

# **The Governor's budget takes from kids, the poor, and working Mainers... to give huge tax breaks for those at the top.**

Maine's anti-poverty programs provide health care, food and shelter for Maine families who are struggling to make ends meet. The Governor's proposed budget would cut more than \$65 million dollars from these essential programs. Right now in Maine, too many kids are hungry and living in deep poverty. While hunger is going down in other parts of the nation, it's going up in Maine. Deep poverty means a family of 3 scraping by with less than \$10,000 a year. Since 2011, the percentage of children at that level has increased at a rate 8 times faster than any other state in the nation.

**Mainers want more opportunities for kids and families, NOT deeper poverty. This budget would make cuts to programs that help kids. Here are just a few of them. [See our full analysis here.](#)**

- Getting a college degree would be even harder for Parents as Scholars students if they had to juggle additional work requirements with their academics.
- 1,500 kids would lose support to meet their basic needs by reducing the TANF time limit from 60 months to 36 months.
- Head Start would lose approximately \$1.2 million to help get young children ready to succeed in school.

**Mainers want to invest in Maine families, NOT a budget plan that makes their problems worse. The Governor's proposed budget would:**

- Eliminate the General Assistance Program. Without this program of last resort, where would our neighbors go when facing a crisis?
- Deny SNAP and TANF benefits for life to people with a felony drug conviction after 1996. So much for second chances and turning your life around.
- Discriminate against Maine's immigrants by denying them access to anti-poverty programs. Everyone needs a chance to succeed.

**Mainers want more access to healthcare, NOT less. The Governor's budget proposes drastic cuts to MaineCare eligibility:**

- An estimated 20,000 parents would lose MaineCare by reducing eligibility from 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 40% FPL. This would leave a 3-person family with income as low as \$715 a month uninsured.
- Approximately 10,000 young adults would lose MaineCare coverage. Just as they are beginning their adult lives, these 19 and 20 year olds would be left without affordable health care.

MAINE  
**EQUAL**



**JUSTICE**  
PARTNERS

**Speak out against this unfair and inhumane budget.**

**Contact Kate Brennan at [kbrennan@mejp.org](mailto:kbrennan@mejp.org) or 207-626-7058, Ext. 204 to learn more**