

**State of Maine**

**Community Services  
Block Grant Application**

**FY 2010-2011**



*John E. Baldacci, Governor*

*Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner*



John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

Department of Health and Human Services  
Child and Family Services  
2 Anthony Avenue  
# 11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel: (207) 624-5960  
Fax: (207) 287-6156; TTY: 1-800-606-0215

August 28, 2009

Yolanda Butler, Acting Director  
Office of Community Services  
Division of State Assistance  
Attention: Community Services Block Grant Program  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., 5th Floor West  
Washington, D.C. 20447

Dear Ms. Butler

This letter of transmittal is being submitted with the State of Maine's Community Services Block Grant Application and Plan covering FY 2010 and FY 2011. Any revision to the plan will be submitted forthwith.

The official to receive the CSBG Grant Award is:

Russell J. Begin, Deputy Commissioner of Finance  
Department of Health and Human Services  
221 State Street 11 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0011  
Tel: (207) 287-5758 Fax: (207) 287-3007

The contact person for the CSBG Program is:

Christine Merchant, M.A.  
CSBG Program Coordinator  
Public Service Management/OCFS  
Department of Health and Human Services  
2 Anthony Ave. 11 State House Station  
Augusta ME 04333  
Tel: (207) 624-7934 Fax: (207) 287-6156

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

*Christine Merchant*

Christine Merchant, M.A.  
Community Services Unit Supervisor

**STATE OF MAINE  
FY 2010-2011  
PLAN AND APPLICATION  
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

**I. FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS COVERED BY THIS STATE PLAN AND APPLICATION**

FFY 2010 through FFY 2011

**II. LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

**III. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**A. CSBG State Legislation**

State of Maine statutory authority for the Community Services Block Grant program is provided in Maine Revised Statute, Title 22, Subtitle 4, Part 1-A, Chapter 1477, Sections 5321-5329.  
**Attachment B**

**B. Designation of Lead State Agency to Administer the CSBG Recovery Act Program**

Appended as **Attachment A**, is a letter designating the Maine Department of Health & Human Services as the State agency authorized to accept funding under the Community Services Block Grant as well as plan and administer community service programs in the state. Furthermore the Department of Health & Human Services is responsible for monitoring the state poverty level, overseeing the state's community action agencies, and for coordinating and planning for statewide community services.

**C. Public Hearing Requirements**

**(1) Public Hearing:**

In accordance with the Federal requirement of Section 675(b) of the Community Services Block Grant Act that state legislatures conduct public hearings on the proposed use and distribution of CSBG funds, the Department of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the State Legislature's Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on Health and Human Services, held a public hearing on Wednesday February 18, 2009 on the proposed FY2010-2011 Community Services Block Grant. **Attachment C**

The Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, in conjunction with the State Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee will schedule a public hearing in January 2010 on the proposed FY2010 Community Services Block Grant.

## **(2) Legislative Hearing:**

The Community Services Block Grant budget was approved by the State Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and was incorporated in the FY2009-2010, and FY 2010-2011 State Budgets.

The individual Community Action Program allocations and uses of CSBG funds were also presented to the Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services Wednesday, February 18, 2009, as part of the Department's mandated annual report to the Committee. The report encompasses all federal and state funds that are contracted or granted out for services, as prescribed in Maine PL 167.

## **(3) Public Inspection of State CSBG Plan and Application:**

A Public Hearing in conjunction with the development of the CSBG State Plan and Application, was held August 18, 2009 at 2 Anthony Ave. Augusta, Maine. Notice of availability of the FY 2010-2011 State Community Services Block Grant Plan and Application was placed in Maine's official daily newspaper, on the DHHS Website and at the DHHS/Office of Child & Family Services, Community Service Unit for public review and comment. Copies are sent to all interested parties of record and to others upon request. **Attachment D**

## **IV. STATEMENT OF FEDERAL AND CSBG ASSURANCES**

Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 1998: P.L. 105-285

As a part of the annual or biannual application and plan required by Section 676 of the Community Services Block Grant Act, as amended, (The Act), the designee of the Chief Executive of **the State hereby agrees to the Assurances in Section 676 of the Act –**

### **Programmatic Assurances**

(1) an assurance that funds made available through the grant or allotment will be used—

(A) to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals receiving assistance under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farm workers, and elderly low-income individuals and families, and a description of how such activities will enable the families and individuals—

(i) to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency (including self-sufficiency for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act);

(ii) to secure and retain meaningful employment;

(iii) to attain an adequate education, with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families in the communities involved, which may include carrying out family literacy initiatives;

(iv) to make better use of available income;

- (v) to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
- (vi) to obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent family and individual needs; and
- (vii) to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to—
  - (I) document best practices based on successful grassroots intervention in urban areas, to develop methodologies for widespread replication; and
  - (II) strengthen and improve relationships with local law enforcement agencies, which may include participation in activities such as neighborhood or community policing efforts;

(B) to address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, give priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime, and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs that have demonstrated success in preventing or reducing youth crime, such as—

- (i) programs for the establishment of violence-free zones that would involve youth development and intervention models (such as models involving youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, and entrepreneurship programs); and
- (ii) after-school child care programs; and

(C) to make more effective use of, and to coordinate with, other programs related to the purposes of this subtitle (including State welfare reform efforts); the term “low income” shall be defined as families and households with an income up to 200 percent of the official poverty guidelines. This eligibility adjustment reflects an increase from 125 percent of the poverty guidelines as currently provided in Section 673(2) of the CSBG Act and applies to all CSBG services furnished during fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

(2) a description of how the State intends to use discretionary funds made available from the remainder of the grant or allotment described in section 675C(b) in accordance with this subtitle, including a description of how the State will support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of this subtitle;

(3) information provided by eligible entities in the State, containing—

(A) a description of the service delivery system, for services provided or coordinated with funds made available through grants made under section 675C(a), targeted to low-income individuals and families in communities within the State;

(B) a description of how linkages will be developed to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations;

(C) a description of how funds made available through grants made under section 675C(a) will be coordinated with other public and private resources; and

(D) a description of how the local entity will use the funds to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of this subtitle, which may include fatherhood initiatives and other initiatives with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting;

- (4) an assurance that eligible entities in the State will provide, on an emergency basis, for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals;
- (5) an assurance that the State and the eligible entities in the State will coordinate, and establish linkages between, governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services to low-income individuals and to avoid duplication of such services, and a description of how the State and the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 101 of such Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce investment systems under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;
- (6) an assurance that the State will ensure coordination between antipoverty programs in each community in the State, and ensure, where appropriate, that emergency energy crisis intervention programs under title XXVI (relating to low-income home energy assistance) are conducted in such community;
- (7) an assurance that the State will permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 678D;
- (8) an assurance that any eligible entity in the State that received funding in the previous fiscal year through a community services block grant made under this subtitle will not have its funding terminated under this subtitle, or reduced below the proportional share of funding the entity received in the previous fiscal year unless, after providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, the State determines that cause exists for such termination or such reduction, subject to review by the Secretary as provided in section 678C(b);
- (9) an assurance that the State and eligible entities in the State will, to the maximum extent possible, coordinate programs with and form partnerships with other organizations serving low-income residents of the communities and members of the groups served by the State, including religious organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations;
- (10) an assurance that the State will require each eligible entity in the State to establish procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, or religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization, or low-income individuals, to be inadequately represented on the board (or other mechanism) of the eligible entity to petition for adequate representation;
- (11) an assurance that the State will secure from each eligible entity in the State, as a condition to receipt of funding by the entity through a community services block grant made under this subtitle for a program, a community action plan (which shall be submitted to the Secretary, at the request of the Secretary, with the State plan) that includes a community-needs assessment for the community served, which may be coordinated with community-needs assessments conducted for other programs;
- (12) an assurance that the State and all eligible entities in the State will, not later than fiscal year 2001, participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability System, another performance measure system for which the Secretary facilitated development pursuant to section 678E(b), or an alternative system for measuring performance and results that meets the requirements of that section, and a description of outcome measures to be used to measure eligible entity performance in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization; and
- (13) information describing how the State will carry out the assurances[676(b)(13)] **This is the Narrative CSBG State Plan.**

### **Administrative Assurances**

The State further agrees to the following administrative assurances, as required under the Community Services Block Grant Act:

- (1) **STATE APPLICATION AND PLAN-** To submit an application to the Secretary containing information and provisions that describe the programs for which assistance is sought under the Community Services Block Grant program prepared in accordance with and containing the information described in Section 676 of the Act. [’675A(b)] –
- (2) To use not less than 90 percent of the funds made available to the State by the Secretary under Section 675A or 675B of the Act to make grants to eligible entities for the stated purposes of the Community Services Block Grant program and to make such funds available to eligible entities for obligation during the fiscal year and the succeeding fiscal year, subject to the provisions regarding recapture and redistribution of unobligated funds outlined below. [’675C(a)(1) and (2)]
- (3) In the event that the State elects to recapture and redistribute funds to an eligible entity through a grant made under Section 675C(a)(1) when unobligated funds exceed 20 percent of the amount so distributed to such eligible entity for such fiscal year, the State agrees to redistribute recaptured funds to an eligible entity, or require the original recipient of the funds to redistribute the funds to a private, nonprofit organization, located within the community served by the original recipient of the funds, for activities consistent with the purposes of the Community Services Block Grant program. [’675C (a)(3)]
- (4) To spend no more than the greater of \$55,000 or 5 percent of its grant received under Section 675A or the State allotment received under section 675B for administrative expenses, including monitoring activities. [’675C(b)(2)]
- (5) In states with a charity tax credit in effect under state law, the State agrees to comply with the requirements and limitations specified in Section 675© regarding use of funds for statewide activities to provide charity tax credits to qualified charities whose predominant activity is the provision of direct services within the United States to individuals and families whose annual incomes generally do not exceed 185 percent of the poverty line in order to prevent or alleviate poverty among such individuals and families. [’675(c)]
- (6) That the lead agency will hold at least one hearing in the State with sufficient time and statewide distribution of notice of such hearing, to provide to the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed use and distribution of funds to be provided through the grant or allotment under Section 675A or ‘675B for the period covered by the State Plan. [’676(a)(2)(B)]
- (7) That the chief executive officer of the State will designate, an appropriate State agency for purposes of carrying out State Community Services Block Grant program activities. [’676(a)(1)]
- (8) To hold as least one legislative hearing every three years in conjunction with the development of the State Plan.[’676(a)(3)]
- (9) To make available for the public inspection each plan or revised State Plan in such a manner as will facilitate review of and comment on the plan. [’676(e)(2)]
- (10) To conduct the following reviews of eligible entities:
  - a. a full onsite review of each such entity at least once during each three-year period;
  - b. an onsite review of each newly designated entity immediately after the completion of the first year in which such entity receives funds through the Community Services Block Grant program;]

- c. follow-up reviews including prompt return visits to eligible entities, and their programs, that fail to meet the goals, standards, and requirements established by the State;
  - d. other reviews as appropriate, including reviews of entities with programs that have had other Federal, State or local grants (other than assistance provided under the Community Services Block Grant program) terminated for cause. [’678B(a)]
- (11) In the event that the State determines that an eligible entity fails to comply with the terms of an agreement or the State Plan, to provide services under the Community Services Block Grant program or to meet appropriate standards, goals, and other requirements established by the State (including performance objectives), the State will comply with the requirements outlined in Section 678C of the Act, to:
- a. Inform the entity of the deficiency to be corrected
  - b. require the entity to correct the deficiency
  - c. offer training and technical assistance as appropriate to help correct the deficiency, and submit to the Secretary a report describing the training and technical assistance offered or stating the reasons for determining that training and technical assistance are not appropriate;
  - d. at the discretion of the State, offer the eligible entity an opportunity to develop and implement, within 60 days after being informed of the deficiency, a quality improvement plan and to either approve the proposed plan or specify reasons why the proposed plan cannot be approved;
  - e. after providing adequate notice and an opportunity for a hearing, initiate proceedings to terminate the designation of or reduce the funding to the eligible entity unless the entity corrects the deficiency. [’678(c)(a)]
- (12) To establish fiscal controls, procedures, audits and inspections, as required under Sections 678D(a)(1) and 678D(a)(2) of the Act.
- (13) To repay to the United States amounts found not to have been expended in accordance with the Act, or the Secretary may offset such amounts against any other amount to which the State is or may become entitled under the Community Services Block Grant program. [678D(a)(3)]
- (14) To participate, by October 1, 2001, and ensure that all-eligible entities in the State participate in the Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) System [’678E(a)(1)].
- (15) To prepare and submit to the Secretary an annual report on the measured performance of the State and its eligible entities, as described under 678E(a)(2) of the Act.
- (16) To comply with the prohibition against use of Community Services Block Grant funds for the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than low-cost residential weatherization or other energy-related home repairs) of any building or other facility, as described in Section 678F(a) of the Act.
- (17) To ensure that programs assisted by Community Services Block Grant funds shall not be carried out in a manner involving the use of program funds, the provision of services, or the employment or assignment of personnel in a manner supporting or resulting in the identification of such programs with any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office; any activity to provide voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance with any such election, or any voter registration activity. [’678F(b)]

- (18) To ensure that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity funded in whole or in part with Community program funds. Any prohibition against discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) or with respect to an otherwise qualified individual with a disability as provided in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.) shall also apply to any such program or activity. [\*678FC]
- (19) To consider religious organizations on the same basis as other non-governmental organizations to provide assistance under the program so long as the program is implemented in a manner consistent with the Establishment Clause of the first amendment to the Constitution; not to discriminate against an organization that provides assistance under, or applies to provide assistance under the Community Services Block Grant program on the basis that the organization has a religious character; and not to require a religious organization to alter its form of internal government except as provided under Section 678B or to remove religious art, icons, scripture or other symbols in order to provide assistance under the Community Services Block Grant program. [\*679]

**Other Administrative Certifications Attachment E** The State also certifies the following

- (1) To provide assurances that cost and accounting standards of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Circular A-110 and A-122) shall apply to a recipient of Community Services Block Grant program funds.
- (2) To comply with the requirements of Anti-Lobbying, Drug Abuse, Debarment and Suspension, and Public Law 103-227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro-Children Act of 1994, which requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for the provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18 if the services are funded by a Federal grant, contract, loan or loan guarantee. The State further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any sub-awards, which contain provisions for children's services and that all sub-grantees shall certify accordingly.
- (3) In accordance with the Single Audit Act, the last audit undertaken for the State of Maine/Community Services Block Grant was for the state fiscal year 2008 ending June 30, 2008. The 2008 State Single Audit was completed and will be released on August 31, 2009.



**Signature**  
Russell J. Begin, Deputy Commissioner for Finance  
Maine Department of Health & Human Services

AUG 10 2009

**Date**

## V. THE NARRATIVE STATE PLAN

### A. Administrative Structure

#### A. (1) State Administrative Agency

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services was re-designated as the Lead State Agency to administer the CSBG Program effective June 18, 2009. The Governor's designation also designated the Community Services Unit/Division of Purchased Service Management in the Office of Child & Family Services as the functional unit to administer CSBG funds.

- July 1, 2005 – The State Legislature enacted legislation to restrict the programs and functional organization of the new Department of Health and Human Services. The legislature directed the Commissioner of DHHS along with legislative appointed focus groups to work on proposed program restructuring to be submitted to the Legislature in January of 2006.
- January 2006 – The Community Service Center was dissolved and the program oversight functions of this Division were placed under the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS). Under the new structure, a separate division—the Division of Purchased Services—is responsible for compiling contracts, collecting reports, and making payments to agencies. Additionally, some programs that had been part of the Community Services Center, such as Refugee Services and Head Start, were transferred to other Divisions within the Department of Health and Human Services.
- April 2006 – Under the Office of Child and Family Services, the Community Service Center was renamed the Community Services Unit and placed within the newly formed Division of Public Service Management. The Community Services Unit is responsible for contract performance measures and monitoring program performance. The CSBG State Administrator position was vacant, and in the interim the Director of the Division of Public Service Management covered these duties.
- October 2006 – A supervisor for the Community Services Unit was hired. This person serves as Maine's CSBG Program Coordinator. The CSBG Program Coordinator performs site visits to oversee performance based contracts, prepares the annual CSBG Information System Survey Report and state plan/application, meets regularly with Community Action Agency Program/Directors, and works collaboratively with the Maine Community Action Association to ensure agencies are providing high quality services to Maine citizens that meet the desired outcomes of the CSBG.

Currently the Community Services Unit within the Office of Child and Family Services is directly responsible for the administration of various child welfare state purchased service contracts and several federal grant programs totaling over \$35,000,000 including; the Community Service Block Grant, Social Services Block Grant, SSBG Emergency Supplemental Grant, Victim of Crimes Assistance Grant, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Grant, the Sexual Violence Prevention and Control Grant, and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. **Attachment F**

With regard to the Community Action Program, the Department has the following goals:

- 1) The economic self-sufficiency and household stability of low-income Maine families will be improved.
- 2) The economic and social health (conditions) of the community will support the aspirations, participation, and advancement of low-income persons.

To meet these goals, the State of Maine has the following objectives:

The CSBG Program Coordinator will:

- 3) Advocate for the mission and vision of Maine's Community Action Agencies (CAA's). This includes promotion and education to State officials, legislatures, and the public about the mission of Community Action in fighting poverty.
- 4) Improve collaboration among ten of the State CAAs and State systems to improve and increase the capacity of CAAs by better coordination and use of state resources and vice versa. The State can provide the citizens of the State better services with increased coordination with the ten CAAs services.
- 5) Improve sharing of information within existing State computer systems as allowable by law given privacy considerations and rules and regulations.
- 6) Be a liaison between the CAAs and State bureaucracy in supporting the CAAs and enriching the relationship between the State and the CAAs.
- 7) Build State strategy to focus resources on anti-poverty initiatives and use existing resources to assist in the elimination of poverty as a mission.
- 8) Establish a mission to refocus State resources on developing strategies to end poverty.
- 9) Work to improve State systems (computer, reporting, etc.) to better support the local CAA initiatives.
- 10) Work to assure CAA accountability without micro managing outcomes.
- 11) Work with CAAs relating need assessments to program outcomes via the ROMA system.

#### **A. (2) Eligible Entities**

The Community Services Block Grant funds are distributed to Maine's Community Action Agencies (CAAs) for the purpose of ameliorating the causes of poverty found in Maine communities. The chart below lists the eligible agencies, the counties in Maine that they serve, and their allocation for the October 2009 through September 2010 contract year.

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., **Attachment B**, each of the CAAs were re-designated as Community Action Agencies on October 1, 2004 effective through September 30, 2011. **Attachment G**

### A. (3) Distribution and Allocation of Funds for Current Fiscal Year

<b>Community Action Agency</b>	<b>Designated County/Counties Served</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Aroostook County Action Program	Aroostook	\$326,328
Community Concepts, Inc.	Androscoggin & Oxford	\$398,697
Kennebec Valley Community Action Program	Kennebec & Somerset	\$400,540
Midcoast Maine Community Action	Sagadahoc & Lincoln, Northern Cumberland	\$265,016
Penquis	Penobscot, Piscataquis & Knox	\$486,645
People's Regional Opportunity Program	Cumberland	\$379,265
Waldo Community Action Partners	Waldo	\$235,700
Washington Hancock Community Agency	Washington & Hancock	\$316,612
Western Maine Community Action	Franklin	\$224,811
York County Community Action Corp.	York	\$316,780

### B. Description of Criteria and Distribution Formula

Agency allocations are based on an existing formula that distributes 50% of available funds equally to each agency and prorates 50% of remaining funds based on the number of individuals with incomes less than 125% of poverty within each agency's geographic catchment area.

All agencies are required to request and receive approval for use of any carry-over funding. The request must identify the reason for the carry-over and specify the proposed use of the carry-over funds. Decisions on requests for use of carry-over funds will be made by the Director of the Office of Child and Family Services, or his/her designee.

### C. Description of Distribution and Use of Restricted Funds

Anticipated allocations of restricted funds for each eligible entity are noted in the chart above. This funding is distributed through a state contract. Agencies must demonstrate in Rider A of their contract, uses of the funding. This use must meet the criteria established in the 42 USC 9901 Section 672. Funding under the Community Services Block Grant assists agencies in meeting the needs of low income families through a variety of core programs, including: energy assistance, transportation services, child care services, housing services, health services, mental health and drug addiction services, referral, case management services, and community building activities.

#### **D. Description of Distribution and Use of Discretionary Funds**

The Public Service Management/Community Services Unit at OCFS is allocating 5% of its annual anticipated CSBG federal allotment (\$186,133) for discretionary expenses in FY2010. This will provide \$30,000 support for Maine's 3d Poverty and Economic Security Symposium and the Tri-State Community Action Association conference and training track for CAA staff. \$60,000 in Discretionary Funds will be contracted to the River Valley Dental Technology Project in Rumford for start up operating expenses. Pathways to Excellence in Community Action, a Self-Study Training will be offered by the State CSBG Office and Maine Community Action Association to those Community Action Agencies interested in capacity building, first step in a process to examine agency policies, procedures and effectiveness in rooting out poverty and building sustainability in local communities covered by eligible entities. The Maine CSBG State Office is hosting the 2009 National Association for State and Community Service Programs (NASCSPP) Monitor's Training in Portland, October 20-23 and will provide the opening welcome and reception.

#### **E. Description of Use of Administrative Funds**

The Public Service Management/Community Services Unit at OCFS is allocating 5% of its annual anticipated CSBG federal allotment (\$186,133) for administrative expenses in FY2010. This will fund the salary and fringe benefits of a Community Services Coordinator assigned to CSBG, the travel and registration costs associated with staff training and technical assistance, membership in national partnership organizations i.e. NASCSPP, Community Action Partnership, CAPLAW, etc., the State CSBG IS Annual Report contracted with NASCSPP, and a cooperative agreement with USM for technical assistance in the maintenance of a data base for agency performance based quarterly reporting. Work will continue on the improvement and implementation of, changes to the CSBG Information System Survey/ROMA report. The remainder of administrative funds is used to support the State of Maine DHHS Cost Allocation Plan.

#### **F. State Community Service Program Implementation**

The State of Maine has ten agencies designated as CAA's, which provide anti-poverty program coverage to the entire state. **Attachment H** Each agency is governed by a tripartite board, which assures local participation in the design of the anti-poverty programs to best serve the region's specific economic and social needs. The following briefly describes each CAA and includes a summary of that CAA's local area needs and service delivery.

**F. (1) Program Overview:** Describe the following using information provided to the State by eligible entities:

##### **F. (1) (a) Service Delivery System**

The ten Community Action Agency programs in Maine are formally associated through their membership in the Maine Community Action Association comprised of each CAA's executive director. Although each CAA is somewhat different in its overall combination of programs, all CAAs have the same general mission to help alleviate poverty in their communities through the provision of direct social services, acting as a local conduit of services for a wide variety of state and federal agencies, and forming collaborations with local organizations to maximize favorable results on behalf of low-income individuals and families across Maine. Through the MCAA, CAAs regularly collaborate statewide on broad policies and state wide programs affecting low-income people, but as individual community action agency programs, they act independently as leaders and organizers to address the issues facing low income families and individuals.

CAAs typically serve the largest number of low-income individuals and families in their local county or counties' service area through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). From the entry point of LIHEAP, CAA staff often assess a variety of additional needs facing the applicant and make appropriate referrals to other internal anti-poverty programs, to local offices of the State such as the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and to a wide array of local non-profits such as food pantries, substance abuse programs, job training programs, etc.

With forty plus years of serving low income people in their counties, Maine's Community Action Agency Programs have a keen sense of the needs of low income people as well as the network of local, private, state, and Federal programs in place to help alleviate those needs. Community action programs across the state have employed a similar strategy to identify a wide range of innovative, yet locally appropriate, services and activities to address the needs.

CAAs benefit from input of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, their peers at the Maine Community Action Association, and their senior staff as they strive to identify a wide range of innovative services, however the bulk of data leading to these decisions come from frequent community needs assessments and the subsequent strategic planning from their tripartite boards of directors.

### **Summary of Services for all ten (10) Community Action Agencies**

The ten state community action agencies work with low-income people to become sufficient by assisting these individuals and families to overcome economic and social barriers that prevent them from being fully responsible for and in control of their own lives. Funding under the Community Services Block Grant assists agencies in meeting the needs of low income families through a variety of core programs, including: energy assistance, transportation services, child care services, housing services, health services, mental health and drug addiction services, referral, case management services, and community building activities.

Beyond core services, the State of Maine CAAs' work plans reflect strategies to address the unique needs of each service area. Examples of these include:

1. Supporting Parents And Raising Kids (SPARK), a home visitation program designed at Kennebec Valley Community Action based on feedback from the child welfare system in the region, who expressed the need for a home visitation service in which they could refer overburdened families who are not appropriate as an "open" child protective case and who are not eligible for Healthy Families or Early Head Start. A Family Support Worker provides in home services to families to develop a family support plan. The Family Support Worker models and teaches positive parent-child interaction; involves fathers; helps the family identify and use its strengths to resolve problems; educates the family about well child care and child development; links the family with health care providers; advocates for services such as child care, housing, employment/job training, or family violence. This program addresses conditions of poverty – financial stress as well as child abuse and neglect.

2. Community Concepts Counseling Program provides outpatient mental health treatment services to children, adolescents and families at one office location on 43 Main Street, South Paris. The program began in 2004 to meet the unmet demand for outpatient counseling in Oxford County.

The program specializes in treating children and adolescents who have adjustment disorders due to environmental conditions, as well as parents seeking counseling for family and child issues.

Most children and families are covered by insurance including MaineCare. Most of the children are living in families with limited financial means and with many changes to family employment status, which has immediate impacts on insurance coverage.

The children and families that lose their insurance coverage during treatment presents a dilemma since treatment typically requires 6 – 12 sessions to fulfill a treatment plan. In these instances, Community Services Block Grant is used to bridge the gap between insurances so that children and adolescents do not stop receiving treatment due to loss of insurance coverage. Children and adolescents were able to complete their treatment plan with CSBG support.

Other funding sources in this program include billing MaineCare and other third party insurances such as Anthem Blue/Cross Shield. In the fiscal year ending 9/30/2008, the program billed MaineCare for \$102,115.20 amount of services, and billed other insurances at \$41,657.59. The Community Services Block Grant paid for \$6,928.82 worth of treatment services to children and adolescents which translate to 77 hours of treatment.

**3. People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP)** Community Services Department, with the support of CSBG funds, offers enhanced Case Management to the clients served in the 11 Municipalities where PROP is contracted to administer General Assistance. The General Assistance process usually includes a financial eligibility screening, then clients receive specific benefits for which they may be entitled (e.g. help with rent, food, electricity, fuel). In addition certain conditions must be met if a client wishes to reapply, usually within the next 30 days.

PROP's approach is somewhat unique among General Assistance Administrators, in that every effort is made to refer clients to other appropriate resources, not just impose a set of conditions and restrictions on continued assistance. Furthermore, Case Managers assist clients in making over-all strategic plans to enhance his/her financial condition, and monitor client progress. This entails maintaining a professional relationship with the client that goes well beyond the time allotted for a General Assistance appointment. While contracts with the 11 Towns pay for the hours spent in administering General Assistance, it is the use of CSBG funds that allow PROP the "Value-added" Case Management capability.

4. Many women enter the ranks of those living in poverty when a spouse abandons a household or does not assume responsibility for child support. The Access to Justice Program at **York County Community Action Corp** helps self-represented litigants prepare for court, and educates them about the judicial system and legal/court-related issues pertaining to family law. The Legal Advocate, partially funded by the CSBG and partially funded by the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund, also makes referrals to appropriate community resources and legal service providers as needed. Community Action agencies are a natural partner in the effort to assure access to justice for those in poverty, as we are already known as sources of information, referral and advocacy within our communities, and can connect individuals to a comprehensive network of resources to assist them toward self-sufficiency.

In order to begin to measure longer-term outcomes, such as improved financial or family status, staff also conducted a survey of 50 clients who, between January 2006 and June 2008, went to court to obtain either a Motion to Modify Child Support or a Motion for Contempt and to Enforce. Of 27 individuals reached either via telephone or by mail, 20 stated that they have been able to resolve the situation through the court or through mediation and 7 individuals reported that the results achieved had a positive impact upon their financial status (for example, down payment on a mobile home because of a lump sum divorce settlement, or an actual increase in monthly income).

#### **F.(1) (b) Linkages**

The Community Action Agencies of Maine have many strategies to ensure that the needs of their communities are met in a collaborative fashion. These strategies ensure that there is coordination among service providers within each CAA catchment area, as well as, across the boundaries of individual CAA's.

The Maine Association of Community Action Agencies serves as a venue for the executive directors of each agency to discuss and develop strategies to address issues that cross agencies. Furthermore, many of the executive directors have formed strong partnerships with the agencies that border their catchment area to ensure that citizens are served according to their need.

Agency directors also serve on numerous community boards and commissions within their service area to provide coordination of services and eliminate duplication. These include regional ACCESS collaborative (Alliance for Child Care, Education and Supportive Services), university and Community College Boards, Child Abuse & Neglect Councils, regional Child Development Services, regional Communities for Children, school districts, Healthy Community Coalitions, Keep Maine Warm, mental health agencies, transportation boards, public utilities, Job Corps, literacy coalitions, development commissions, local Department of Health and Human Services offices, financial institutions, and local government organizations.

A few examples of these linkages from Penquis are: staff serve on several levels of local committees which have been convened by the state to develop and implement a statewide public health system; staff sit on the Local Workforce Investment Board which designs and directs regional Workforce Investment Act efforts; staff participate in the "Norumbega Group" which is working to improve coordination of economic development organizations in a six county region; Penquis governing and subsidiary Boards have representation from local county government, local banks, businesses and service providers.

#### **F. (1) (c) Coordination with Other Public and Private Resources**

All ten Community Action Programs in Maine leverage CSBG with other federal funds, state general funds, state special revenue funds, and private funding to provide services to low income individuals and families. The scope of coordination is demonstrated in the State's CSBG IS Statistical Report 05-07. **Attachment I**

#### **F. (1) (d) Innovative Community and Neighborhood Initiatives**

Agencies engage in community and neighborhood initiatives that strengthen the community. Examples of such initiatives include;

1. In Washington County Washington Hancock Community Action participates with a number of faith-based and community organizations in an effort to address emergency family needs called the Washington County Fuel and Food Coalition. Similarly a group of faith-based and community organizations have organized a Washington County Homeless Prevention Initiative as well as the Washington County Home Repair Coalition to increase the capacity of grassroots groups that make modest home repairs for needy families. The community groups sponsor work camps that bring in faith-based volunteers from Maine and outside the state during the summer.

2. For several years Wayside Soup Kitchen, a Portland-based agency, had distributed USDA commodity as well as other foods to York and Cumberland County pantries through its Food Rescue Program. However, in late spring of 2007, the organization decided to discontinue the

program in York County. Over the summer and fall, a group of key partners, convened by **York County Community Action** and the United Way, and concerned about the gap in service, met with the goal of creating York County Food Rescue. This program would continue to serve and support the efforts of the 43 food pantries and meals programs in York County, who depend upon this crucial resource in their role as a safety net for struggling families

A local pantry and neighborhood organization, Stone Soup, assumed programmatic responsibility for the operation and York County Community Action assumed the role of fiscal agent for the fledgling program. York County Shelters, Inc. donated space at an old mill building in South Sanford; and the York County United Way provided start-up funds to purchase a small truck and hire a full-time staff member. A county-wide Advisory Committee was formed, with over 15 committed members, to support the planning, fundraising and operational needs of the program. To date, the Committee has secured over \$90,000 in start-up funds, including a \$30,000 grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation for the purchase of a refrigerated truck, and municipal funding from four York County towns.

Monthly distributions of USDA commodities and a variety of other food resources have been underway since January of 2008, thereby ensuring a regular supply of food for York County's food pantries and soup kitchens. Food Rescue staff recover both perishable and non-perishable food from an ever expanding number of large and small donors including Hannaford and Shaw's Supermarkets. The food is either picked up from donors or delivered directly to the warehouse where it is inspected, sorted, and prepared for distribution to the network of meals programs, who rely on it for anywhere from 20 to 75% of their food supplies. In fact, estimated total poundage of food distributed in FY08 is 315,000! The result of these relationships and partnerships is effective, well-organized, safe and efficient food distribution to the community – a major supplement to a food supply that has been dwindling at a time when the need is rapidly increasing.

CSBG funded the staff time of the Community Outreach Director, a member of the initial planning group and the Advisory Committee and YCCAC continues to provide financial management and oversight for the project as the umbrella 501(c)(3), including all grant-writing and applications for municipal funding.

## **F. (2) Community Needs Assessments**

Traditionally CAAs have developed an annual community needs assessment process, as required by CSBG, to remain apprised of gaps in services. Community partners take an active role, through surveys, forums, advisory committees, and board membership, of informing CAAs of gaps in service. As a contribution to the solution, these same partners provide information; make appropriate referrals, and often aid in case management.

State contracts with the Community Action Agencies are renewed on an annual basis. The contracts contain an annual work plan (Rider A, Section III) developed by the Agencies' management teams; drawing from recent community needs assessments. **Attachment J** The community needs assessments are submitted as either part of the contract, or as a supplement. The work plans proposed in the contracts are reviewed and approved by the Department prior to renewal of the contracts. Partial state funding for Maine Community Action Association (MCAA) goes periodically toward a statewide report on poverty in Maine. MCAA has contracted with the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy to present the profile of poverty in the State of Maine in two major reports in 2003, and again in 2006. Currently, Poverty in Maine Updates; February and August, 2008 and April, 2009 are providing interim statewide poverty information before the next Poverty in Maine is published again. **Attachment K** From these documents, each CAA can quantify their need for the low income.

### **F. (3) Tripartate Boards**

State of Maine statute (22 M.R.S., Section 5325) requires each community action agency to establish of board of directors with between 15 and 30 members, of which one third represent low-income residents, one third represent public officials, and one third represent private sector organizations. This requirement is also included in Rule 10-144 Chapter 2, Section 1.4, filed with the Maine Secretary of State. **Attachment L**

Community Action Agencies submit to the Division of Purchased Services a roster of current board members each year when the contract is reviewed and renewed. The Community Services Coordinator, in order to ensure that each of the statutorily required members is adequately represented, reviews this roster at this time. Any changes in Board membership during the contract year must be submitted to the Community Services Coordinator. All ten CAAs in the State of Maine are in conformance with this requirement, currently.

### **F. (4) State Charity Tax Program**

Not Applicable

### **G. Programmatic Assurances**

#### **ASSURANCE 676(b)(1)**

Community Services Block Grant funds are directed solely to the objectives stated in subsection 676(b)(1)(A)(B)(C). Funds are distributed among all of the state's designated community action agencies through a formal contract process. The actual programs and activities used to address these Goals and Objectives vary from agency to agency, depending on the specific needs within their service areas. However, the CSBG contract must include a specific agency work plan that addresses the state's mandatory contract Goals and Indicators, which mirror the CSBG National Goals. The Department of Health and Human Services approves no contract until this requirement is met. The inclusion of the agency work plan in the contract ensures that services are directed to enable families and individuals to achieve the objectives in subsection 676(b)(1)(A)(B)(C).

#### **ASSURANCE 676(b)(4)**

As USDA donated commodity food distribution sites, most of the designated community action agencies are active participants in the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which includes all food pantries, shelters, congregate meal sites, etc. The Maine (and Regional) Coalitions for Food Security, made up of local United Way's, Food Networks, Cooperative Extension, and various community groups, are actively involved in the process of developing food security planning, food rescue initiatives and emergency assistance as well as;

- Community-based needs assessments,
- Comprehensive, multi-sector project strategies,
- Community linkages and stakeholders,
- Crisis response strategies for individuals and communities
- Long term strategic designs i.e. State Nutrition Action Plan

### **ASSURANCE 676(b)(5)**

Three of Maine's community action agencies are designated service providers for the Department of Labor Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which provides services to adult, youth, and the dislocated workers throughout their service areas in Career Centers located throughout the state. These Career Centers develop active, effective partnerships with local, county, and state organizations. All CAA's partner closely with the Training and Development/Career Centers in their area providing referrals, internships and volunteer opportunities to individuals receiving TANF, Incubator Without Walls Programs that work closely with low income individuals interested in learning how to successfully operate a micro enterprise, job placement, and vocational training programs.

### **ASSURANCE 676(b)(6)**

The ten designated CSBG program agencies also administer the Title XXVI emergency energy crisis intervention programs. Joint administration within their agencies assures statewide program coverage.

### **ASSURANCE 676(b)(9)**

The State CSBG Coordinator has an ongoing working relationship with the TANF and ASPIRE initiatives, including the planning and coordination of support services, such as child care and transportation, for individuals and families enrolled in the ASPIRE program and those who have left the TANF program but still require support services to assist them in reaching self-sufficiency. The State CSBG Program Coordinator also works closely with the Maine State Housing Authority that administers HUD funds and the LIHEAP Program, assisting with HUD applications for housing assistance for low-income individuals and families. The State CSBG Program Coordinator reports to the Director of Public Service Management who meets with the Senior Management Team, responsible for planning and coordinating all federal grants and state general funds for social services under the jurisdiction of the Office of Child and Family Services.

As stated above in Assurance '676(b)(5), the ten designated community action agencies are members of the Department of Health and Human Services regional Welfare to Work Community Task Forces, and are active members of local and regional social service consortiums.

## **H. Fiscal Controls and Monitoring**

### **H.(1) State Program Monitoring**

The Purchase of Service Policy Manual promulgated under the Administrative Procedures Act regulates the fiscal controls and reporting procedures and requirements. The standard contract for the CAA also addresses fiscal controls and reporting requirements.

The reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services, as previously mentioned, has resulted in a new unit for Quality Assurance, the Community Services Unit at OCFS. This unit is responsible for the monitoring of the ten CAAs. At a minimum of every three years, the Community Services Unit conducts a formal site visit. On-going desk reviews of required reports from CAA's occur annually.

Following the formal site visit, the Community Services Unit Supervisor will complete a report on the review for submission to the Director of Public Service Management.

The formal site visit consists of seven major components.

- The first component is a review of all financial reports. The financial review includes a review of income and expenses, examination of any significant funding changes, and a review of any previous audit findings, etc.
- The second and third components are an in-depth program and services review, including an examination of client files, a review of an agencies' intake, assessment and referral process, a review of confidentiality procedures, and community connections; understanding and documentation of the agency's collaborative efforts within its communities.
- The fourth and fifth components are reviews of the agency management; self-evaluation, strategic plans, operational plans, and human resources; including training and qualification of staff, whether the agency has personnel policies in place, whether appropriate background checks were completed, etc.
- The sixth component is a review of Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Performance Indicators and Program Evaluation.
- Finally, the Community Services Unit will review the make up of the board of directors to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.

Each year, the CSBG Program Coordinator will meet with the Director of Public Service Management and discuss any additional initiatives, monitoring, technical assistance and training the Program Coordinator needs for the year.

For Fiscal Year 2010 – The Community Service Unit will be completing a round of site reviews according to these seven components and working with the CAAs regarding improvement of needs assessments and service delivery towards a closer connection between service delivery and evidence based need assessment. The Unit Supervisor will also be working to clarify and insure that reporting requirements reflected in changes to the CSBGIS Report are integrated into contracting procedures between the Divisions of Purchased Services and Public Service Management as well as the Community Action Agencies.

## **H. (2) Corrective Action, Termination and Reduction of Funding**

The State of Maine has a standard Rider B that is used in State contracts. Rider B #15 states:

“The performance of work under the Agreement may be terminated by the Department in whole, or in part, whenever for any reason the Agreement Administrator shall determine that such termination is in the best interest of the Department. Any such termination shall be effected by delivery to the Provider of a Notice of Termination specifying the extent to which performance of the work under the Agreement is terminated and the date on which such termination becomes effective. The Agreement shall be equitable adjusted to compensate for such termination, and modified accordingly.”

The state Rules for the Community Services Block Grant also address termination of funding and appeal rights of community action agencies in Section 10-144 Chapter 2, Section 1.5 E. In the rules, the reasons for terminations are similar to those listed above. The rules also speak to the appeals rights.

The Department must notify the Director and the Board chairperson of the CAA in writing of the intent to terminate, stating grounds for termination. The CAA has 10 days to request a hearing. A review panel will be appointed within 20 days of the receipt of the CAA request for a hearing. The review panel will hold a hearing within 20 days of appointment. The review board will make a decision within 10 days of the hearing. The Department of Health & Human Services will notify the CAA of the decision within 5 days and then the CAA is eligible to request a fair hearing within the fair hearings unit of the Department of Health & Human Services

Administrative hearing unit. The Secretary would then approve any final termination. The CAA would then be eligible to appeal to the appropriate superior court within 30 days under Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80B.

Section 1.6 of the Rules outlines the CAA rights and requirements for corrective action plans. The CAA must be notified by the Department of Health & Human Services, in writing, of any determination of noncompliance. The Department will provide technical assistance to the CAA to assist the agency in meeting the corrective action plan within 30 days. The Department will prepare a report on the results of the finding and the actions taken, if the condition is not satisfactorily resolved the Department may withhold the CAA funding until compliance is resolved.

## **H. (3) Fiscal Controls, Audits and Withholding**

### **Assurance 676(b)(7) – Federal Audits**

Community agencies are subject to the Federal audit requirements contained in OMB Circular A-133 and the Department of Health and Human Services audit requirements contained in the Maine Uniform Accounting and Auditing Practices for Community Agencies.

