARE SLOTS:

- Grants for expansion of existing and new child care facilities
- Priority will be given to rural and infant/toddler



Public Pre-K Infrastructure Funding

Goals of the Pre-K Expansion Grants



Increase the number of 4-year olds in Maine participating in **high-quality** public Pre-K with an emphasis on full-day, full-week programming



Ensure that these short-term grant funded efforts lead to **sustainable** growth in public Pre-K classrooms.



Leverage and encourage **public Pre-K partnerships** to increase access, ensure sustainability, and address the needs of children and families in a comprehensive way.



DOE awarded 14 grants to School Administrative Units and is currently finalizing contracts to ensure schools can implement in Fall 2022. DOE will release another round in Summer 2022 for expansion of programming in Fall 2023.

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant

Goals and Objectives

Maine's **Early Childhood Comprehensive System** Health Integration Prenatal-to-three (P-3) program will increase referrals to, and utilization of, P-3 programs and services by making Maine's complex health and early childhood development systems **easier for families to more effectively access and navigate**.

1

Provide a **state-level central point of coordination** (ECCS Lead) to connect Maine's various maternal and early childhood programs and, develop and expand partnerships to advance Maine's vision for a comprehensive P-3 system.

MeCDC

2

Develop a realistic **state-level Early Childhood Strategic Plan** which identifies the resources necessary and available to implement strategies and meet goals and objectives.

Maine Children's Cabinet

3

Strengthen Maine's perinatal system of care and integrate programs and services across the maternal and early childhood system.

MeCDC, PQC4ME

4

Establish a **"no wrong door" P-3 care coordination model for Maine** to strengthen and improve linkages across the maternal and early childhood system.

Help Me Grow

5

Convene **state-level education and early childhood leaders and stakeholders** to identify resources needed to sustain and advance ECCS priorities and programs.

Maine Children's Cabinet

6

Develop **targeted strategies to address health disparities** based on geographic region, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. *Maine Children's Cabinet, MeCDC, HMG, PQC4ME*

Maine Children's Cabinet, MeCDC, HMG, PQC4ME

Implementation of Help Me Grow Core Components

1

Centralized telephone access point for connecting children and their families to services and care coordination, for 0-8 years.

- Care Coordinators/Resource specialists
- Access point-phone, email, text, online
- Technical Solution to manage resources and referrals

2

Child health care and childcare provider outreach to support early detection and intervention

- ASQ-3 Online,
- Training on Developmental Milestones and Screening

3

Family and Community outreach to promote use of HMG and developmental milestones and facilitate networking for families and service providers

- Communication materials
- Community presentations
- Gathering community resources for referral database

4

Data collection and Analysis to understand all aspects of the *HMG* system, including gaps in and barriers to services

HMG has specific evaluation criteria that is submitted annually to the HMG National Center

