

Building the Economy— Breaking Down Barriers



Photo: Thalassa Raasch

Children at Coastal Kids Preschool in Damariscotta

Access to Opportunity

The surest way to enjoy a high quality of life is to have strong family support, good health, access to a quality education, and a safe and welcoming community that fosters a sense of belonging and connectedness.

This kind of supportive environment helps cultivate human capital, that stock of knowledge, skills, judgment, and creativity that enables people to be productive members of society and the workforce. Human capital, in turn, is the key driver of economic growth.

The Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to improve the economy and the quality of life for all Maine people. We strive to:

- Develop a healthier, better educated, and more resourceful citizenry with critical work skills
- Build a more inclusive and vibrant economy
- Create more welcoming communities.

We invite you to *lend a hand*.

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Our Strategic Goals: A Hands-On Approach

Every person in every community must be able to acquire the education, knowledge, experience, and creativity needed to succeed and move Maine forward. To that end, the Maine Community Foundation, working with its partners, is intensifying its commitment to the five priority goals outlined here.

Photo: Thalassa Raasch



Coastal Kids Preschool

STRONG START

All Maine children receive a healthy start and arrive at kindergarten developmentally prepared to succeed in school and life.

When children lack consistent access to proper nutrition, stable housing, a healthy start, or experience repeated trauma, their ability to reach their full potential is diminished. All children need to grow up in a safe, stable, and stimulating environment with caring

adults and free from chronic stress. Unfortunately, this is not the case for many Maine children: One in four under age five lives in poverty.

Providing children with a solid developmental foundation will prepare them for success in school and life.

Photo: Thalassa Raasch



Josh Clukey, adult learner at Southern Maine Community College

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

All Maine people, including adult learners and other nontraditional students, are able to complete a degree or certificate program to maximize their potential.

A large percentage of Maine adults lack the education and advanced training for high-skilled jobs. Around 200,000 Mainers have some higher education, but did not complete a degree because of education costs, family and financial responsibilities, and/or the lack of

support. Low degree attainment is hampering Maine's economy and keeping families in poverty.

Ensuring adults complete education and training for high-skilled jobs will lift incomes and grow Maine's economy.

Photo: Jill Brady



Somali Bantu Women's Empowerment Project

and communities. Their quality of life is complicated by patterns of racism that limit opportunities and negatively impact their lives, especially in areas of health, safety, education, and employment.

Eliminating opportunity barriers faced by people of color will allow them to fully engage in Maine communities and the economy.

RACIAL EQUITY

All people of color in Maine have access to opportunities and life outcomes that are not limited in any way by race or ethnicity.

Maine has long been home to people of color, including Native American, Asian, African, and Hispanic. Maine also has a history of drawing immigrants and refugees from around the world. Today, more than 85,000 people of color live in Maine and contribute to its economy

Photo: Thalassa Raasch



HELP Adult Respite Care Program

economy and our communities. Many older Mainers choose to remain in the workforce, own or start businesses, or take part in important community and civic engagements. Almost 90% of older adults prefer to live in their own homes.

Finding creative ways to enhance the well-being and maximize the talent and energy of people aging in Maine will help strengthen the economy and create communities that attract people of all ages.

THRIVING OLDER ADULTS

All older adults in Maine, especially those who are vulnerable, are valued and able to thrive and age in their communities with health, independence, and dignity.

Maine's population has the oldest median age in the nation. In 2015, 19% of Mainers were age 65 and older; by 2030, 28% will be 65 and over, compared to only 20% nationwide.

Older adults represent an untapped resource for our

Photo: Thalassa Raasch



Albie Barden raises flint corn

need access to patient capital and technical support to start and grow their businesses.

Providing financial and technical support will encourage entrepreneurs to stay in Maine and others to move here.

ENTREPRENEURS AND INNOVATORS

Entrepreneurial innovation is broadly promoted and practiced in Maine, particularly in natural resource-based activities.

Maine's economy is increasingly reliant upon entrepreneurial businesses. Innovation and technology hold promise for new enterprises, including in farming, fishing, and forestry, but turning innovative concepts into marketable products and services can be challenging. Entrepreneurs



Photo: Thalassa Raasch

Beatrice Downs, right, works with a fellow student at the University of Southern Maine.

An Invitation to Partner with the Maine Community Foundation

Helping children get a strong start in life; ensuring that education is available to everyone; addressing barriers that people of color face; maximizing opportunities for older adults to thrive in their communities; providing support for innovation and entrepreneurship—all of these **priorities are linked to a strong economy and a high quality of life for everyone in Maine.** They also directly support the community foundation's core purpose: to work with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people.

Please join the Maine Community Foundation to achieve these critical goals. You can help by contributing to one or more of these five funds:

Strong Start Fund: ensures that Maine children receive a healthy start and arrive at kindergarten prepared to succeed in school and life.

Access to Education Fund: ensures that Maine people are able to complete a degree or certificate program to maximize their potential.

Racial Equity Fund: ensures that people of color in Maine have access to opportunities and life outcomes not limited in any way by race or ethnicity.

Thriving Older Adults Fund: ensures that older adults in Maine are valued and able to thrive in their communities with health, independence, and dignity.

Entrepreneurial Innovation Fund: ensures that entrepreneurial innovation is broadly promoted in Maine, particularly in natural resource-based activities.

The Maine Community Foundation welcomes your interest and questions. Please contact Becky Hayes Boober, Vice President for Community Impact, at bhboober@mainecf.org or 877-700-6800, ext. 2001.