### **Assurance 676(b)(8)**

Please see section on corrective action, termination, and reduction of funding

### **Assurance 676(b)(10)**

State of Maine statute (22 M.R.S. Section 5324) and Rules filed with the Maine Secretary of State (10-144 Chapter 2, Section 1.3) specify the requirements for an entity eligible to receive Community Services Block Grant funding. As stated, the Community Service Unit within the Division of Public Service Management, Office of Child and Family Services, is the entity authorized to designate a community action agency. In designating a CAA, the Division considers whether the board of directors is established in accordance with federal requirements, whether the agency can demonstrate evidence of fiscal control, and whether the agency can demonstrate evidence of adequate program planning in accordance with federal and state requirements. The designations of the Division are for seven years, unless just cause is found to withdraw the designation

Community stakeholders are selected for representation on CAA Boards through a democratic process as required by Maine Statute. **Attachment B** Community Action Agencies address the process for selection of community stakeholders, including petitioning for representation, in each of their policy and procedures manuals. The state Community Services Unit Supervisor reviews these manuals during regular site visits.

Community Action Agencies submit to the Division of Purchased Services, a roster of current board members each year when the contract is reviewed and renewed. The Community Services Coordinator, in order to ensure that each of the statutorily required members is adequately represented, reviews this roster at this time. Any changes in Board membership during the contract year must be submitted to the Community Services Coordinator. All ten CAAs in the State of Maine are in conformance with this requirement, currently.

## **I. Accountability and Reporting Requirements**

### **I. (1) Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA)**

The Maine Community Action Association and the State of Maine has over the past few years been engaged in a collaborative effort to develop a performance management system that not only meets ROMA goals of the Office of Child and Family Services, but also assists the agencies in the overall planning and management of their programs. A task force, with representation from the majority of CAA agencies, meets regularly to review and agree to performance targets for each of the core services delivered at the CAAs. These performance targets directly correspond to all six ROMA Goals.

Each of the goals, performance measures and activities being reported on by Community Action Agencies (with CSBG funding), are listed by major program area in the Maine Child and Family Services Program Report for Fiscal Year 2008. **Attachment M**

### **I. (2) Annual Report**

The State of Maine will be submitting the FY2010 and FY2011 Annual Reports under separate cover as directed.

## **VI. Appendices**

- A. An Act to Create the Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security
- B. Office of the Governor – PROCLAMATION of Community Action Month  
August, 2009

# **ATTACHMENT A**

**Governor John E. Baldacci**

**June 18, 2009  
Designation Letter**

**Department of  
Health and Human Services**

**Lead State Agency  
Administration of the CSBG Program**



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

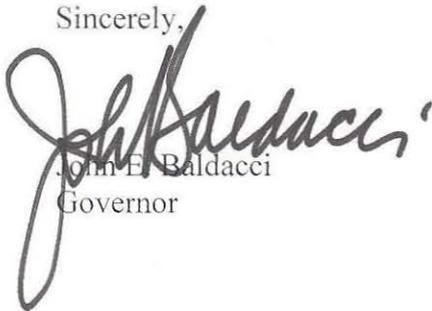
June 18, 2009

Yolanda Butler, Acting Director  
Office of Community Services  
Division of State Assistance  
Attention: Community Services Block Grant Program  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S. W., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Washington, D.C. 20447

Dear Ms. Butler:

It is my pleasure to notify you that, effective federal fiscal year October 1, 2008, I have designated the Maine Department of Health and Human Services as the state-level administrative agency for all aspects of the Community Services Block Grant Program. I have also designated the Division of Public Service Management, Community Services Unit, housed in the Office of Child and Family Services, as the functional unit authorized to apply for and administer all Community Services Block Grant funds including the CSBG ARRA funds for FY 2009-2010.

Sincerely,



John E. Baldacci  
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER  
888-577-6690 (TTY)  
www.maine.gov

# **ATTACHMENT B**

## **Maine Statute**

**Title 22: Health and Welfare  
Subtitle 4: Human Services  
Part 1-A: Administration  
Chapter 1477: Community Services  
Section 5321 – Section 5329**

**Available on State of Maine web site:**

**<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/Statutes/22/title22ch1477sec0.html>**

**Maine Revised Statute Title 22, Chapter 1477: COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Table of Contents**

**Subtitle 4. HUMAN SERVICES.....**

**Part 1-A. ADMINISTRATION.....**

    Section 5321. DEFINITIONS..... 3

    Section 5322. DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES..... 3

    Section 5323. POWERS AND DUTIES..... 3

    Section 5324. COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES..... 4

    Section 5325. GOVERNING BOARD FOR COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY..... 6

    Section 5326. PROGRAMS..... 6

    Section 5327. ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT  
    FUNDS..... 6

    Section 5328. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS..... 7

    Section 5329. RULES..... 8



## 22 §5321. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

### 1. Bureau.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §11 (RP) .]

**2. Community action agency.** "Community action agency" means a private nonprofit agency that has previously been designated by and authorized to accept funds from the Federal Community Services Administration under the United States Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

[ 1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW) .]

**3. Director.** "Director" means the director of the division.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §12 (AMD) .]

**3-A. Division.** "Division" means the Division of Purchased and Support Services within the department.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §13 (NEW) .]

**4. Poverty level.** "Poverty level" means the official poverty level issued by the Director of the United States Office of Management and Budget.

[ 1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW) .]

**5. Service area.** "Service area" means the geographical area within the jurisdiction of a community action agency.

[ 1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW). 1995, c. 502, §§D11-13 (AMD).

## 22 §5322. DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

The division shall carry out the responsibilities of State Government related to planning and financing community services and community action agencies and shall administer state and federal community services programs and other block grants that may be available, including, but not limited to, the Community Services Block Grant. [1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW). 1995, c. 502, §D14 (AMD).

## 22 §5323. POWERS AND DUTIES

**1. Federal, state and other funds.** Through plans and contracts, the division shall obtain, distribute and administer federal, state and other community services funds. Balances of funds appropriated to the division to carry out the purposes of this chapter may not lapse, but must be carried forward from year to year to be expended for the same purpose.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**2. Monitoring of poverty level.** The division shall monitor the poverty level of state citizens and carry out the following activities:

- A. Conduct an annual survey of poverty in Maine, reporting the results of this survey to the Governor, the Legislature and the public; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]
- B. Make recommendations annually to the Governor and the Legislature on ways and means to combat and reduce poverty in the State; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]
- C. Seek federal, state and private funds to combat poverty in the State; and [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]
- D. Advise the Governor, the Legislature and local officials on the impact of state and local policies on poverty in the State. [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**3. Overseeing community action agencies.** The division shall oversee community action agencies as follows.

- A. The division shall designate community action agencies every 7 years in accordance with the requirements of this chapter. [1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD).]
- B. The division shall establish audit requirements in accordance with the Human Services Community Agency Accounting Practices Act. [1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD).]
- C. The division shall evaluate community action agencies every 3 years. [1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD).]

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**4. Planning and coordination for state services.** The division shall provide planning and coordination for state services to people with low income.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**5. Technical assistance.** The division shall provide technical assistance to community action agencies and other groups serving the interests of people with low income in this State.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**6. Monitoring local program operators.** The division shall monitor subgrantees to ensure conformance with appropriate rules.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW). 1995, c. 502, §D14 (AMD).

## 22 §5324. COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

**1. Designation.** Community action agencies must be designated by the division to carry out the purposes of this chapter. In making these designations, the division shall solicit and consider comments from other state agencies or authorities that operate programs in which community action agencies participate. These designations are for 7 years.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**2. Designation withdrawn.** The division may withdraw its designation of a community action agency after an evaluation in which the agency has demonstrated substantial incompetency and a clear inability to carry out the purposes of this chapter, unless there is or has been financial malfeasance, which may be cause for immediate withdrawal of designation. In performing these evaluations, the division shall solicit and consider comments from other state agencies or authorities that operate programs in which the community action agency participates.

The division shall notify an agency of a pending withdrawal of designation. Upon notification, the agency has up to 6 months to take corrective action, at which time a designation withdrawal evaluation must be performed by the division. Failure to pass this evaluation means immediate loss of designation.

Upon the final order from the division that rescinds a community action agency's designation, the community action agency may file a petition for review of this final decision in the appropriate Superior Court within 30 days under the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80B.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**3. Community action agencies.** Community action agencies have the power and duty to:

A. Develop information regarding the causes and conditions of poverty in the service area; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

B. Determine how much and how effectively assistance is being provided to deal with those causes and conditions; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

C. Establish priorities among projects, activities and areas as needed for the best and most efficient use of available resources; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

D. Develop, administer and operate programs to reduce poverty with particular emphasis on self-help approaches and programs to promote economic opportunities through affirmative action; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

E. Initiate, sponsor and provide programs and services responsive to the needs of the poor that are not otherwise being met; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

F. Promote interagency cooperation and coordination of all services and activities in the service area that are related to the purposes of this chapter; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

G. Establish effective procedures by which the poor and other concerned area residents may influence the character of programs affecting their interests, provide for their regular participation in the implementation of those programs and provide technical and other support needed to enable low-income and neighborhood groups to secure on their own behalf available assistance from public and private sources; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

H. Join with and encourage business, labor and other private groups and organizations to undertake, together with private officials and agencies, activities in support of the purposes of this chapter that will result in the increased use of private resources and capabilities in providing social and economic opportunities to low-income citizens; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

I. Enter into contracts with federal, state and local public agencies and private agencies and organizations, businesses and individuals as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

J. Receive funds from federal, state and local public and private sources as appropriate to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

[ 1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW). 1995, c. 502, §D14 (AMD).

## 22 §5325. GOVERNING BOARD FOR COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

**1. Board of directors; establishment.** Each community action agency shall establish a governing board of directors, which must consist of not less than 15 nor more than 30 members. One third of the members must be representatives of low-income residents of the service area who are selected through a democratic process in accordance with guidelines established by the bureau. One third of the members must be elected public officials or their designees or officials of public agencies operating in the service area. One third of the members must be representatives of private sector organizations, including business and industry, as well as educational, civic, labor and religious organizations. All meetings of the board of directors must be in accordance with the freedom of access laws.

[ 1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW) .]

**2. Responsibilities.** A community action agency board of directors is responsible for the following:

A. Overall direction, oversight and development of policies of the agency; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

B. Selection, evaluation and dismissal of the executive director of the community action agency; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

C. Approval of all contracts; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

D. Approval of all agency budgets; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

E. Performance of an annual audit by an independent, qualified outside auditor. The audit must be submitted upon completion to the bureau; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

F. Convening public meetings to provide low-income and other citizens of the service area the opportunity to comment upon policies and programs of the community action agencies; and [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

G. Evaluate agency programs and assess community and agency needs. [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

[ 1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW) .]

### SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW).

## 22 §5326. PROGRAMS

All programs administered by community action agencies must conform with federal and state laws and regulations. Applicants for programs and assistance must be promptly notified of their rights and responsibilities when they qualify for or are denied services. [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW) .]

### SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW).

## 22 §5327. ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

**1. Distribution of Community Services Block Grant funds.** In accordance with Title 5, section 1670, the division shall administer and distribute to community action agencies Community Services Block Grant funds received from the Federal Government. The division may expend up to but not more than 5% of the block grant per fiscal year to carry out its administrative functions under this chapter.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**2. Community action agencies; priority.** Of the amount passed through to local agencies, community action agencies must receive first priority in the allocation of Community Services Block Grant funds. These funds must be distributed according to a formula determined annually as follows.

A. Twenty percent of the amount passed through to local agencies must be divided equally among all designated agencies. [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

B. The balance of the funds must be distributed according to rules adopted by the division. [1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD).]

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**3. Block grant proposals.** Proposals for Community Services Block Grant funds submitted to the Legislature by the division in accordance with Title 5, section 1670 must be developed and must:

A. Include a description of current allocation of Community Services Block Grant funds and how the plan proposes to change that allocation; [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

B. Retain the absolute minimum necessary for administrative costs; and [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

C. Provide for maximum flexibility within community action agencies for the use of Community Services Block Grant funds. [1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW).]

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW). 1995, c. 502, §D14 (AMD).

## 22 §5328. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

**1. Confidentiality.** Records containing the following information are confidential and may not be considered public records for the purpose of Title 1, section 402, subsection 3:

A. Information acquired by a state agency, municipality, district, private corporation, copartnership, association, fuel vendor, private contractor, individual or an employee or agent of any of those persons or entities, providing services related to authorized programs of the division or programs administered by community action agencies, when that information was provided by the applicant for those services or by a 3rd person; and [1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD).]

B. Statements of financial condition or information pertaining to financial condition submitted to any of the persons or entities set forth in paragraph A in connection with an application for services related to authorized programs of the division or programs administered by community action agencies. [1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD).]

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**2. Exceptions.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, a person or agency directly involved in the administration or auditing of authorized programs of the division or programs administered by community action agencies and an agency of the State with a legitimate reason to know must be given access to those records described in subsection 1.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

**3. Waiver of protection.** Nothing in this section may be construed to limit in any way the right of any person whose interest is protected by this section to waive in writing the benefits of protection.

[ 1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14 (NEW) .]

**4. Reports to State Government or Federal Government.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, the division may make full and complete reports concerning its administration of authorized programs as may be required by the Federal Government, an agency or department of the Federal Government or the Legislature.

[ 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW). 1995, c. 502, §D14 (AMD).

## 22 §5329. RULES

The division shall adopt rules to carry out the requirements of this chapter. [1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §14 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 780, §DDD14 (NEW). 1995, c. 502, §D14 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 123rd Legislature, and is current through December 31, 2008, but is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.
--

# **ATTACHMENT C**

**State of Maine  
124<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

## **Notice of Public Hearing**

**Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and  
Financial Affairs**

**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human  
Services**

**Available on State of Maine web site:**

**[http://maine.gov/legis/ofpr/appropriations\\_committee/schedule\\_agendas/biennial\\_ph\\_schedule-0209-030609.htm](http://maine.gov/legis/ofpr/appropriations_committee/schedule_agendas/biennial_ph_schedule-0209-030609.htm)**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

**Sen. Bill Diamond, Senate Chair  
Rep. Emily Ann Cain, House Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING: Monday, February 9 through Friday, March 6, 2009  
Room 228 State House**

The Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the policy committees of the Legislature will be holding public hearings in Room 228 of the State House on **LD 353: "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011"**. The proposed budget initiatives may be viewed on the Bureau of the Budget's website: <http://www.maine.gov/budget/budgetinfo/2010-2011budget/2010-2011budget.htm>

The committees will be using a comprehensive document (including baseline history, baseline justifications, initiatives and initiative justifications as well as the fiscal impact of the language portions of the bill) during the course of their hearings and deliberations. There will be a separate document for each policy committee. The documents can be found on OFPR's website at: [http://www.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/appropriations\\_committee/materials/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/appropriations_committee/materials/index.htm)

The audio portions of public hearings and work sessions held in Room 228 of the State House may be monitored over the Internet by addressing: [http://www.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/appropriations\\_committee/audio/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/appropriations_committee/audio/index.htm)

The committee, in conjunction with the associated policy committee, will hear testimony regarding all portions of the bill except Part B (self-funded position reclassifications and range changes).

The following is the schedule of the public hearings by policy committee date and department or agency. The page numbers in the posted documents appear at the end of each program name.

**(To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services):**

Tuesday 2/17/09	1:00 p.m.	Maine Children's Trust Incorporated (HHS-1)  Executive Department – Office of the Governor • Ombudsman Program (HHS-3)  Disability Rights Center (HHS-2)  Maine Health Data Organization (HHS-4)  Hospice Council, Maine (HHS-278)  Licensure of Water System Operators, Board of • Water System Operators – Board of Licensure (HHS-280)
	2:00 p.m.	Department of Health and Human Services (Formerly DHS) • Additional Support for Persons in Retraining and Employment (ASPIRE) (HHS-73) • Bureau of Family Independence – Regional (HHS-86)

- Child Support (HHS-112)
- Food Stamp Administration (HHS-160)
- General Assistance – Reimbursement to Cities & Towns (HHS-162)
- Office of Integrated Access and Support – Central Office (HS-240)
- State Supplement to Federal Supplemental Security Income (HHS-265)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (HHS-272)
- Bureau of Medical Services (*Admin*) (HHS-91)
- Medical Care – Payments to Providers (MaineCare/Medicaid) (HHS-207)
- Medical Care – Payments to Providers – Non Match (HHS-223)
- Departmentwide (HHS-121)
- *Language (Part “CC” – reduces reimbursement for critical access hospitals) (HHS-286)*
- *Language (Part “DD” – authorizes transfer from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus for hospital settlements) (HHS-287)*
- *Language (Part “EE” – repeals provision requiring DHHS to reduce Legislative Count by 100 positions.) (HHS-288)*
- *Language (Part “FF” – authorizes the transfer of funds and adjustments o appropriations as a result of expected temporary increase in the Federal Matching Assistance Percentage and specifies use of funding above expected amount ) (HHS-289)*

**(To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services):**

- |                      |           |  |
|----------------------|-----------|--|
| Wednesday<br>2/18/09 | 9:00 a.m. | Department of Health and Human Services (Formerly DHS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Term Care – Human Services (HHS-188)</li> <li>• Low-Cost Drugs to Maine’s Elderly (HHS-193)</li> <li>• Maine Rx Plus Program (HHS-197)</li> <li>• Prescription Drug Academic Detailing (HHS-253)</li> <li>• MR/Elderly PNMI Room and Board (HHS-224)</li> <li>• Nursing Facilities (HHS-228)</li> <li>• Office of Elder Services Adult Protective Services (HHS-231)</li> <li>• Office of Elder Services Central Office (HHS-233)</li> <li>• Independent Housing With Services (HHS-184)</li> <li>• Aids Lodging House (HHS-76)</li> <li>• Cerebral Palsy Centers – Grants to (HHS-108)</li> <li>• Community Family Planning (HHS-116)</li> <li>• Comprehensive Cancer Screening, Detection and Prevention Fund (HHS-118)</li> <li>• Breast Cancer Services Special Program Fund (HHS-78)</li> <li>• Cystic Fibrosis, Treatment of (HHS-119)</li> <li>• Dental Disease Prevention (HHS-120)</li> <li>• Drinking Water Enforcement (HHS-139)</li> <li>• Bureau of Health (HHS-164)</li> <li>• Bone Marrow Screening Fund (HHS-77)</li> <li>• Hypertension Control (HHS-182)</li> <li>• Maine Asthma and Lung Disease Research Fund (HHS-195)</li> <li>• Maine School Oral Health Fund (HHS-199)</li> <li>• Maine Water Well Drilling Program (HHS-200)</li> <li>• Maternal and Child Health (HHS-201)</li> </ul> |
|----------------------|-----------|--|

- Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Match (HHS-204)
- Plumbing – Control Over (HHS-251)
- Rape Crisis Control (HHS-259)
- Risk Reduction (HHS-260)
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (HHS-262)
- Tuberculosis Control Program (HHS-275)
- Bureau of Child and Family Services – Central (HHS-79)
- Bureau of Child and Family Services – Regional (HHS-82)
- Child Care Food Program (HHS-109)
- Child Care Services (HHS-110)
- IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Assistance (HHS-185)
- State Funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance (HHS-266)
- Head Start (HHS-163)
- Maine Children’s Growth Council (HHS-196)
- Special Children’s Services (HHS-263)
- Homeless Youth Program (HHS-181)
- **Community Services Block Grant (HHS-117)**
- Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services (HHS-130)
- Disability Determination – Division of (HHS-122)
- Division of Purchased Services (HHS-137)
- Purchased Social Services (HHS-254)
- Multicultural Services, Rate Setting and Quality Improvement (HHS-225)
- Division of Administrative Hearings (HHS-124)
- Division of Data, Research and Vital Statistics (HHS-126)
- Office of Management and Budget (HHS-243)
- OMB Division of Regional Business Operations (HHS-247)
- Training Programs and Employee Assistance (HHS-274)

**(To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committees on Health and Human Services. The Joint Committees on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Education and Cultural Affairs, Judiciary and Insurance and Financial Services are invited to participate as well).**

Thursday  
2/19/09

1:00 p.m.

Attorney General, Department of

- FHM – Attorney General (JUD-12)

Department of Public Safety

- FHM – Fire Marshall ( CRJ-86)

Finance Authority of Maine

- FHM – Dental Education (EDU-59)
- FHM – Health Education Centers (EDU-60)
- FHM – Quality Child Care (EDU-61)

Education, Department of

- FHM – School Breakfast Program (EDU-24)
- FHM – School Nurse Consultant (EDU-25)

Judicial Department

- FHM – Judicial Department (JUD-27)

Department of Health and Human Services (Formerly BDS)

- FHM – Substance Abuse (HHS-25)

Department of Health and Human Services (Formerly DHS)

- FHM – Head Start (HHS-153)
- FHM – Service Center (HHS-158)
- FHM - Purchased Social Services (HHS-157)
- FHM – Bureau of Family Independence – Central (HHS-141)
- FHM – Bureau of Health (HHS-143)
- FHM – Donated Dental (HHS-150)
- FHM – Family Planning (HHS-152)
- FHM – Bone Marrow Screening (HHS-140)
- FHM – Immunization (HHS-154)
- FHM – Medical Care (HHS-155)
- FHM – Drugs for the Elderly and Disabled (HHS-151)
- FHM – Bureau of Medical Services (HHS-148)

Dirigo Health

- FHM – Dirigo Health (IFS-11)

**(To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services):**

Thursday  
02/19/09

2:00 p.m.

Department of Health and Human Services (Formerly BDS)

- Freeport Towne Square (HHS-27)
- Medicaid Services – Mental Retardation (HHS-28)
- Mental Retardation Services – Community (HHS-51)
- Mental Retardation Waiver – Supports (HHS-57)
- Mental Retardation Waiver – MaineCare (HHS-55)
- Residential Treatment Facilities Assessment (HHS-66)
- Consumer-directed Services (HHS-8)
- Office of Advocacy (HHS-58)
- Brain Injury
- Traumatic Brain Injury Seed (HHS-71)
- Driver Education & Evaluation Program – Substance Abuse (HHS-22)
- Office of Substance Abuse (HHS-59)
- Office of Substance Abuse – Medicaid Seed (HHS-64)
- Departmentwide (HHS-10)
- Disproportionate Share – Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center (HHS-11)
- Disproportionate Share – Riverview Psychiatric Center (HHS-14)
- Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center
- Riverview Psychiatric Center (HHS-67)
- Elizabeth Levinson Center (HHS-24)
- Mental Health Services – Child Medicaid (HHS-32)
- Mental Health Services – Children (HHS-36)
- Mental Health Services – Community (HHS-40)
- Mental Health Services – Community Medicaid (HHS-46)

# **ATTACHMENT D**

## **CSBG State Plan & Application FY10-11**

### **Notice of Public Inspection**

# Maine Public Notices

Powered by MyPublicNotices.com



[Home](#)

Friday, August 14, 2009

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY SERVIC

Announcement of Public Hearing Community Services Block Grant State Plan for the Period of October 2010 through September 2011. A hearing will be held by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Public Service Management, Community Services Unit, to seek public input and comment on the proposed plan for the Community Services Block Grant State Plan and Application for FY2010-2011. The Public Hearing location is 2 Anthony Ave. Augusta, Maine at the Office of Child and Family Services from 8:30 - 10:30 am Tuesday, August 18th. Individuals or Agencies may access the Plan on the DHHS website: [http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/csbg\\_plan\\_10-11/](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/csbg_plan_10-11/) Comments can be made to: Christine Merchant, Community Services Unit Supervisor, 2 Anthony Ave. SHS 11, Augusta, ME. 04333. 207-624-7934 TTY 207-287-5048 Christine. Merchant@maine.gov

Appeared in: **Kennebec Journal** on Friday, 08/14/2009

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY SERVIC

Announcement of Public Hearing Community Services Block Grant State Plan for the Period of October 2010 through September 2011. A hearing will be held by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Public Service Management, Community Services Unit, to seek public input and comment on the proposed plan for the Community Services Block Grant State Plan and Application for FY2010-2011. The Public Hearing location is 2 Anthony Ave. Augusta, Maine at the Office of Child and Family Services from 8:30 - 10:30 am Tuesday, August 18th. Individuals or Agencies may access the Plan on the DHHS website: [http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/csbg\\_plan\\_10-11/](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/csbg_plan_10-11/) Comments can be made to: Christine Merchant, Community Services Unit Supervisor, 2 Anthony Ave. SHS 11, Augusta, ME. 04333. 207-624-7934 TTY 207-287-5048 Christine. Merchant@maine.gov

Appeared in: **Kennebec Journal** on Saturday, 08/15/2009

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY SERVIC

Announcement of Public Hearing Community Services Block Grant State Plan for the Period of October 2010 through September 2011. A hearing will be held by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Public Service Management, Community Services Unit, to seek public input and comment on the proposed plan for the Community Services Block Grant State Plan and Application for FY2010-2011. The Public Hearing location is 2 Anthony Ave. Augusta, Maine at the Office of Child and Family Services from 8:30 - 10:30 am Tuesday, August 18th. Individuals or Agencies may access the Plan on the DHHS website: [http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/csbg\\_plan\\_10-11/](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/csbg_plan_10-11/) Comments can be made to: Christine Merchant, Community Services Unit Supervisor, 2 Anthony Ave. SHS 11, Augusta, ME. 04333. 207-624-7934 TTY 207-287-5048 Christine. Merchant@maine.gov

Appeared in: **Kennebec Journal** on Sunday, 08/16/2009

Public Notice Print

Page 4 of 4

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY SERVIC

Announcement of Public Hearing Community Services Block Grant State Plan for the Period of October 2010 through September 2011. A hearing will be held by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Public Service Management, Community Services Unit, to seek public input and comment on the proposed plan for the Community Services Block Grant State Plan and Application for FY2010-2011. The Public Hearing location is 2 Anthony Ave. Augusta, Maine at the Office of Child and Family Services from 8:30 - 10:30 am Tuesday, August 18th. Individuals or Agencies may access the Plan on the DHHS website: [http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/csbg\\_plan\\_10-11/](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/csbg_plan_10-11/) Comments can be made to: Christine Merchant, Community Services Unit Supervisor, 2 Anthony Ave. SHS 11, Augusta, ME. 04333. 207-624-7934 TTY 207-287-5048 Christine. Merchant@maine.gov

Appeared in: **Kennebec Journal** on Monday, 08/17/2009

# **ATTACHMENT E**

## **Certifications**

**Lobbying**

**Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters**

**Drug-Free Workplace**

**Environmental Tobacco Smoke**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING**

**Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements**

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

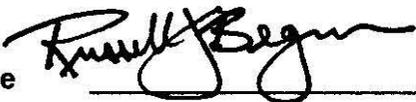
(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

**Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance**

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

**Signature**



**AUG 10 2009**

**Title**

Russell J. Begin, Deputy Commissioner of Finance

**Date**

**Organization**

Maine Department of Health & Human Services

## **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

### **CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS**

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters--  
Primary Covered Transactions

#### Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective primary participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.
3. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the department or agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective primary participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.
4. The prospective primary participant shall provide immediate written notice to the department or agency to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective primary participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
5. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
6. The prospective primary participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.
7. The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or agency entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
8. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under

48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.

9. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

10. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 6 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters-- Primary Covered Transactions

(1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency;

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (l)(b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

(2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

#### Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-- Lower Tier Covered Transactions

#### Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in

addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or had become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, [[Page 3304311 should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility an Voluntary Exclusion--  
Lower Tier Covered Transactions

(1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

(2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

<b>Signature</b>	 _____	<u>AUG 10 2009</u>
<b>Title</b>	Russell J. Begin, Deputy Commissioner of Finance	<b>Date</b>
<b>Organization</b>	Maine Department of Health & Human Services	

## U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

### **CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS Grantees Other Than Individuals**

---

This certification is required by the regulations implementing the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988: 45 CFR Part 76, Subpart, F. Sections 76.630(c) and (d)(2) and 76.645(a)(I) and (b) provide that a Federal agency may designate a central receipt point for STATEWIDE AND STATE AGENCY-WIDE certifications, and for notification of criminal drug convictions. For the Department of Health and Human Services, the central point is: Division of Grants Management and Oversight, Office of Management and Acquisition, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 517-D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201.

---

#### Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Instructions for Certification)

1. By signing and/or submitting this application or grant agreement, the grantee is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the agency, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.
3. For grantees other than individuals, Alternate I applies.
4. For grantees who are individuals, Alternate 11 applies.
5. Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need not be identified on the certification. If known, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.
6. Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or State highway department while in operation, State employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio studios).
7. If the workplace identified to the agency changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform the agency of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see paragraph five).

8. Definitions of terms in the Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:

*Controlled substance* means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 8 12) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);

*Conviction* means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the Federal or State criminal drug statutes;

*Criminal drug statute* means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

*Employee* means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including: (i) All direct charge employees; (ii) All indirect charge employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and, (iii) Temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if used to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of subrecipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).

#### Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements Alternate I. (Grantees Other Than Individuals)

The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

- (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
- (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about --
  - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
  - (2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
  - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
  - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
- c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
- (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will --
  - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
  - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
- (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice,

including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;

(f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted

(1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or

(2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;

(g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).

(B) The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Place of Performance (Street address, city, county, state, zip code)

221 State St. and 2 Anthony Ave. Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine 04333

Signature



AUG 10 2009

Title

Russell J. Begin, Deputy Commissioner of Finance

Date

Organization

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

---

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE**

Public Law 103227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro Children Act of 1994, requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor routinely owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity by signing and submitting this application the applicant/grantee certifies that it will comply with the requirements of the Act.

The applicant/grantee further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any sub awards which contain provisions for the children's services and that all sub grantees shall certify accordingly.



Signature

Title

Organization

Russell J. Begin, Deputy Commissioner of Finance  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

AUG 10 2009  
Date

# **ATTACHMENT F**

## **Organizational Chart**

**Department of Health & Human Services**

**Office of Child & Family Services**

**Public Service Management**

**Community Services Unit**

**CSBG State Administration**



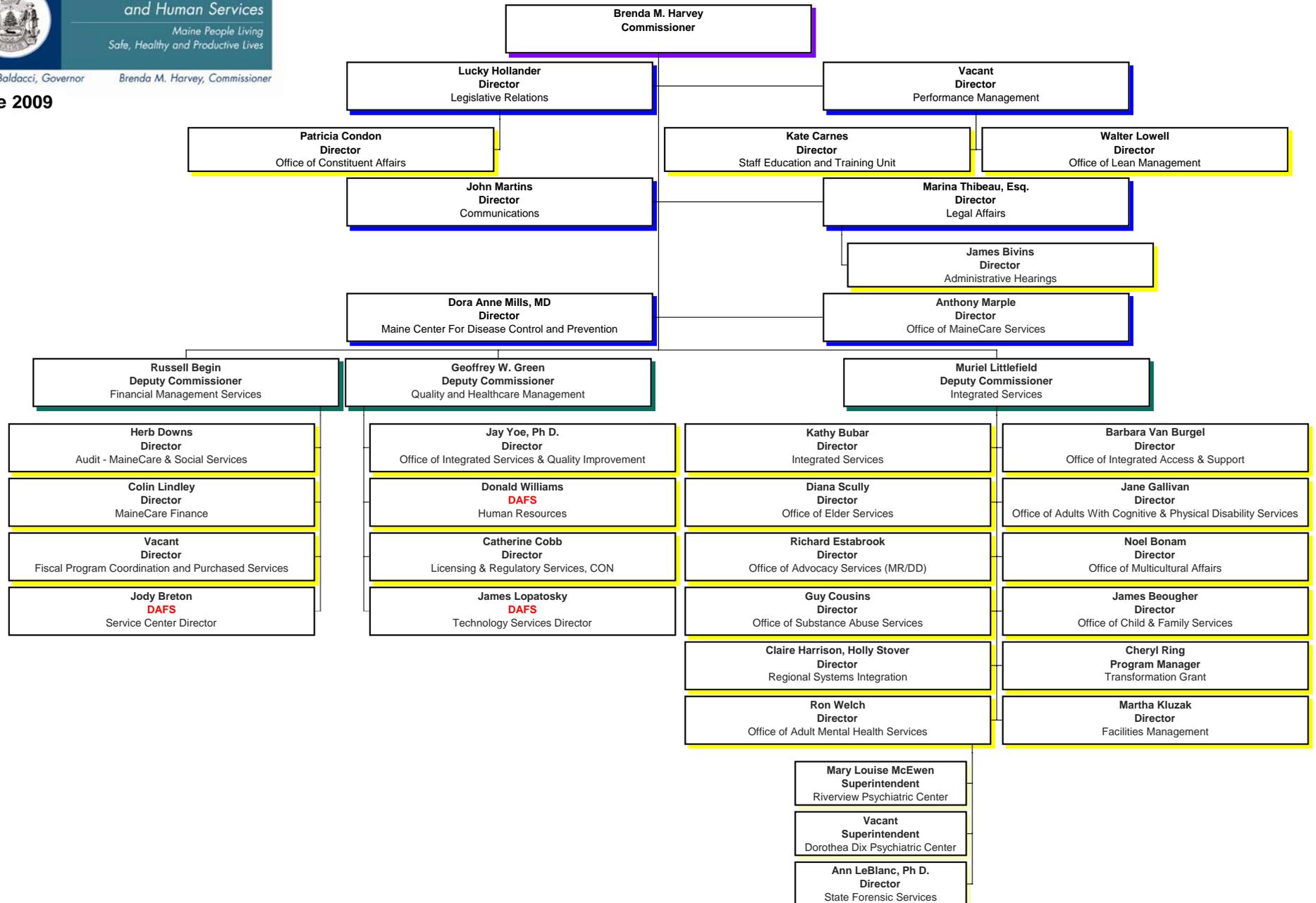
Department of Health  
and Human Services

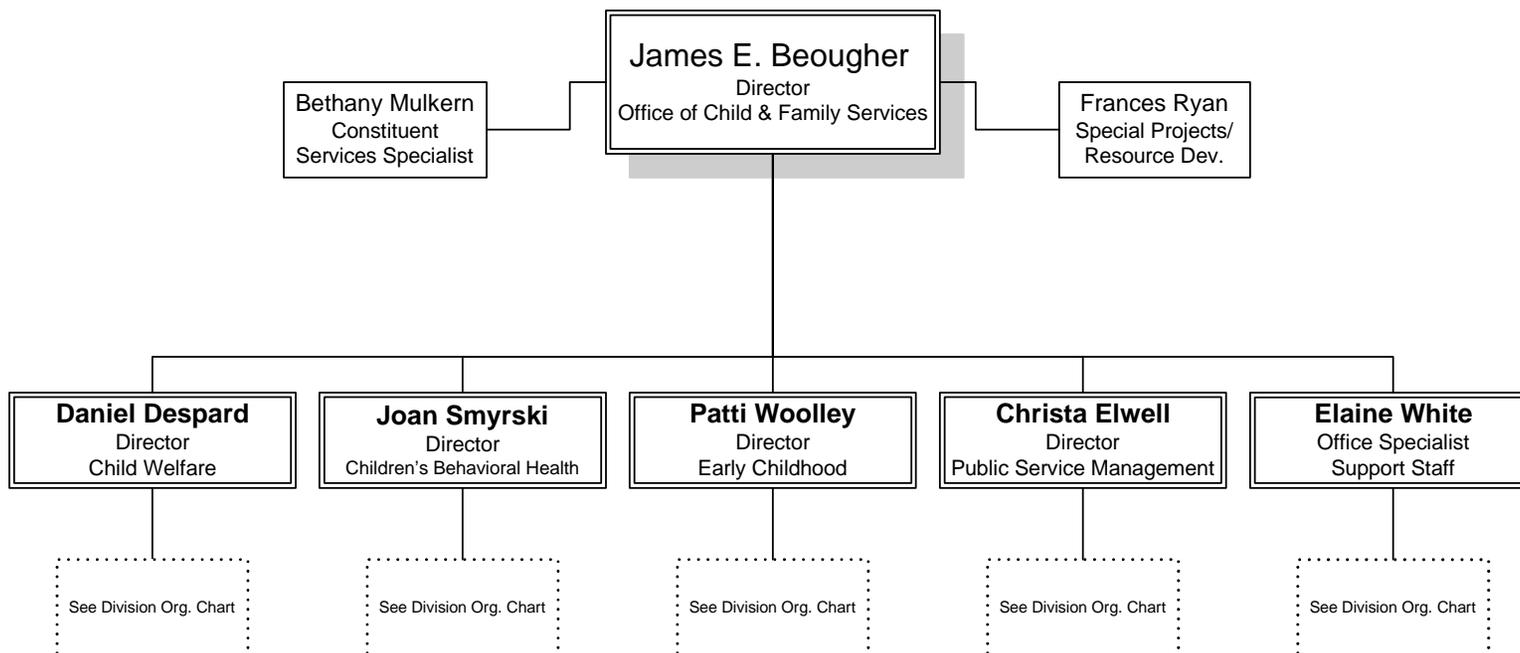
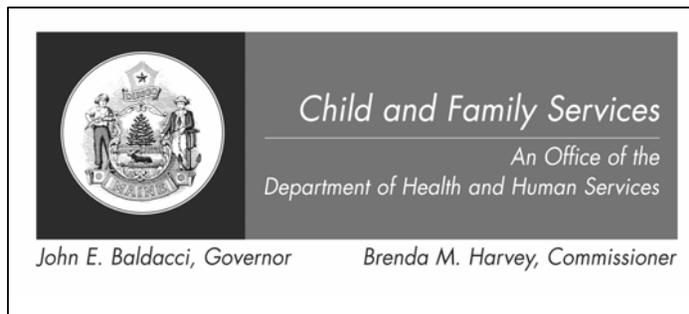
Maine People Living  
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

June 2009

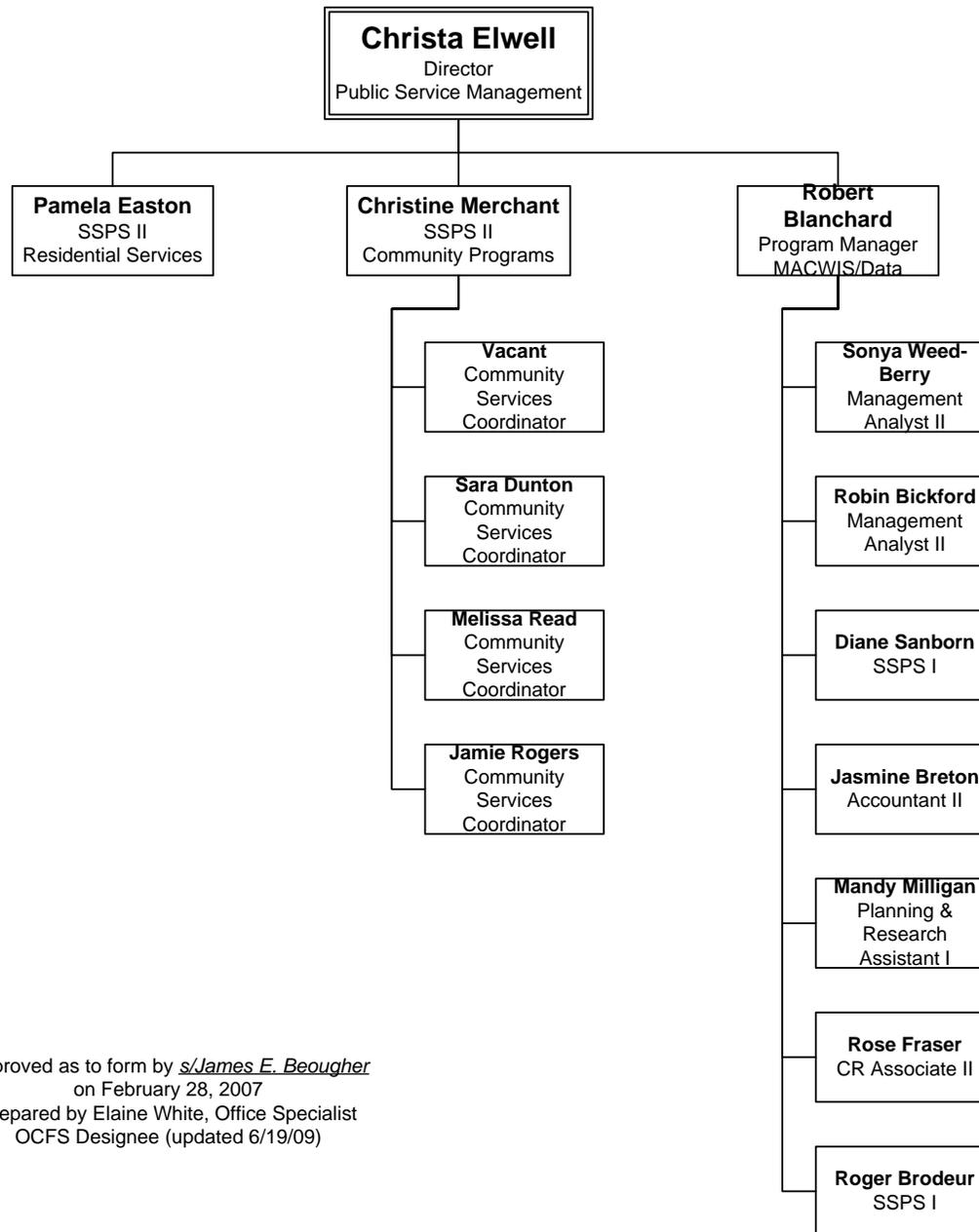




Approved as to form by *s/James E. Beougher*  
on February 28, 2007

Prepared by Elaine White, Office Specialist  
OCFS Designee (updated 9/16/08)

# Office of Child and Family Services Public Service Management



Approved as to form by s/James E. Beougher  
on February 28, 2007  
Prepared by Elaine White, Office Specialist  
OCFS Designee (updated 6/19/09)

# **ATTACHMENT G**

## **State of Maine Community Action Agency Redesignations**

**Effective  
October 1, 2004  
Through  
September 20, 2011**

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor

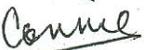


John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

Aroostook County Action Program  
Connie Sandstrom, Executive Director  
PO Box 1116, 771 Main Street  
Presque Isle, ME 04769

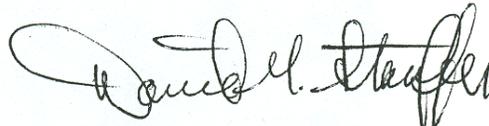
  
Dear Ms. Sandstrom:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., Aroostook County Action Program is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

Aroostook County Action Program is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,



David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

Physical Location:

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

Coastal Economic Development Corp.  
Jessica Harnar, Executive Director  
34 Wing Farm Parkway, Suite 101  
Bath, ME 04530

*Jessica*  
Dear Ms. Harnar:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., Coastal Economic Development Corp. is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

Coastal Economic Development Corp. is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,

David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

Physical Location:

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

Community Concepts, Inc.  
Charleen Chase, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 278, Market Square  
South Paris, ME 04281

Dear Ms. Chase:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., Community Concepts, Inc. is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

Community Concepts, Inc. is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,

David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

Physical Location:

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program  
Raymond Richard, Executive Director  
97 Water Street  
Waterville, ME 04901

Dear <sup>Ray</sup>~~Mr. Richard~~:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., Kennebec Valley Community Action Program is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,

David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

**Physical Location:**

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

Penquis Community Action Program  
Charles Newton, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 1162  
Bangor, ME 04402-1162

Dear <sup>Charlie</sup>Mr. Newton:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., Penquis Community Action Program is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

Penquis Community Action Program is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,

David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

Physical Location:

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor

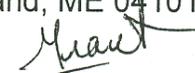


John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

People's Regional Opportunity Program  
Grant Lee, Executive Director  
510 Cumberland Avenue  
Portland, ME 04101

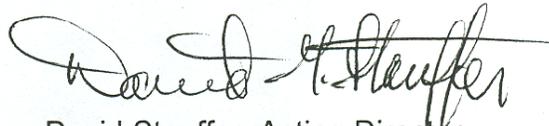
  
Dear Mr. Lee:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., People's Regional Opportunity Program is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

People's Regional Opportunity Program is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,



David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

Physical Location:

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

Waldo County Committee for Social Action  
Joyce Scott, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 130, 9 Field Street  
Belfast, ME 04915-0130

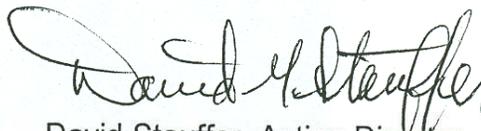
  
Dear ~~Ms.~~ Scott:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., Waldo County Committee for Social Action is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

Waldo County Committee for Social Action is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,



David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

**Physical Location:**

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

Washington-Hancock Community Agency  
Tim King, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 280  
Milbridge, ME 04658

  
Dear Mr. King:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., Washington-Hancock Community Agency is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

Washington-Hancock Community Agency is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,



David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

**Physical Location:**

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

Western Maine Community Action, Inc.  
Fenwick Fowler, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 200  
East Wilton, ME 04234-0200

Dear <sup>Fen</sup>Mr. Fowler:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., Western Maine Community Action, Inc. is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

Western Maine Community Action, Inc. is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,

David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

**Physical Location:**

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



John R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Community Services Center  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

July 13, 2004

York County Community Action Corp.  
Thomas D. Nelson, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 72, 6 Spruce St.  
Sanford, ME 04073-0072

Dear <sup>Tom</sup>Mr. Nelson:

In accordance with the Maine Community Services Act, Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes Chapter 1477, et.seq., York County Community Action Corp. is hereby designated as a Community Action Agency to carry out the purposes of said Chapter.

