

invest in tomorrow

AN INITIATIVE TODAY

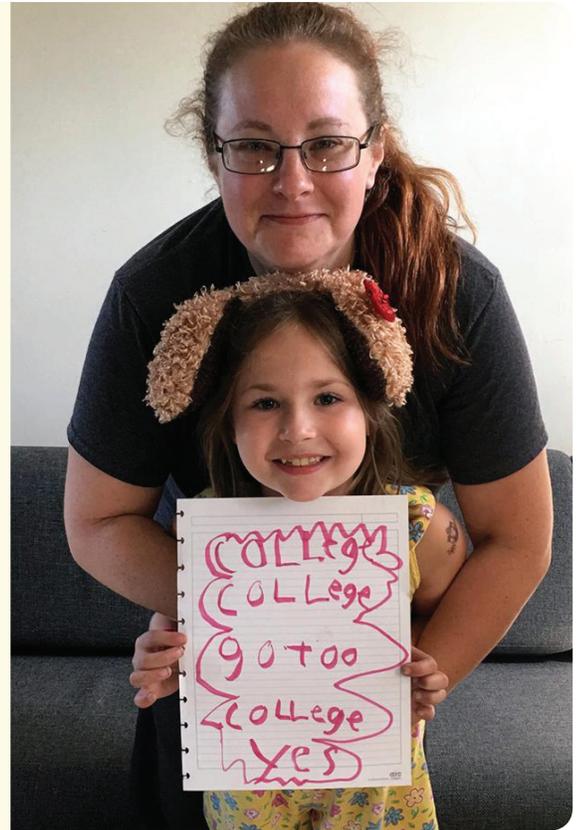
Solving Child Poverty is Everybody's Business

Too many Maine families are struggling to get by. Almost 1 out of every 5 kids in Maine faces the daily challenge of growing up in poverty.

At the same time, Maine's businesses and economy are at risk because we are facing a workforce crisis. Creating economic opportunity and solving child poverty will benefit all of us.

A diverse group of stakeholders from around the state are working together to leverage opportunity for Maine families, our workforce and economy.

Guided by data, we are developing key strategies to make the biggest difference. The Invest in Tomorrow stakeholder group will publish policy recommendations and a "scorecard" to measure Maine's success when it comes to creating more economic opportunity for children and families.



In 2017, we learned a lot

We convened forums in parts of Maine hard hit by child poverty: Aroostook, Piscataquis, Androscoggin, Washington, and Hancock counties. Discussions used regional and statewide data to identify the primary contributing factors to child poverty and the best ways to increase economic opportunity.

Through this process we have identified the following factors that must be addressed to make a meaningful and lasting difference:

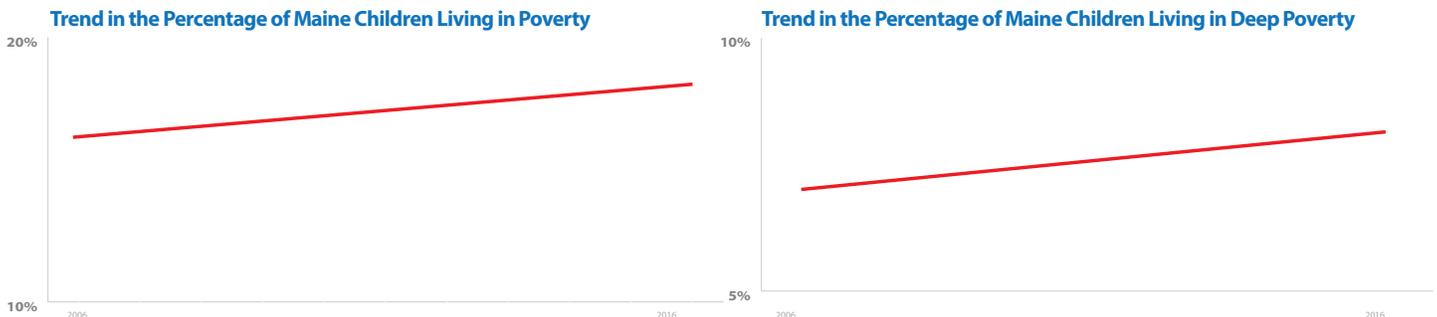
- » **Basic needs must be met**, including food, housing, and health care.
- » **Employment opportunity** and **support** to get and keep good jobs. Families need reliable and affordable **transportation**; quality, affordable **childcare** and **early learning**; a smooth transition from public assistance to employment (**reduce welfare cliff**); and access to **education** and **training**.

In 2018, we will:

- ✓ Work with the **Data Innovation Project (DIP)** to identify indicators to measure the primary contributing factors to child poverty and economic opportunity for families;
- ✓ Identify and propose **attainable shared results** (goals) and benchmarks for each contributing factor;
- ✓ Develop and propose a scorecard that will enable policymakers, stakeholders, and the public to **track progress** using identified indicators, benchmarks, and goals;
- ✓ Seek additional input from stakeholders and groups on **key strategies** to create the most economic opportunity for families with children in Maine;
- ✓ Use what we learn through this process to develop and propose a set of policy recommendations of key strategies to **increase economic opportunity for Maine families.**
- ✓ We will be poised to make **big changes** in 2019!

A Ten Year Trend

Child poverty and deep child poverty have trended up over the last 10 years in Maine. That is unacceptable. Let's work together to reverse this trend so that ten years from now, we can tell a very different story.



According to the 2018 federal poverty guidelines, a **family of three** with household income of **less than \$20,780/year is living in poverty**. A **family of three** with household income of **less than \$10,390/year is living in deep poverty**.

We cannot do this alone. Many organizations across Maine have come together to get this done:

Aroostook County Action Program
Bates College Harwood Center
Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce
Central Western Maine Workforce Development Board
Child and Family Opportunities (CFO)
Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI)
Community Caring Collaborative
Community Concepts
Eastern Maine Development Corporation
Healthy Homeworks
Helping Hands with Heart
Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Machias Savings Bank
Maine Chamber of Commerce
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Community Action Association

Maine Community Foundation
Maine Education Association
Maine Equal Justice Partners
Maine Health Access Foundation
Maine Seacoast Mission
Maine Women's Lobby
Mano en Mano | Hand in Hand
Northeastern Workforce Development Board
Penquis Community Action Program
Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce
Sunrise County Economic Council
United Way of Androscoggin
United Way of Eastern Maine
United Way of Aroostook
Washington Hancock Community Agency
Witham Family Hotels