Structural Requirements

Organizing Entity

Plan for Statewide Expansion

Continuous Quality Improvement

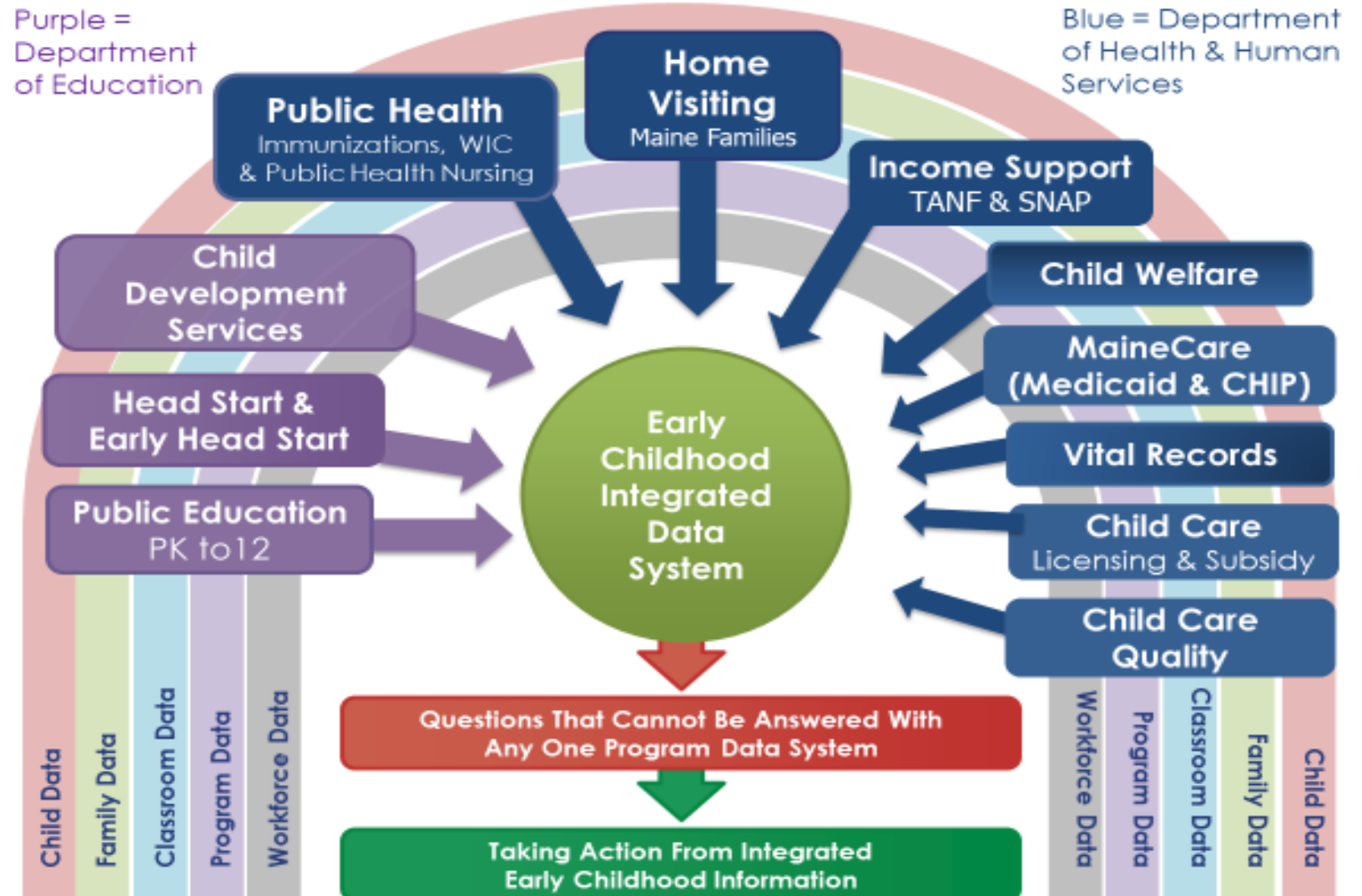
Increase Developmental Screening with the ASQ Online Program

- DHHS/MaineCare (with the assistance of the John T. Gorman Foundation) is purchasing the ASQ Online Enterprise System for Maine: Ages and Stages Questionnaire Developmental Screening (ASQ-3) and Social Emotional (ASQ-SE)
- Will be part of the HMG System
- Will pilot this spring with some childcare and Head Start providers and then expand to other programs serving young children
- Has data management and reporting abilities
- Families can complete questionnaires at home from any device and receive child development learning activities



An Early Childhood Integrated Data System

- Hired an early childhood data and policy analyst with Federal ARPA funds to begin the planning for an ECIDS.
- Building an integrated data system for early childhood will help Maine answer critical program and policy questions across agencies that provide services to children and families with the goal of improving outcomes for all of Maine's children.





Strengthening Early Childhood Education Through Supporting Transitions and Building Understanding Across Systems

- Cross agency team from Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services partnered to develop a series of **professional development learning modules for school administrators and teachers to improve transitions for children entering public school**. Smoothing the transition for children into public school can help them to adjust to the new setting and better prepare them to learn and succeed in school. More information can be found at: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/earlychildhood/transitions>
- The Early Learning Team at DOE is hosting the first pilot of the **Leading Early Learning** professional learning series, which has engaged 18 elementary school administrators who work in the PK – 3 span. The series is designed to build understanding of the components of evidence-based, high-quality early childhood learning environments and approaches that promote diverse, equitable, and inclusive practices, as well as provide a better understanding of the early childhood care and education system.



Improving access for youth to evidence based behavioral health services and treatment

Starting in August 2020 and running through June 2021, OCFS implemented a pilot program providing **Crisis Aftercare to 108 families in Aroostook County and 6 families in Washington County.**

- **88% of families served by the pilot did not go to the ER for crisis** once the team was involved.
- **90% youth served by the pilot were able to remain at home due to the service supporting the family.** 10% of the youth involved went to Crisis Stabilization Unit, Inpatient Psychiatric Unit, or Residential Care.
- **Program is now operating statewide.**

Behavioral health practitioners across the state received evidence-based trainings to better support children, youth and their families.