York County Community Action Corp. is further authorized to receive federal Community Services Block grant funding and to accept other federal funds as designated as a Community Action Agency.

This designation is in effect from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2011 so long as the agency is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1477, et.seq.

Sincerely,

David Stauffer, Acting Director  
Community Services Center

pw

Enclosures

**Physical Location:**

221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Tel. (207) 287-5060  
Fax: (207) 287-5031  
TTY: (207) 287-5048

# **ATTACHMENT H**

**State of Maine**

**County Coverage  
Of  
Community Action Agencies**

**MAINE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES  
2010 & 2011 DESIGNATED COUNTY COVERAGE**

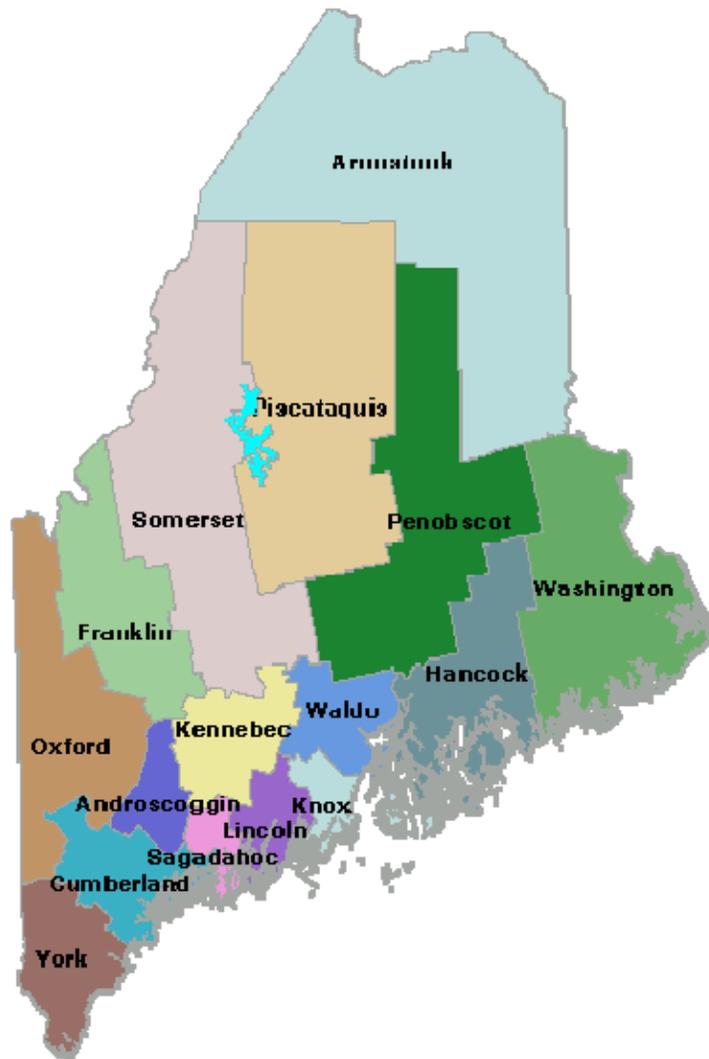
**Community Action Agencies**

**County Coverage**

Aroostook County Action Program  
 Community Concepts, Inc.  
 Kennebec Valley Community Action Program  
 Midcoast Maine Community Action  
 Penquis  
 People's Regional Opportunity Program  
 Waldo Community Action Partners  
 Washington Hancock Community Action  
 Western Maine Community Action  
 York County Community Action Corp.

ACAP  
 CCI  
 KVCAP  
 MMCA  
 PENQUIS  
 PROP  
 WCAP  
 WHCA  
 WMCA  
 YCCAC

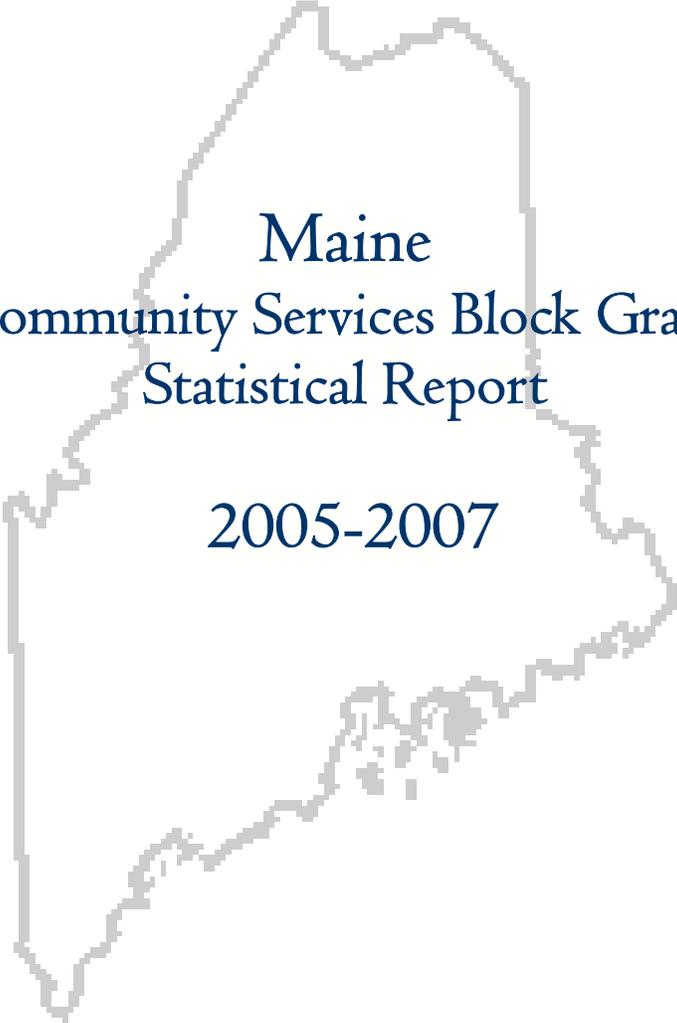
Aroostook  
 Androscoggin & Oxford  
 Kennebec & Somerset  
 Sagadahoc & Lincoln, N. Cumberland  
 Penobscot, Piscataquis, & Knox  
 Cumberland  
 Waldo  
 Washington & Hancock  
 Franklin  
 York



# **ATTACHMENT I**

## **Maine Community Services Block Grant Statistical Report 2005-2007**

**Prepared by the National Association for  
Community Services Programs for Maine  
Department of Health and Human Services**



Maine  
Community Services Block Grant  
Statistical Report  
2005-2007

Prepared by NASCSP for the  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Child and Family Services, Community Services Unit

Maine Community Services Block Grant  
Statistical Report  
FYs 2005-2007

Produced and Designed by  
National Association for State  
Community Services Programs



July 2009



*Department of Health  
and Human Services*

*Maine People Living  
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives*

*John E. Baldacci, Governor*

*Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner*

## The Community Action Mission

is to assure an effective focusing of local, state, and federal resources, enabling disadvantaged citizens and their families to attain skills, knowledge, motivation, and opportunities to become self-sufficient. This purpose was made part of Maine law in 1983, when Governor Joseph Brennan signed the Maine Community Service Act, and this challenge is addressed every day by the men and women who provide services and support through the 10 Community Action Agencies in Maine. This report reflects their activity and effort from 10/1/2004 through 9/30/2007.

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Who We Help</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How We Help</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CSBG in Action</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Maximizing the CSBG Investment</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Measuring Results</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>30</b>



*“Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.”*



# Introduction

The federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds a network of agencies operated by government and by the private sector to assist low-income Americans. In Maine, the Community Services Block Grant provides funding to a network of 10 Community Action Agencies (an 11th agency, Coastal Community Action Program, was merged into Penquis Community Action Program in 2006). CSBG funds are administered by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Community Services Unit. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have provided an array of services in order to raise the health, education, and economic standards of Maine’s economically disadvantaged citizens since the mid-1960’s.

Maine’s Community Action Agencies help more than 150,000 low-income individuals, in approximately 70,000 families, annually. The agencies have a special focus on integrating and coordinating CAA services with those of other human service providers within their communities. This approach distinguishes Community Action Agencies from other anti-poverty efforts, and maximizes the number of opportunities for individuals and families to become self-sufficient.

Although basic funding for the programs is provided through the federal Community Services Block Grant, this funding is supplemented by state, local, and private sector contributions. The CSBG funding that forms the core of each agency averages just 2% of total CAA network funding each year, but it provides the administrative center to leverage over \$140 million of other federal, state, local, and private resources annually.

Public/private partnerships are central to the CAA network, and this focus is reinforced by the statutory requirement that CAAs be governed by a board of directors consisting of elected local public officials, appointed leaders from the private sector, and representatives of the low-income community. This unique public/private sector partnership is one of the keys to the success of Community Action. It is designed to tap the knowledge, experience and perspectives of all community stakeholders — including the poor themselves. As the Community Action motto describes, “Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.”

# Who We Help

More than 1 of every 10 people in Maine is poor. The state poverty rate as estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in 2007 was 12.2%, which means that over 160,000 of Maine's 1.3 million residents are living in poverty. The poverty threshold for a family of four was \$20,650 in annual income in 2007.

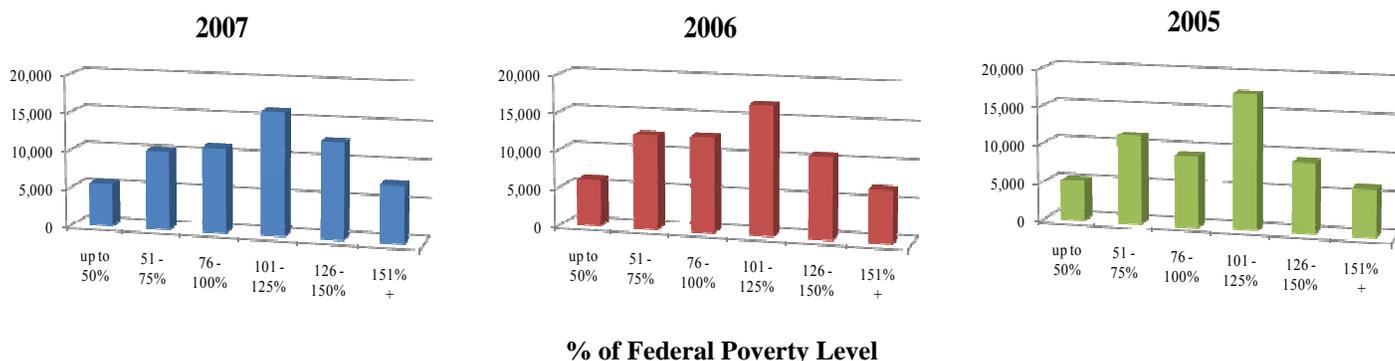
Maine's Community Action Agencies assisted an increasing number of the state's residents from 2005 through 2007: 150,792 individuals in 2005; 152,478 individuals in 2006, and; 156,280 in 2007. In fact, it seems that the vast majority of low-income people in the state are assisted in some way by a CAA every year.

## CSBG Participant Family Income AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL\*

### 2007

Agency	up to 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 100%	101 - 125%	126 - 150%	151% or more
Aroostook Community Action Program (ACAP)	399	830	1,637	1,260	1,188	634
Coastal Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)						
Community Concepts, Inc. (CCI)		4,687		8,069	3,013	973
Kennebec Valley Community Action (KVCA)	1,258	1,443	2,736	1,940	1,620	834
Penquis CAP (PCAP)	2,423	1,486	2,784	2,071	1,763	2,323
People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP)			449	70	2,611	1,804
Waldo Community Action Partners (WCAP)	315	337	696	470	387	127
Washington Hancock Community Action (WHCA)	644	800	1,291	939	695	227
Western Maine Community Action, Inc. (WMCA)	190	241	552	426	401	148
York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC)	281	404	924	832	888	348
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,510</b>	<b>10,228</b>	<b>11,069</b>	<b>16,077</b>	<b>12,566</b>	<b>7,418</b>

\* Federal Poverty Level for a Family of Four - \$20,650 annually



**CSBG Participant Family Income**  
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL\*

**2006**

	<b>up to 50%</b>	<b>51 - 75%</b>	<b>76 - 100%</b>	<b>101 - 125%</b>	<b>126 - 150%</b>	<b>151% or more</b>
ACAP	447	1,135	3,058	1,318	1,569	1,288
CEDC	238	520	952	577	505	200
CCI		4,934		8,494	3,172	1,023
KVCA	832	1,398	2,217	1,714	1,312	390
PCAP	3,169	1,805	2,496	2,071	1,596	3,023
PROP	49	20	8		165	12
WCAP	269	437	585	452	346	111
WHCA	639	915	1,274	952	675	221
WMCA	27	501	983	491	598	310
YCCAC	358	645	865	877	777	249
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,028</b>	<b>12,310</b>	<b>12,438</b>	<b>16,946</b>	<b>10,715</b>	<b>6,827</b>

\* Federal Poverty Level for a Family of Four - \$20,000 annually

**CSBG Participant Family Income**  
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL\*

**2005**

	<b>up to 50%</b>	<b>51 - 75%</b>	<b>76 - 100%</b>	<b>101 - 125%</b>	<b>126 - 150%</b>	<b>151% or more</b>
ACAP	615	617	1,459	1,427	1,124	488
CCAP**						
CEDC		665	2,012	953	446	516
CCI		5,144		8,850	3,332	1,032
KVCA	151	97	99	36	34	101
PCAP	2,167	1,585	2,251	1,894	1,475	1,747
PROP	549	951	271	1,534	607	596
WCAP	384	421	593	459	318	131
WHCA	1,002	917	1,222	945	651	262
WMCA		371	843	278	305	105
YCCAC	355	702	457	1,128	918	1,190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,223</b>	<b>11,470</b>	<b>9,207</b>	<b>17,504</b>	<b>9,210</b>	<b>6,168</b>

\* Federal Poverty Level for a Family of Four - \$19,350 annually

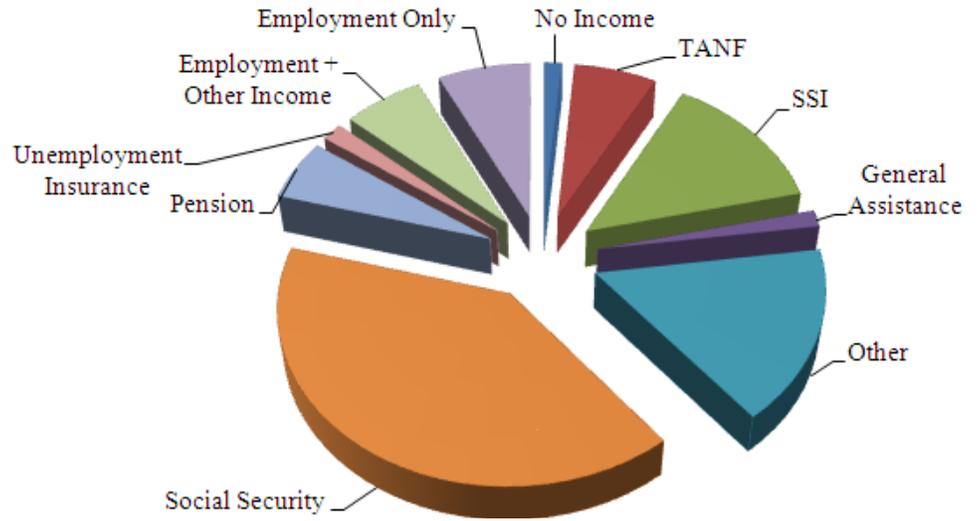
\*\* Coastal Community Action Program (CCAP) only appears for FY 2005 because it merged with Penquis CAP (PCAP) in 2006.

# Who We Help

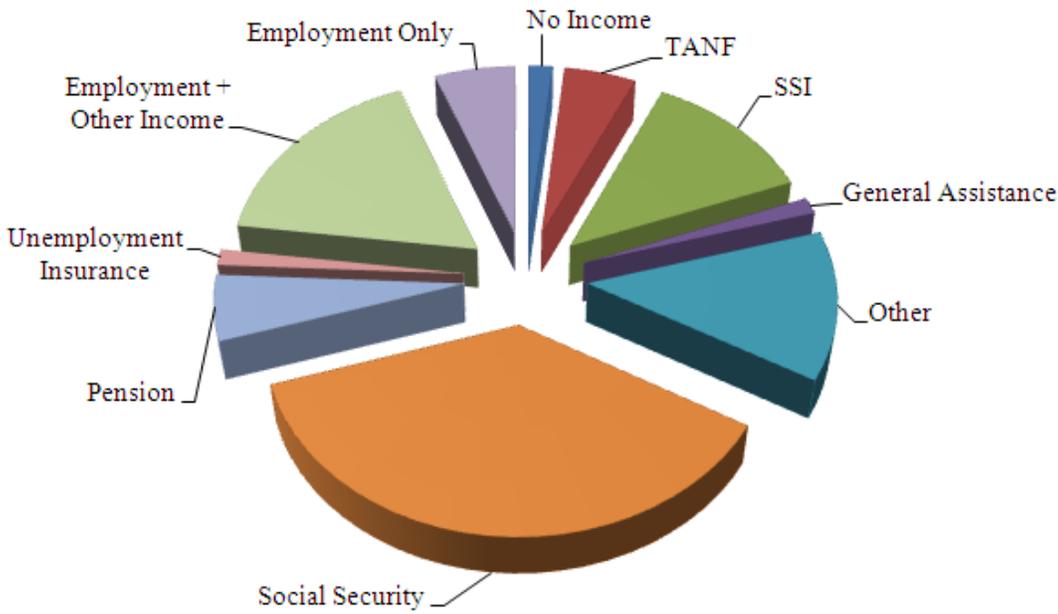
A snapshot of CSBG program participants during the 2005, 2006, and 2007 fiscal years shows an emphasis on helping those families in substantial need, and reflects the impact of the economic recession during 2007. On average in the years 2005, 2006, and 2007:

- ◆ Virtually all (89%) participants are poor or near-poor (with household incomes of less than 1.5 times the poverty line).
- ◆ Over half (51%) of families reported income from current or former employment in 2005 and 2006. In 2007, that figure drops to 29%, reflecting the harsh impact of the emerging recession on Maine workers.
- ◆ However, families reporting no source of income halved from an average of 4% in 2005 and 2006, to 2% in 2007.
- ◆ More than one-quarter (26%) of families are headed by a single parent.
- ◆ Over one-third (35%) of participants are infants and children younger than 18 years old.
- ◆ Nearly one-quarter (24%) of participants are age 55 or older.
- ◆ Over one-third (34%) of adult participants did not complete high school, and about one-fifth (19%) had some postsecondary education.
- ◆ One-fifth (20%) of participants reported having a disability.
- ◆ More than one in every six (17%) participants reported that they had no health insurance in 2006 and 2007.
- ◆ Nearly two-thirds of participants (63%) own their own homes, less than the overall state percentage of 71%.

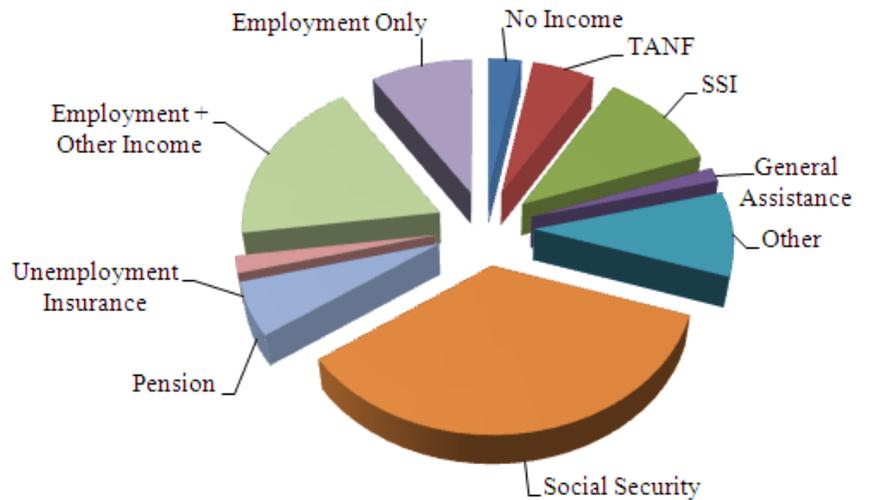
## CSBG Participant Source of Income 2007



## CSBG Participant Source of Income 2006



## CSBG Participant Source of Income 2005



# How We Help

Over the course of a lifetime, poverty strikes a surprisingly high proportion of Americans. Illness, disability, unemployment, family break-up or childbirth can impoverish a family. Regardless of the cause, most poor families struggle against their predicament and reach out for the tools and support they need to improve their economic condition. Community Action Agencies provide an arsenal of services that help these families emerge from poverty.

The conditions of poverty vary widely among counties across the state, as is reflected in the poverty statistics by county. According to US Census Bureau data for 2007, Washington County, at the northern end of the Maine coastline, has the highest rate in the state with 20.1% of households in poverty. In contrast, York County, the southernmost county along the coast, has the lowest rate, with 8.2% of households at or below the federal poverty line. Maine counties also vary demographically, by their urban or rural character and by the type of employment that forms the base of their local economy. One-size-fits-all solutions programs and services cannot fully respond to all of these local conditions - but the Community Services Block Grant gives CAAs the flexibility to meet local needs with well-tailored local solutions.

The nature of the CSBG funds allows each CAA, working through its diverse board, to assess and address the specific needs of the local community. In order to tailor the remedy to the problem, CSBG-funded programs have been designed to offer a wide variety of services. CAAs coordinate emergency assistance, operate senior centers, sponsor youth programs, supply transportation in rural areas, and help families weatherize their homes. They provide linkages to employment and training programs, high school equivalency courses and vocational education. CAAs provide many other services to combat poverty, including:

- income management, credit counseling, entrepreneurial training, and small business supports;
- family development programs, domestic violence crisis assistance, and parenting classes;
- food pantries, emergency shelters, and energy assistance, and;
- low-income housing developments and community revitalization projects.

In general, CSBG-funded programs emphasize preventive aid that is complemented by extended assistance when necessary, to enable individuals to become economically self-sufficient. Emergency help is sometimes essential, but CAAs use this opportunity to direct individuals away from the ongoing need for stop-gap aid and toward positive changes in their life circumstances.

CAAs across Maine provide diverse services to meet participants' varying needs. The largest investment of Maine CSBG dollars through these agencies (28% of expenditures) is for Linkages, bringing organizations together to provide more efficient, complete, and accessible services and helping clients make the best use of available resources. Program expenditures for Housing and Self-Sufficiency programs are the second-highest specific categories of spending; each accounts for 13% of 2005 - 2007 CSBG expenditures.

### CSBG Expenditures by Service Category



# CSBG in Action

## Linkages Help Unemployed Workers Find Services, Training and Jobs

Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties faced shut downs and downsizing of several businesses and industries affecting over 400 families. With their reputation for effective service delivery and past experience attracting funds to support needed services, **Penquis Community Action Program** (Penquis CAP) was invited to lead a community response to these job losses through the Penobscot County and Piscataquis County Transition Teams. The Teams assist laid-off workers to access services for which they are, or will become, eligible, prepare them for new employment, and provide training and assistance that will support them during their transition between jobs.

Penquis CAP's Economic Development Division brought together the Maine State Department of Labor, local governments, state legislators, representatives of Maine's congressional delegation, Economic Development staff of affected communities, the Training and Development Corporation (TDC), Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community, the United States Department of Agriculture, private banking institutions, community colleges, labor unions, the Chambers of Commerce, Community Health Centers, the United Way of Eastern Maine, and other local civic organizations. These linkages created by Penquis CAP ensured that all available resources were used effectively, avoided duplication of services, and focused all members of the Team on their common objective. Penquis CAP brings each Transition Team together quarterly or monthly, as needed based on the layoffs occurring in each county.

To prepare the Team for the services and support that are needed in response to each job loss situation, TDC assesses the needs of laid-off workers and directs that information to the Team. A core set of workshops have been developed and are available to all workers: Money Options (budgeting, dealing with creditors, refinancing options); Health Care Options (how to access affordable health services); Starting a Small Business, and; Coping with Stress & Change. Team member organizations participate in the workshops according to their area of expertise. Penquis CAP provides coordination of the location, time, and marketing of the workshops, and documents their accumulating experience by making frequent updates to the Resource Guide, which is then made available to other Teams across the state. Team partners also provide information to laid-off workers about services from their agency, and direct them to the Career Center for employment assistance.

During 2005, over 250 individuals received over 2,200 hours of service from the Transition Team. Approximately 100 workers used services provided by Penquis CAP, Inc., including assistance in housing, family planning, case management, home visits, transportation, housing and business loans, and technical assistance. The Penobscot County Transition Team has been recognized by the Maine Department of Labor as a model to provide services to laid-off workers. This team approach will be duplicated across the state as an effective response to large-scale unemployment. (2005)

## Support For Gaining Self-Sufficiency Takes Many Forms

Collateral supports are essential for families to succeed in meeting their education and career goals; two primary supports are transportation and child care. A number of families have gained access to transportation and child care supports through **Coastal Economic Development Corporation** (CEDC) that have enabled them to secure better jobs, and reduce or eliminate their reliance on public assistance.

Lori, a young mother of three, came to CEDC in a desperate situation. She had moved back to the area to be near her family when her marriage of ten years ended. She was homeless and unemployed, and requested assistance from the CEDC Housing Counseling Program. Staff referred her for Family Development services, where Lori's Case Manager helped her to apply for residence in the CEDC Transitional Housing Program. During the three years she lived there, her case manager helped her to accomplish many of the goals she had established for herself. She obtained a job, finalized her divorce, and learned budgeting and home management skills. Her case manager referred her to Workforce Development and Women, Work and Community for career counseling and to a Nurturing Program so that she could maintain positive relationships with her children. When Lori successfully graduated from Transitional Housing, she was working and taking classes toward the eventual start of her own business. (2005)



**Washington-Hancock Community Agency's** (WHCA) Transportation Services division launched the Helping Hands Garage to help income-eligible people buy the vehicles they need to access employment and medical services. With funding from United Way of Eastern Maine and the JTG Foundation, WHCA offers roadworthy vehicles at low interest and reasonable cost. Among the program's additional benefits are auto ownership workshops, which help people with low incomes drive and maintain their vehicles safely. The low interest loans help households develop positive credit histories that will qualify them for future car loans from mainstream lenders. (2005)



The **Aroostook Community Action Program** (ACAP) worked with other county organizations to implement a program of home modifications and repairs that would make it possible for elderly, handicapped individuals to remain independent and in their own home. Households eligible for this program had to meet income and net worth guidelines and had to include an elderly person living with a disability. A total of 21 qualifying households in 18 Aroostook County communities were assisted with some combination of home modifications and adaptive equipment. All of these 21 individuals remained in their homes and gained more independence and a better quality of life as a result of their increased mobility. ACAP provided expertise in construction, specification writing, contractor bidding processes, program marketing, client identification, program management support, and data collection for reporting to program funders and partners. (2007)

## Inventive Programs for At-Risk Youth

**Penquis Community Action Program** administers two programs with a high impact on youth at high risk of seclusion and life-long poverty: Case Management for Children and Youth with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, and; the Young Entrepreneurs' Society After-School Program. Tim, a 13-year-old boy with a diagnosis of high functioning autism, began participating in the after-school program at the suggestion of his CSBG-funded Autism Case Manager at Penquis CAP, who thought this would be an opportunity for Tim to work on his social skills and use some of his strengths with the computer.

When Tim started the program, he had some behavior difficulties, especially with voice volume and interrupting. He wanted to be accepted by his peers but didn't know how to make that happen. Tim began working with the programs' advisors on different ways they could let him know when his behavior was inappropriate, without embarrassing him or making him feel uncomfortable around his peers, such as talking to him outside of the group and using praise for appropriate behaviors. Tim started using the portion of program time dedicated for work on business projects as an opportunity to get to know his peers by partnering with different kids on various projects and by demonstrating his computer skills. Other program participants began to accept Tim and he started to build strong friendships. Tim's self esteem increased and now he has friends from the program with whom he spends considerable time outside of program hours. (2005)



Outright Lewiston/Auburn is a support and education program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning (GLBTQ) young adults ages 16 to 22. It was well established and supported in the Androscoggin County region, but its parent organization had closed for financial reasons. United Way of Androscoggin County and the Outright leadership approached **Western Maine Community Action (WMCA)** to take this program on to assure its survival and maintain its position of strength and support in the region. WMCA recognized the critical need for a supportive environment for GLBTQ teens, who often face discrimination, bullying and a lack of acceptance so stressful that they are three times as likely to commit suicide as the typical teen.

WMCA placed the program in their Tri County Health Services (TCHS) office suite in Auburn. The Executive Director (who moved with the program) is supervised by the Program Manager for TCHS. A new "drop-in" space was arranged at a local church and the program continues to serve young adults. CSBG funds help to support community outreach and education at TCHS and indirectly have helped WMCA to continue the Outright Lewiston/Auburn program. (2005)

## Inventive Programs for At-Risk Youth, continued

The South End Teen Center is a partnership between **Kennebec Valley Community Action Program** (KVCAP) and the Waterville Boys and Girls Club/YMCA. The Center provides a safe place for teens living in the South End to go after school, with opportunities for leadership skills development, community service, education, health and fitness, social recreation, and cultural development. The South End is the oldest, most densely developed neighborhood in Waterville. It suffers from all of the social ills associated with poverty and the city has not invested in the neighborhood in more than a decade. A high proportion of the residents are young children and the elderly. Residents are predominantly Caucasian, although the South End community is becoming increasingly diverse. There are a total of 323 South End children enrolled in public schools and only 4 at a local private school. Of the 323, almost 200 are teens, ages 12 to 18.

In 2001, the city government facilitated neighborhood meetings to identify and prioritize problems in the neighborhood. One of the identified problems was the lack of safe and appropriate places for kids to go in their own neighborhood. Many kids in this neighborhood spent time "hanging out", and the lack of supervision allowed undesirable behaviors to go unchecked. South End residents and Waterville police officers who were surveyed indicated substantial concern for South End youth. Every police officer surveyed agreed that people under the age of 24 commit the majority of crimes in the South End and eighty-two percent of residents agreed as well.

KVCAP addressed this problem by partnering with the Waterville Boys and Girls Club/YMCA to open an after-school program in a structured environment. The Boys and Girls Club/YMCA provides a full time Unit Director to supervise the Center and presents a variety of Boys and Girls Club programming such as Torch Club, Smart Moves, and Keystone Club. Greater Waterville Communities for Children & Youth assisted development of the project by obtaining a VISTA volunteer to supplement the staffing and recruiting local college students as volunteers. The City of Waterville provides Community Policing for the area. KVCAP owns and maintains the building which houses the South End Teen Center and also provides supervision of the VISTA volunteer, some outreach programming, general oversight and a part-time Teen Coordinator who works solely at the South End Teen Center - all of which are supported by the CSBG. The South End Teen Center has enrolled over 200 youth members, of which a core group of 25-30 youth attend two or more times a week. Many more youth take advantage of a variety of special programs and activities, such as field trips. The officer assigned to the South End who serves as an Enhanced Community Policing Officer provides feedback that crimes perpetrated by teens have decreased in the neighborhood since the inception of this project. (2006)

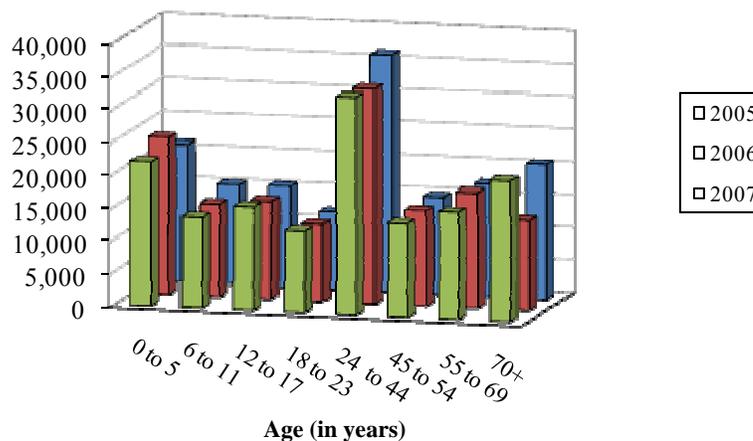
## Seniors: Learning, Working, Growing

The **Waldo Community Action Partners** (WCAP) Senior Community Services Employment Program proves that seniors are never too old to learn new things that can help lift them out of poverty. WCAP’s CSBG-funded Human Resources Generalist administers the program, working with a host of other community organizations, including Senior Spectrum, Old Fort Western, State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, Belfast Institute for Life Long Learning, Eldercare, Miles Health Care Center, Coastal Trans, Methodist Conference Home, many local governments, and most Waldo Community Action Partner programs in the city of Belfast. The Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Maine’s Elderly provided a \$151,967 grant to fund 29 positions and host site partners contributed \$24,259 in-kind based on training they provided to participants.

Sandy is one of several seniors who have taken advantage of the Senior Community Service Program (SCSEP). She had been out of school for a number of years, but it didn't deter her efforts to apply for the certified nurses' assistant (CNA) program at Waldo Regional Technical Center. Although she readily admits that some of the classes were difficult, Sandy was determined to earn her certification as a CNA and personal care assistant. “I went back to get my high school GED in 1992,” said Sandy, “and I’m not through yet. My next goal is medical technician.”

An SCSEP job developer routinely visits area employers to seek out “senior-friendly” businesses for placement. Currently, there are 24 slots in Waldo, Knox, Kennebec, Somerset and Lincoln counties. In one case, WCAP turned out to be the eventual employer of an SCSEP participant. Henry, 82, was working as a custodian after spending most of his working years as a mechanic and commercial driver. “My employer cut my hours a few years ago, and I had a 150-mile round trip to the job site. So with the price of gas, it wasn't worth it,” said Henry. Today, he's making 10 to 15 runs per day in a Waldo County Transportation Program van. “I've had a CDL for 35-plus years. I've driven everything from school buses to tractor-trailers,” said Henry. “So I'm really happy here. I don't know what I would do if I didn't continue to work.” (2007)

**CSBG Participants by Age Category  
2005 - 2007**



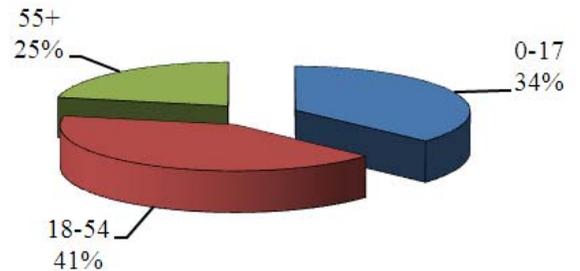
## Safe and Affordable Housing for Seniors

**Community Concepts, Inc. (CCI)** broke ground on the 30-unit Bates Street Senior Housing building in the heart of downtown Lewiston, close to churches, shopping, parks, entertainment, and public transportation. This safe and affordable housing project features both one and two bedroom apartments for individuals 62 years of age and older. Units are handicapped accessible and the building has shared community space on each floor, laundry facilities, and an elevator. CCI planned the project, identified and engaged the partners, paid for preliminary work, conducted a needs assessment, and located funding for construction. Partners include Bangor Savings Bank, which provided the construction financing, the City of Lewiston, which provided some land in the downtown Gateway area as well as tax incentives, Enterprise Social Investment Corp, which provided tax credits, Maine State Housing which helped identify the tax credits, and NeighborWorks America which donated funds to support the project. CSBG funds supported the cost of project planning. (2007)

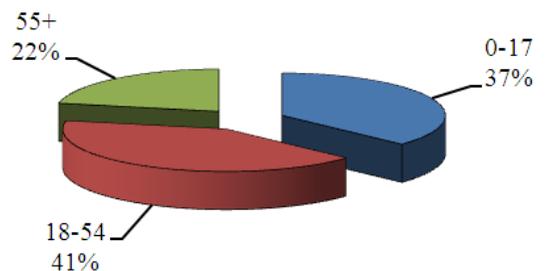


**Washington Hancock Community Action (WHCA)** orchestrated the installation of a windmill at a subsidized elderly housing complex in Winter Harbor to aid low-income residents. The 10-kilowatt turbine windmill generates power that cuts energy costs for residents. The windmill is part of WHCA's REACH Initiative, an energy efficiency project conducted in collaboration with Maine Housing and Kennebec Valley Community Action Program. REACH has also allowed WHCA to install new cold-climate heat pumps in eight of the 16 apartments in the building, greatly improving their energy efficiency. (2007)

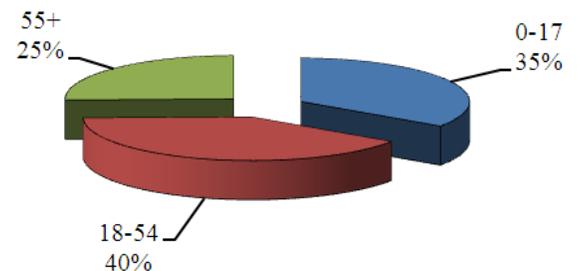
**CSBG Participants by Age Group  
2007**



**CSBG Participants by Age Group  
2006**



**CSBG Participants by Age Group  
2005**



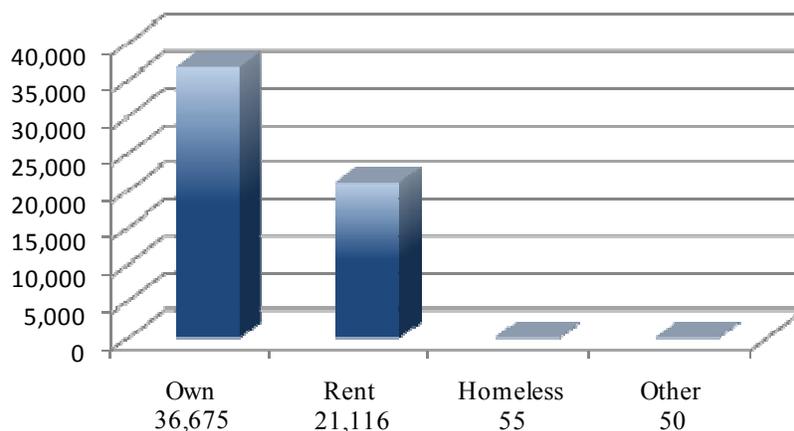
## Supporting the Dream of Home Ownership

For most families, a home is their single largest investment and an important source of economic security. **York County Community Action Council (YCCAC)** helped 34 families become first-time homeowners in York County by using forgivable loans up to \$10,000 from the Maine American Dream Down Payment Initiative to fund down payments and closing costs. In addition, 349 York County residents attended CSBG-supported Homeownership Education classes, and 414 clients received in-depth counseling about becoming mortgage-ready, preventing default and foreclosure, understanding reverse mortgages, and mortgage refinancing options. In collaboration with the USDA, which creates homeownership opportunities through the Rural Home Loan Partnership for individuals and families who otherwise might never realize the dream of owning a home, YCCAC helped 34 families obtain 502 Home Mortgage loans, and another 21 families get 504 Home Repair Grants or Loans. (2006)



The Jones family learned about **Western Maine Community Action's (WMCA)** Family Development Account program shortly after purchasing a small parcel of land. The husband is a self-employed carpenter struggling to make ends meet for his wife and three children. The family opened a Family Development Account and qualified for first-time homebuyer matching funds at a rate of 4:1, made available through Maine State Housing. The husband and wife participated in Home Buyer Education classes offered by WMCA, and committed themselves to regularly making deposits into the matched savings account. The family then began withdrawing some of their matched savings to purchase building materials so they could begin construction on a new home. They have recently moved into the new home and are finishing interior work. CSBG funding contributed to this outcome by providing funding for the Family Development Account Program Coordinator. (2007)

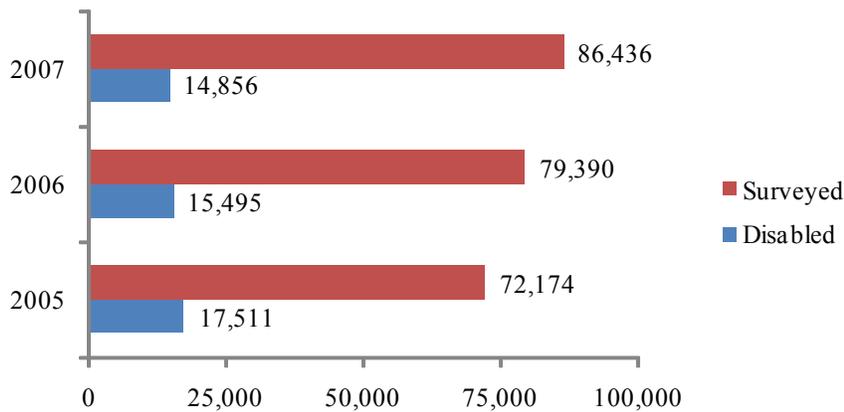
**CSBG Participants by Housing Type  
2005 - 2007 Averages**



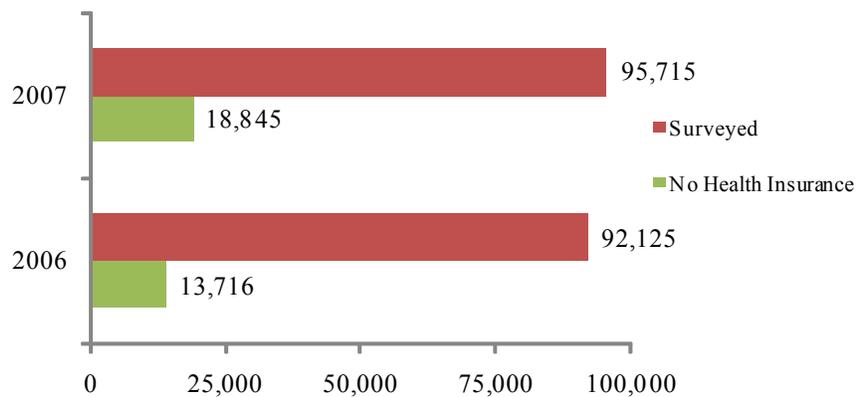
## Keeping Frail Elderly in their Own Homes

In Cumberland County, many frail elderly citizens experience social isolation due to their limited mobility. **Peoples Regional Opportunity Program (PROP)** started a Senior Companion Program with funds from CSBG and grants from the United Way and the City of South Portland. Senior Companions are adults ages 60 and older who meet the financial eligibility requirements of the program. Each Senior Companion provides between 10 and 20 hours per week of visitation, in-home respite, and supportive family companionship to low-income, frail, and/or isolated elderly people in Cumberland and York Counties who are trying to remain independent and stay in their own homes. In compensation for their time, Senior Companions receive a bi-weekly stipend, which provides a small boost to their income security. (2006)

**CSBG Participants Who Identified Themselves as Disabled**



**CSBG Participants Who Identified Themselves as Having No Health Insurance\***



\* Data from 2005 was collected in a manner not directly comparable to subsequent years and is therefore omitted from this comparison.

## Addressing the Health Needs of the Community

The Tri-County Health Services unit of the **Western Maine Community Action (WMCA)** brings Family Life Education, including information and education about puberty, relationship development and enrichment, reproductive health, and sexually transmitted disease recognition and prevention to its clients. During 2006, this program, supported in part by CSBG funds, reached 2,442 students, 202 teachers, school nurses and school counselors, 569 community members and 72 parents. The Health Educator provided over 400 hours of direct consultation and 372 hours of direct classroom presentation in 40 schools within WMCA's service area. This program and others like it are one reason why teen pregnancy rates continue to decline in Maine. (2006)



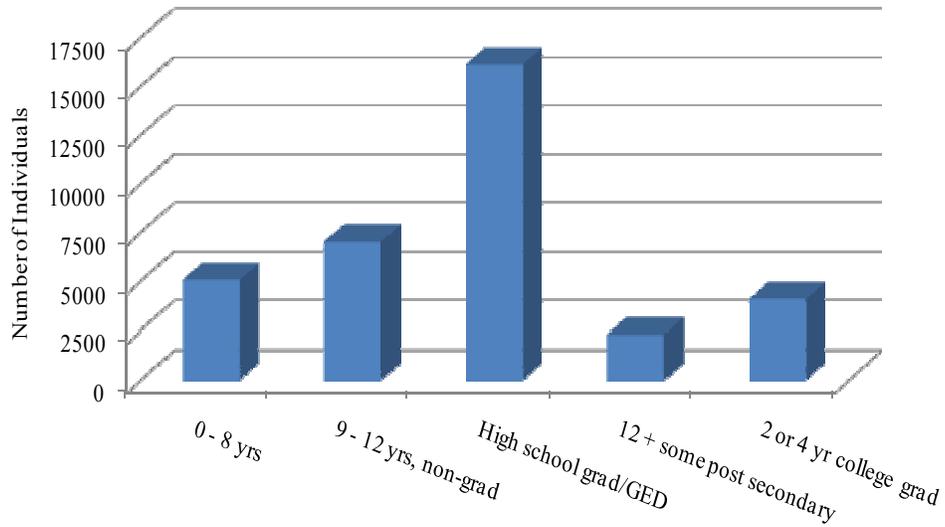
A serious condition of poverty is a lack of understanding about health, including the negative affects of substance abuse, diabetes, and obesity. These health conditions can impact a person's ability to take charge of their life and to meet personal development goals. The **People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP)** has organized the Communities Promoting Health Coalition to provide disease prevention and health promotion services to nine communities of Cumberland County outside of the City of Portland. Staff work with schools, service providers, and community members to address environmental risks, to provide health education, and to organize community members around health issues. The Communities Promoting Health Coalition impacts substance abuse, diabetes, and obesity rates through multiple strategies including policy development, legislation, direct service, youth work, and community organizing. Most recently, the coalition successfully assisted three communities in their efforts to secure Smoke-Free Playing Fields resolutions from their governing bodies. Residents are empowered to direct their own health care and promotion activities, and are safer as environmental risks are eliminated. CSBG funds support evaluation and resource development. (2005)



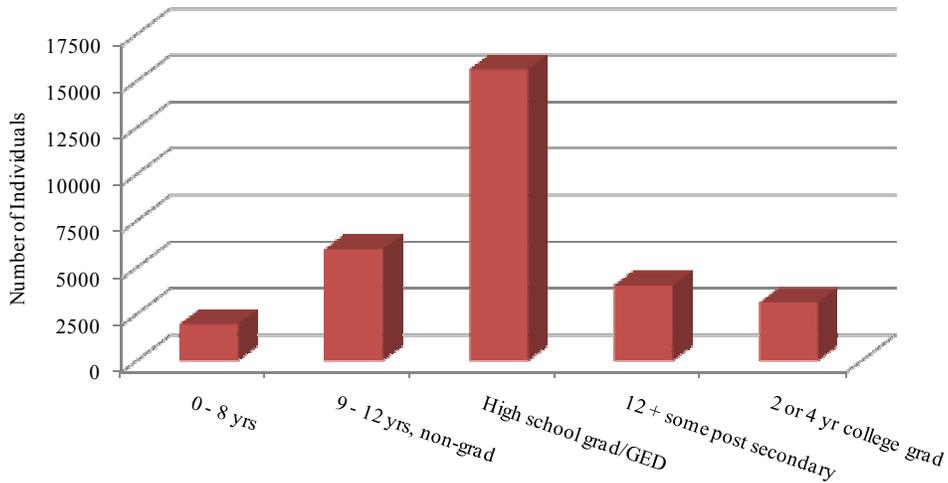
The **Waldo Community Action Program (WCAP)** partnered with the Belfast YMCA and local medical and dental health providers to develop two new dental clinics. The "Active Older Adults Senior" clinic is available to Waldo County residents age 50 years and older who have no dental insurance. The clinic is held twice a month and provides an affordable way for seniors to get cleanings, oral cancer screenings, and educational materials. Referrals to area dentists are available for restorative work. The YMCA has vigorously promoted the program, leading to strong participation.

The "Healthy Mother/Healthy Baby" clinic is a new oral health option available to expectant mothers who have no dental insurance and also offers cleanings, screenings, educational materials and referrals. The clinics are held once each month and are promoted by area healthcare centers, primary care provides, obstetrics practices, Waldo County General Hospital's Women & Infant Unit, and the Women Infants & Children (WIC) program. Area dentists and hygienists volunteer to support all dental clinics. The programs have greatly impacted the dental health access and the way oral health services are delivered to targeted populations in Waldo County. (2005)

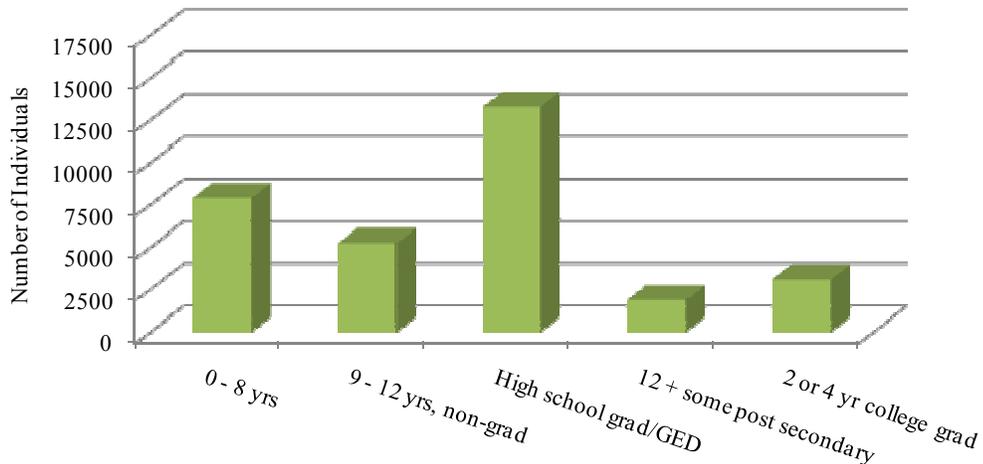
## CSBG Participant Adult Education Levels 2007



## CSBG Participant Adult Education Levels 2006



## CSBG Participant Adult Education Levels 2005

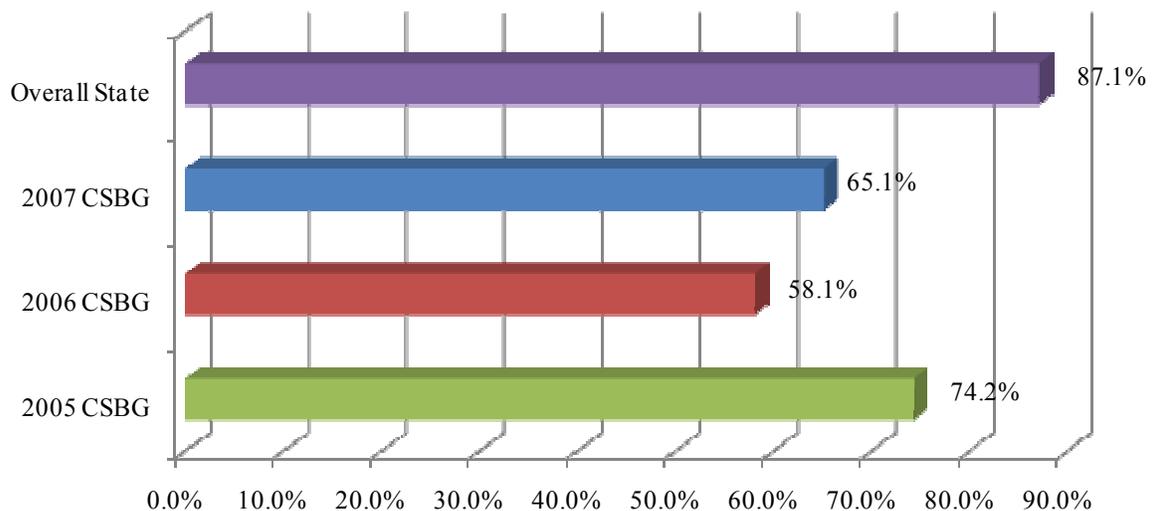


## Promoting Education for CSBG Participants and Staff

The Workforce Development and Child & Family Services Departments at **Coastal Economic Development Corporation** (CEDC) have collaborated with the Maine Apprenticeship Program (MAP) to support the education and professional development of CED staff. CED was accepted as an employer/sponsor under MAP and has recruited more than twenty Head Start teachers into their pool of registered apprentices. CED established levels of professional development, relating directly to the jobs performed in the Head Start Centers, that define the work of the journey person at each tier of educational advancement. Teachers work toward Associate Degrees, Bachelor Degrees, and may go on to Graduate level training. The Apprenticeship Program pays for approximately 50% of the college course tuition as a reimbursement for expense. The tuition reimbursement supplements the agency's own support. This financial support makes it possible for more staff to pursue their professional development. As this occurs, staff skills increase and credentials will be documented, leading to a wider variety of employment opportunities and higher wages. (2006)

Additionally, CEDC Head Start has introduced the Art Van, providing onsite art therapy training to Head Start staff, and activities for 241 Head Start children. This unique program will provide staff with an increased understanding of how art therapy fosters healthy social and emotional development in young children. The project is a collaboration between Head Start staff, parents, children, and the staff of the Art Van Program. (2007)

### Percentage of CSBG Adult Participants with a High School Education or Higher



# Maximizing the CSBG Investment

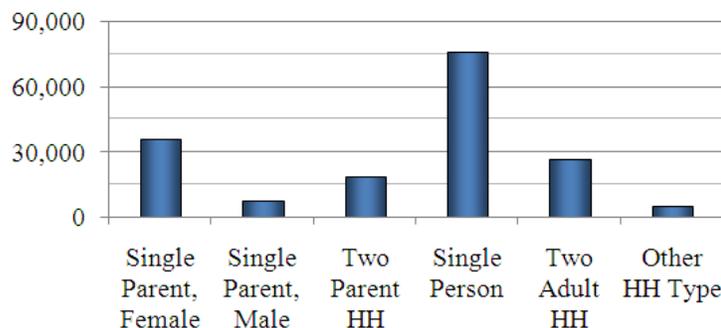
The previous examples demonstrate the multi-faceted approach that distinguishes CSBG-funded programs from other anti-poverty efforts. No other program supplies the coordinated, comprehensive approach and long-term perspective of Community Action. The “Community Action approach”:

1. Prioritizes prevention;
2. Addresses the causes of poverty;
3. Creates opportunity;
4. Involves—and improves—the community;
5. Is flexible and coordinates local resources; and
6. Seeks long-term solutions for clients.

The foundation of the Community Action network is the federal appropriation received through the Community Services Block Grant. The Community Action network in Maine maximizes the revenues received under the CSBG by leveraging a remarkable average of \$46.12 of federal, state, local, and private funds for every \$1 of CSBG funds. At the state level, minimal administrative overhead, not exceeding five percent, makes funds available at the agency level to make a direct impact on clients.

Community Action programs tap into the spirit of American volunteerism and public-private sector cooperation. Maine’s Community Action Agency funding includes federal, state, and local public funding. It also includes significant private sector contributions from foundations, the United Way, cash and in-kind services donated by businesses, and donations and volunteer work by ordinary Americans. Between October 1, 2004 and September 30, 2007, volunteers donated 2,730,486 hours of their time to Community Action programs throughout Maine. This is the equivalent of more than 1,313 full-time employees - or a \$14.7 million contribution if their time is valued at no more than the federal minimum wage.

**CSBG Participant Family Structure  
2005 - 2007**



# Measuring Results

The federal government has established two sets of statutory benchmarks for Community Action programs supported by the Community Services Block Grant. The federal CSBG statute outlines the following eight broad program goals:

- Securing and maintaining employment
- Securing adequate education
- Achieving better income management
- Securing adequate housing
- Providing emergency services
- Improving nutrition
- Creating linkages among anti-poverty programs
- Achieving self-sufficiency

The 1993 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) directed all federal programs to move toward results-oriented management. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued six broad Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) goals necessary to meet GPRA's requirements:

1. **Family Self-Sufficiency:** Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
2. **Community Revitalization:** The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
3. **Community Revitalization:** Low-income people own a stake in their community.
4. **Agency Capacity Building:** Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.
5. **Agency Capacity Building:** Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
6. **Family Stability:** Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.

To allow for the measurement of progress toward these goals, 12 national indicators of Community Action performance were identified from FYs 2001 to 2003 national data. These 12 National Performance Indicators (NPI) enable each agency to capture and report outcome data specific to its unique goals and priorities. It should be noted that not all agencies participated in the activities that generated outcomes for every national indicator, nor do these indicators represent all of the outcomes achieved by Maine's CAAs.

Moreover, while establishing common definitions for reporting family, community, and agency improvement outcomes, the NPI enable State and local CSBG agencies to convey broad family and community outcomes. These outcomes are the result of the strategic use of a variety of change mechanisms, including service provision and program coordination, both within each agency and with partnering organizations in the broader community.

## Results Oriented Management and Accountability Goals & Outcomes

During FYs 2005, 2006, and 2007, Maine’s Community Action Agencies receiving CSBG funding reported the following outcomes in support of the 12 NPI of Community Action. The following outcomes represent some of the most common activities of Maine’s Community Action Agencies as categorized among the 12 NPI.

### 2007 Goals & Outcomes

**Goal 1:**      *Low-income people become more self-sufficient.*

<b>1.1 - EMPLOYMENT</b>			
As a result of Community Action assistance, the following employment outcomes occurred:			
<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	
1,010	595	256	Unemployed low-income people obtained a job.
547	526	172	Low-income people with jobs obtained an increase in salary.
251	40		Low-income people got “living wage” jobs with benefits.

<b>1.2 - EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS TO REDUCE/ELIMINATE BARRIERS</b>			
As a result of Community Action assistance, the following barriers to initial or continuous employment were reduced or eliminated:			
<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<b><i>LACK OF JOB SKILLS</i></b>
506	384	597	Low-income people obtained pre-employment skills and received training program certificates or diplomas.
<b><i>LACK OF CARE FOR CHILDREN</i></b>			
16	77	766	Low-income participants enrolled school-aged children in “before” and “after” school programs in order to obtain or maintain jobs.
1,425	1,721	2,978	Low-income participants obtained child care for pre-school children or dependents in order to acquire or maintain employment.

**1.2 - EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS TO REDUCE/ELIMINATE BARRIERS,**  
continued

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<i><b>LACK OF EDUCATION</b></i>
8	44		Low-income people completed Adult Basic Education or GED coursework and received certificates or diplomas.
8	22		Low-income people completed post-secondary education and obtained a certificate or diploma.
<i><b>LACK OF HEALTH CARE</b></i>			
990	4,327	7,872	Low-income participants obtained health care services for themselves or a family member in support of employment stability.
<i><b>LACK OF HOUSING</b></i>			
1,744	1,683	1,239	Low-income participants obtained safe and affordable housing in support of employment stability.
<i><b>LACK OF TRANSPORTATION</b></i>			
137	129		Low-income participants gained access to reliable transportation and/or a driver's license in order to acquire or maintain employment.
<i><b>LACK OF FOOD AND NUTRITION</b></i>			
93	49		Low-income participants obtained food assistance in support of employment stability.

**1.3 - ECONOMIC ASSET ENHANCEMENT**

As a result of Community Action, low-income households achieved an increase in non-employment financial assets:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<i><b>TAX CREDITS</b></i>
431	559	462	Low-income households in Community Action tax preparation programs identified Federal or State tax credits. Total amount of tax credits received 2007-\$857,171; 2006-\$1,002,742; 2005-\$692,780
<i><b>CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS</b></i>			
69	37	30	Low-income households were helped to obtain child support payments. Total amount of payments 2007-\$200,055; 2006-\$90,847; 2005-\$129,353
<i><b>UTILITY SAVINGS</b></i>			
21,717	26,002	12,711	Low-income households were enrolled in special telephone lifeline programs or received energy bill discounts. Total amount of aggregated savings 2007-\$3,129,440; 2006-\$1,789,989; 2005-\$1,484,172

### 1.3 - ECONOMIC ASSET UTILIZATION

As a result of Community Action assistance, low-income households gained financial management skills that enabled them to better use their resources and achieve their asset goals:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	
			<b><i>MAINTAIN A HOUSEHOLD BUDGET</i></b>
39	29	44	Low-income households demonstrated the ability to complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days.
			<b><i>INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS AND OTHER SAVINGS</i></b>
48	48	38	Low-income households opened Individual Development Accounts or other savings accounts. Total amount of savings 2007-\$9,063; 2006-\$62,001; 2005-\$40,010
			<b><i>CAPITALIZE SMALL BUSINESS</i></b>
6	8	8	Low-income households began small businesses with accumulated savings. Total amount of savings 2007-\$3,410; 2006-\$18,900; 2005-\$17,513
			<b><i>ENROLL IN HIGHER EDUCATION</i></b>
15	5	6	Low-income households pursued post-secondary education with accumulated savings. Total amount of savings 2007-\$4,974; 2006-\$9,412; 2005-\$13,356
			<b><i>PURCHASE A HOME</i></b>
8	7	10	Low-income households purchased a home with accumulated savings. Total amount of savings 2007-\$11,266; 2006-\$43,150; 2005-\$28,764

**Goal 2:** *The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.*

### 2.1 - INCREASING COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Local agencies receiving CSBG funds increased and preserved community opportunities and resources for low-income people through programs, partnerships, and advocacy:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	
			<b><i>LIVING WAGE JOBS</i></b>
26	865	42	Accessible “living wage” jobs were created or preserved in the community.
			<b><i>NEW HOUSING</i></b>
489	568	511	Safe and affordable new housing units were created in the community.
			<b><i>IMPROVED OR PRESERVED HOUSING</i></b>
3,789	3,718	2,346	Existing housing units were improved or preserved through construction, weatherization, or rehabilitation.
			<b><i>HEALTH CARE SERVICES</i></b>
457,191	169,836	57,789	Accessible and affordable health care services/facilities for low-income people were created or saved from elimination.

**2.1 - INCREASING COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES, continued**

Local agencies receiving CSBG funds increased and preserved community opportunities and resources for low-income people through programs, partnerships, and advocacy:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	
			<b><i>CHILD CARE AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT</i></b>
2,696	4,156	1,790	Child care or child development placement opportunities (“slots”) for low-income children were created or saved from elimination.
			<b><i>YOUTH PROGRAMS</i></b>
45	30	611	“Before” or “after” school program “slots” for low-income youth were created or saved from elimination.
			<b><i>TRANSPORTATION</i></b>
122,348	293,407	294,419	Transportation opportunities for low-income people (public transportation routes, rides, carpool arrangements, car purchase and maintenance) were created, expanded, or saved from elimination.
			<b><i>EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</i></b>
		168	Educational programs or opportunities for low-income people were created, expanded, or saved from elimination (including literacy, job training, Adult Basic Education/GED, and post-secondary education).

**2.2 - COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE AND ASSETS**

Community Action initiatives and advocacy improved the quality of life and assets in low-income neighborhoods:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	
			<b><i>PUBLIC POLICY</i></b>
1			New or expanded community asset (i.e. low and moderate income housing, jobs, education and training opportunities, bus rides, health care treatment appointments) resulted from Community Action advocacy for changes in laws, regulations, or public policies.
			<b><i>COMMUNITY FACILITIES</i></b>
6	5	405	Community facilities were created, expanded, or saved from reduction or elimination as a result of Community Action.
			<b><i>COMMUNITY SERVICES</i></b>
6	6	104	Community services to improve public health and safety were created, expanded, or saved from reduction or elimination as a result of Community Action initiatives.
			<b><i>COMMERCIAL SERVICES</i></b>
1	3	20	Commercial service within low-income communities were created, expanded, or saved from elimination as a result of Community Action initiatives.

**2.2 - COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE AND ASSETS, continued**

**2007   2006   2005   *“QUALITY- OF- LIFE” RESOURCES***

83	91	246	Neighborhood “quality-of-life” resources, such as parks, youth sports teams, recreation centers, special police foot patrols, and volunteer neighborhood watch programs, were created, expanded, or preserved as a result of Community Action initiatives.
----	----	-----	--

**Goal 3:      *Low-income people own a stake in their community.***

**3.1 - CIVIC INVESTMENT**

Community Action Agencies sought and encouraged volunteer assistance from community residents. Volunteers helped the agencies achieve program outcomes, and those offering their services often experienced a greater sense of connection and commitment to the community’s well-being and future.

<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	
866,299	898,567	965,620	Hours of service were volunteered to Community Action activities.

**3.2 - COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MAXIMUM FEASIBLE PARTICIPATION**

Community Action Agencies encouraged and assisted low-income people in engaging in activities that support and promote their own well-being and that of their community:

**2007   2006   2005      *COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING***

2,891	370	478	Low-income people were helped by Community Action to participate in formal community organizations, government, boards, or councils that provide input to decision-making and policy setting.
-------	-----	-----	---

***COMMUNITY BUSINESS OWNERSHIP***

25	9	24	Community facilities were created, expanded, or saved from reduction or elimination as a result of Community Action.
----	---	----	--

***HOMEOWNERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY***

242	250	224	Low-income people were helped by Community Action to purchase their own home in the community.
-----	-----	-----	--

***COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT***

966	641	2,050	Low-income people were engaged in non-governance community activities or groups created or supported by Community Action.
-----	-----	-------	---

**Goal 4:** *Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved.*

**4.1 - EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY-WIDE PARTNERSHIPS**

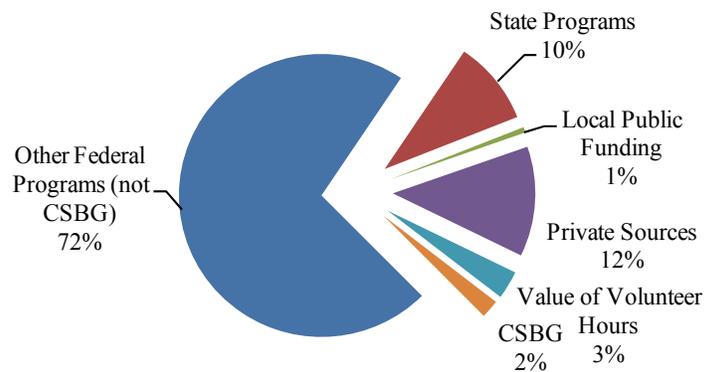
<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	
1,311	1,074	1,067	Organizations (i.e., State and local governments and service agencies, faith-based organizations, health care providers, educational and job training institutions, commercial enterprises, businesses, and foundations) worked with Community Action Agencies to promote family and community outcomes.
77	107	110	Faith-based organizations were among the organizations above.

**Goal 5:** *Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.*

**5.1 - BROADENING THE RESOURCE BASE**

Community Action Agencies mobilized and utilized resources from a variety of sources to carry out anti-poverty services, advocacy, and coordination responsibilities. Below is the breakdown of funding sources for FY 2007, FY 2006, and FY 2005:

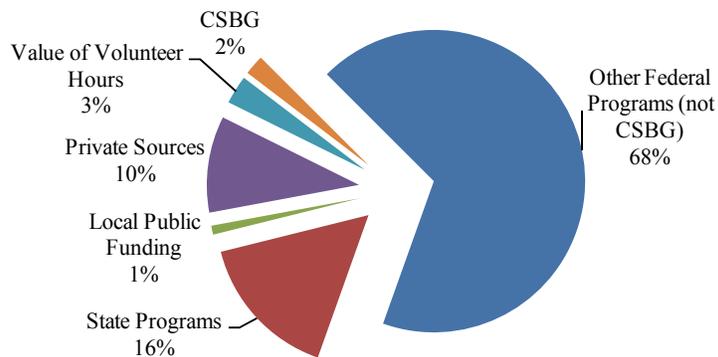
**The Maine CSBG Network's Total Funding in FY 2007**



**\$157.4 Million in Maine**  
(Includes 866,299 Volunteer Hours valued at \$5.85/hr)

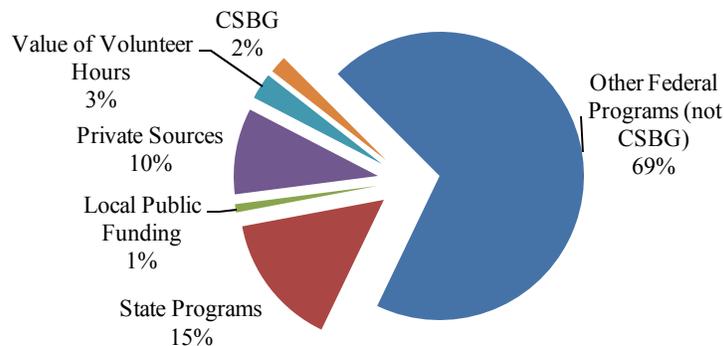
**5.1 - BROADENING THE RESOURCE BASE, continued**

**The Maine CSBG Network's Total Funding in FY 2006**



**\$152.6 Million in Maine**  
 (Includes 898,567 Volunteer Hours valued at \$5.15/hr)

**The Maine CSBG Network's Total Funding in FY 2005**



**\$169.8 Million in Maine**  
 (Includes 965,620 Volunteer Hours valued at \$5.15/hr)

**Goal 6:** *Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.*

**6.1 - INDEPENDENT LIVING**

Vulnerable individuals received services from Community Action Agencies, which assisted them in maintaining an independent living situation:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	
18,200	7,064	10,195	Senior citizens received services and maintained an independent living situation as a result of services.
3,377	4,240	4,821	Individuals with disabilities received services and maintained an independent living situation as a result of services.

## 6.2 - EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Community Action Agencies administered a variety of emergency services that helped families and individuals obtain and maintain their self-sufficiency:

<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES NEED</b>	<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SERVED</b>		
	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>
Food and Nutrition*	352,776	36,009	15,337
Emergency Vendor Payments, Including Fuel/Energy	14,294	17,932	15,235
Emergency Transportation	8,520	4,857	4,618
Temporary Shelter	272	186	162
Disaster Relief	15	5	12
Legal Assistance	536	417	294
Emergency Medical Care	425	500	4,050
Protection from Violence	69	89	27
Clothing	531	445	35

\*Composite number of individuals, households, families and food boxes.

## 6.3 - CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Community Action Agencies administered a variety of programs and services that helped infants, children, youth, parents, and other adults achieve developmental and enrichment goals:

<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><i>INFANTS AND CHILDREN</i></b>
5,097	7,139	2,549	Infants and children obtained age-appropriate immunizations, medical, and dental care.
4,020	7,593	18,134	Infants and children were assisted in their growth and development as a result of adequate nutrition.
2,140	7,409	2,555	Infants and children were assisted in developing school readiness skills through participation in pre-school activities.
969	2,112	1,318	Children who participated in pre-school activities became developmentally ready to enter kindergarten or first grade.
<b><i>YOUTH</i></b>			
933	1,239	451	Youth experienced improved physical health, growth, and development.
2,404	3,643	1,143	Youth experienced improved social/emotional development.
1,574	3,118	922	Youth avoided risk-taking behavior for a defined period of time.
847	976	98	Youth reduced involvement with the criminal justice system.
1,036	1,261	1,003	Youth increased their academic, athletic, or social skills by participating in “before” or “after” school programs.

### 6.3 - CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, continued

<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<i>PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS</i>
1,644	2,550	2,117	Parents and/or other adults learned and exhibited improved parenting skills.
1,901	2,097	2,020	Parents and/or other adults learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills.

## Conclusion

The Community Action network plays a significant role in ameliorating the effects of poverty across the state of Maine. The network shares a commitment to helping each client achieve self-sufficiency, while each organization has tailored its programs and priorities to address those needs that are greatest in the local area. With CSBG and leveraged resources, Maine CAAs reached more than 150,000 individuals and approximately 70,000 families living with economic insecurity, in each of the past three years.

The adoption of National Performance Indicators for the CSBG program in FY 2004 has enabled state and local Community Action Agencies receiving CSBG funding to report program outcomes in a manner that captures both the scope and depth of anti-poverty work performed in Maine. CSBG performance outcomes contained in this and past performance measurement reports continue to establish baselines for future performance.

The following Appendices provide additional details on the funding, programming, and clients of the Maine Community Action network during the 2005, 2006, and 2007 fiscal years.

# Appendices

## Appendix A:

Maine Community Services Block Grant

FY 2007 Funding, Program, and Client  
Characteristics

CSBG NETWORK CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS

# Family Structure

by Number of Persons

2007	Single Parent Household		Two parent household	Single Person	Two Adults, no Children	Other	Total
	Female	Male					
ACAP	3,048	134	778	2,810	124	408	7,302
CED	1,157	44	164	1,306	24	284	2,979
CCI	2,394	670	1,055	8,354	4,269		16,742
KVCA	3,278	116	371	3,639	61	726	8,191
PCAP	2,040	238	2,679	4,825	2,167	222	12,171
PROP	420	20	260	2	22		724
WCAP	985	28	46	1,034	17	222	2,332
WHCA	1,861	60	78	2,137	31	429	4,596
WMCA	135	371	286	889	94	183	1,958
YCCAC	1,385	58	55	1,803	26	350	3,677
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,703</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>5,772</b>	<b>26,799</b>	<b>6,835</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>60,672</b>

2006	Single Parent Household		Two parent household	Single Person	Two Adults, no Children	Other	Total
	Female	Male					
ACAP	706	91	1,004	2,879	1,490	276	6,446
CED	484	87	502	1,340	461	118	2,992
CCI	2,520	705	1,110	8,794	4,494		17,623
KVCA	931	95	1,109	3,822	1,480	426	7,863
PCAP	1,947	179	2,653	5,087	2,209	20	12,095
PROP	315	7	207	2		6	537
WCAP	258	34	354	993	431	130	2,200
WHCA	538	55	680	2,220	925	258	4,676
WMCA	124	835	296	1,001	163	496	2,915
YCCAC	71	1,368	44	1,892	32	364	3,771
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,894</b>	<b>3,456</b>	<b>7,959</b>	<b>28,030</b>	<b>11,685</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>61,118</b>

2005	Single Parent Household		Two parent household	Single Person	Two Adults, no Children	Other	Total
	Female	Male					
ACAP	166	31	473	2,517		3	3,190
CED	240	24	514	1,255	460	309	2,802
CCI	2,631	740	1,173	9,175	4,639		18,358
KVCA	191	13	277	204	1		686
PCAP	2,075	273	2,036	4,574	2,072	17	11,047
PROP	100	60	240				400
WCAP	1,943	328	68	509	5		2,853
WHCA	3,970	597	161	940	7		5,675
WMCA	114	59		836			1,009
YCCAC				1,454	905		2,359
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,430</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>4,942</b>	<b>21,464</b>	<b>8,089</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>48,379</b>

CSBG NETWORK CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS

**CSBG Participant Households by Family Size**

<b>2007</b>	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
<b>ACAP</b>	2,807	2,138	1,099	892	341	144	39	15
<b>CED</b>	1,306	698	330	224	103	47	16	10
<b>CCI</b>	8,320	4,185	1,874	1,717	736	268	134	54
<b>KVCA</b>	3,640	1,936	913	771	343	128	43	19
<b>PCAP</b>	4,826	3,206	1,884	1,316	628	203	76	34
<b>PROP</b>	152	196	100	17	25	11	5	13
<b>WCAP</b>	1,034	596	282	237	114	42	16	11
<b>WHCA</b>	2,137	1,196	584	425	162	65	17	10
<b>WMCA</b>	889	519	232	191	82	26	12	7
<b>YCCAC</b>	1,803	923	353	315	180	75	20	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,914</b>	<b>15,593</b>	<b>7,651</b>	<b>6,105</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>181</b>

<b>2006</b>	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
<b>ACAP</b>	3,558	2,103	651	481	236	89	31	13
<b>CED</b>	1,421	966	786	628	282	131	45	24
<b>CCI</b>	8,758	4,405	1,973	1,233	775	282	141	56
<b>KVCA</b>	3,822	1,935	889	728	306	123	40	20
<b>PCAP</b>	5,055	3,126	1,744	1,221	571	191	67	33
<b>PROP</b>	17	3	256	40	184	13		1
<b>WCAP</b>	993	566	253	231	94	35	20	8
<b>WHCA</b>	2,220	1,178	596	404	182	67	24	5
<b>WMCA</b>	1,101	704	449	314	137	81	62	67
<b>YCCAC</b>	1,892	930	389	288	178	65	18	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,837</b>	<b>15,916</b>	<b>7,986</b>	<b>5,568</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>238</b>

<b>2005</b>	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
<b>ACAP</b>	2,534	1,821	719	575	273	92	41	14
<b>CED</b>	1,276	870	693	581	264	100	58	10
<b>CCI</b>	9,118	4,599	2,065	1,292	815	299	149	21
<b>KVCA</b>	17	73	141	191	89	30	13	10
<b>PCAP</b>	4,879	2,924	1,513	1,088	516	160	61	29
<b>PROP</b>	1,998	1,118	636	485	182	131	31	22
<b>WCAP</b>	1,264	712	330	294	147	66	15	25
<b>WHCA</b>	2,700	1,404	686	516	251	88	19	11
<b>WMCA</b>	836	495	226	199	92	33	16	5
<b>YCCAC</b>	2,123	1,412	938	878	404	177	60	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,745</b>	<b>15,428</b>	<b>7,947</b>	<b>6,099</b>	<b>3,033</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>171</b>

# Maine Community Action Association



*Helping People. Changing Lives.*

<p>Matt Smith  <b>Executive Director</b>                  P.O. Box 200                  East Wilton, ME 04234                  207.485.4100  <a href="mailto:Matt-MCAA@maine.rr.com">Matt-MCAA@maine.rr.com</a></p>	<p>Susan Richards  <b>Executive Administrative Assistant</b>                  PO Box 200                  East Wilton, ME 04234                  207.645.3764 ext. 5280  <a href="mailto:srichards@wmca.org">srichards@wmca.org</a></p>
<p>Connie Sandstrom, E.D.  <b>Aroostook County Action Program, Inc.</b>                  P.O. Box 1116 (771 Main St.)                  Presque Isle, ME 04769                  207.764.3721 or 1.800.432.7881 (Tel)                  207.768.3022 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.acap-me.org">www.acap-me.org</a></p>	<p>Mike Burke, E.D.  <b>Community Concepts, Inc.</b>                  P.O. Box 278 (17-19 Market Square)                  South Paris, ME 04281                  207.743.7716 ext. 1104 (Tel)                  207.743.6513 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.community-concepts.org">www.community-concepts.org</a></p>
<p>Pat Kosma, E.D.  <b>Kennebec Valley Community Action</b>                  97 Water Street                  Waterville, ME 04901                  207.859.1565 (Tel)                  207.873.0158 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.kvcap.org">www.kvcap.org</a></p>	<p>Jessica Tysen, E.D.  <b>Midcoast Maine Community Action</b>                  34 Wing Farm Pkwy.                  Bath, ME 04530                  207.442.7963 ext. 215 (Tel)                  207.443.7447 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.midcoastmainecommunityaction.org">www.midcoastmainecommunityaction.org</a></p>
<p>Charles Newton, E.D.  <b>Penquis</b>                  P.O. Box 1162 (262 Harlow Street)                  Bangor, ME 04402                  207.973.3500 (Tel)                  207.973.3699 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.penquiscap.org">www.penquiscap.org</a></p>	<p>Suzanne McCormick, E.D.  <b>People's Regional Opportunity Program</b>                  510 Cumberland Avenue                  Portland, ME 04101                  207.874.1140 ext. 349 (Tel)                  207.874.1155 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.propeople.org">www.propeople.org</a></p>
<p>Joyce C. Scott, E.D.  <b>Waldo Community Action Partners</b>                  P.O. Box 130 (9 Field Street)                  Belfast, ME 04915                  207.338.6809 ext. 110 (Tel)                  207.338.6812 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.waldocap.org">www.waldocap.org</a></p>	<p>Tim King, E.D.  <b>Washington Hancock Community Agency</b>                  P.O. Box 280 (corner of Main and Maple Sts.)                  Milbridge, ME 04658                  207.546.7544 (Tel)                  207.546.3216 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.whcacap.org">www.whcacap.org</a></p>
<p>Fenwick Fowler, E.D.  <b>Western Maine Community Action, Inc.</b>                  P.O. Box 200                  East Wilton, ME 04234                  207.645.4287 ext. 5300 (Tel)                  207.645.9604 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.wmca.org">www.wmca.org</a></p>	<p>Tom Nelson, E.D.  <b>York County Community Action Corp.</b>                  P.O. Box 72 (6 Spruce Street)                  Sanford, ME 04073                  207.324.5762 ext. 9015 (Tel)                  207.490.5026 (Fax)  <a href="http://www.yccac.org">www.yccac.org</a></p>

# **ATTACHMENT J**

## **State of Maine Community Action Agencies**

### **Community Needs Assessments**



**Mission**

Aroostook County Action Program, Inc. provides services and resources that help individuals and families achieve greater economic independence. As a leader or in partnership with others, ACAP provides guidance to the community in responding to emerging human needs.