- **More than 120 clinicians completed all requirements to become nationally certified in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).** Nationally certified clinicians enrolled as MaineCare providers can bill the enhanced TF-CBT rate through Section 65 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual.
- **OCFS provided no-cost training to 80 practitioners in Triple P Standard, Triple P Standard Teen and Pathways.** Currently, there are four additional cohorts of 20 practitioners (80 total) going through the training with all accreditations scheduled to be completed March 2022



Improving access for youth to evidence based substance use disorder treatment for youth

Children's Cabinet secured a grant from JTG Foundation to **hire a Youth SUD Specialist** for 2021.

- Increased staff capacity with focus exclusively on Youth SUD resulted in: (1) documentation of existing continuum of care and support for providers, (2) thorough review of evidence-based practices and opportunities for policy change, (3) federal grant applications and (4) greater stakeholder engagement.

Several funding sources have been approved for initiatives to address some of the most pressing issues related to Youth SUD.

- **Co-Occurring MH/ SUD Training:** OCFS to contract with purveyor of adolescent SUD evidence-based practice, Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA), to offer training to mental health clinicians in children's residential.
- **Medically Supervised Withdrawal:** OCFS to provide training to existing clinicians on the treatment of adolescents needing medically supervised withdrawal. Clinicians will be reimbursed for time spent training.

Lastly rates were raised for non-hospital, medically necessary withdrawal programs by 77% and adolescent residential rehabilitation services by 35%. The policy specific to youth for Intensive Out-Patient (IOP) was also adjusted to better meet adolescent needs.



More Highlights of Efforts to Strengthen Policies and Programs for Youth

- **Maine CDC partnered with Maine Youth Advocates network to provide restorative practices support, education, and technical assistance in schools.** Through July 2021, MYAN conducted 11 restorative practices training series with youth, trained 137 adults in restorative practices, and provided 271 youth-serving providers and organizations with technical assistance on implementing restorative practices
- **Maine CDC increased training and technical assistance for behavioral health organizations on effective screening and identification of suicide prevention for youth living with a substance use disorder.** Existing trainings (including Mental Health First Aid, Gatekeeper, and Suicide Prevention Awareness) were revised to address intersections between suicide and substance use disorder prevention. Over 600 individuals were trained.
- The **Transition Work-Based Learning Grant** – a 5-year grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration wrapped up in 2021 after providing services (including participation in two paid work experiences) to over 350 high school students with disabilities from the Augusta and Bangor areas. The grant studied two interventions - (1) enhanced Jobs for Maine’s Grads (JMG) programming and (2) Progressive Employment – a dual customer approach that delivers a continuum of work based learning activities (including business tours, informational interviews, job shadows and paid work experience).



COMPREHENSIVE PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 12 SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING CURRICULUM

- With more than 450 on-line modules, Maine's SEL4ME curriculum is **trauma informed**. In 2021, there were more than 70,000 SEL4ME curriculum engagements and more than 8,700 registered student users of the curriculums.
- SEL4ME is classroom based with **free online access** to any educator or school staff designed to be easily embedded into everyday academics
- These modules provide tools to teachers to create positive, supportive environments and meet the social emotional needs of our students. This has proven to be particularly important as students struggle with the on-going impacts of the pandemic on their overall health and well-being.
- In the fall of 2021, the Maine DOE SEL4ME Team began piloting an intensive professional development series, providing teachers with training in how to incorporate social emotional learning into their coursework as well as curriculum development in the use of SEL as a Primary Prevention and Trauma-Informed practice.



Expanding Opportunities for Meaningful Paid Work Experience for Youth

- The Children’s Cabinet is working closely with colleagues at the Department of Economic and Community Development to coordinate an expansion of opportunities for youth to participate in career exploration including paid work experience. These programs will help youth gain valuable 21st century and foundational skills, connections to employers and a better understanding of career opportunities.
- The Children’s Cabinet is specifically focused on ensuring that career exploration and meaningful paid work experience programming effectively reaches key populations of youth including young people with disabilities, connected to the juvenile justice system, experiencing homelessness, transitioning in or out of the foster care system, with low-income, of color and from indigenous communities.
- The Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan also includes funding for the Department of Labor (DOL) to expand pre-apprenticeship programming. DOL will target youth between the ages of 16 to 24. High-quality pre-apprenticeship programs provide foundational job and soft-skill training necessary to bridge trainees to successful employment as apprentices.



Questions?