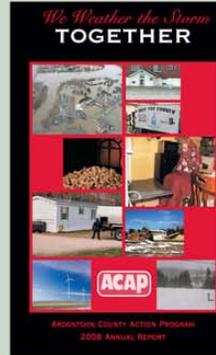


**Vision**

*We Make Life Better!*

**ACAP Annual Report 2008**

We invite you to review our most recent annual report.



**What's New**

**ACAP is helping customers with energy costs and conserving fuel.**

[... Read more...](#)

- 12/30/2008

**ENROLLMENT for LOW INCOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) BEGINS.**

This program provides money to low-income homeowners an...

[Read more...](#)

- 03/28/2008

**FORT KENT CHILD & FAMILY CENTER RELOCATES**

The April 30th flood that devastated so many homes and ...

[Read more...](#)

- 06/15/2008

[More news >>](#)

**Helpful Links**

Information on Maine's Community Action Agencies



Keep ME Warm is a public and private collaboration aimed to help our neighbors most in need throughout the state of Maine cope with the rising cost of fuel.



**Poverty in Maine-2008**



For more information on the 2008 Symposium and other information about ending poverty in Maine, visit



For the latest Poverty in Maine update, [click here](#).

2-1-1 Maine includes a statewide-directory of over 5000 resources including agency services and support groups. A new Prescription Drug Assistance Program for Aroostook citizens is also offered.



**Office Locations**

771 Main Street  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
(207)764-3721  
1-800-432-7881

342 West Main St.  
Suite 102  
Fort Kent, ME 04743  
(207)834-5135

91 Military St.  
Houlton, ME 04730  
(207)532-5311

88 Fox St.  
Madawaska, ME 04756  
(207)728-6345

**ACAP COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**  
**Community Needs Assessment**  
2009

In 2008, Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) reported that a comprehensive county-wide, community needs assessment process was initiated in late summer 2007. A needs assessment survey was developed and entered into Survey Monkey with a direct link to ACAP's website. Responses to the survey were collected during months of November and December 2007 and a report was issued in early 2008. That report served as a community assessment for 2008 and continues to be a primary indicator of need as well as a guide to the agency with respect to program planning and service delivery.

In addition to that information, ACAP relies upon data in the latest Poverty in Maine 2006 Report and Poverty Update reports as indicators of poverty in the state and, more specifically, in Aroostook County. These reports present a profile of poverty based on the most current reliable data available from state and federal sources, and include trend highlights. In Aroostook County, the poverty rate is increasing; the number of households receiving food stamps and fuel assistance; the monthly unemployment rate; and the number of school-age children eligible for free and reduced school lunch, all increased. **The April 2009 Poverty in Maine Update reported the following:**

	Aroostook County	Maine
Individual 2007 Poverty Rate	17.4%	12.2%
Households Receiving Food Stamps 07/08	22.7%	17.1%
Households Receiving LIHEAP 07/08	19.8%	9.3%
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunches 08	49.9%	39.1%

While trends in Aroostook mirror those in the state, it is evident that all measures of poverty are higher in Aroostook County compared to state-wide data. Poverty in Maine Reports may be accessed at <http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc/>.

Additional resources used by ACAP to identify community needs include unemployment data and Rapid Response Brief reports. Most notable in the Rapid Response report is the increase in numbers of dislocated workers over the past several years and the significant increase in YTD 2009.

**Attachments:**

2008 Community Assessment Report/Child & Family Services

## **ACAP Child and Family Services**

### **2008 Community Assessment**

#### Section 1. General Area Description

The Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) Child and Family Services program is unique in that it serves families in two counties; all of Aroostook County as well as the East Grand area of Washington County.

Aroostook County (Attachments #1 and #2) is Maine's northern most county and is the largest county east of the Mississippi. It encompasses 6,672 square miles (an area larger than the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined). Aroostook County is bordered on the north, east and west by the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick and on the south by four Maine counties.

Eighty-eight percent of Aroostook's total acreage is heavily wooded land, including more than 7,000 miles of flowing water with 2,000 lakes, rivers and streams. Eight percent of the land is cultivated farmland, which is the source of almost all of Maine's potato and broccoli crops. The remaining four percent of the area is comprised of urban areas, pastures and federal property (principally the former Loring Air Force Base). There are two cities, 54 towns, 11 plantations and 108 unorganized townships in Aroostook County.

The most notable aspect of the northern Maine climate is the long, extremely cold, and windy winters. The National Weather Service reports that the average first freeze is in late September and the average last freeze in the spring is mid-May. Winters are particularly long and windy, with normal seasonal snowfalls of 115.6 inches. The winter of 2008 has been particularly harsh with over 115 inches of snow received by February 18. Snowfall can occur at any month, but usually the first occurs in mid to late October. Temperatures of zero or lower normally occur over 40 times per year. Spring is known as the "mud season" as several weeks may be required to thaw out the ground. In January and February, with wind chill factors considered, temperatures frequently plummet to between forty to sixty degrees below zero. In 1999, Allagash, (in northern Aroostook) reported 50 degrees F below zero (without wind chill).

The 2000 US Census Bureau estimated Aroostook County at 73,938 people, of which 22.6% are under age 18. This decrease of almost 13,000 people or 15% from the 1990 Census of 86,936 can be primarily attributed to the closing of Loring Air Force Base resulting in a significant loss of jobs. Another factor is the decline of family farms in the area. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of farms in Aroostook decreased from 700 to 400.

The 2007 Maine Kids Count Data Book reports that there were 681 live births in Aroostook County, a 3% decrease from last year. Maine Kids Count also reports that there are 3,349 children under the age of five in The County. In Aroostook County, 918 of these children are in enrolled in Nursery or Preschool (Attachment #4). The Maine Kids Count data also shows that there were 2,751 children living in poverty in 2004.

The 2007 Maine Kids Count Data Book reports while child poverty has declined, the number of children in low income families (twice the poverty level or below) has increased: 37% of all Maine Children live in families who struggle to make ends meet. The same report states that in 2004 the annual median household income in Aroostook County was \$32,629, while the statewide average was \$41,287. In 2006, 56.3% of Aroostook's children received MaineCare while 44.5% of Maine's children received the same benefits. The 2007 Maine Kids Count also reported 47.7% of Aroostook's children are eligible for subsidized school lunch. In 2004, there were 1,538 (10.3%) Aroostook children on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). The 2007 Maine Kids Count also reported that in December 2006, 3,842 (25.7%) children live in families that received Food Stamps.

Because Aroostook County and Washington County's East Grand area are massive and sparsely populated (11.1 people per square mile), many families live miles from the few urban centers where services are available. Climate factors also increase stress on families.

The Maine Department of Transportation reports that a total of 9,683 miles of roads access the vast rural expanse of Aroostook County; 2,242 miles are gravel or unimproved while 7,440 miles are paved or treated. Highway sufficiency reports indicate that 36% of these roads are in mediocre to poor condition. Country roads are

often poorly maintained so that travel is difficult, especially during the winter months and the spring thaw, or "mud season". The wind is also a major contributor to poor winter driving conditions. Blowing snow and the resultant drifts often make rural roads hazardous if not impassable. As a result, many young children are isolated at home with little or no opportunity for peer contact, social development, or preschool activities.

Another implication of the extended, harsh winters is that home heating becomes a focal point of family budgets. Heating oil and wood prices continue to challenge Aroostook County families, who routinely face the highest prices in the state for home heating oil.

In a predominantly agricultural area, long, cold winters create a seasonal labor demand. The farming and forestry industries rely heavily on seasonal employment, accounting for nearly 75% of workers who do not have full-time jobs. During the winter months, the majority of these laborers are laid off without alternative employment opportunities. The seasonal nature of their work also means that many have only limited eligibility for unemployment insurance and so are without even this economic safety net.

The combination of poverty and isolation in Aroostook and Washington Counties creates a number of problems for children and youth. The implications of those conditions have a significant impact on the physical health, development, happiness, adjustment, and emotional well being of rural children and youth.

Head Start services are available to children in most areas of Aroostook and East Grand. In the 2007-08 school year, 24 public elementary schools provided Preschool programs for 642 four year-old children. The dramatic increase in public Preschool programs over the past few years has greatly impacted the enrollment of Head Start. Attachments 5 & 6 break down information collected from the 2000 U.S. Census Data. The information can be used to determine programming for the following program year. Some school systems have expressed an interest in working with ACAP Child and Family Services in collaborative efforts to deliver quality preschool programs to interested families. We are currently involved in collaborative efforts in East Grand and Dyer Brook.

Adequate cold weather outerwear, including snowsuits, boots and other winter gear is costly, yet indispensable for coping with Aroostook County winters. ACAP works in cooperation with local agencies to distribute donated items to families in need. ACAP also works with the United Way of Aroostook to help distribute clothing and personal care items to families during the holiday season. The United Way of Aroostook also partners with ACAP Child & Family Services to administer a grant that provided school clothes for children in grades K - 12. ACAP Child & Family Services processes applications from families who qualified for free or reduced lunches. Families that meet the criteria are issued \$50.00 vouchers. The vouchers are used at local merchants to purchase school clothing for the qualifying child. The program was able to provide this service for over 600 Aroostook County children in 2007-08.

## Section 2. Needs of Children and Families

Every year families with children enrolled at ACAP child care centers report an overriding need for employment and training as their number one need and goal. The unemployment rates in Aroostook and Washington Counties are consistently higher than most all other counties in Maine. For 2006 The Maine Department of Labor reported the average unemployment rate for Aroostook was 6.0% and for Washington County, it was 8.6%, while statewide the average was only 4.5%. These relatively high unemployment rates for our area reflect the level of economic resources available to the area's work force and the seasonal nature of many employment opportunities. In October 2007, ACAP Child & Family Services formed a committee of local providers to formulate a Community Needs Assessment that was sent home to Head Start Parents. The committee felt that surveying other members of the community would also be helpful. People who applied for LIHEAP (fuel assistance), people who received service at ACAP Health 1st and WIC clinics and consumers of a mental health agency and the local agency on aging were asked to complete the surveys as they waited for services or visited offices. Surveys were also sent out to a random sampling of voucher recipients and home child care providers. Two thousand surveys were distributed with 268 returned, a 13% return rate. Employment was the focus of three of the questions on the survey. The survey showed that the people are frequently concerned about low paying jobs, lack of job training, and too many short term/part time jobs.

Due to the extreme winter conditions in Aroostook County, winterization, housing services and fuel assistance are needed by a great number of families. The current waiting list for winterization and Section 8 is about one year. Forty-one percent of Maine's housing was built before 1940 which results in a greater need for repair, rehabilitation and weatherization assistance. In New England, households expend an average of \$2,150 yearly in energy costs, the highest in the nation. The 2007/08 LIHEAP Program provided 4,811 Aroostook County families fuel assistance benefits. The average benefit for the fuel assistance was \$778.00. The cost of fuel oil for the 2007/08 winter season varied a great deal with the prices fluctuating between a \$2.89 and \$3.40 a gallon. The 2008 Community Assessment revealed that families often neglect home repairs, go without medication and buy less food due the high cost of home heating.

The isolation and poverty in northern Maine also make it difficult to attract medical and other health professionals. This results in children and their family members having unmet medical and dental needs due to a lack of an adequate number of health care professionals in the area. Adding to the dilemma is the fact that only a small percentage of these providers in the area accept Medicaid. According to the Maine State Planning Office, Bureau of Health Statistics, there are still shortages of doctors and dentists for the area. Lack of medical care was reported to be a concern of 137 of the people responding to the survey with the lack of dental services being a concern of 181 respondents. Comments on the survey also included that there is lack of dentist in the area and many of them do not except MaineCare and there is a lack of other insurance coverage available.

Aroostook and Washington Counties also lack enough speech, physical and occupational therapists to adequately meet the needs of children and youth. Many are placed on a waiting list for these services to come available. On the recent community assessment, 113 people responded that lack of therapists or availability of therapy services was a problem for their family. Head Start children have been fortunate in that ACAP Child and Family Services has initiated collaborative efforts with speech therapists to deliver speech therapy at ACAP child care centers.

Many children and youth in Aroostook and Washington Counties are isolated in rural areas where they have little chance for socialization with others in their own age group. While Head Start is available in many of these rural communities to meet the needs of the eligible children and families, there are few opportunities for children and youth in other age groups for these same benefits. Head Start parents surveyed reported that they hope "their child will get skills that ready them for school," "communication skills," "how to get along with others." Comments on the survey also included that we need "things for teens to do" and there is a "lack of activities for children."

The lack of public transportation in northern Maine creates many challenges for families. ACAP operates a fleet of busses to transport children to and from each of its Head Start centers. Taxi service is available in the three largest communities of Aroostook. The Aroostook Regional Transportation System (ARTS), a non-profit organization that provides demand response transportation services, provides transportation on a scheduled basis throughout the area five days per week. ARTS primarily transports elderly and disabled individuals to medical appointments and to shopping areas, leaving most other populations of Aroostook and Washington Counties without public transportation available on a regular basis. Because of this situation, ACAP Family Service

Workers often provide transportation to essential appointments for families of children enrolled in Head Start. Transportation was also noted as a concern on the community assessment with 125 people responding that it was difficult for them to get to appointments and do necessary errands due to the high cost of fuel, insurance and vehicle repairs.

Low educational attainment diminishes income and employment opportunities. In Maine, people without a high school diploma are twice as likely to be poor. According to the 2000 census, 53.5% of Aroostook adults have a high school diploma or equivalent yet only 9.4% are college graduates. Maine Kids Count 2007 reports the 2004-05 High School dropout rate was 2.8% which was below the national average rate of 4.8%. In 2004-05 the dropout rate in Aroostook County was 2.3 %. Maine Kids Count 2007 also reports that Maine continues to sustain one of the lowest high school dropout rates in the county; the rate has hovered around 3% for the past decade. While most school departments in Aroostook have Adult Education programs that offer GED, high school diploma courses and personal enrichment courses, the smaller school districts often do not have those services available, thus making it difficult for individuals in those communities to pursue further education. Head Start staff in some cases have been successful in working with adult education programs in outlying communities to deliver educational services to areas that do not have their own adult education programs. Through partnerships with Barbara Bush, Maine Family Literacy Grants, ACAP has been able to bring adult education services into the homes of Head Start families. Head Start Home Visitors work in partnership with literacy specialists to offer GED preparation and other literacy support in Madawaska, Ashland and Houlton.

A separate Head Start parent survey showed that of 35 parents who completed the survey 22 of them are employed full time and 16 are employed part time; 6 are attending school or a training program. Nineteen parents, not currently receiving full day services reported that they would be interested in full day/full year services. Parents are encouraged to volunteer if they are available but because of the employment status they are often not available to work in the classroom. This trend has changed the focus of the way Family Service Workers need to recruit volunteers for the classroom. Family Service Workers have always welcomed and encouraged community volunteers but because of the trend of working Head Start parents community volunteers have become the "regular" volunteers in the classrooms.

The need for infant and toddler child care was identified as a need. Due to the actual cost to provide care to this age group 5 Aroostook County family home providers have discontinued services to infants and toddlers, leaving 20 fewer enrollment opportunities for families. ACAP

has 15 enrollment opportunities for Early Head Start at 3 centers and 33 child care infant and toddler slots at 4 centers. The waiting list for this age group varies between 25 and 35 families needing center based infant and toddler care.

### Section 3. Community Resources to Meet the Needs of Children and Families

The **Aroostook County Action Program**, with offices located in Presque Isle, Houlton, Fort Kent and Madawaska, offers an array of child and family services (Attachments #3) in 9 Aroostook communities and the East Grand area of Washington County. Services include child care, Head Start (with full day/full year Head Start and after school child care in four locations), Home Base Head Start and a Resource Development Center, which is designed to coordinate all child care services in Aroostook County.

#### *Capacity*

<u>Type of Program</u>	<u>Number of Programs</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Center-Based Child Care	14	465
Nursery School	3	50
Family-Based Child Care	105	1,171
Head Start Centers	12	323
<u>School-Age Child Care</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>75</u>
Totals	137	2,084

#### *Availability*

<u>Open</u>	<u>Center-Based</u>	<u>Family-Based</u>
Days	92%	95%
Evenings	8%	3%
Weekends	0%	3%
Summer	92%	95%

#### *Accreditation*

<u>Type of Program</u>	<u># Accredited</u>
Center-Based	10
Family-Based	1

#### *COST*

<u>Age of Child</u>	<u>Center-Based</u>	<u>Family-Child Care</u>
Infant	\$164	\$85
Toddler	\$150	\$85
Preschool	\$133	\$85
School Age	\$100	\$80

**HEADSTART**

<b>Center-based Head Start</b>	<b>Head Start</b>	<b>Early Head Start</b>
# of programs	10	3
# of children	213	15
<b>Home-based Head Start</b>	<b>Head Start</b>	<b>Early Head Start</b>
# of programs	4	0
# of children	35	0
<b>Total Special Needs children enrolled</b>	<b>Head Start</b>	<b>Early Head Start</b>
2007-08 Head Start Year (current)	39	2

**ACAP** health services include family planning, preventative health and dental health education, supplemental food for women, infants and children (WIC). Employment and training services are available for summer and out of school youth from ages 16 as well as for adults at Career Centers in Houlton, Presque Isle and Madawaska. A broad range of housing and energy services assist low-income families with weatherization, home energy assistance and emergency food and utility assistance. Section 8 rental assistance is available as well.

After school programs for school age children are available on a very limited basis. **ACAP Child & Family Centers** in Presque Isle, Fort Kent and Caribou provide care for school age children. Most communities have youth recreation departments, but operating hours and programs vary greatly. **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** programs in Presque Isle and Fort Kent are operating on a limited basis. Both **Boy Scout** and **Girl Scouts** have active programs in a large number of communities in Aroostook County. Several schools in Aroostook County have received Century 21 grants. These grants enable schools to provide after school services to children in their school districts who meet criteria established in individual grants.

Aroostook's Native American children and youth also receive health and other services through **Micmac** and **Maliseet** facilities, located in Presque Isle and Houlton, respectively. The Aroostook Band of Micmac's and the Maliseet's also operate Head Start programs that serves 40 Native American 3 and 4 year olds in Houlton and Presque Isle.

The **Aroostook Mental Health Center** has a variety of programs available to children, youth and families with mental and behavioral problems. **Helping Hands for Children and Families**, **ACES** and **WINGS** provide services for children with handicaps and their families. **Alcoholic's Anonymous** has a number of meeting sites around the area.

The **Battered Women's Project**, **Healthy Families Aroostook** and the **Maine Department of Human Services' Adult and Child Protective Division** provide emergency and preventative services for the victims of domestic violence in Aroostook County.

Health services are provided by physician clinics throughout Aroostook County and pediatrics clinics in the larger communities. **Healthy Families Aroostook** provides preventative services from birth to assure newborns and their families a healthy start through a home visiting program.

#### Section 4. Other Significant Partnerships

- Northern Maine Community College (NMCC): Students are placed at Head Start sites to complete fieldwork required for an Early Childhood Associates Degree. Tobacco Settlement: Child & Family Services has a representative on the Partnership for a Healthy Community.
- Child Development Services
- Aroostook Mental Health Services
- Cooperative Extension Services
- Maine Association of Pupil Transportation
- America Reads: University of Maine at Presque Isle
- RIF: Reading is Fundamental
- Aroostook Literacy Coalition
- Social Service Support Group
- Aroostook Access: Child Care professionals and businessmen discuss early childhood quality issues
- Policy Council representation on Aroostook Policy Advisory Council
- Policy Council Members serve on ACAP Board of Directors
- Industry Council for Loring Job Corps

#### State Committees ACAP Staff Serves On

- State Access
- Head Start Directors
- Child Services Managers
- Maine's Network of Child Care Resource Development Centers (MRDC, Inc.) - Chairperson

## Section 5. Information on Children with Disabilities

During 2004, The Maine Bureau of Vital Statistics reports that there were 681 births in Aroostook County and 336 in Washington County. In both counties, about 15 of those were born with congenital anomalies, 63 had low birth weight, and a total of 320 were otherwise at risk for developmental delays.

Child Development Services provides coordination services for special needs children ages birth through five in Maine. This program provides screening and assessment to provide early intervention services to children with special needs. CDS workers often serve as the child's case manager, the person responsible for coordinating services and care for the child.

Maine Kids Count 2007 reports that the number of students 3 - 21 years of age identified with disabilities was 2,043 for the school year 2005-06. Child Development Services reports approximately 350 Aroostook children in the age range of 0-5 have been identified with special needs.

There are few early childhood programs in Aroostook County that serve special needs children exclusively. Those sites include the Central Aroostook Association for Retarded Children-Child Development Center, ABC Academy, and Circle of Learning.

Healthy Families Aroostook report 29 infants and toddlers on their current caseload have developed IFSP's. In 2008, Healthy Families referred 69 infants and toddlers for evaluation. Approximately 40 of the referred children fell into the mild to moderate range making them ineligible for special services, but still presenting a delay. Early intervention services through EHS could positively impact the outcomes for these children.

During the current year, ACAP Head Start is providing services to a total of 283 children, forty-one, of which are identified as having disabilities.

## Section 6. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Culture and Languages

While the majority (97%) of Aroostook and northern Washington County population is Caucasian, a distinctive feature of the area is the diverse ethnic and cultural heritage of the population. This large geographic area is home to three distinct ethnic populations.

Approximately 30% of the population of Aroostook County speaks French. This French speaking population is found primarily in the northernmost part of Aroostook, from approximately Van Buren north and west. To a large extent, the French speaking people of this area have retained their Acadian cultural integrity as well as their language. Although French may be their first language, the public school systems require that its students be proficient in the English language. As a result, the people of this area are mostly bilingual. However, there is a small portion of this population that speaks French exclusively. Because of this unique environment, it is critical that Head Start staff be both bilingual in French and English and sensitive to the Acadian culture.

Another significant ethnic population is the approximate 1,000 American Indians that are members of two tribes. Almost half of the total or 470 are under the age of 18. The Micmac Indians are located in the central Aroostook area, while the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians resides mostly in the southern Aroostook area.

Additionally, there are very small numbers of Asian or Pacific Islanders, Black and Hispanic people residing in communities throughout the area.

## Section 7. Unmet Need for Head Start and Related Information

According to the 2007 Maine Kids Count Data Book, there are 3,349 children under the age of five and 11,629 between the ages of five and seventeen living in Aroostook County. Of these, 56% received MaineCare. The Maine Kids Count 2007 Data Book reports that 10.3 % of Aroostook's families received TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).

Aroostook County Action Program currently has 268 funded preschool slots and 15 state funded slots for infants and toddlers at 10 Head Start Center locations in Aroostook and the East Grand community of Washington County. In the 2008-09 program year we are planning to reduce slots to 248 children based on reduced revenues to operate the program. We will increase our contact with public school programs in an effort to expand partnership opportunities.

Our recruitment areas are limited to the communities that are within a one-hour bus ride of our center locations. Yet, because quality child development programs are "few and far between", our service area sometimes stretches beyond the recruitment area. In these instances, parents usually provide transportation to the child care center or to a pick-up point where a Head Start bus can meet the child.

According to *Child Care, Money and Maine: Implications for Federal and State Policy*, published in 2002, "It can be difficult to document the "unmet need:" for child care in general and for subsidized child care in particular" because of a variety of factors. Of the estimated 71% of Maine families with two working parents, a reported 40% of eligible families rely on "informal" child care providers, and an estimated 42,204 children need formal child care and are eligible for a child care subsidy.

## Section 8. Identification and Prioritization of Issues and Problems

ACAP will serve 248 Head Start children in 10 centers in Aroostook County. Fifty-four (41) of these Head Start children are enrolled in a full day/full year program. Because most families do not have access to reliable transportation, ACAP Head Start provides transportation to and from Head Start at 8 out of the 10 Head Start sites.

There are very few areas of the county that are not served by ACAP or other preschool providers. ACAP Head Start staff and parents have identified the following areas as priorities for meeting unmet preschool needs in our service area:

1. The highest need for services is in the 0-3 year old population. The waiting list for ACAP Child Care Voucher Program averages 40 for this age range. ACAP will pursue Federal funding to establish an Early Head Start Program in the county.
2. Most communities in Aroostook County and East Grand have added preschool programs to the public school. We will continue to work very closely with these public school administrators to develop collaboratives, or at least cooperatives, in delivering services to children.
3. Due to the threat of losing Target Case Management services the program will closely examine alternatives to service delivery, and where loss of services would have the least impact to children, families and community. In the 2008-09 program year, program slots will be reduced by 20. If Targeted Case Management is recovered the 20 slots will be reinstated.
4. It continues to be important for ACAP to pursue all avenues for volunteer services. We recruit from TANF / ASPIRE, Foster Grandparents, RSVP, University WorkStudy, High School Adult Education Programs and other community resources. All ACAP sites train participants in appropriate Early Childhood Practice.

## Section 9. Staff and Parent Training

Staff and parent training plans are designed to meet the needs of individuals as well as groups of staff or parents. The needs are identified through various strategies. Staff training plans will be developed utilizing information gained through Professional Development Plans, supervisory sessions as well as the Career Development Committee. Parent training plans will be developed utilizing information gained through home visits, parent conferences as well as parent meetings.

We will be providing an extensive week long pre-service training to all Child and Family Services employees. It will include training to further staff professional development. Throughout the year, additional content area training will be held. Staff is also notified of training that is being offered through other agencies. We also will work closely with the higher education institutions to further staff professional development. During the next three years many staff will be in the process of pursuing Associate and Bachelor degrees in an effort to meet Head Start Reauthorization.

## Section 10. The Community Needs Process

September 2007

Recruitment of partners for Community Assessment Planning group  
Partners review survey questions and finalize the document

October 2007

Survey is entered into Survey Monkey to allow completion of the survey on-line

November & December 2007

Collected Survey Information On-line and paper copies

January 2008

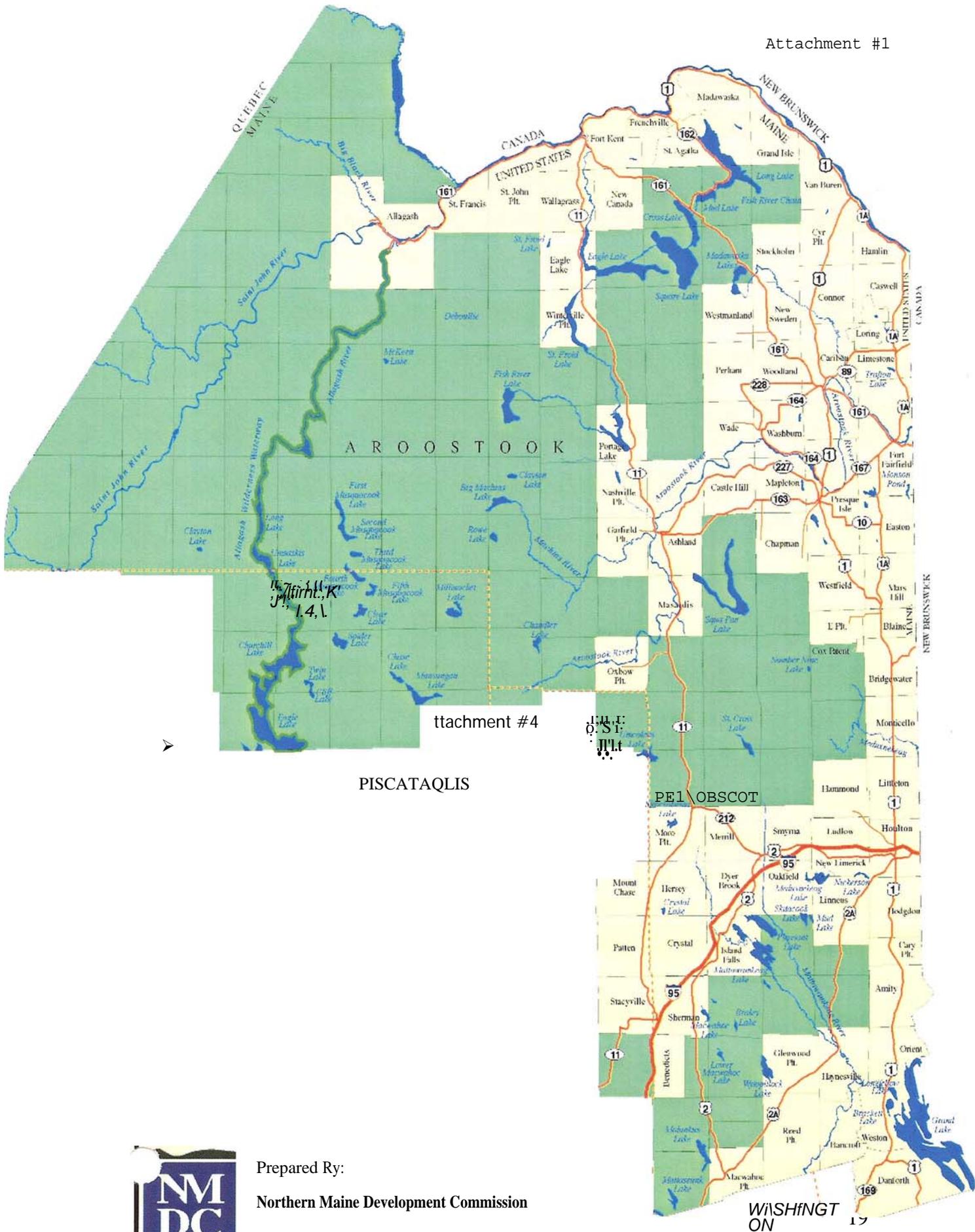
Survey results were compiled and analyzed  
Reports prepared  
Budget and Planning Committee work to formulate plan

February 2008

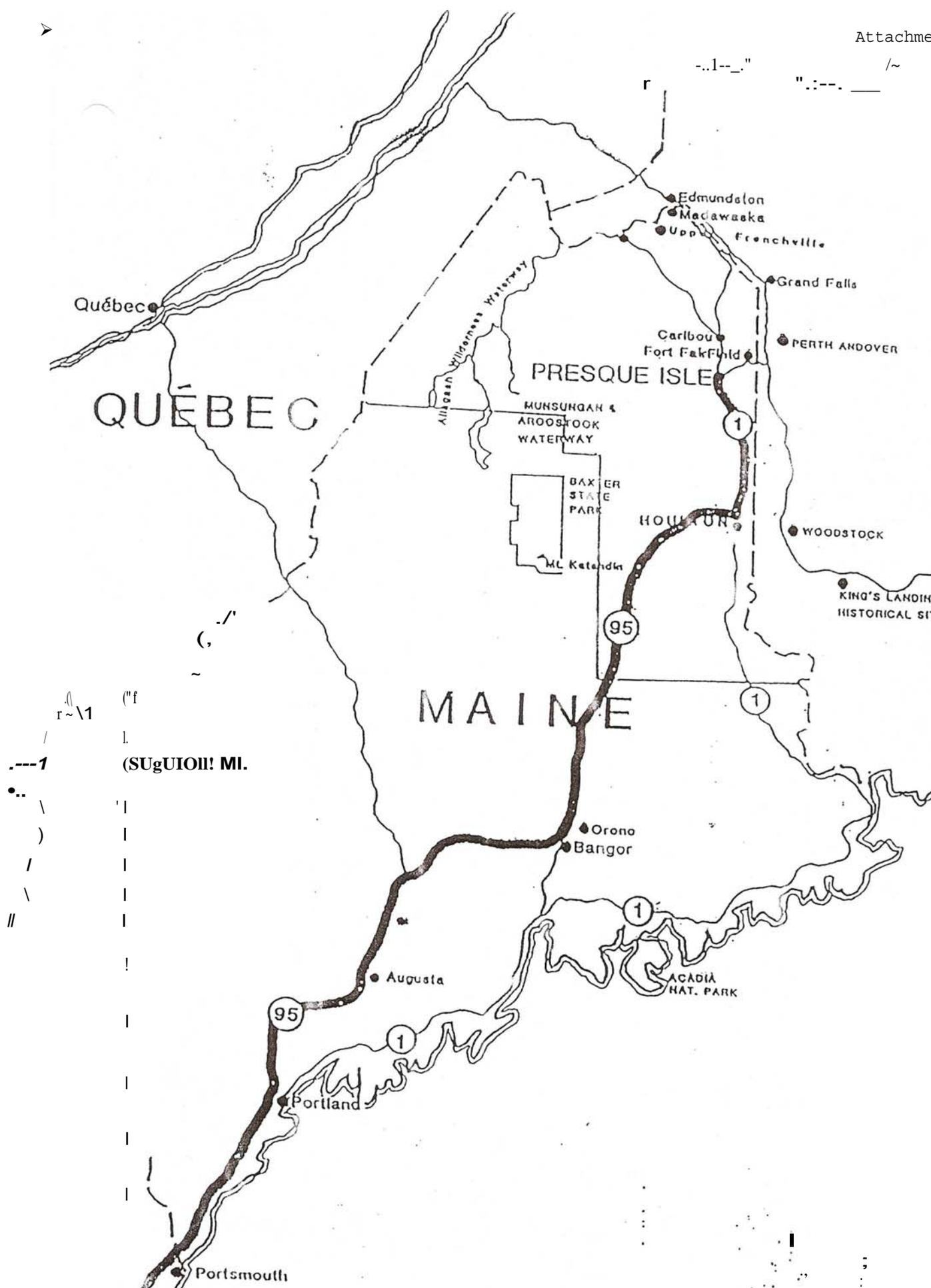
Start PRISM-Self-Assessment  
Finalize Head Start Grant approval  
Community Assessment assembled and presented to Policy Council for review and approval.

May 2009

Parent Evaluations



Prepared By:  
Northern Maine Development Commission



QUÉBEC

PRESQUE ISLE

MAINE

(f  
 (SUGUIOH! MI.  
 ---1  
 ••  
 )  
 /  
 \

95

1

1

1

1

95

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Annual Reports](#)
- [Fundraising Policies](#)

**Family Services**

- [Children](#)
- [Adolescents](#)
- [Seniors](#)
- [Counseling](#)
- [Parent Education](#)
- [Finders / Seekers](#)
- [Family Support Program](#)
- [Children's Case Management Program](#)

**Housing Services**

- [Education](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [Home Ownership](#)
- [Repair & Energy Services](#)

**Property Management**

- [Property Management](#)
- [Maintenance](#)
- [Rentals](#)

**Business Services**

- [Micro Lending Center](#)
- [Western Maine Economic Development Council](#)

**Transportation**

- [Our Transportation Program](#)
- [MaineCare Transportation Program](#)
- [MaineCare Mileage Reimbursement Program](#)
- [Elder Rides Program](#)
- [Rides for Hire](#)
- [Volunteer Driving Program](#)

**CONTACT US AT:**

Auburn 795-4065 South Paris 743-7716  
Rumford 364-3721  
**Or if all of these are a toll call, please call  
1-800-866-5588**

**Head Start receives stimulus funds**



Early-education programs in Oxford and Franklin counties have qualified for stimulus money and will receive additional federal funds this year.

Community Concepts Inc. will receive \$318,743 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funds will go toward Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Deb Florenz, director of children's services at Community Concepts, said the programs receive the majority of their funding through the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as a small contract from the state. The stimulus money has to be used by Sept. 30 of next year, she said.

"It really did have to do with enhancing the skills of our staff or retaining employment of staff," Florenz said.

She said some of the money will be earmarked for a 1.84 percent cost-of-living increase for all employees. It will also be used as one-time support to help fund an increase in the cost of health insurance for employees, to adjust salaries for workers who were found to earn below-average wages for comparable positions and to renovate a Franklin County site.

In addition, some of the funds will be used to hire a manager to help work through partnerships with public schools.

Head Start programs include child development, parenting, nutrition and mental health services, and are offered in both home and classroom settings, Florenz said. The programs are for infants and toddlers, preschoolers and pregnant women, and are offered through 14 facilities in the two counties. In addition, Community Concepts partners with 14 child-care organizations and four public schools. The programs serve 536 children and employ 145 full- and part-time people.

"The rationale behind the work we do with families is really to help children prepare to enter public schools and be successful," Florenz said.

According to a news release from the National Head Start Association, \$2.1 billion was made available to the programs through the stimulus bill. The association had requested \$4.3 billion.

The most recent federal funding, which is allocated on an annual basis, included a 3.06 percent cost-of-living increase, Florenz said. That is really wonderful after years of being flat-funded or (getting) small increases.

However, Florenz added, Community Concepts will no longer be able to bill Medicaid for child health programs and state funding is being reduced due to budget difficulties.

"We have some good news from the federal government and some not-so-good news from the state government," she said.

**Community Concepts & Maine Health Access Foundation Work to Help MaineCare Recipients Maximize Their Health**

Community Concepts and Maine Health Access Foundation along with several other organizations are collaborating to create recommendations to maximize the health of our clients.

The first action will be a survey which will be ready for distribution on 8/20/2009. This survey will be distributed to 500 clients who receive or expect to receive Medicaid. The survey will take less than 10 minutes and should start the process for a more healthy Maine!

- [English to French Translation](#)
- [English to Spanish Translation](#)

**Latest News**

- [School-Based Clinical Counselor - South Paris](#)
- [Teacher - New Sharon](#)
- [Part Time Maintenance Associate \(2\)](#)
- [Head Start Site Manager - Riley, South Paris](#)
- [Health Services Coordinator - South Paris](#)

**Please Help by Donating to Community Concepts**

Helping People Changing Lives is something Community Concepts does **everyday**.

If you would like to help the people of Western Maine get to medical appointments, pay for fuel, and educate their young children as well as many other important services, please make a donation by clicking on the **Donate Now** button below.

Thank you.  
Community Concepts is a charitable organization under IRS 501(c)(3) regulations. Donations are tax deductible to the amount permitted under law.



**Finding child care can be a nightmare.**

Let Community Concepts help you [search for Childcare Providers](#) in Androscooggin, Franklin or Oxford County. (This will take you from Community Concepts to a new site.)



Click the logo above for a searchable database of health and human service resources in greater Franklin County, Maine.



Facebook Group is here!  
Become a fan and get the latest updates. [Click on the link below](#) for direct access.



Join us on Twitter! Click on the link below



[Click on this link to visit the Auburn Public Library](#)

[Click on this link for information on the local farmer's market](#)

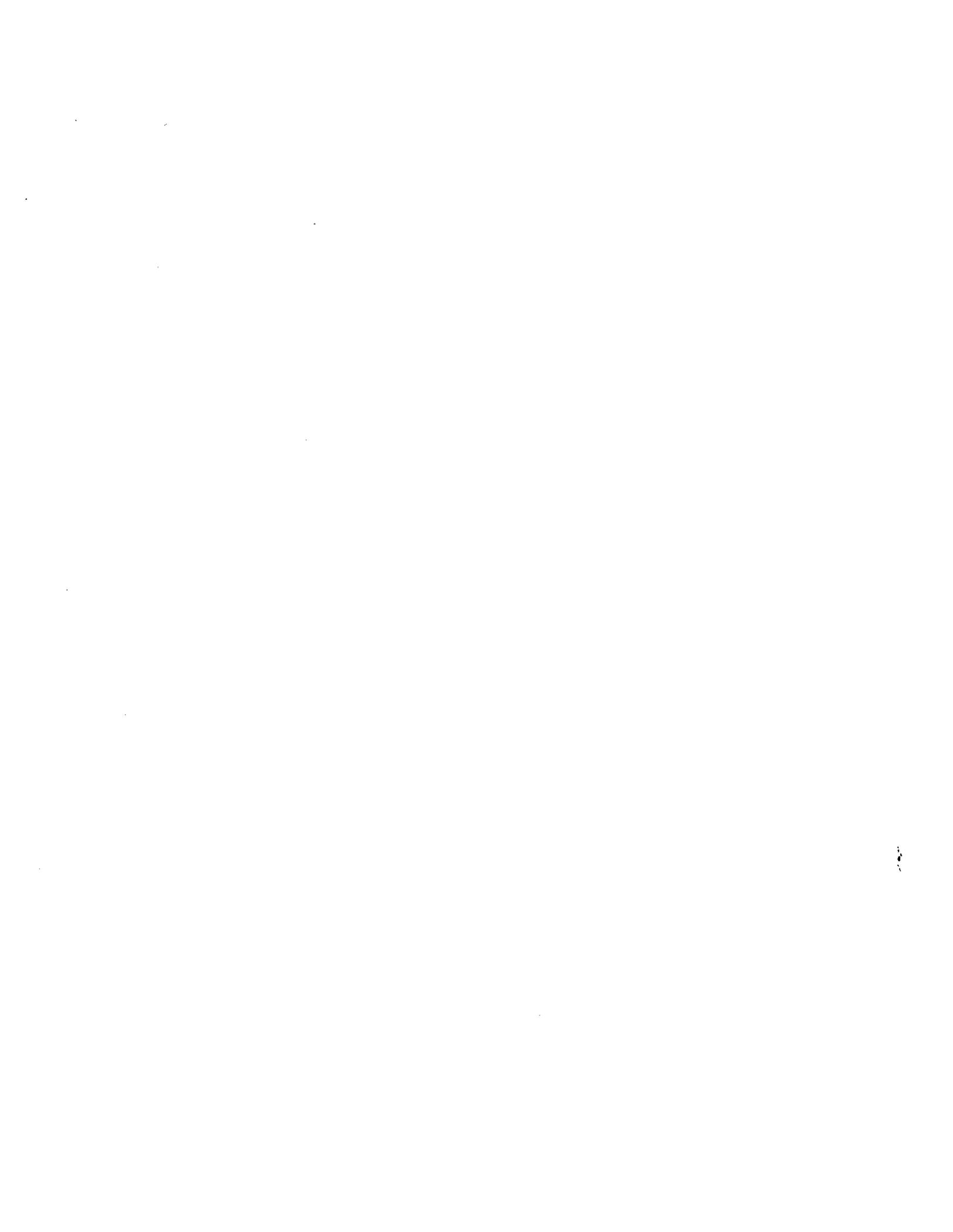
**COMMUNITY CONCEPTS, INC.**



**HEAD START PROGRAM**

**Community Assessment  
FRANKLIN & OXFORD COUNTIES, MAINE**

**MARCH 2009**



# COMMUNITY CONCEPTS, INC. HEAD START PROGRAM

## Community Assessment FRANKLIN & OXFORD COUNTIES, MAINE MARCH 2009

Community Concepts is a private, nonprofit community action agency originally incorporated in 1965 and a mission to: "collaborate, coordinate and to focus resources to help people in need build opportunities for a better tomorrow." Our agency provides many comprehensive services throughout western and central Maine, focusing on Oxford, Franklin and Androscoggin Counties. Community Concepts has operated high quality Head Start services since 1966.

### **A. Demographic make-up of Head Start eligible children and families, including their estimated number, geographic location, and racial and ethnic composition:**

Community Concepts Head Start program is situated in a large, 3,776 square mile region in rural western Maine. Oxford County encompasses 2,078 square miles, an area more than twice the size of the state of Rhode Island, and Franklin County encompasses 1,698 square miles. Oxford & Franklin Counties form most of Maine's western boundary with New Hampshire, while touching Quebec, Canada to the north, Cumberland and York Counties to the south, Somerset County to the northwest, and Androscoggin & Kennebec Counties to the east.

Maine is the fifth most rural of the fifty states with only 36% of its population defined as urban (the U.S. average is 80%). The population density per square mile in Oxford County is 26.3 and Franklin County's population density is 17.4 people per square mile. The population density of Maine is 41.3 people per square mile, the fifteenth least densely populated of the United States.

With approximately 90% of land forested, Oxford & Franklin Counties are very rural non-metropolitan counties. There are no major highways in the region; U.S. Route 2 is the major arterial and is a two-lane road, running east to west from New Hampshire through Rumford to Farmington in Franklin County. State Route 26 in Oxford and State Route 4 in Franklin are the major north/south roads: Rt. 26 is a two lane road that travels from Oxford northward to Bethel and New Hampshire. Rt. 4 connects Lewiston/Auburn in Androscoggin County to Jay, Farmington and points north in Franklin County. There is no public transportation, commercial buses or passenger train services in the area. There are a few very small, private or county-operated airports with no commercial flights. Two non-profit transportation companies provide limited bus service to elderly and low-income persons requiring medical services.

Franklin County is full of beautiful landscapes, of mountains, rivers, valleys and forest. The 2nd largest ski area in New England is located in Franklin County - Sugarloaf USA. Another large ski area is located a few mountains over in Rangeley. Franklin County is a rural New England region with 18 incorporated towns - no cities - that have populations ranging from 173 (Madrid) to 7,412 (Farmington, the largest and the

county seat). The population is geographically located in the south of the county, with the adjoining towns of Jay, Wilton and Farmington comprising 56% of the county's population. Franklin County is one of the most beautiful, wild and least populated counties in Maine. Since the White people arrived in the 1600 and 1700's, the economy was built upon natural resources (wood) and subsistence farming; the 19 and early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries brought shoe and other manufacturing. The 1970's and later brought a significant decline in manufacturing and the region continues to exist on a smaller but primary woods, service and tourist economy. In 2000, the census counted approximately 13,700 housing units, of which approximately 300 were affiliated with Sugarloaf USA and 2,100 were mobile homes.

Oxford County, a land of hills, mountains and lakes, has 35 incorporated towns, and also has no cities. Oxford County is home to Sunday River Ski Resort, the largest ski area in Maine. Two regions, Oxford Hills and Rumford/Mexico, each have approximately 20,000 people, comprising approximately 75% of the county's population. Oxford Hills' population has grown in the past 20 years (because of its relative proximity to the Portland and Lewiston labor markets) while the Rumford/Mexico region continues to lose population. The Bethel region in central Oxford County (home to about 3,000 people) and Fryeburg (population also approximately 3,000), it's western most town, are the county's tourist Meccas, with Sunday River in the Bethel Region and the Oxford County fair (Maine's largest) putting Fryeburg on the tourist map. The Hiram/Porter area with a combined population of approximately 3,000 in southwestern most Oxford County is another extremely rugged and beautiful area of small towns. Oxford County's economic past, after subsistence farming in the 1700's, was manufacturing and woods products. Since the 1970's, Oxford County shifted to service and tourist economies, still with the rumble of many logging trucks and a smaller woods-based industry. In 2000, the census counted approximately 32,000 housing units in Oxford County, of which approximately 600 were affiliated with Sunday River Ski resort, and 4,000 were mobile homes.

### **Population/Racial and Ethnic Composition**

Maine has a small population, 1,321,574 according to the 2006 U.S. Census estimate. Maine is the 39<sup>th</sup> least populated state in our Nation. The 2006 estimated population of Oxford and Franklin Counties is 87,135, (7% of Maine's population) of which 66% live in Oxford County, and 33% live in Franklin County. Maine's population increased 3.7% from 2000 – 2006, while Franklin County's increased only 1.9% and Oxford County's increased by 4.3%. The primary reason for the slow growth is lack of economic opportunity (and long winters?!).

According to the U.S. Census, 5.3% of Oxford County's population (2,864 children) and 4.6% (1,401 children) of Franklin County's population are under age 5. The 2009 Kids Count reported a discouraging 20% of Oxford/Franklin county children under age 18 living in poverty, lagging significantly behind Maine's current rate of 16.9%. Our region's poverty rate is 19% higher than the state average. Statistics have consistently shown the poverty rate for children under age 5 to be significantly higher than the age 0-18 average, and based on this historical fact, we estimate the current poverty rate for Head Start age children to be at least 25% in the two counties.

The 2006 Census estimate showed that Oxford and Franklin County's population considered itself 98% White; the remaining 2% was comprised of persons of Asian decent (0.7% Franklin; 0.5% Oxford), American Indian (0.4% Franklin; 0.3% Oxford), and Black persons (0.3% Franklin and 0.3% Oxford). Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin represent 0.7% of Oxford and Franklin County's population.

Within the White population are 2nd and 3rd generation Finnish, Swedish and French-Canadian populations. Virtually everyone in Oxford & Franklin County speaks the English language as his or her first language. In Franklin County, for example, 95.1% of the population speaks on English. Of the 4.9% who speak a

language other than English, 21% state they speak English less than “very well.” The Head Start staff members in each county are representative of the population.

**Head Start Enrollment**

For the '08-'09 program year, Community Concepts Head Start Program receives state and federal funds for a total enrollment of 536 children and families, of which 63% (337) are in Oxford County, and 37% (199) are in Franklin County. There are 342 children and families (64% of total) enrolled in preschool Head Start and 194 children and families enrolled in Early Head Start. This program year, 16 of our Early Head Start families were pregnant women.

**Head Start Potential Population**

The 536 enrollment is comprised of 342 preschool Head Start and 194 Early Head Start children and families.

According to the 2009 Maine Kids Count, there are 4,265 children aged 5 and under and we estimate there were 764 pregnant women. Up to 10% of the children may be over income. Up to 35% of the remaining children may come from families up to the 130% of the poverty guidelines. All TANF families are eligible regardless of their income level. Factoring in this eligibility criteria: In '05 and '06 approximately 20% of Oxford/Franklin children under age 18 live in families with income under the poverty level, and based on historical data we estimate that a minimum of 25% of Oxford/Franklin children under age 5 live in families with income under 100% of poverty.

4,265 children x 25 % =	1,066
764 pregnant women x 25 % =	191
10% of enrollment may be over income=	53
35% of remaining children may be 130% of poverty =	<u>169</u>
Total potential universe in Oxford and Franklin	1,479

<b>PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN RECEIVING CCI HEAD START SERVICES</b>		
<b>NUMBER OF INCOME ELIGIBLE CHILDREN</b>	<b>NUMBER OF HEAD START SLOTS</b>	<b>PERCENT IN HEAD START</b>
<b>1,479</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>36%</b>

The State average in 2008 for eligible children receiving Head Start services is 32.5%. As evidenced by the variety of option listed below, we have historically made tremendous efforts to locate Head Start-eligible children and tailor programs to meet those families' needs.

The following chart represents the distribution of slots and program options we are providing for the '08-'09 program year.

OXFORD COUNTY								
CENTER	Head Start					Early Head Start		Child Care
	Center-based	Combo 1	Combo 2	Combo 3	Home-based	Center-based	Home-based	
Oxford	19							
Norway	34							X
Riley (S. Paris)						8	60	X
SAD #17 Collab.			20	18				
W. Bethel	19						21	
Fryeburg	19						10	
Chisholm (Rumford)	72	10					27	X
HomeStart	0							X
<b>TOTAL OXFORD</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>118</b>	
	TOTAL HS= 211					TOTAL EHS= 126		
<b>GRAND TOTAL OXFORD COUNTY= 337</b>								

FRANKLIN COUNTY								
CENTER	Head Start					Early Head Start		Child Care
	Center-based	Combo 1	Combo 2	Combo 3	Home-based	Center-based	Home-based	
E. Wilton	19					8		X
Farmington	19					8		X
G. Ouellette (Farmington)		10		12			20	
Jay	18		10				10	
Mt. Abram			12				10	
New Sharon				12				
HomeStart Center Partnerships	12					12		X
	7							X
<b>TOTAL FRANKLIN</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>	
	TOTAL HS= 131					TOTAL EHS= 68		
<b>GRAND TOTAL FRANKLIN COUNTY= 199</b>								

**PROGRAM TOTAL 536 = 342 HS + 194 EHS**

**B. Other child development and childcare programs in Oxford & Franklin Counties that are serving Head Start eligible children, including publicly funded State and local preschool programs, and the approximate number served by each.**

There are very few resources for low-income children in Oxford and Franklin Counties other than the Head Start program. The Head Start program is the only comprehensive child development program for low income children in Oxford and Franklin Counties.

Community Concepts operates 4 child care centers that provide Head Start and child care services to low income children by offering subsidized rates - our Norway Children's Center, Riley Children's Center, Farmington Child Care Center and East Wilton Child Care Center. The centers utilize the Head Start model and provide "wrap-around" services for full day, full year child care. Our nonprofit childcare centers provide subsidized childcare for approximately 60 children. The Rumford Center offers a full day/full year Head Start classroom for working parents, supported by state Special Revenue (Tobacco) funding. Seventeen children receive this Head Start option. Community Concepts also provides HomeStart services, combining full time/full year Head Start and family-based child care for 24 children. 7 Head Start children have the option of full day/full year care through three center based Head Start/child care partnerships.

As more and more public schools around the state are implementing pre-k programs for four year olds, Community Concepts Head Start program is forging new partnerships. In South Paris, 18 Head Start children are part of a pre-k partnership with two classrooms in a new elementary school building close to the Riley Center. Over the next few years, we hope to expand the partnership into several other elementary schools in the district. We continue to be in negotiations with other interested school districts such as Jay, SAD #9, Dixfield and Buckfield. As the public schools grapple with school consolidation issues, budget constraints along with rising transportation costs, the length of classroom time has become our greatest bargaining barrier. Many public schools are considering 2 ¼ hour pre-k sessions to match half day kindergarten sessions. This approach meets school bussing schedules but falls short of Head Start minimum standards.

The non-profit Child Health Center of Norway, Maine operates a free preschool program for children with developmental challenges in Norway. In Franklin County, a developmental preschool program operates two sessions per day, four days per week at the CDS site. Here is the data on the number of child care facilities and total licensed capacity in Franklin & Oxford County in February 2009:

Type	Facilities	Licensed Capacity	County
Child Care Center	12	299	Franklin
Family Child Care	44	426	Franklin
Child Care Center	31	996	Oxford
Family Child Care	42	454	Oxford
Total	129	2,175	

Community Concepts' Western Maine Child Care Resource Center estimates that only 13% of the total child care slots have subsidy, so that a family can pay child care costs according to their income.

The Parent Partners program operated by Community Concepts provides home visits with child development and parenting education to 60 first time parents. There are no income eligibility guidelines, yet lower income families would have a preference. This program has helped to provide services to families on the Early Head Start waiting list. As a state-funded program, the program is in jeopardy of being cut this year.

The Franklin County Children’s Task Force offers the Healthy Families home visitor program to families in Franklin County.

**C. The estimated number of children with disabilities five years old and younger in Oxford & Franklin County, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children, and the approximate number served by each.**

Community Concepts works with two Child Development Services entities – one based in Oxford County and the second based in Franklin County. In 2008 there were 232 children age 0-5 identified with disabilities by the Oxford County Child Development Services-Opportunities. These children are receiving early intervention and FAPE (free appropriate public education) in Oxford County and MSAD # 61-Bridgton.

Of the 232 children that are currently with CDS in Oxford County, 54 children are under age 3 and 178 children are 3 – 5 year olds. Oxford County Head Start has 34 PHS and 12 EHS children diagnosed with a disability.

**CDS-Oxford County**

<b>Child Development Services – Opportunities Community Needs Assessment</b>		
	<b>2008</b>	
<b>Categories</b>	<b>B – 2</b>	<b>3 - 5</b>
Autism		12
Emotional/Behavioral Disorder		
Health Impairment		1
Hearing Impairment including deafness		1
Learning Disability		
Mental Retardation		
Multiple Disabilities		1
Developmental Delay	52	58
Orthopedic Impairment		
Speech and Language Delay	2	103
Traumatic Brain Injury		1
Visual Impairment including Blindness		1

In 2008 there were 98 children age 0-5 identified with disabilities by the Franklin County Child Development Services. Of these children, 31 are under the age of 3 and 67 children are 3-5 year olds. Franklin County Head Start has 18 PHS and 6 EHS children diagnosed with a disability.

## CDS-Franklin County

### Community Needs Assessment 2008

<b>Disabling Condition</b>	<b>Total # Children</b>	<b>Age Birth-2 yrs.</b>	<b>Age 3-5 yrs</b>
Autism	8		8
Behavioral Impairment			
Developmental Delay	35	31	4
Emotional Disability	2		2
Multiple Disabilities	4		4
Orthopedic Impairment			
Other Health Impairment	1		1
Speech and Language Impairment	48		48
Traumatic Brain Injury			
<b>Total # Children</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>67</b>

#### Community Concepts Head Start Children with Disabilities, 2008

**0 - 3 POPULATION:**  
**39 children with an IFSP**

All children under the age of 3 with an IFSP are listed as being developmentally delayed, regardless of the actual treatment/therapy the child may be receiving.

**3 - 5 POPULATION:**  
**70 children with IFSP/  
 IEP; some with multiple  
 diagnosis**

30 Speech/language impaired  
 1 Orthopedic Impairment  
 0 Social Emotional Impairment  
 0 Hearing Impairment  
 4 Developmental delays  
 37 Multiple delays  
 0 Health Impairment

Typically there are approximately 100 children with diagnosed disabilities; this year at mid-term there are 70 or 13% of our total enrollment of 536. Our two counties can be proud that we have two of the lowest county rates of public school aged children with disabilities, according to the 2009 Maine Kids Count. Franklin County ranks as the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Oxford as the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest levels of public school aged children with disabilities of Maine's 16 counties. Community Concepts attributes this in part to the fine work of Head Start and the local CDS programs in addressing the needs of disabled children prior to kindergarten.

**Profile of Head Start Families 2008-2009 Program Year**

This program year, 539 families have participated in Head Start. Household composition is as follows:

53.0%	two parent family
37.9%	single parent family; mom head of household
5.4%	single parent family, mom, living with other partner
3.0%	single parent family, dad head of household
.5%	foster family
.2%	other

This year, 96% of our Head Start children are White, 1% Asian, 2% Bi-Racial, 0.4% African American, and .6% American Indian. This mirrors the race demographic in the two counties. All children speak English except for 4 youngsters, whose native language is Chinese and 1 child who spoke Spanish. This year, 51% of the children are male and 49% are female. 88.3% of the children have MaineCare health insurance and 10% have private insurance.

**Head Start and Early Head Start Head of Household Education Level:**

	Head Start	Early Head Start
Less than high school graduate	7%	13%
High School Diploma	40%	44%
Attended some college	47%	36%
Bachelor's Degree or higher	6%	7%

Head Start staff connected families with many different community services; the needs of families are different when children are youngest (birth – 2) than preschool aged, as evidenced by the percent of families who received the following services last program year:

<b>Preschool Head Start top 5 services received as a result of Head Start –</b>	
92%	received parenting education
63%	received health education, including prenatal
41%	received housing and energy assistance
22%	received transportation assistance
15%	received mental health services
<b>Early Head Start top 5 services received as a result of Head Start:</b>	
94%	received parenting education
91%	received health education
51%	received housing and energy assistance
29%	received mental health services
28%	received transportation assistance

**2005 Poverty Rate by Maine County:**

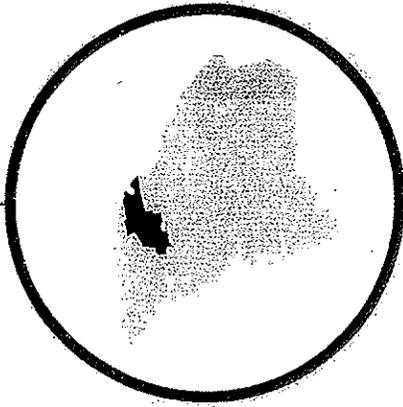
County	Poverty Rate
Androscoggin	12.0%
Aroostook	16.6%
Cumberland	10.0%
Franklin	16.9%
Hancock	10.4%
Kennebec	13.0%
Knox	11.9%
Lincoln	11.0%
Oxford	14.6%
Penobscot	12.8%
Piscataquis	16.3%
Sagadahoc	9.0%
Somerset	16.9%
Waldo	16.6%
Washington	19.1%
York	9.9%
<i>Data Source: US Census Bureau</i>	

As the following chart indicates a trend of great concern has to do with the percentage of children living below the poverty rate. The Maine Children’s Alliance notes that the poverty rate for children ages 0-5 in Maine has increased from 13.9% in 2000 to over 23% in 2006.

**Poverty Rate for Children Ages 0-5:**

	Maine	U.S.
2000	13.9%	19.3%
2001	14.5%	18.6%
2002	22.4%	19.7%
2003	16.1%	20.2%
2004	25.5%	20.8%
2005	20.7%	21.0%
2006	23.6%	20.7%
<i>Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>		

Fully 40% more Oxford County children live in households that have TANF income than the average Maine child (11.5% vs. 8.1%), while 15% more Franklin County children live in households with TANF income (10% vs. 8.1%).

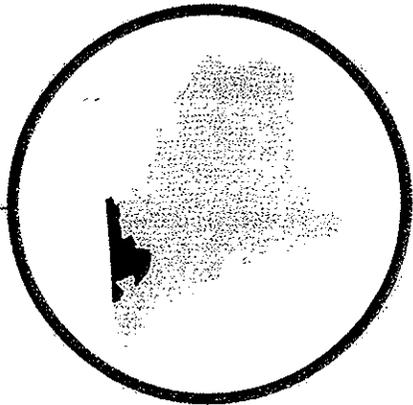


# Franklin

## KEY:

- \* Rate per 1,000
- \*\* Rate per 10,000
- \*\*\* Rate per 100,000
- † Data has been suppressed to preserve confidentiality
- n/a Not available or not applicable

	COUNTY			STATE		
	Number	Current Rate	Previous Rate	Number	Current Rate	Previous Rate
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>						
Total population - 2006 estimate	29,850	n/a	n/a	1,314,967	n/a	n/a
Under 5 years old	1,401	4.7%	4.7%	70,862	5.4%	5.1%
5-17 years old	4,688	15.7%	16.4%	212,675	16.2%	16.3%
18-64 years old	19,571	65.6%	64.8%	839,409	63.8%	64.2%
65 years and older	4,190	14.0%	14.1%	192,021	14.6%	14.4%
<b>PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH</b>						
Children participating in MaineCare ages 0-18, SFY 2008 and 2007	3,503	53.2%	n/a	138,883	46.1%	46.9%
Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, and General Practitioners, 2004 and 2002*	22	3.5	3.2	851	3.0	3.0
General practice dentists, 2006 and 2002*	8	0.3	0.3	464	0.4	0.3
Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, 2006 and 2005	250	88.0%	90.3%	12,370	87.4%	87.8%
Low birth-weight infants, 2006 and 2005	15	5.3%	6.9%	971	6.9%	6.8%
Pre-term births, 2006 and 2005	22	7.7%	10.4%	1,304	9.2%	9.5%
Infant mortality, 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.*	2	7.3	8.8	78	5.6	5.6
Child deaths (ages 1-14), 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.**	†	†	†	41	1.9	1.9
Teen deaths (ages 15-19), 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.**	†	†	†	56	6.0	6.0
<b>SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS</b>						
Children in poverty, 2006 and 2005	1,133	19.5%	22.3%	46,379	16.9%	16.7%
Children receiving TANF, December 2008 and 2007	613	10.1%	10.0%	22,724	8.0%	8.1%
Children receiving Food Stamps, December 2008 and 2007	1,641	27.0%	28.4%	61,950	21.8%	23.7%
School children receiving subsidized school lunch, 2008-09 and 2007-08	2,026	47.8%	46.2%	75,310	39.0%	37.5%
Estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of 3, 2006 and 2004 (rate per hour)	n/a	\$15.28	\$17.00	n/a	\$19.35	\$18.15
Median household income, 2007 and 2006	n/a	\$39,929	\$36,753	n/a	\$45,832	\$43,472
Unemployment, 2007 and 2006	870	6.1%	5.7%	33,400	4.7%	4.6%
Domestic assaults reported to police, 2007 and 2006***	147	492.5	468.0	5,771	438.9	420.3
Arrests of children, 2007 and 2006*	167	53.0	84.3	7,092	51.1	55.9
Arrests of children for crimes against persons, 2007 and 2006*	3	1.0	1.3	110	0.8	1.0
<b>EDUCATION AND LEARNING</b>						
Public high school dropouts, 2006-07 and 2005-06	69	4.5%	4.2%	3,182	5.2%	5.2%
Public high school graduates, Class of 2007 and 2006	346	88.0%	83.1%	13,166	80.8%	83.8%
Students with disabilities, 2007-08 and 2006-07	670	15.4%	15.5%	34,425	18.1%	17.6%
Public preschool enrollment, 2007-08	19	1.4%	n/a	2,589	4.0%	n/a



# Oxford

## KEY:

- \* Rate per 1,000
- \*\* Rate per 10,000
- \*\*\* Rate per 100,000
- † Data has been suppressed to preserve confidentiality
- n/a Not available or not applicable

	COUNTY			STATE		
	Number	Current Rate	Previous Rate	Number	Current Rate	Previous Rate
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>						
Total population - 2006 estimate	56,461	n/a	n/a	1,314,967	n/a	n/a
Under 5 years old	2,864	5.1%	4.9%	70,862	5.4%	5.1%
5-17 years old	9,097	16.1%	16.9%	212,675	16.2%	16.3%
18-64 years old	35,617	63.1%	62.1%	839,409	63.8%	64.2%
65 years and older	8,883	15.7%	16.1%	192,021	14.6%	14.4%
<b>PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH</b>						
Children participating in MaineCare ages 0-18, SFY 2008 and 2007	7,635	60.8%	n/a	138,883	46.1%	46.9%
Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, and General Practitioners, 2004 and 2002*	24	1.9	2.1	851	3.0	3.0
General practice dentists, 2006 and 2002*	14	0.2	0.2	464	0.4	0.3
Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, 2006 and 2005	522	88.3%	89.3%	12,370	87.4%	87.8%
Low birth-weight infants, 2006 and 2005	42	7.1%	8.1%	971	6.9%	6.8%
Pre-term births, 2006 and 2005	63	10.7%	11.2%	1,304	9.2%	9.5%
Infant mortality, 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.*	4	7.1	7.3	78	5.6	5.6
Child deaths (ages 1-14), 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.**	3	2.9	2.4	41	1.9	1.9
Teen deaths (ages 15-19), 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.**	3	8.3	8.2	56	6.0	6.0
<b>SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS</b>						
Children in poverty, 2006 and 2005	2,406	20.8%	21.5%	46,379	16.9%	16.7%
Children receiving TANF, December 2008 and 2007	1,349	11.3%	11.5%	22,724	8.0%	8.1%
Children receiving Food Stamps, December 2008 and 2007	3,829	32.0%	33.4%	61,950	21.8%	23.7%
School children receiving subsidized school lunch, 2008-09 and 2007-08	5,050	50.7%	50.4%	75,310	39.0%	37.5%
Estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of 3, 2006 and 2004 (rate per hour)	n/a	\$18.29	\$14.97	n/a	\$19.35	\$18.15
Median household income, 2007 and 2006	n/a	\$38,359	\$35,804	n/a	\$45,832	\$43,472
Unemployment, 2007 and 2006	1,690	5.9%	5.7%	33,400	4.7%	4.6%
Domestic assaults reported to police, 2007 and 2006***	281	497.7	439.7	5,771	438.9	420.3
Arrests of children, 2007 and 2006*	182	30.1	41.3	7,092	51.1	55.9
Arrests of children for crimes against persons, 2007 and 2006*	2	0.3	0.5	110	0.8	1.0
<b>EDUCATION AND LEARNING</b>						
Public high school dropouts, 2006-07 and 2005-06	208	6.5%	5.3%	3,182	5.2%	5.2%
Public high school graduates, Class of 2007 and 2006	667	79.5%	82.2%	13,166	80.8%	83.8%
Students with disabilities, 2007-08 and 2006-07	1,684	18.2%	18.7%	34,425	18.1%	17.6%
Public preschool enrollment, 2007-08	64	2.2%	n/a	2,589	4.0%	n/a

## **Economy/Unemployment**

Maine's rural employers are very small businesses, and many jobs do not provide medical insurance or other benefits. Maine's MaineCare program has allowed many more low income children to receive Medicaid health insurance. Most of our working parents, however, still have no health insurance. Although almost 99% of this year's Oxford & Franklin County Head Start families have medical insurance for their children, the overwhelming type is MaineCare -88.3%.

Staff members continue to see an increase in the number of families with multiple stresses. Some of the major problems families' face includes economic stress. For some families this is exacerbated by financial issues, transportation problems, nontraditional work hours, domestic violence, substance use, and child abuse and neglect. As family stresses increase, not surprisingly, the children are affected as well as the adults.

The high cost of heating fuel is a significant emerging issue in rural Maine. Homes are not serviced by natural gas, so families typically choose between fuel oil or wood. At the beginning of winter oil had risen to almost \$4.00 per gallon, creating a significant hardship for lower income families. The price of heating oil dramatically dropped at year's end, but families continue to struggle with the cost of heating. The cost is similar to the high cost of fuel in the late 1970's and early 1980's, when there were more subsidies available to offset the high costs than in 2008. Maine's new 211 statewide resource telephone warm line identified calls for Franklin and Oxford residents inquiring about fuel as the top call over the past four months, equaling about 25% of all calls. Other top 3 calls are inquiries regarding mental health services, housing and utility assistance.

Community Concepts continues to be very concerned that Head Start families and other low income families will resort to using old wood stoves, old chimneys and wet wood to attempt to heat their homes, or un-vented or otherwise unsafe space heaters when there is no money for an oil delivery. Back in the early 1980's, there were many fires caused by unsafe fuel systems. We continue to assist families in accessing any and all types of fuel assistance available and caution families to reconsider using unsafe heating methods.

Franklin and Oxford County's December 2008 (non-seasonably adjusted) unemployment rates of 8.5% Franklin and 9.2% Oxford was 21.4% and 31.4% higher than the State average. The rates themselves have increased in the last 12 months by 31% in Franklin County and 46% in Oxford County.

Oxford & Franklin Counties' economy was historically dominated by manufacturing, with traditional manufacturing industries including wood products, paper, shoes, leather, and metal working. Since the 1980's, there has been a dramatic shift from a manufacturing economy to a service economy. Franklin County was one of several Maine counties particularly devastated by the loss of shoe and other manufacturing in the past 20 years. The tourist industry is now prominent in both counties, with 2 of Maine and New England's largest ski areas, Sunday River in Bethel, and Sugarloaf USA in Carrabassett Valley.

Also in Franklin County, 75% of workers are considered private wage and salary workers, 15% are government workers, and 10% are self-employed workers.

The tourist industry and what is left of the shoe industry are not labor-organized. In the past 8 years, three Wal-Mart Stores opened in the Oxford Hills, Rumford and Farmington areas, bringing part-time employment opportunities for lower-skilled workers. Also, several telemarketing companies opened, providing mostly part-time opportunities for lower-moderately skilled workers. However, in the past two years, two of the

telemarketing firms closed in Farmington and Oxford Hills. The Oxford Hills region has also lost two manufactured housing plants.

Both counties have large concentrations of small businesses. In Maine, nine of out ten businesses employ less than 20 people. Employee benefit packages tend to be minimal, and there are virtually no unionized workers, with the exception of the paper industry. Wages are typically 20% below the state average per capita, which is itself usually 20% below the national per capita wage.

The Rumford area of Oxford County continues to be economically-tied to a large paper mill, the major corporate employer in northern Oxford County. Similarly, the Jay area in southern Franklin County has 2 operating paper mills. All three mills have recently had substantial lay-offs. There exists an almost 2-tier economy in the Rumford & Jay areas, between the paper mill employees and the people without a paper-company job. The paper industry is labor-organized.

In the Bethel area, Sunday River Ski Area is the largest employer as is Sugarloaf USA in the Kingfield/Carrabassett Valley area. These seasonal jobs are almost always part-time and without health insurance. However they do provide work for strong, able-bodied workers who are willing to work many hours during the ski season.

The Oxford Hills regional center is Oxford County's county seat, and also has the largest health care system in the county, Western Maine Health, and is the health care center for much of southern and central Oxford County.

Farmington is the largest town in Franklin County, and plays the role of regional center and county seat, holding also Franklin County's health care system, Franklin Community Health Network. This is the county's main shopping and health care region. Farmington also is the home of the only University system in the two counties, the University of Maine at Farmington. This is a traditional four year college with a historic reputation as the most exclusive University system college, and is the University system's major teaching college. The town of Wilton connects Jay to Farmington and enjoys a farming and manufacturing tradition that has been drastically altered in the past 20 years.

In the Fryeburg areas of Oxford County, jobs are concentrated in neighboring New Hampshire, where North Conway is a shopping and recreation Mecca. The Rangeley region of Franklin, often called "God's Country" because of its unsurpassed beauty, is a traditional woods economy with seasonal recreation catering to hunters, fisherman and other outdoor recreation including a ski industry. Again, seasonal part-time jobs with no health insurance are the rule.

Our economy's dependence is on jobs that are part-time and without health insurance, and heavily impacts Head Start-eligible parents. Businesses like Wal Mart and call centers offer jobs for hard working people; however the jobs are often seasonal, part time, with little or no health insurance.

**Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over:**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>	<b>Oxford County</b>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting	2.8%	3.4%
Construction	9.2%	11.5%
Manufacturing	14.1%	15.6%
Wholesale trade	1.7%	2.2%
Retail trade	11.0%	11.7%

Transportation and warehousing, & utilities	3.8%	4.1%
Information	0.8%	1.6%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5.4%	3.7%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	5.4%	5.4%
Educational services, health care, social assistance	28.9%	24.4%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	8.5%	9.3%
Other services, except public administration	5.8%	3.9%
Public administration	2.5%	3.0%
<i>Data Source: factfinder.census.gov</i>		

### **Alcohol and other Substance Abuse**

Alcohol is by far the most common abused substance, according to statistics by the Maine Office of Substance Abuse, followed by marijuana and non-prescribed prescription drugs. Both counties are currently in the process of developing strategic plans to prevent further alcohol and drug abuse. Nonprescribed prescription drug abuse is a rapidly growing problem particularly affecting young women under age 30; many women in this age group have very young children. Community Concepts is a member of all Healthy Maine Partnerships in the region, including Healthy Oxford Hills, River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition, and the Franklin County Healthy Maine Partnership.

There are only a handful of substance abuse treatment programs in the region. However, many nonprofit providers are working on “rapid access” projects to ensure quick access for outpatient level services. Opiate addiction is the biggest upward trend for women aged 18 – 35, according to Maine’s Office of Substance Abuse 2007 annual report, a consideration for Head Start practitioners.

A higher rate of young children live in homes where tobacco is used; 37% of Mainers 18 - 24 years old smoke tobacco versus 22.9% nationally.

### **Domestic Violence**

The regional domestic violence provider, The Abused Women's Advocacy Program, continues to operate 2 offices in Oxford County, one office in Franklin County, and a shelter in neighboring Androscoggin County. A Domestic Violence Task Force has started in Oxford County, of which Community Concepts is a founding member, mirroring its Franklin County counterpart, to better coordinate domestic violence services.

### **Child Abuse**

Child abuse and neglect is a serious concern throughout Maine and more child protective reports are filed for families with limited incomes and other resources. In the past 5 years, there has been a 9% increase in Child Protective reports. There has been a 21% increase in “screen outs” during this same period, a concern for child abuse prevention professionals since “screened out” reports are not investigated. Maine’s system includes a public and private response, with public Child Protective Services (CPS) responding to approximately 77% of appropriate reports, and Family Support/Community Intervention Programs (of which Community Concepts operates one in Franklin, Oxford and Androscoggin counties) services 23% of appropriate referrals and follow up services after CPS assessment. In fiscal year 2008, 151 child abuse cases

were assigned to Community Concepts' Family Support Program. The Family Support program works closely with our Head Start program, offering extensive support to program families and clinical-level technical assistance to Head Start staff in addressing the child abuse and neglect situations of program families. Head Start has agreements with both Child Protective and Family Support in order to collaboratively address the needs of families with child abuse and neglect issues.

During the past three years, Maine's child welfare system has worked hard to reduce the number of children in out-of-home care. According to Maine Kids Count 2009, 113 children in foster care in the two counties as of December 2008, a slight increase from last year's total of 108 children.

## **Housing**

Low-income Oxford & Franklin County citizens have chronically faced the housing affordability problem. The majority of low-income households rent their home. Typically 37% of our enrolled Oxford County families own their home, 55% rent, and of those who rent, only 30% have their rental costs subsidized. Maine has the highest rate of homeownership in the country, and Head Start families own their homes at higher rates than the national average. Many families struggle with paying the mortgage, maintaining the home, and the challenges of rural isolation. Many Head Start homeowners own mobile homes, and pay lot rents.

The Maine State Housing Authority reports that families receiving LIHEAP benefits (virtually all Head Start families would be eligible for LIHEAP) pay 40 - 50% of their income towards housing. Also, one third of LIHEAP households live in substandard housing, as opposed to only 5% of general Maine households. Community Concepts has received 9,777 applications for fuel assistance as of February 18, 2009, a 9% increase from last year's approximate 8,137. Benefits to families average \$862 per family. Cost of heating has become one of the top stresses for Head Start families.

This year Franklin County open a "warming center" two days a week to support people in finding a warm place to stay during the day. Local churches sponsor hosting the center for a month at a time. There is no fee to participate and lunch is provided. 37 people showed up on the first day it was offered.

According to the Maine State Housing Authority, in 2007, Franklin County's median price was \$135,000; median income \$37,547; needed \$44,866; 59.6% cannot afford median priced house. (affordability index=.84) In 2007, Franklin County had 9,473 homeowner households, of which 1,492 (16%) had incomes between 50 and 80% of median, 880 households (9%) with incomes between 30 and 50% of the median, and 821 households (9%) with income below 30% of median. Average household size is 2.31 and average age of head of household is 53.4 years.

Oxford County's median price was \$139,000 in 2007; median income \$40,409; income needed \$46,047; 56.7% cannot afford median priced house. (affordability index=.88) In 2007, Oxford County had 18,880 homeowner households, of which 2,980 (16%) had incomes between 50 and 80% of median, 1,748 households (9%) with incomes between 30 and 50% of the median, and 1,608 households (9%) with income below 30% of median. Average household size is 2.35 and average age of head of household is 53.8 years.

The current housing downturn is expected to affect housing prices, but by a smaller margin than national and Maine averages, mostly due to fact that housing prices did not rise significantly during the past 10 years. The rate of housing foreclosures is at a similar pace to the national average.

In Franklin County by the end of 2007, the average 2 bedroom rent was \$735 with an affordability index of .80. Renter household median income is \$23,652 but a household would need \$29,391 to afford the average

rent. Thus, 59.8% (1,766 households) are unable to afford an average 2 bedroom rental unit. There are 2,951 renter households in Franklin County, of which 623 (21%) have incomes between 50 – 80% of median; 522 (18%) have incomes between 30 – 50% of median, and 651 (22%) have incomes below 30% of median. Average households size is 2.31 and median age of head of household is 37.4 years.

In Oxford County by the end of 2007, average 2 bedroom rent was \$687 with an affordability index of .95. Renter household median income is \$26,009 but a household would need \$27,487 to afford the average rent. Thus, 52.5% (2,910 households) are unable to afford an average 2 bedroom rental unit. There are 5,537 renter households in Oxford County, of which 1,215 (21%) have incomes between 50 – 80% of median; 896 (16%) have incomes between 30 – 50% of median, and 1,261 (23%) have incomes below 30% of median. Average households size is 2.34 and median age of head of household is 42.6 years.

In Maine, chronic poverty is the marked difference between households at risk of homelessness and other Maine households. The great majority of the families at risk of homelessness have at least one household member employed to some degree. There are two small homeless shelters in Oxford County, operated by Community Concepts in Rumford and South Paris. It is increasingly full to capacity; often by families with young children in extreme distress. There are no homeless shelters in Franklin County.

Head Start has redefined the term homeless to include persons without a “permanent home”. Staff has received training on working with families in this situation and sees a number of families falling into this category.

**E. The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of Head Start eligible children and their families as defined by families of Head Start eligible children and by institutions in the community that serve young children.**

Typically, most of our Head Start children have siblings; many are 1/2 brothers and sisters. The great majority of Head Start children are up-to-date on their immunizations. This year 394 families have earned income (in a typical year, the majority (59%) of Head Start families do). This year, 50% of families have 2 parents in the household. The home-based options are successful in rural Maine because the majority of parents interested in the Head Start program arrange life so that one parent can be home during the day to be with their children. This program year, 172 of our families receive TANF. With the cost of high quality childcare, the limited availability of subsidized child care, it often makes economic sense, especially with the high percentage of multiple children in the household, of having one parent home with the children while the other partner is working. Equally attractive to young parents is using the “swing” shift where each parent works different shifts.

## Parent Satisfaction Survey

Head Start parents continue to be highly satisfied with our Head Start program.

Community Concepts 2008-2009			
PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY	% families answering		
How well is program doing in...	excellent and good		
	EHS	PHS	FCC
Providing health and nutritional needs of your child?	100%	93%	100%
Concerned about the meals provided?	3%	5%	0%
Helping your child get along with other children?	80%	94%	100%
How well has the program done in creating an inviting environment?	100%	98%	100%
Helping your child develop beginning writing and reading skills?	95%	100%	100%
Sharing information about your child's progress at home and in HS?	92%	94%	100%
Supporting your child's development through education experiences?	100%	100%	100%
	98%	99%	100%
Supported you in getting special services your child needed?	100%	98%	100%
Providing community information and resources to your family?	100%	96%	100%
Supported you in meeting your family goals?	93%	96%	100%
Opportunities to be involved in the program?	92%	94%	100%
Hours, days months in session meet your family's needs?	92%	89%	100%

Community Concepts received a total of 295 surveys, for a return rate of 55%. We believe our commitment to varied program options to meet a multitude of family needs is the reason that we continue to have a waiting list for Head Start services. Comments from parents were again very positive this year. Many parents took the time to write specific comments in their survey. We received more comments about nutrition this year. Most were very positive, but some targeted a school lunch program that is provided by a public school system. Parents also mentioned work schedules as barriers to participating in classroom activities. Also a few parents wanted longer days for childcare. Many praised the staff specifically for their work in the classroom:

- ❖ Our family loves the Home Visitor Program! It's great having another person in your child's corner cheering them on to succeed. Thank you!
- ❖ I like how willing the teachers are about getting you answers to questions. The teacher also seems to care about the kids and how well they are doing both at school and at home.
- ❖ When I first heard "Head Start" I was a little concerned about the stigma attached, but once visiting I was able to see how great the school, teachers, children and all around program is. I am very pleased with my child attending this school.
- ❖ I have been coming here for three years now and still counting. I would recommend this place to everyone. They are so good at helping you get information when you need it. They make it comfortable for you so you're not feeling left out. I would keep coming after my children are done if they would let me.
- ❖ We consider the center our second home!

## Observed Trends:

Head Start Health Services staff identified several trends during the 2008-2009 program year. In a recent television news report it was reported that childhood obesity in the state of Maine has increased in the past year by 197%. Nationwide, 16% of all children are obese and there has been a 6% increase in obesity of adults. Also noted is a 10% increase in poverty levels. Studies have shown that during hard economic times, obesity rates increase. Dr. Dora Mills, Maine's Public Health Director, was quoted as saying this is the first generation that will not out live their parents due to the obesity rates.

	9/08-3/09	9/08-3/09
	EHS	HS
Above 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile for height/weight	13	51
Below 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile for height/weight	16	6
Elevated lead	1	3
Low HCT/HGB	11	10
Severe allergies	7	10

Head Start works closely with the area Healthy Coalitions to provide education to families on tobacco use, nutrition and substance abuse issues. Both counties promote community gardens coupled with cooking ideas and education on healthy food choices. Meanwhile, Franklin County has the lowest smoking rate in Maine.

Head Start's Family Service Advocates note that (liquid propane) gas and heating fuel oil prices are really pinching families this year. Staff members have observed potentially unsafe wood stove installations in area homes. Once identified, families are referred to Community Concepts Housing specialists to provide materials and technical support, and are given leads for fuel assistance resources. The cost of fuel may also impact a family's choice to attend/not attend socialization or scheduled class days since our program does not offer transportation.

Child Development Services (CDS) reports that they are experiencing difficulty state-wide, in securing speech therapists. This is particularly problematic in the more rural counties, necessitating increased travel for service options. The CDS program model was changed effective August 2007 and children who are eligible for certain services while aged birth through two may not meet more stringent criteria when aged three – five. CDS reports they are only able to work with children with moderate and severe delays, rather than mild delays, which are often more amenable to intervention.

Increasing numbers of public schools are developing Pre-K programs. In every case the impact on our Head Start Program is palpable. Partnering and redesigning our approach is the best case scenario and we are currently engaged in collaborative planning with four different school districts. Inability to partner due to inflexible Head Start regulations or unwilling collaborators is the worst case scenario – ultimately depleting our waiting list and challenging our enrollment.

Finally, the loss of Medicaid TCM reimbursement, now slated for June '09, will have a significant impact on our budget planning and program design for the '09-'10 program year. At the same time, we anxiously await further information regarding the federal stimulus package which appears to include increased federal Head Start funding.

**F. Resources in the community that could be used to address the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families, including assessments of their availability and accessibility.**

- **Public school systems** around the state are developing Pre-K programs for 4 year olds. We are currently engaged in one collaboration and hope to expand upon this model within the next school year.
- Increasingly, public school systems are offering **before and after school programs** for children and their families in public schools K-6. Many elementary schools are now offering full day kindergarten sessions, as well. However, the funding sources (mostly federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century funds) are nearing its term and it is possible that the programs will be reduced in the next year.
- Head Start is part of a progressive **collaboration** with several public school departments whereby middle and high school students volunteer in the Head Start classroom to read with the children, and participate in other activities. Some students work at our sites as part of their alternative learning placements. Interns from the University of Maine at Farmington also partner with Head Start for student placements.
- **Community Concepts' Parent Partners** – provides monthly home visits to 90 Oxford County first time parents to offer child development, parenting education, and group events. There is no income guideline. This program can provide partial assistance to families on the EHS waiting list; however its scope may change due to State budget cuts.
- **Franklin County Children's Task Force** – offers Healthy Families model home visitation to families with children aged 0 – 5. They also offer other resources to families and community members including parenting classes, bullying prevention, mandated reporter training, and advocacy.
- **Community Concepts' Finders/Seekers** is a resource for families interested in subsidized child care. Vouchers are available on a first come, first served basis during the year; Head Start staff members assist parents to apply and get on waiting lists for this service. This program just transitioned to state level administration, due to cost cutting efforts. Community Concepts is concerned that low income parents without Internet access, limited reading skills or writing skills will be at a particular disadvantage. Currently, the agency is working hard on this effort to help mitigate potential negative consequences for our clients.
- **Child Development Services-** offers screening, evaluation and therapy for preschool children with special needs. Community Concepts' Head Start programs maintain strong collaborative contacts with CDS in both Franklin and Oxford counties. We have signed written agreements with both CDS agencies. This program is also in the midst of great structural change as the state government moves to regionalize and limit services.
- **The Preschool Program of the Child Health Center** is a nonprofit developmental program that offers half-day preschool experiences for disabled children in Norway. Children with developmental delays and handicapping conditions too extreme for Head Start enjoy a group experience with the help of trained physical and occupational therapists. Availability is limited due to class sizes being very small - 8 child limit. The Preschool Program enrolls approximately 40 children annually.

- **Woman Infants Children (WIC)** -All Oxford and Franklin County Head Start families receive information and referral to the WIC Program.
- **Public Transportation** - There is no public transportation in Oxford or Franklin County. Two nonprofit agencies provide limited transportation services. The first is primarily a provider for elderly persons; the second, operated by Community Concepts provides rides to Medicaid eligible people for medical-related appointments. Availability is excellent for Medicaid recipients needing medical related rides, but virtually non-existent for anyone needing general transportation. Transportation is a challenging issue for Head Start families.
- **Substance Abuse Resources/Treatment** -There are a few licensed programs in Oxford County. Common Ground Counseling and Crooked River Counseling, offers outpatient treatment in Norway. Tri County Mental Health Services, the public mental health agency, offers treatment in the Rumford, Oxford and Farmington areas. Evergreen Behavioral Services offers services in Farmington. As treatment programs that charge fees, many parents without health insurance are unable to access the services.
- **Community Concepts Counseling Program** is a small outpatient mental health treatment program and a strong partner with Head Start this year, including the provision of mental health consultation services. The program has 4 part time clinicians that specialize in treating children, adolescents, parents, and has provided needed access to many of our Head Start children and families.

#### **G. Goals for the '09 – '10 Program Year:**

Our extensive Self-Assessment, Parent Survey and Community Assessment process resulted in the development of 5 goals which will direct our strategic planning for the next program year. They are listed below.

Goal I: Maximize the accuracy and utilization of Management Information Systems (MIS).

Objectives:

- Review current system of data collection and evaluate the use of a centralized or local approach.
- Create a plan to increase the accuracy and utilization of the program's MIS.
- Develop a parent survey for enrolled pregnant mothers as part of Self Assessment.

Outcome: Accurate information will be collected, tracked, and utilized by fully trained staff.

Goal II: Review and enhance existing health and nutrition services.

Objectives:

- Review and update health and nutrition policies and procedures.
- Train staff and implement updated policies and procedures.
- Integrate case conferencing into health services.

Outcome: Program will provide consistent delivery of health services to children and families.

Goal III: To increase the knowledge and abilities of staff to support high quality programming.

Objectives:

- Analyze Child Outcome data to determine the need for focused literacy training.
- Train staff in Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) in creative art activities.
- Provide training for EHS on intentional parent/child interactions (i.e. West Ed/PIWI).
- Provide training for staff to support children with identified special needs.

- Train staff in DAP family literacy practices.
- Develop a system to assess the effectiveness of staff training and implementation of practice.
- Develop a plan to integrate Maine Early Learning Guidelines (MELG) and provide training for teaching staff.

Outcome: Program staff will have increased capability to provide and support high quality services to children and families.

Goal IV: To enhance and expand existing professional development systems.

- Review and revise current job descriptions.
- Identify a plan to support managers and site supervisors' professional development.
- Analyze position specific workloads.

Outcome: Program will have comprehensive development plans for all positions.

Goal V: To maintain quality services in an unpredictable financial environment.

Objectives:

- The budget committee will explore ways in which to manage programming in an unpredictable financial environment (i.e. loss of TCM funding reduced state child care contract funding, and uncertain federal funding levels).
- Maximize opportunities of the federal stimulus package.
- Analyze community need and current program options to take advantage of developing public school partnerships.
- Analyze resources to support an increase in mental health support and consultation for staff and families

Outcome: The program will have a comprehensive financial plan to respond to change and service needs.

## **H. THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Information for the Community Assessment was collected by the agency planning department during January and February. The annual Head Start self-assessment and parent questionnaire, which involved parents, staff, Board and Policy Council involvement, were completed during the months of January, February and March. The materials were collated by the Family & Community Partnership Manager for an Oxford and Franklin County Community Assessment. The final document will be presented to the Board and Policy Council for review and final approval in April.

## I. SOURCES

Statistical information was received from the following sources:

1. Child Development Services-Opportunities (statistics on children with disabilities 0-5, Oxford & Franklin County)
2. Community Concepts' Children's Services Program (statistics on child care subsidies and slots)
3. Community Concepts' Family Services Program (statistics on child welfare and substance use issues and resources)
4. Community Concepts' Finders/Seekers Program (statistics on child care vouchers)
5. Community Concepts, Inc. "Multi Year Plan 2002-2006," (South Paris, 2002) and Multi-Year Plan, 2008 – 2011, in draft
6. Maine Department of Labor (unemployment information, census information, per capita income) via www
7. Maine Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (Substance Abuse Prevention; Maine's 1997 Data Report) via www
8. "Vision for MSAD #39 for the Year 2011," Mt. Blue School District, 2001
9. "Community Health Visioning 2002," Franklin County Health Network et al, 2002
10. Maine Kids Count: 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 Data Books (Maine Children's Alliance, Augusta, Maine)
11. Maine State Housing Authority (housing information) via www
12. Maine State Planning Office (poverty statistics, census information, economic
13. information) via www
14. U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/news/manw1206.html>
15. U.S. Census Bureau, [http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/docs/census/profl\\_4datame.xls](http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/docs/census/profl_4datame.xls)
16. Maine Dept. of Labor <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/23000.html>.
17. 2009 Maine Kids Count for Franklin County <http://www.mekids.org/am/uploads/2008franklin.pdf>
18. 2009 Maine Kids Count for Oxford County <http://www.mekids.org/am/uploads/2008oxford.pdf>





KVCAP offers a range of services for men, women, and children. These include [Family Planning](#); [home ownership, repair and weatherization services](#), [heating assistance](#); [transportation](#); and a [teen center](#). We also support families through [home visitation programs](#) for first time parents, [parenting classes](#), [childcare and Head Start](#). Many of these programs are available to people of all income levels.

KVCAP is a non-profit community action program which has been providing services to the people of Kennebec and Somerset counties for the past 40 years. During this period hundreds of thousands of residents have accessed the services of our various programs to assist them in their struggle to overcome the barriers of poverty. KVCAP remains committed to the citizens of Central Maine and to our goal of helping all our clients to become, and to remain, economically and socially self-sufficient. We hope you enjoy your visit to our web site, and if you have any questions regarding our services, you may contact the agency receptionist at **1-800-542-8227**, or you can email us at [info@kvcap.org](mailto:info@kvcap.org).

ANNOUNCEMENT

**May 12, 2009**  
KVCAP's 2008 Annual Report is now available online. Click [here](#) to view. This is a large file, and may take some time to download.

**December 12, 2008**  
KVCAP is now offering Home Energy Audits. Please click [here](#) for information.



Send questions or comments about this site to [scott@kvcap.org](mailto:scott@kvcap.org).

Copyright © 2002-2007 KVCAP. All rights reserved. Website designed by [Wizfusion.com](http://Wizfusion.com) Web Development.

**KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM  
(KENNEBEC AND SOMERSET COUNTIES)  
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
2009**

**Poverty.** In the past six years, the poverty rates for Maine's children ages 0-5 went from under 14% to over 23%, surpassing the national average. In KVCAP's service area, the numbers are much higher – with estimates well above 50%. The economic gap between urban and rural families continues to widen. A single parent in Maine must earn 254% of the federal poverty level on average just to meet their basic needs. More than one half of low-income families pay more than one-third of income just for housing.

Of the children currently enrolled in KVCAP Head Start programs, 94% have an annual household income at or below federal poverty level (FPL). The remaining 6% have incomes between 101-135% of FPL.

One-half of the school-aged population in Somerset County is eligible for free and reduced school lunch in 2006, which is considerably higher than the State as a whole. Somerset County ranks third highest in Maine. Children living in KVCAP's rural service area are more likely to experience lags in physical and mental development, which diminishes their chances for educational success and future contributions to the workforce and community.

Somerset County has the highest monthly average of households in the state using food stamps at 23.9%; Kennebec County is 17.3%; statewide is 15.7%. As the food stamp program continues to decline, more Maine families go hungry. Food stamps are worth about 98 cents per meal on average in Maine. Because they don't keep up with the cost of living, the amount of food families can purchase is declining.

**Rural service area and impact of children and families.** Sixty percent (60%) of Maine's population lives in very rural communities (26.5% nationally). KVCAP's service area is one of the most rural in Maine, with Somerset County having an average person per square mile of 13. This county has poverty rates 50% higher than the state average. The budget constraints discussed above will make it even harder for low income in KVCAP's service area to access quality early care and education services, afford quality health care, send their children to college, buy fuel to get to work and heat their homes. The increase in cost of living is outpacing their paychecks as community services dwindle. The impact of service cuts will be equally as devastating.

Maine has the nation's second highest proportional population of rural counties. Rural families in our service area experience:

- ✓ Three and 4 year olds from low-income families who did not receive quality early care and education services were 5 times more likely to become chronic lawbreakers by age 27 than children who did receive quality services. By age 40, the children who were denied access were more than twice as likely to become career criminals with more than 10 arrests.
- ✓ Children from rural areas are more likely than non-rural children to enter kindergarten without key early literacy skills and they are 60% more likely to need special education services than those from non-rural areas.
- ✓ Unemployment rates in rural Maine range from 50% higher to nearly double the state average.

- ✓ The rising drug use rates among teens, and resulting crimes, are the most pressing problems in Maine. The most common location for rural victims of crime is in their homes. Compared to other states, Maine has one of the highest percentages among persons age 18 to 25 reporting use of any illicit drug in the past month, ranking higher than states such as New York and California that have major metropolitan centers.
- ✓ Higher rates of poverty than urban families. Five of Maine's most rural counties record 16% of Maine's population but have 25% of the low-income population in Maine.
- ✓ Rural low-income households are three times more likely than non-poor rural communities to be without a car. With public transportation scarce in rural Maine counties, it is very difficult for many poor rural households to access work and outside services, such as high-quality early care and education services.

Recent studies provide evidence that living in a rural area poses additional risks to child well-being. While rural families are disproportionately poor despite a strong work ethic, their problems are exacerbated by the isolation, lack of jobs, lack of transportation and lack of support services for families. Access to quality social and health care services is difficult for rural families. Due to houses and/or communities being far apart, rural families must travel significant distances to work, buy groceries and access social/medical services.

Rural communities also pose challenges in providing quality early care and education services. Center-based care is not a viable solution as economy of scale is not probable because of parent travel time and transportation issues. Nationally, family, friends, and community providers are less likely to have college educations or knowledge of developmentally appropriate practices when caring for young children, yet family, friend and neighbor care (FFN) is a widely used form of care for young children in rural Maine. According to the Banks Street School, FFN care represents up to half of the childcare arrangements for children under the age of five whose parents are working. Although FFN care is used by families at all income levels, it is more commonly used by families with incomes less than 200% of federal poverty levels and for infant/toddler care.

Lack of funding, lengthy distances and the high cost of transportation (when available) make quality early care and education services inaccessible to many rural children. In order to build promising futures for the vulnerable rural children, we must improve parent circumstances. Decreasing the cost of working (childcare, transportation, etc.) will help rural families provide basic necessities and provide young children with early care and education services so they enter public school ready to learn. New programs and partnerships must be formed that promote systematic ways of increasing access to quality care opportunities in rural communities, professional development activities for early care and education providers, as well as networking/mentoring activities.

**Population Growth Rates.** Since 2000, Maine's population is increased by 3.5%; although not all of Maine grew equally. Kennebec County grew by 2.1% and Somerset County had a growth rate of 1.4%. Interestingly enough, while overall public school population is declining, there is a marked increase in elementary school enrollments. Somerset County is among the top four counties in Maine with the highest estimated proportion of the population under the age of 18.

**Unemployment Rates.** Maine's unemployment rate is 4.8%; while Somerset County's rate is 7.9% - the second highest in Maine. Kennebec County's rate is approximately 5%. KVCAP's service area has the highest unemployment rate of any region in Maine.

Currently, 17 % of parents with children enrolled in KVCAP's Head Start program report unemployment. An additional 12% are in attending high school or post secondary education.

**Income.** In 2005, Maine ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in per capita personal income – its lowest ranking in 20 years. Livable wage estimates are 254% of the federal poverty guidelines. The medium income in Somerset County (2003) was 18% lower than the State's medium income. Currently the per capita of families enrolled in KVCAP's Head Start program is \$3,151.

**Jobs/Income and Disparities.** The largest major industry in northern Kennebec County is health care and social assistance – 19% of all employment; public administration with 16%; and retail trade at 15%. In Somerset County, the largest major industry sector is manufacturing at 20%; health care and social assistance at 15% and retail trade at 13%. Livable wage jobs in Maine do not meet demand. Somerset County residents are known as proud people who do not want to rely on welfare. However, only 37% of jobs pay a livable wage for a single parent with one child; for two parents with one earner and one child, only 30% of jobs pay a livable wage, and for a single parent with two children, only 16% of jobs pay a livable wage.

A single wage earner with 2 children requires an annual income of \$37,622 just to meet basic needs. In Somerset County, this equates to \$18.09 per hour. The Maine Department of Labor reports that the average hourly wage in Somerset County is \$14.10. In Kennebec \$37,691 (\$18.12 per hour). Again, the Maine Department of Labor reports an average hourly wage in Kennebec County to be \$15.48. The gaps between poverty level and the annual livable wage estimate is \$25,000 in both counties.

Poverty and unemployment run high in Somerset County as well as some towns in Northern Kennebec. For example, approximately 53% of students in Waterville's elementary and junior high schools are eligible for free or reduced lunches (Maine Department of Education). According to the 2006 Poverty Report, Somerset County residents were considerably higher than the state average in participation rates for food stamps in 2005, tied for highest in the state. Somerset is second highest for unemployment and is the second poorest county in Maine. Although Kennebec County's unemployment rate is not high compared to the state average, it should be noted that many of the manufacturing jobs in this area that paid good wages and included benefits have been lost over the past few years. New jobs coming to the county are often part-time positions in retail and service industries, with lower wages and few or no benefits. The Maine unemployment rate and Kennebec County's rate has risen approximately 3.3 points since last year, while Somerset's has risen 3.9 points. The Town of Pittsfield was hit hard this past year and a half, with the closing of a shoe shop and the planned reduction of a third of the workforce of the GE plant, the largest employer in the town.

### **Health Status/Insurance**

Low incomes and no insurance benefits contribute to limited access to health care for many individuals in our catchment area. KVCAP Family Planning clearly provides an alternative for these individuals. During the first six months of FY09, only 18% of clients paid through private insurance. 13% of clients were in the no-pay, donation only category, while 36% of clients were partially subsidized. MaineCare was the payment source for 32% of clients. KVCAP Family Planning serves all individuals seeking services, regardless of income and/or insurance coverage. Unlike many private health care providers, KVCAP Family Planning welcomes MaineCare clients, a fact that is appreciated by this population. In

addition, the KVCAP Community Outreach priority communities tend to have high-risk populations that can be targeted for education about resources and access to reproductive health care.

The high poverty rate, limited jobs and lower levels of educational attainment in Somerset County contribute to a lack of aspirations in many of its young people. These circumstances can influence youth to engage in risky, unhealthy behaviors. The smoking and drinking rates for Somerset youth are higher than the state average (2006 MYDAUS data). It is no surprise that the teen pregnancy rate of 48.1 per 1,000 in Somerset County ranks second highest in the state (highest is Androscoggin County with a rate of 48.4 per 1,000). Kennebec County's teen pregnancy rate of 36.8 is close to the state rate of 36.5, although higher pockets exist in some towns in the county. The city of Waterville's rate is higher, when adjusted for the two colleges in town (2002-2006 aggregate data, Maine Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics).

**Homeless.** According to the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter (MMHS) demand has been increasing for the last few years and they have seen a dramatic increase in the number of homeless families. MMHS and KVCAP have implemented strategies to increase their understanding of each other's services, and the resources available to assist families with young children. Using existing resources, KVCAP is working with MMHS to identify families who need child care and to implement supports to assess their child's developmental status and provide educational activities and opportunities. By introducing a quick response to KVCAP services, parents gain comfort in knowing that their children's physiological and safety needs are being responded to. Timely and comprehensive services for both adults and children reduce the amount of time that families need to remain in temporary shelter. Once housing is secured, children continue to receive services from KVCAP, including ongoing child care and family service supports.

Currently, KVCAP Child & Family Services serves 16 homeless children and expects the number to rise as housing foreclosures and living cost rise, particularly heat and electricity.

**Domestic Assault Rates.** Reported domestic assaults in Maine were at the rate of 414.4 per 100,000 persons. Kennebec County ranked second highest at 588.5; Somerset County ranked 5<sup>th</sup> at 492.4. Program data reveals that 2.7% of families enrolled report domestic violence events in the lives, yet is known that there are many unreported incidents. Staff report that often families are reluctant to discuss issues around domestic violence.

**Crime Rates.** The crime rate among youth is high in Somerset County, sparking community discussions and forums about how to address the violence and crime issues. Arrest of children in Maine is 54.5 per 1000 persons; Somerset County is higher at 57.1 per 1000 and Kennebec County is 55.1% per 1000.

**Obesity.** Since 1990, obesity rates have risen 75%. Maine has the highest rate of adult obesity in all of New England. Sixty-one percent (61%) of Maine's population, 36% of kindergarten and 33% of low income children between the ages of 2 and 5 years of age is overweight or obese. Thirty-four percent (34%) of children enrolled in KVCAP's Head Start program are considered overweight or obese.

**Child Maltreatment.** Substantiated child abuse and neglect is 11.7 per 1000 children between the ages of 0-17. In Maine there are 5,613 case assessments completed by Child Protective Services; 3561 of these were without findings of maltreatment; 2052 were with finding of maltreatment. Of those, 151 were from Somerset County and 176 in Kennebec

County. It is suspected that incidents of child maltreatment are significantly higher than reported. The State of Maine acknowledges that it “screens out” many more suspected child maltreatment reports than in the past and that follow-up is conducted on a very limited basis, if at all.

**Dental Care.** There is a shortage of dentists in Maine, and the situation is particularly acute in rural areas such as Somerset County. Almost 23% of children in Maine between the ages of 0-17 did not receive dental care (2003). There is approximately one dentist for every 2,165 patients, compared to 1,656 nationally. This problem is particularly pronounced in Maine’s rural, poorer areas where citizens often end up on months-long waiting lists and have to travel hours for care. Pain caused by decaying teeth is one of the top 10 emergency room diagnoses in Maine, according to the Maine Health Data Organization.

**Transportation.** Maine’s roadways are in considerably worse condition than the rest of the nation. A strong transportation is critical to Maine’s economic development. Rural transportation systems are either non-existent or very limited in scope in Somerset and northern Kennebec Counties. Many low-income residents do not know how to drive, lack a driver’s license, or simply don’t have the money to purchase and maintain a car. The lack of transportation options limited the ability of many rural residents to find and keep jobs. It also limits their access to job training and other needed social services. With more people commuting from rural areas to jobs in service centers, more household income must be expended for transportation due to rising gas prices and less time for civic participation, which increases isolation.

**Affordable/safe housing.** Affordable housing continues to be problematic. In most of Maine’s employment centers, high housing costs are forcing people to commute long distances, because they cannot afford to live in the communities in which they work. This, compounded with the rural and transportation issues in Maine, put low-income families at a severe disadvantage when seeking shelter, employment and needed social services.

Approximately one-half of the homes in Maine were built prior to 1950 when lead was commonly used in paint to make shiny and last longer. Maine’s data system shows that elevated lead levels in children is the number one environmental health hazard to children in terms of risk, prevalence and consequences. Data from 1994-1999 shows that one in nine Maine children who were screened were found to have elevated levels. Making high-risk housing stock lead safe is essential to reducing public health risks.

**Childcare services.** Maine ranks in the top ten nationally in the percent of employed women with children with 65.4% of Maine families having “all parents” in the workforce. On average, children spend 9 hours per day in childcare. Children who experience high quality childcare thrive and develop optimally as opposed to those in lower quality settings. High quality care helps prepare our children for success in school. Studies show that quality early care and education enhances a child’s cognitive performance, language ability and pre-math and social skills. Well paid, education childcare providers are the backbone of quality childcare.

Childcare is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest industry in Maine. Qualified and stable childcare workforce depends upon adequate salaries and benefits to workers as well as an attractive work atmosphere. Education and on-going training for the workforce is crucial to the quality of childcare. Maine is implementing a quality rating system to help parents make well education choices about childcare.

## **Kennebec County Overview**

- Population growth in Kennebec County from 2000 to 2005 (3.3%) was slightly below the state rate (3.7%). The county is one of five in Maine to reverse from being a net outmigration county in the 90s to a net immigration county in 2000-2004.
- Kennebec County's individual poverty rate in 2003 was close to the state rate, both for the population as a whole and for those under 18.
- Median household income in Kennebec County in 2003 was close to the state. It was slightly above the 200% poverty level for a 4-person household.
- The 2004 'livable wage' estimate for a four-person household (2 parents, both wage earners, and 2 children) in Kennebec County was more than twice as high as the poverty level for a four-person household.
- The proportion of per-capita personal income in 2004 from net earnings was the same in Kennebec County as in the state as a whole, while the proportion from transfer payments was higher.
- Kennebec County's monthly average unemployment rate for 2005 was almost the same as the state rate.
- Kennebec County residents were about the same as the state average in participation rates for food stamps in FY05.
- The proportion of the school-age population eligible for free and reduced school lunch in FY06 was comparable to the state as a whole.
- The proportion of households receiving LIHEAP benefits in Kennebec County in FY05 was comparable to the statewide level. Compared to LIHEAP recipients statewide, a higher proportion in Kennebec County received Medicaid, food stamps, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and a somewhat smaller proportion were age 65 or above.
- A slightly lower proportion of the Kennebec County population has college degrees (associate or bachelor's) than in the state as a whole.

## **Kennebec County Trend Highlights**

- Over the most recent four-year period for which county-level data are available, the poverty rate trend in Kennebec County mirrors that of the state as a whole. The estimated percentage of individuals below poverty increased each year from 2000 to 2002, with a slight decrease in 2003.
- Over the four-year period from FY02 to FY05, the number of Kennebec County households receiving food stamps increased each year; the number in FY05 was 52.7% greater than in FY02, which was somewhat greater than the statewide increase of 49% in this time period.
- The number of Kennebec County households receiving LIHEAP benefits declined somewhat from FY02 to FY04, but increased in FY05.
- From 2002-2005, Kennebec County's monthly average unemployment rate mirrored that of the state as a whole, reaching a peak in 2003.
- The percentage of school-age children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in Kennebec County increased from FY03 to FY06, showing a generally similar pattern of increase as the state as a whole.

## **Somerset County Overview**

- Population growth in Somerset County from 2000 to 2005 (1.5%) was lower than the state average (3.7%). Somerset is among the four counties with the highest estimated proportion of the population under the age of 18.
- Somerset County's individual poverty rate in 2003 was considerably above the state rate, both for the population as a whole and for those under 18. The county had the second highest poverty rate among Maine's counties.
- Median household income in Somerset County in 2003 was 18% lower than the State. It was 15% below the 200% poverty level for a 4-person household.
- The 2004 'livable wage' estimate for a four-person household (2 parents, both wage earners, and 2 children) in Somerset County was more than twice as high as the poverty level for a four-person household.
- The proportion of per-capita personal income in 2004 from net earnings was slightly lower in Somerset County than in the state as a whole, and the proportion from transfer payments was considerably higher.
- Somerset County's monthly average unemployment rate for 2005 was considerably higher than the state average, and was the second highest among Maine's counties.
- Somerset County residents were considerably higher than the state average in participation rates for food stamps in FY05. The county was tied with Washington County for the highest level of food stamp participation rates for individuals, and was the second highest for households.
- Almost half of the school-age population in Somerset County was eligible for free and reduced school lunch in FY06, considerably higher than the State. Somerset ranked 3rd highest among Maine counties in the proportion eligible for this benefit.
- The proportion of households receiving LIHEAP benefits in FY05 was considerably higher than in the state as a whole. Compared to households statewide, a higher proportion in Somerset County had members over 65, and a higher proportion received food stamps, Medicaid, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- A considerably smaller proportion of the Somerset County population has college degrees (associate or bachelor's) than in the state as a whole, and a considerably greater proportion has less than a high school education. Somerset has the lowest proportion of people with a bachelor's degree among Maine's counties.

## **Somerset County Trend Highlights**

- Over the most recent four-year period for which county-level data are available, the poverty rate trend in Somerset County generally mirrors that of the state as a whole. The estimated percentage of individuals below poverty increased each year from 2000 to 2002, with a decrease in 2003. The poverty rate in 2003 was almost a percentage point higher than in 2000.
- Over the 4-year period from FY02 to FY05, the number of Somerset County households receiving food stamps increased each year; the number in FY05 was 43.7% greater than in FY02.
- The number of Somerset County households receiving LIHEAP benefits remained fairly stable from FY02 to FY05, ranging from a high of 2,998 households in FY05 to a low of 2,874 in FY04.
- From 2002 to 2005, Somerset County's monthly unemployment rate reached a peak in 2003, declined substantially in 2004 and remained the same in 2005.
- The percentage of school-age children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in Somerset County increased from FY03 to FY06,

**Key Population Data Comparison (County & State)**

	<b><i>Kennebec</i></b>	<b><i>Somerset</i></b>	<b><i>Maine</i></b>
Population 2000	117,114	50,888	1,274,923
Race - White	97.5%	98%	96.9%
Estimated Population growth from 2000 to 2005	3.3%	1.5%	3.7%
Female population	60,368	25,966	654,614
Ages 10-19	14.9%	14.8%	14.2%
0-34	17.4%	16.9%	17.9%
5-44	16.7%	16.4%	16.7%
4-54	15.2%	15%	15.1%
5-64%	9.7%	10.4%	9.7%
5+	14.2%	14.4%	14.3%
Birth rates/1000 (2004)	51.3	53.8	52.2
Teen Birth rates/1000 (2004)	36.6	47.2	24.3
Unemployment rate estimate <i>February, 2009</i>	8.6%	12.5%	9.1%
Poverty rate 2005	13%	16.9%	12.3%
Median Income 2003	\$38,458	\$32,079	\$39,212

## **Data Reference/Acknowledgment**

Maine Center for Economic Policy, Choices, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Volume XIII Number 6

Maine Lags in Job Quality, Morning Sentinel, October 2004

2006 Poverty in Maine, Maine Community Action Association, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, September 2006

Maine Kids Count 2007, Maine Children's Alliance

Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation, Residential Choices Reflect Increasing Sprawl, February 2007

Mid Maine Chamber of Commerce, Central Maine Growth Council, Central Maine 2006-07 Annual Economic Review

Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation, Measures of Growth in Focus 2007; Personal Income Grows But Ranking Declines, February 2007.

A Picture of Maine Families: Demographics, Governor's Summit on Early Childhood, November 2007

Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation, Women's Income Still Significantly Lower than Men's, February 2007.

Maine Reads! Supporting Literacy in Maine, [www.mainreads.org/stat.asp](http://www.mainreads.org/stat.asp)

Maine Policy Review. A Policy Approach, Dora Anne Mills.  
<http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc/MPR/Vol13No1/Mills/Mills.htm>

Maine Center for Disease Control.  
[www/cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/state\\_progrqms/maine.htm](http://www/cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/state_progrqms/maine.htm)

2006 Statistical Abstract for the Greater Waterville Area, Colby College.

Maine Policy Review. <http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc/MPR/Vol13No1/Mills/Mills.htm>

MyDaus Technical Report 2006, Office of Substance Abuse, Maine Department of Health and Human Services, December 2006

Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation. Measures of Growth in Focus 2007; Maine's Roadways in Poor Condition, February 2007

Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation. Measures of Growth in Focus 2007; Housing Affordability, February 2007

Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation. Measures of Growth in Focus 2007; High Speed Internet, February 2007

Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation. Measures of Growth in Focus 2007; High Speed Internet, February 2007

Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation. Measures of Growth in Focus 2007; Multiple Job Holding, February 2007

# MIDCOAST MAINE Community Action

*Building better lives for stronger communities*

- Home
- Board of Directors
- Donations
- Services
- Programs
- Announcements
- Community Links
- Events
- Employment Opportunities
- Trainings

search...

## Welcome to Midcoast Maine Community Action



Midcoast Maine Community Action is a community action organization advocating on behalf of low-income and other at-risk individuals, assisting them to identify and address their needs, enabling them to achieve self sufficiency and independence. MMCA actively promotes economic and community development of the businesses and communities in the mid-coast area where individuals and families reside.

Midcoast Maine Community Action

**COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2008-SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The 2008-2009 CSBG Community Needs Assessment for Midcoast Maine Community Action (MMCA) will provide community information in two ways. The first includes demographic information that identifies vulnerabilities which place communities at risk, such as unemployment, single parent status, and poverty status. These vulnerable community members are especially in need of the services we provide. The second includes information about service need from MMCA programs and local providers. The performance measures identified for CSBG and CSBG ARRA funding address these needs, particularly in the areas of housing, heating assistance, access to childcare and transportation, employment, and other essential services.

**II. COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS & VULNERABILITIES**

**A. Maine Poverty Rate**

The state of Maine has seen a steady rise in the percentage of people living in poverty. Poverty status is determined by the measure of personal income combined with other factors such as number of dependents as compared with a national average of income. In April of 2009, the Maine Community Action Association (with assistance from the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center) issued the Poverty in Maine Update Newsletter. Information noted in the newsletter came from state and federal sources. The percentage in poverty by county is noted below.

County	% in Poverty	County	% in Poverty
Androscoggin	14.1	Oxford	14.5
Aroostook	17.4	Penobscot	13.5
Cumberland	9.7	Piscataquis	16.5
Franklin	16.0	Sagadahoc	9.2
Hancock	9.9	Somerset	17.2
Kennebec	13.0	Waldo	14.5
Knox	10.6	Washington	20.1
Lincoln	10.8	York	8.2

Poverty percentages for the mid-coast area served by MMCA range from 9.2 in Sagadahoc County to 14.5 in Waldo County.

**B. Unemployment Rate**

The Maine Department of Labor reports that the federal government has extended unemployment benefits for eligible applicants by 13 weeks. They have done this to address the increase in unemployment experienced across the country during the past several months. The unemployment rate in Maine has increased by 3.2 percent since December of 2007:

- The unemployment rate in Maine in December of 2007 was 4.9%
- The unemployment rate in Maine in November of 2008 was 6.3%

- The unemployment rate in Maine in December of 2008 was 7%
- The unemployment rate in Maine in February of 2009 was 7.8%
- The unemployment rate in Maine in March of 2009 was 8.1%

**C. Community Demographics**

There are also community demographics which can affect an individual or family’s ability to meet their basic needs. The Maine DHHS Center for Disease Control and Prevention published the Maine DHHS District Health Profile in December of 2007, with the following profiles:

Demographic	Midcoast	Maine
Population	11.5%	
Single Parent Households w/children under 18	9.0%	9.2%
Householders over 65 living alone	11.0%	10.7%
Householders w/disabilities	23.0%	23.8%
Householders w/less than High School Education	13.0%	14.6%
Children in Special Education	15.1%	14.8%

These demographics indicate that a significant percentage of the people living in mid-coast Maine have vulnerabilities that can affect their ability to meet basic needs.

**D. Meeting Basic Needs**

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) published an article in March of 2009 entitled Budgeting for Basic Needs. They established a cost of living basic needs budget for rural and moderate cost cities comparable to the mid-coast area of Maine.

Item	Rural		Moderate Cost City	
	2 Parent Family	Single Parent	2 Parent Family	Single Parent
Rent/Utilities	\$479	\$479	\$732	\$732
Food	\$656	\$474	\$656	\$474
Child Care	\$712	\$712	\$974	\$974
Health Insurance Premiums	\$247	\$247	\$203	\$203
Medical (Out of pocket)	\$61	\$38	\$61	\$38
Transportation	\$607	\$452	\$482	\$339
Other Necessities	\$307	\$257	\$375	\$326
Payroll Taxes	\$237	\$196	\$299	\$262
Income Taxes (with credits)	\$209	\$296	\$121	\$77
Total (Monthly)	\$3,097	\$2,560	\$3,903	\$3,424
Annual Income Needed	\$37,162	\$30,714	\$46,836	\$41,090
Hourly Wage Needed	\$9	\$15	\$11	\$20
% of Poverty Level	175%	175%	221%	233%

The chart indicates that child care is the greatest expense, followed by food and housing. These expenses do not include the high cost of fuel oil, where many mid-coast community members own their homes and must heat them, or are required to pay for their heating costs in rental units. The Maine Center for Economic Policy estimates that wage earners with dependent children must be paid more than \$15.00 per hour to meet basic needs in the mid-coast area.

## II. MIDCOAST AREA SERVICE NEEDS

### A. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is one of the core programs of Community Action agencies in the state. LIHEAP enrollment in a given year is a fair indicator of need, with income eligibility guidelines and the reality of high fuel costs. The MCAA Poverty in Maine Update Newsletter identified an 11.5% increase in the number of LIHEAP applicants across the state between 2007 and 2008. LIHEAP applicant data for the area served by MMCA in the 2007-2008 program year includes:

	# Households	Average income	% Over 65	% Single Persons
Cumberland	4241	\$14,322	36.4%	49.9%
Lincoln	1165	\$13,838	35.3%	46.2%
Sagadahoc	873	\$14,381	32.0%	45.6%

Applicant numbers for 2008-2009 are expected to be higher than last year due to changes in eligibility guidelines from 150% to 200% of poverty. Many working families who were previously not income eligible for the program were assisted this year.

### B. Community Partner Program Activity

Our local community partners have also reported increases in the need for and use of their resources. This is again an indication that vulnerable community members are seeking assistance to meet their basic needs, including:

- Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) reported that in the first 9 months of 2008 they had already served 94% of the number of clients served during all of 2007
- Warm Thy Neighbor reported a 30% increase in requests for fuel assistance in the past 18 months
- Tedford Housing reported a significant increase in the number of families seeking shelter in the past year-families are turned away every month for lack of shelter space
- \$50,985 distributed to 177 households for fuel emergencies from various funds (Keep ME Warm, United Way, Corporal Works) in 2007-2008
- \$35,491 distributed to 142 households for fuel emergencies by the City of Bath in 2008-2009

### C. MMCA Program Activity

There are a number of programs administered by MMCA that have also been very active in the past year:

#### Housing Counseling Program

- Nearly 2000 referrals for housing, utility, food, and other resources in 2007-2008
- Distribution of \$41,000 in emergency housing funds to 249 households in 2007-2008
- 500 requests for emergency funds that were not available
- 21% of households served reported poverty/welfare status
- 20% of households served reported homelessness
- 24% of households served reported unemployment or underemployment

#### Family Development (Case Management) Program

- 21% of participating families were female head of household
- 81% of participating families had 1-3 dependent children in the home
- 53% of participating families had children under the age of 5 in the home
- 60% of participating families had monthly income at or below \$1000
- 50% reported source of income from employment and/or TANF

### Women, Infants, & Children Nutrition Program (WIC)

- Operated 12 clinics in five counties of the mid-coast area
- 2150 households enrolled in program for 2007-2008
- 421 new referrals to program (35/month)
- 163 re-enrolls and 53 transfers to program

### Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

The TEFAP program distributes surplus USDA foods to fifteen soup kitchens and food pantries throughout the mid-coast region of Maine. Participating pantries submit reports of the number of households and individuals who receive pantry food, and the number of individuals who receive soup kitchen meals. The table below identifies activity for the year.

# Served	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Households	1253	1630	1290	1218	1049	1055	1069	1157	1163	1137	1194	1063
Individuals	1932	3672	3840	3502	3052	5774	3030	3263	3279	3165	3292	2798
Meals	5080	5425	4940	4704	4817	5618	4683	4686	4925	5098	5324	5071

The average number of households served per month was 1189 and the average number of individuals served per month was 3,383. There were 60,371 meals served throughout the year. All pantries report a significant increase in demand from previous years.

### **III MMCA RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS**

We have illustrated three things in this assessment. The first is that there are community members in our service area with unique vulnerabilities that can affect their ability to meet basic needs. Second, downward economic trends have made it more difficult for community members to meet basic needs. This is evidenced by increased unemployment, increases in the percentage of people living in poverty, and the growing disparity between what people earn and what is required to maintain a basic needs budget. Third, vulnerable community members are seeking services and resources in growing numbers, both within MMCA programs and with other providers.

The impact that these realities have is best described by Luisa Deprez, Professor of Sociology at USM, in her article [A New Look at Poverty in Maine](#). She noted that 1 in 8 Maine people lives below the poverty level, and 1 in 3 do not have sufficient income to meet basic needs. Professor Deprez described the Maine Voices Project of 2007, in which Western Maine Community Action and the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods facilitated a number of forums around the state, asking for feedback from Maine people about what poverty means. These community members most often cited the following:

- Travel and transportation costs have doubled since 2001, a particular hardship for people in rural and semi-rural areas who had to drive a distance for employment
- Home heating oil costs have nearly tripled since 2001
- Community members report increasing difficulty in paying mortgages and rent
- There is a scarcity of employment
- Food costs have increased 11% in the past year
- Child care costs are escalating

MMCA is attempting to address community needs by using CSBG funding to support essential programs people rely on and by establishing performance targets that measure our efforts to respond to the community. We are doing this with our annual CSBG funding and with the special ARRA CSBG funding we will receive in the coming months.

## **A. Annual CSBG Funding**

MMCA uses CSBG funding to support core programs in three departments of the agency. CSBG funds in the Child and Family Services Department support Families CAN, the Child Abuse and Neglect Council for Sagadahoc County. Families CAN offers parenting support, workshops, and training toward improved parenting skills. In the Community Services Department, CSBG funds support the Family Development Program, providing comprehensive case management services to families and seniors. This includes support for employment, transportation, child care, health services, and asset development. CSBG also supports home energy assistance, emergency services, WIC, the Family Development Account (FDA) Program, and the Finance and Asset Building Initiative (FAB).

In the Housing Department CSBG funding will support the Maine American Dream Initiative (MADI), a low interest loan program for home ownership, Weatherization and rehabilitation Services for home improvement, and the Home Replacement program for homes that are sub-standard or unsafe.

We have thirty Performance Targets related to the programs that receive CSBG funding, as well as targets for Workforce Development programs that are not directly funded by CSBG. Our performance targets measure goal progress with housing, heating assistance, employment, child care, transportation, emergency services, and a number of other issues identified through the community needs assessment process.

## **B. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)**

We will be receiving ARRA CSBG funding for the period from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We have identified five projects for the use of these funds, projects which we believe will have impact on the community needs we have identified, including the areas of employment and economic development.

### Family Development Case Management Expansion

We will be expanding Family Development Case Management services to include families affected by Reentry (parent returning to family from incarceration), service continuity for families with children leaving Head Start, and Parenting Classes for families affected by economic hardship. The project will be evaluated under ROMA Goal Two (The conditions in which low-income people live are improved), Indicator 2.d (Increase in access to community services and resources by low-income people). The project will fund one Case Management position, part of an Operations Manager, one LCSW Consultant, and provide training for two Social Work Interns. We expect to see program participants gain employment and improve their economic circumstances.

### Housing Counseling Program Expansion

We will be expanding Housing Counseling services to coordinate information and referral, emergency funding for housing crises, and life skill development for participants. The project will be evaluated under Goal 6 (Low Income People, Especially Vulnerable Populations, Achieve Their Potential by Strengthening Family and Other Supportive Systems), Indicator 6.2.B (Emergency vendor payments, including fuel and energy bills and rent/mortgage payments). The project will fund one Intake Specialist position and provide training for two Social Work Interns. We expect to see project participants stabilize housing and learn life skills that improve their economic circumstances.

### WIC Services Expansion

We will be expanding WIC services to include outreach clinics in Whitefield and Topsham. The project will be evaluated under ROMA Goal 6 (Low Income People, Especially Vulnerable Populations, Achieve Their Potential by Strengthening Family and Other Supportive Systems),

Indicator 6.3.A.2 (Infant and child health and physical development are improved as a result of adequate nutrition). The project will fund one Nutrition Specialist or Nutrition Counselor and one part-time Nutrition Specialist or Nutrition Counselor (staff retention). We expect that this will make the program more accessible to families in need of these services.

Housing and Energy Efficiency Enhancement

Resources will be used to provide staff support for MMCA’s affordable rental housing for homeless individuals and families. This will include tenant recruitment and eligibility certification, property management, and repairs. The project will be evaluated under ROMA Goal 2 (The conditions in which low-income people live are improved), Indicator 2.1.C (Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, weatherization or rehabilitation achieved by Community Action activity or advocacy). The project will fund 60% of two Estimator Inspectors and 25% of the Housing Services Property Manager\_(staff retention). We expect that this will make affordable housing more available to participants.

Community and Family Support

Resources and funding will be made available to families that address barriers to employment and career development. The project will be evaluated under Goal 1: (Low Income People Become More Self Sufficient), Indicator 1.2.E (Obtained care for child or other dependent in order to gain or maintain employment), and Indicator 1.2.F (Obtained access to reliable transportation and/or driver’s license in order to gain or maintain employment). The project will fund 25% of an Operations Manager (staff retention). We expect that this will provide the following resources to project participants seeking employment:

- Child Care funding for parents seeking employment (Resource Development Center referrals)
- Funding for Transportation Support (car repair, insurance, license and registration renewal)
- Funding for Other Resources that support self-sufficiency



# PENQUIS

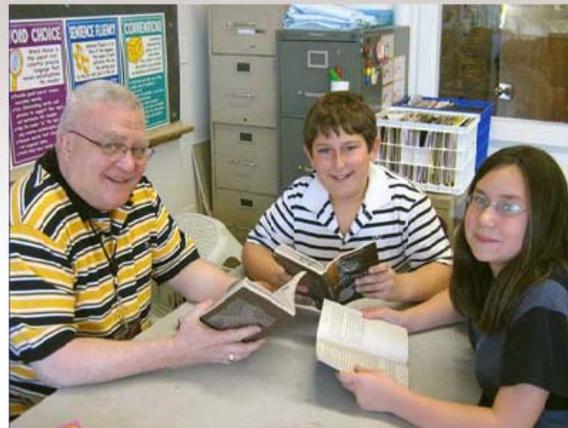
262 Harlow St • Bangor, Maine | Tel: 1-800-215-4942 | Fax: (207) 973-3699 | TDD: (207) 973-3520

[Homepage](#) [About Penquis](#) [Recent News](#) [Contact Us](#) [Frequent Questions](#)



Home

- + Child Development
- + Energy & Utility Programs
- + Family Enrichment
- + Health
- + Housing
- + Lending and Financial Counseling
- + Special Services
- + Teen Programs
- + Transportation
- + Victim Services
- + Volunteer Services
- + Career Opportunities
- + Events
- + Gifts & Giving
- + Publications
- + Photo Gallery



Helping Today • Building Tomorrow

Mission: To assist individuals and families in preventing, reducing or eliminating poverty in their lives, and, through partnerships, to engage the community in addressing economic and social needs.

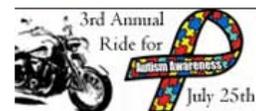
A United Way of Eastern Maine Agency  
A United Mid-Coast Charities Agency

Child Care  
Resource  
Development  
Center



## What's New

- Ride for Autism Awareness
- REAL Girls Summer Session Begins
- Need School Supplies?
- Microbusinesses Shine in the Maine Showcase
- Help out the School Supply Drive!



Sutherland Weston | Design | [www.sutherlandweston.com](http://www.sutherlandweston.com)

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

2009

Penquis' three-county service area encompasses 7,727.62 square miles and a population of 206,298. Penobscot, Piscataquis and Knox Counties reflect the diverse nature of the State of Maine. Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties lie in the heart of Maine, while Knox County is in the central coastal region. Penobscot County is home to Bangor, the third largest city in the state. Bangor is the region's economic center, but while jobs are on the rise, they are mostly in the service industry, a poor substitute for the many high paying manufacturing jobs that have left Maine in the past 15 years. Piscataquis County is rural Maine. It is the only designated "frontier county" east of the Mississippi River at only 4.3 persons per square mile, and has the dubious distinction of being among the poorest and "oldest" (the age of its population) in the state. Knox County is a prime example of the beauty of coastal Maine. But this beauty belies the difficulty of living on the coast, where this is a higher proportion of "working poor" and housing is less affordable than in the state as a whole.

	<b>Penobscot</b>	<b>Piscataquis</b>	<b>Knox</b>	<b>Maine</b>
Population	148,651 <sup>1</sup>	16,961 <sup>1</sup>	40,686 <sup>1</sup>	1,316,456 <sup>1</sup>
Square miles	3,395.73	3,966.22	365.67	30,861.55
Median age	39.3 <sup>2</sup>	42.1 <sup>3</sup>	43.5 <sup>2</sup>	41.1 <sup>3</sup>
Population 65+ years of age	13.4% <sup>2</sup>	17.4% <sup>3</sup>	17.3% <sup>2</sup>	14.7% <sup>3</sup>
% White	96.2% <sup>2</sup>	97.8% <sup>3</sup>	98.0% <sup>2</sup>	95.5% <sup>3</sup>
Median Income, Household	\$41,336 <sup>2</sup>	\$28,250 <sup>3</sup>	\$42,495 <sup>2</sup>	\$45,211 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Finder, 2008 estimate

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3)(remained unchanged)

### POVERTY

According to the US Census Bureau, 12.2% of Mainers are living below the federal poverty level.<sup>1</sup> The poverty rate for children under the age of five in Maine rose from 17.5% in 2000 to 19.4% in 2007. The poverty rate for children under the age of 18 in Maine rose from 12.9% in 2000 to 15.7% in 2007.<sup>2</sup>

The median household income in Maine is \$45,832, compared to \$50,740 nationally.<sup>3</sup> Maine's 2007 per capita personal income of \$33,722 is ranked 35th in the United States.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2007

<sup>2</sup> Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation, *Measures of Growth in Focus 2009*, <http://www.mdf.org/publications/Measures-of-Growth-in-Focus-2009/84/>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2007

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, <http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/spi/2007/spi0307.htm>

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

Distribution of Benefits						
	% Poverty, 2007 <sup>2</sup>	% Personal Income from Transfer Payments, 2004 <sup>1</sup>	Hshlds. Receiving LIHEAP, FY 2007-08 <sup>2</sup>	Hshlds. Receiving Food Stamps, FY 2007-08 <sup>2</sup>	Free & Reduced School Lunch Eligibility, October 1, 2008 <sup>2</sup>	Monthly Average Unemployment Rate, 2008 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Penobscot</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
<b>Piscataquis</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
<b>Knox</b>	10.6%	17.0%	8.9%	15.9%	38.9%	5.1%
<b>MAINE</b>	12.2%	19.0%	9.3%	17.1%	39.1%	5.4%
<i><b>BOLD</b> indicates data unfavorable to statewide percentage/rate.</i>						
<sup>1</sup> Poverty in Maine 2006, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, University of Maine, Orono, September 2006.						
<sup>2</sup> Poverty in Maine Update April 2009, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, University of Maine, Orono.						
<sup>3</sup> Maine Dept. of Labor, Labor Market Information Services. Data not seasonally adjusted						

	Parents As Scholars Cases	TANF Cases	Children on TANF	Food Stamp Cases	Food Stamp Individuals	ASPIRE participants
<b>Penobscot</b>	147	1,485	2,592	12,708	24,596	1,081
<b>Piscataquis</b>	9	190	319	1,520	3,188	134
<b>Knox</b>	21	362	585	2,818	5,628	270
December 2008, Maine DHHS, Office of Integrated Support						

Families have difficulty meeting basic needs. 12.3% of Maine's households are food insecure, and 4.6% of Maine households are food insecure with hunger. The difference of Maine's food insecurity with hunger from the national figure (3.8%) was statistically significant.<sup>5</sup> Hunger and the risk of hunger are widespread among Maine's low-income families with children. More than 40% of Maine kids under the age of 12 show some evidence of hunger. Adults in four out of five households surveyed indicated that they sacrificed for their children by eating less, skipping meals entirely, or by eating less nutritional food.<sup>6</sup>

According to a survey conducted in the Old Town/Orono area,<sup>7</sup> 17.8% of the households experienced food insecurity and/or hunger in 2004. And more than half of those (9.3% of the total) experienced moderate or severe hunger. The picture is even grimmer for households with children. 25% of the households in the survey with children under 18 experienced food insecurity and/or hunger last year, and over half of those (13.8% of the households with children) experienced moderate or severe hunger.

A 2005 telephone survey showed that 13.5% of Knox County households surveyed experienced food insecurity and/or hunger in the last year. A quarter of those surveyed experienced moderate or severe hunger. Three out of every 100 households in Knox County have experienced hunger within the last year, while 10 out of every 100 were concerned about whether they had enough food to eat. In households with children under 18 years old, 20.3% stated they had experienced food insecurity or hunger, and one-third of those experienced moderate or severe hunger.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Healthy Food, Farms and Families: Hunger 2007, [www.bread.org/learn/hunger-reports/hunger-report-pdfs/hunger-report-2007/Table-7.pdf](http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-reports/hunger-report-pdfs/hunger-report-2007/Table-7.pdf) -

<sup>6</sup> Good Shepherd Food Bank, [http://gsfb.org/hunger/hunger\\_statistics.php](http://gsfb.org/hunger/hunger_statistics.php).

<sup>7</sup> Community Partners in Ending Hunger, Orono/Old Town Area, Crossroads Ministries, February 2005

<sup>8</sup> Ames, Kim, Children and the elderly without enough food: survey suggests above average hunger in Knox County, Camden Herald, November 18, 2005

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

3,028 Maine residents filed for personal bankruptcy (Chapters 7, 11, 13) in 2008, a 31.6% increase over the previous year.<sup>9</sup> Foreclosure filings were reported on 2,851 Maine properties in 2008, an increase of 897 percent from 2007 and a 5,602 percent increase from 2006, according to the latest RealtyTrac® U.S. Foreclosure Market Report.<sup>10</sup>

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

- 21% of Maine children under age 5 and 16.9% of Maine children under age 18 were living in poverty in 2006. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of Maine children under age 18 live in low-income families (family income below 200% of the federal poverty level).<sup>11</sup>
- The birth rate for unmarried teen mothers under age 20 increased from 6.9% (of all live births) in 2005 to 7.0% in 2006.<sup>12</sup> The pregnancy rate for teens 10-17 years of age is 7.8 (per 1,000 females) for Knox County, 7.0 for Penobscot County, and 8.5 for Piscataquis County, all higher than the state rate of 6.8.<sup>13</sup>
- There were 1,436 reports of child abuse/neglect for children 0-17 in the Penquis and Mid-coast regions.<sup>14</sup> Of all 0-4 child abuse/neglect cases confirmed statewide, 60% was neglect; 24% was emotional abuse; 13% was physical abuse; and 3% was sexual abuse. The most prevalent stress factors identified during assessment were mental/physical health problem, alcohol/drug misuse by parent/caretaker, and family violence.<sup>15</sup>
- The Maine teen suicide rate of 4.6 (per 100,000 children) represents a 38% decrease from 1999-2004 and dipped below the national rate (4.7) for the first time in over a decade.<sup>16</sup> However, suicide deaths, age 10 and older, 2001-2005, is 16.9 in midcoast Maine and 15.0 in the Penquis region, both greater than the state rate of 13.9, which is higher than the U.S. rate of 12.6.<sup>17</sup>
- The parents of 33.3% of Maine children age 0 to 5 have at least one concern about their child's development, learning, or behavior. Furthermore, 11.7% of Maine children age 3-17 have moderate to severe difficulties in one or more of the following areas: emotions, concentration, behavior, or being able to get along with other people.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Bankruptcy Court, [http://www.uscourts.gov/Press\\_Releases/2009/bankrupt\\_f2table\\_dec2008.xls](http://www.uscourts.gov/Press_Releases/2009/bankrupt_f2table_dec2008.xls).

<sup>10</sup> RealtyTrac, <http://www.realtytrac.com/ContentManagement/MarketTrendsLibrary.aspx?ItemID=5780>

<sup>11</sup> Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Kids Count Data Center, Annie E. Casey Foundation,

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=ME&loc=21>.

<sup>14</sup> Annual Report on Referrals, Maine Department of Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Child Protective Services, 2008.

<sup>15</sup> Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Child Protective Services, Annual Report on Referrals, 2008.

<sup>16</sup> Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance

<sup>17</sup> Rate per 100,000, 2001-2005, 2008 Maine State Profile of Selected Public Health Indicators, Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention,

<sup>18</sup> Maine Kids Count 2007 Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance

**PENQUIS  
SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE**

- There are 550 children age three to five in the three-county area with special needs. Speech and language impairments, developmental delays, and autism are the three most prevalent diagnoses.<sup>19</sup>
- Arrests of children for crimes against persons is 2.2% in Piscataquis County, significantly higher than Maine's .8%.<sup>20</sup>

<b>Maine Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2007 Maine Middle School Students</b>	
<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Maine</b>
Never or rarely wore a seatbelt when riding in a car	7.7%
Ever rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol	30.5%
Ever carried a weapon	36.5%
Ever attempted suicide	5.8%
Smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days	5.7%
Ever drank alcohol	31.3%
Ever used marijuana	10.5%
Ever had sexual intercourse	11.9%

<b>Maine Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2007 Maine High School Students</b>	
<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Maine</b>
Never or rarely wore a seatbelt when riding in a car	11.2%
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	21.8%
Carried a weapon in the past 30 days	15.0%
Attempted suicide during the past 12 months	4.8%
Smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days	14.0%
Drank alcohol during the past 30 days	39.3%
Used marijuana during the past 30 days	22.0%
Ever had sexual intercourse	45.4%
Did not attend PE class daily	93.3%
Were overweight	12.8%
Did not eat five or more fruits and vegetables per day	79.6

Regional Indicators:

<b>Infant Health<sup>1</sup></b>			
	Live births for which prenatal care began in the 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester, 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Low birthweight infants, 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Infant mortality, 2002-2006 annual avg., rate per 1,000 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Penobscot</b>	<b>85.4%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Piscataquis</b>	<b>84.8%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	3.7%
<b>Knox</b>	90.4%	6.0%	4.9%
<b>MAINE</b>	87.4%	6.9%	5.6%

<sup>19</sup> Maine Department of Education, 3-5 Disability by Age, 12/1/07

<sup>20</sup> Rate per 1000, 2007 and 2006, Maine Kids Count Data Book, 2009, Maine Children's Alliance.

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

<i><b>BOLD</b> indicates data unfavorable to statewide percentage/rate.</i>
<sup>1</sup> 2009 Maine Kids Count Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance

<b>Child Health and Welfare</b>							
	Children (0-17) in poverty, 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Children on TANF, Dec. 2008 <sup>1</sup>	Children receiving Food Stamps, Dec. 2008 <sup>1</sup>	Children receiving subsidized school lunch, 2008-09 <sup>1</sup>	Children participating in MaineCare, SFY 2008 <sup>1</sup>	Children in care/ custody of DHHS, Dec. 2008 <sup>1</sup>	Child Deaths (ages 1-14) 2002-2006 annual avg. rate per 10,000 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Penobscot</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>24.6%</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>51.2%</b>	254	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Piscataquis</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>61.9%</b>	23	*
<b>Knox</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	7.1%	<b>22.1%</b>	38.9%	<b>48.4%</b>	44	*
<b>MAINE</b>	16.9%	8.0%	21.8%	39.0%	46.1%	1,803 (in state)	1.9
*Fewer than 5. Suppressed to preserve confidentiality.							
<i><b>BOLD</b> indicates data unfavorable to statewide percentage/rate.</i>							
<sup>1</sup> 2009 Maine Kids Count Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance							

<b>Adolescent Health Grades 6-12, 2008</b>									
	Alcohol use in past 30 days <sup>1</sup>	Cigarette use in past 30 days <sup>1</sup>	Marijuana use in past 30 days <sup>1</sup>	Prior 2 weeks binge drinking <sup>1</sup>	Ever used prescription drugs <sup>1</sup>	Ever used inhalants <sup>1</sup>	Ever used stimulants <sup>1</sup>	Teen (15-19 yrs) pregnancy rate, per 1,000, 2004 <sup>2</sup>	Teen deaths, age 15-19, 2002-2006 annual avg., rate per 10,000 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Penobscot</b>	24.2%	11.8%	11.2%	11.4%	10.5%	<b>11.3%</b>	2.3%	30.8	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Piscataquis</b>	<b>29.1%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	2.4%	<b>46.8</b>	*
<b>Knox</b>	24.7%	11.3%	<b>14.7%</b>	11.7%	10.6%	<b>12.2%</b>	2.3%	<b>48.5</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>MAINE</b>	25.3%	12.1%	12.7%	12.5%	10.8%	10.8%	2.6%	34.8	6.0
*fewer than 5. Data suppressed to preserve confidentiality.									
<i><b>BOLD</b> indicates data unfavorable to statewide percentage/rate.</i>									
<sup>1</sup> Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, 2008									
<sup>2</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, DHHS, 2006 Report on ME Teen and Young Adult Sexual Health									
<sup>3</sup> 2009 Maine Kids Count Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance									

<b>PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS, Prevalence during Prior Year Grades 6-12, 2008</b>				
Behavior	Penobscot	Piscataquis	Knox	Maine
Been Drunk or High at School	11.0%	<b>15.9%</b>	11.4%	12.0%
Attacked Someone with Intent to Seriously Harm	11.7%	<b>15.0%</b>	11.0%	12.1%
Been Suspended from School	9.5%	<b>13.9%</b>	8.0%	9.6%
Sold Illegal Drugs	5.7%	<b>7.4%</b>	5.7%	6.3%
Been Arrested	3.4%	4.1%	2.8%	4.3%
Stolen/Tried to Steal Motor Vehicle	2.2%	<b>3.4%</b>	1.9%	2.5%
Carried a Handgun without Permission	2.5%	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	2.7%

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

Taken a Handgun to School without Permission	1.1%	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	1.2%
<sup>1</sup> Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, 2008				
<i><b>BOLD</b> indicates data unfavorable to statewide percentage/rate.</i>				
Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, 2008				

<b>PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIORS - Prevalence during Prior Year Grades 6-12, 2008<sup>1</sup></b>				
<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Penobscot</b>	<b>Piscataquis</b>	<b>Knox</b>	<b>Maine</b>
Participated in clubs/organizations/activities at school	83.5%	84.3%	<b>81.5%</b>	82.6%
Done extra work on your own for school	76.1%	76.1%	79.1%	77.4%
Volunteered to do community service	<b>56.4%</b>	61.9%	58.9%	57.7%
<sup>1</sup> Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, 2008				
<i><b>BOLD</b> indicates data unfavorable to statewide percentage/rate.</i>				
Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, 2008				

### Health

Maine has a multitude of rural health challenges: a shortage of children's mental health services; fewer dentists than the nation as a whole, with 48 dentists per 100,000 residents in Maine compared with 64 dentists per 100,000 throughout the U.S., and difficulty recruiting physicians and mid-level providers to rural areas.<sup>21</sup> All three counties contain Medically Underserved Areas and Medically Underserved Populations (low income).<sup>22</sup>

- 8.8% of Mainers do not have health insurance; 5.1% of Maine children under 18 are not covered by health insurance; 3.6% of children at or below 200% of poverty are without health insurance.<sup>23</sup>
  - The percentage of uninsured individuals is 14.5% in the Bangor region; 11.3% in the Penquis region (rural Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties); and 11.4% in the Knox-Waldo region. The percentage of people under 65 years of age who are uninsured is 16.7% Bangor, 14.0% Penquis, and 14% Knox-Waldo.<sup>24</sup>
- The percentage of residents who use the emergency department as their primary source of care is 5.2% Bangor region; 4.7% Penquis region; and 5.3% in Knox-Waldo region.
- The percentage of residents who could not see a doctor because of cost: 10.3% Bangor region; 8.4% Penquis region; and 10.3% Knox-Waldo.<sup>25</sup>
- Immunization rates of children ages 19-35 months decreased from 75.7% in 2006 to 72.9% in 2007.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>21</sup> National Center for Health Workforce Analysis: The Maine Health Workforce: Highlights from the Health Workforce Profile. <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/statesummaries/maine.htm>, as cited in Issue Brief, Maine's Rural Health Challenges, Muskie School of Public Service, January 2007.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/HPSASearch.aspx>.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

<sup>24</sup> The Center for Health Policy, Planning and Research, 2007 Health Planning Report for Northern, Eastern and Central Maine, July 24, 2007.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

**PENQUIS  
SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE**

- Children in the Penquis region have a higher prevalence of elevated lead levels among screened children: 1.6 vs. 1.4 elevated blls among screened 1 year olds and 1.7 vs. 1.2 elevated blls among screened 2 year olds.<sup>27</sup>
- The number of medical & buy-in individuals is 38,158 in Penobscot County; 5,352 individuals in Piscataquis County; and 9,030 in Knox County.<sup>28</sup>
- Women in need of publicly supported contraceptive services and supplies number 10,620 in Penobscot, 1,110 in Piscataquis, and 2,340 in Knox counties.<sup>29</sup>

The following information on selected health indicators is reported by The Center for Health Policy, Planning and Research in the *2007 Health Planning Report for Northern, Eastern and Central Maine*, published July 24, 2007 and commissioned by Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems.

<b>Functional Health Indicators</b>			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Bangor</b>	<b>Penquis</b>	<b>Knox-Waldo</b>
% Health Fair to Poor	11.4	18.4	14.9
% Limited Activity (Household)	21.4	29.1	26.8
% 11+ Days Physical Health Not Good	8.7	16.0	8.1
% 11+ Days Mental Health Not Good	10.3	9.6	13.5
% 11+ Days Unable to Perform Usual Functions due to Poor Mental or Physical Health	5.7	9.9	5.0
% 3+ Chronic Conditions	20.9	29.3	26.8
% Population "Not Well"	11.7	19.8	12.9

<b>Cardiovascular Health Indicators</b>			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Bangor</b>	<b>Penquis</b>	<b>Knox-Waldo</b>
% Sedentary Lifestyle (measured by no physical activity)	16.9	24.4	19.1
% Obesity (Ages 18+)	24.7	33.1	24.1
% Current Smokers	21.8	24.5	20.3
% High Cholesterol	29.1	29.5	31.9
% High Blood Pressure	23.8	35.2	31.1

**Diabetes health indicators:** A sedentary lifestyle and obesity are also significant health indicators for diabetes. Of all adults 18+ years of age, 8.0% have been diagnosed with diabetes in the Bangor region; 16.2% in the Penquis region; and 8.0% in the Knox-Waldo region. The diabetes mortality rate is 20.5 in the Bangor region; 40.8 in the Penquis region; and 30.2 in the Knox-Waldo region.

<b>Reproductive Health Indicators</b>			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Bangor</b>	<b>Penquis</b>	<b>Knox-Waldo</b>
Teen Birth Rate (10-17 yrs) per 1,000 female population by age	5.3	4.4	5.8

<sup>27</sup> Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance

<sup>28</sup> May 2009, Maine DHHS, Office of Integrated Support.

<sup>29</sup> Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2001-2002, The Alan Guttmacher Institute, 2006.  
<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/win/2006/Maine.pdf>.

**PENQUIS  
SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE**

% Inadequate Prenatal Care	0.2	1.7	0.2
% Adequate Prenatal Care	86.2	66.6	89.1
High Risk, Antepartum Hospital Admission Rate (10-49 year old females)	411.3	217.0	233.0
High Risk, Antepartum Hospital Admission Rate (10-17 year old females)	112.8	18.5	40.7
% Low Birthweight (<2500 grams)	6.7	3.3	2.3
% Prematurity (< 37 weeks)	12.3	4.3	2.9

STD Incidence rate (per 100,000): Bangor region 174.4; Penquis region 56.0; Knox-Waldo region 101.0. Gonorrhea rate: Bangor 9.2; Penquis 1.4; Knox-Waldo 4.5. Chlamydia rate: Bangor 165.2; Penquis 54.5; Knox-Waldo 96.6.<sup>30</sup>

**Substance abuse indicators:** the percentage of residents reporting chronic heavy drinking in the past month: 4.7% Bangor region; 2.9% Penquis region; and 4.6% Knox-Waldo region. The percentage reporting binge drinking in the past month is 15.8% Bangor region; 14.2% Penquis region; and 11.5% Knox-Waldo region.

**Oral health indicators:** Overall, access to oral health care has improved in recent years, though there are still disparities among regions. The percentage of residents who have not visited a dentist in the past year: 28.2% Bangor region; 38.6% Penquis region; and 30.2% Knox-Waldo region. Percentage who have had 6+ teeth removed due to decay/gum disease: 22.5% Bangor region; 34.5% Penquis region; and 23.3% Knox-Waldo region.

2006 Perceived Biggest Health Problems in Community

The top three most commonly cited health problems for each region as reported by residents:

Bangor Region		Penquis Region		Knox-Waldo Region	
Cost of Care	17.9%	Cost of Care	15.0%	Alcohol/Drug Abuse	17.1%
Obesity	13.8%	Cancer	9.2%	Cost of Care	14.2%
Alcohol/Drug Abuse	11.2%	Alcohol/Drug Abuse	8.2% (tied)	Obesity	11.2%
		Obesity	8.2% (tied)		
		Lack of Services/Staff/Quality Care	8.2% (tied)		

A survey in which providers were asked to name the top three health problems facing their community had similar results, citing substance abuse; sedentary lifestyle/diet/obesity; and access and affordability of care, including insurance coverage and affordability of drugs. Use of tobacco, depression, and mental health were also given high rankings by providers. Other significant issues as ranked by providers were lack of specialty care, the distance to specialty care, and inadequate transportation.

<sup>30</sup> The Center for Health Policy, Planning and Research, 2007 Health Planning Report for Northern, Eastern and Central Maine, July 24, 2007.

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

### Perceived Service Needs

The following service needs were reported by residents in a 2006 Household Survey:

	<b>Bangor</b>	<b>Penquis</b>	<b>Knox-Waldo</b>
Home Health Nursing	30.9	23.4	24.2
Counseling/Mental Health Services	25.7	38.6	27.8
Alcohol/Drug Abuse Services	29.0	31.9	38.6
Alternative/Complementary Medicine	20.3	29.0	16.8
Youth Crisis Intervention Services	48.8	50.4	45.6
Adult Primary Care Services	23.9	27.6	27.0
Domestic Violence Victimization Services	41.1	41.7	43.7
Women's Services	18.8	30.5	20.2
Pediatric Services	20.9	32.6	19.6
Cancer Treatment and Care	30.2	46.8	46.8
Heart Disease Services	16.6	37.9	40.7
Orthopedic Care	18.9	33.6	25.8
Diabetes Care	16.4	24.3	26.5
Emergency/Trauma Care	19.1	27.8	29.8
Lung Rehabilitation	21.9	33.7	28.6
Rehabilitation	24.8	32.5	20.9
Health Education Services	38.5	36.8	40.0

The Health Planning Report notes that “One barrier for some HMPs has been the inability of primary prevention initiatives to reach the most at-risk populations – the uninsured and low income populations.”

### EDUCATION

Postsecondary education has been identified by the Maine Center for Economic Policy and others as a way to increase the wages of low-income earners. “The median hourly wage in 2006 for Maine workers with a high school diploma was \$12.15, compared to \$20.92 for Maine workers with bachelor degrees or better.”<sup>31</sup> In 2007, just over one-third, or 35.7%, of people in Maine age 25 and over held an associate, bachelor or advanced degree. This is slightly ahead of national numbers of 34.9% and continues to fall below the New England region where just over two-fifths, or 42.5%, of people hold a higher degree.<sup>32</sup> Only 27.2% of Maine’s workers have a bachelor’s degree or better, compared to 37.7% for New England and 29.5% for the nation.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Cervone, Edmund, State of Working Maine 2007, Choices: Ideas for Shared Prosperity, Maine Center for Economic Policy, September 4, 2007, Vol. XII, No. 2.

<sup>32</sup> Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation, *Measures of Growth in Focus 2009*, <http://www.mdf.org/publications/Measures-of-Growth-in-Focus-2009/84/>

<sup>33</sup> Cervone, Edmund, State of Working Maine 2007, Choices: Ideas for Shared Prosperity, Maine Center for Economic Policy, September 4, 2007, Vol. XII, No. 2.

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

<b>Education</b>					
	Public high school graduates, class of 2007 <sup>1</sup>	Public secondary school dropouts, 2006-2007 <sup>1</sup>	Public high school graduates planning to attend post-secondary school, 2005 <sup>2</sup>	Students with disabilities, 2007-2008 <sup>1</sup>	Population 25 years and older, bachelor's degree or higher
Penobscot	<b>77.6%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	71.2%	<b>18.7%</b>	22.9% <sup>3</sup>
Piscataquis	<b>76.7%</b>	4.0%	69.5%	12.1%	13.3% <sup>4</sup>
Knox	84.3%	4.6%	63.8%	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>25.4%</b> <sup>3</sup>
MAINE	<b>80.8%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	71.8%	18.1%	25.9% <sup>3</sup>
<i><b>BOLD</b> indicates data unfavorable to statewide percentage/rate.</i>					
<sup>1</sup> Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance					
<sup>2</sup> Maine Kids Count 2007 Data Book, Maine Children's Alliance					
<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimate					
<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, Matrices P37 and PCT25.					

<b>Students with Disabilities 2007-08<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Penobscot County</b>	<b>Piscataquis County</b>	<b>Knox County</b>
Mental Retardation	133	11	29
Hearing Impairment	21	1	13
Deafness	13	1	1
Speech and Language Impairment	1,138	84	309
Visual Impairment including Blindness	5	0	8
Emotional Disability	247	16	101
Orthopedic Impairment	8	0	2
Other Health Impairment	709	52	164
Specific Learning Disability	1,124	99	487
Deaf-Blindness	2	0	0
Multiple Disabilities	244	8	142
Developmentally Delayed	48	3	34
Autism	378	27	54
Traumatic Brain Injury	8	4	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>1,347</b>
<sup>1</sup> Maine Department of Education, <a href="http://portalx.bisoex.state.me.us/pls/doe/eddev.efs05_user_reports.find_county?v_source=cexc">http://portalx.bisoex.state.me.us/pls/doe/eddev.efs05_user_reports.find_county?v_source=cexc</a>			

## HOUSING

While Maine has historically had a high homeownership rate, fulfilling the American Dream has become increasingly difficult. Affordability is determined by the ratio of median home price to median income: anything under 1.0 is unaffordable. The affordability index for 2008 was .79 in Maine with 13 of Maine's 16 counties showing affordability index rates less than 1.0.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Maine Homeownership Facts 2008, MaineHousing, <http://www.mainehousing.org/Documents/HousingFacts/HomeownershipFacts/MaineHomeownershipFacts2008.pdf>

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

	% of households unable to afford a median priced home, 2008 <sup>1</sup>	% of households unable to afford a median 2-BR rent <sup>1</sup>	# housing units (owned and rented) built before 1940 <sup>1</sup>	# housing units with lead paint hazards <sup>1</sup>	# homeless on Jan. 8, 2009 <sup>2</sup>
Penobscot	54.1%	60.9%	16,631 (27.4%)	<b>31,635 (52%)</b>	101
Piscataquis	40.5%	56.9%	<b>2,810 (38.5%)</b>	<b>4,031 (55.3%)</b>	5
Knox	61.5%	56.9%	<b>6,390 (35.5%)</b>	<b>9,088 (50.5%)</b>	21
MAINE	62.6%	57.0%	151,492 (27.4%)	276,574 (50%)	829
<sup>1</sup> MaineHousing, 2008, <a href="http://www.mainehousing.org/DATAHousingFacts.aspx">http://www.mainehousing.org/DATAHousingFacts.aspx</a>					
<sup>2</sup> Maine Housing Point in Time Survey: 871 People Homeless in Maine on January 8, 2009					

Of the 765 homeless individuals who responded to the MaineHousing point in time survey in 2009:

- Of adults, 49% were unemployed; 5% were employed; 8% were using job training services; and 46% did not respond to the question.
- 46% had completed high school; 37% had less than a high school education; 14% had more than a high school education; and 3% did not respond to the question.
- 141 (18%) survey respondents met the definition of chronically homeless (an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years); 32% had a chronic disability; 16% had severe and persistent mental illness; 16% had chronic substance abuse; 19% were domestic violence survivors; 9% were veterans; and 3% were unaccompanied youth. 13% had a recent apartment eviction; 2% had a recent utility shutoff; 1% had a recent home foreclosure; and less than 1% was a recent disaster victim.

### Transportation

- Transportation barriers often prevent the elderly from receiving the medical care they need. In Penobscot County, 56% of elderly patients reported needing transportation assistance monthly for routine doctor visits; 62% required help weekly with chronic care appointments.<sup>35</sup>
- Approximately 12% of MaineCare recipients do not have reliable transportation for their health care appointments; approximately 17% report difficulty keeping health care appointments due to a lack of transportation; and approximately 71% do not know they can be reimbursed for transportation expenses or request a driver for MaineCare medical appointments.<sup>36</sup>
- There is a lack of social and recreational transportation for seniors. Individuals under 60 years of age without MaineCare have virtually no transportation options.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Eastern Maine Transportation Collaborative Medical Office Transportation Survey, University of Maine Center on Aging, 2005.

<sup>36</sup> Conversations with Real People, results from a survey conducted by Penquis Community Action Program and York County Community Action Program, and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2005.

<sup>37</sup> Meeting minutes, Eastern Maine Transportation Collaborative, April 13, 2006.

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

- Alpha One reports ongoing challenges with transportation for individuals with disabilities. The lack of social transportation is a huge issue.<sup>38</sup>
- In Knox County, transportation barriers often prevent the elderly from receiving the medical care they need. There are no public transportation services available. The regional state-funded transportation provider does not meet the demand for services due to lack of personnel, equipment and because their cost is prohibitive for most senior citizens on fixed incomes. A portion of the need is being met by volunteers.

### Economic Development

Maine continues to experience slow economic growth. Over the past 15 years, Maine has lost a significant number of manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing accounted for 17.4 percent of Maine's total employment in 1990 but only 9.6 percent in 2007.<sup>39</sup> These higher paying jobs are being replaced by lower paying ones. "The lack of wage growth for the bottom tier of workers indicates that many working families have not shared in even the modest gains in the economy and are struggling to get by."<sup>40</sup>

The 2008 average unemployment rate for Maine was 5.4%, lower than Penobscot County (5.6%) and Piscataquis County (8.0%) but slightly higher than Knox County (5.1%).<sup>41</sup> Mainers often hold more than one job to make ends meet. Maine's multiple job holding rate is 8.1%, compared to 5.2% nationally (for 2007).<sup>42</sup> "The relatively higher multiple job holding rate in Maine suggests that many jobs are not paying a livable wage or providing adequate benefits to meet basic needs...The Maine Department of Labor has suggested two reasons why Maine's rate is higher than the national rate: high degree of seasonal work and growth in retail trade and other services where part-time work is prevalent...This can negatively affect families as parents are forced to spend more time at work and less time at home."<sup>43</sup> The Maine Center for Economic Policy suggests that over 50% of the workforce is not earning enough in wages to make ends meet.

Many of Maine's low-income population pursue self-employment as a pathway out of poverty. Maine's self-employment rate (proprietors as percent of total employment) is 23.9%, higher than the U.S. average and 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the U.S.<sup>44</sup> Microenterprise development is extremely

---

<sup>38</sup> Meeting minutes, Eastern Maine Transportation Collaborative, December 19, 2007.

<sup>39</sup> Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation, *Measures of Growth in Focus 2009*, <http://www.mdf.org/publications/Measures-of-Growth-in-Focus-2009/84/>

<sup>40</sup> Cervone, Edmund, *State of Working Maine 2007, Choices: Ideas for Shared Prosperity*, Maine Center for Economic Policy, September 4, 2007, Vol. XII, No. 2.

<sup>41</sup> Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Information, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>42</sup> Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation, *Measures of Growth in Focus 2009*, <http://www.mdf.org/publications/Measures-of-Growth-in-Focus-2009/84/>

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> As of 2006, Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire, <http://www.nneindicators.unh.edu/ShowOneRegion.asp?IndicatorID=15&FIPS=23000>, accessed March 2009.

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

important to Maine's economy and is included in state and regional plans. 88.49% of businesses in Maine are microenterprises; 91.15% in Piscataquis County are microenterprises.<sup>45</sup>

The Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) reports that there are more than 24 million microenterprises in the United States, and that microenterprise employment represents 17.9% of total private employment. Maine is performing even better at 21% and Piscataquis County better than that, at 25.2%.<sup>46</sup> According to the AEO, over 20% of all jobs in rural counties in the U.S. are the direct result of microenterprises.

In 2006, 4,497 new businesses started in Maine. This is an increase of 5.5% from the previous year, and much better than the New England region where new business starts were down by 3.1% for that same period. While new entrepreneurial activity in Maine out-performed both New England and the U.S. in 2006, data for 2007 reports a decline in entrepreneurial activity in Maine, placing it lower than New England and the nation.<sup>47</sup>

	Number of microenterprises <sup>32</sup>	% microenterprises <sup>31</sup>	% total private, non-farm employment provided by microenterprises <sup>32</sup>	% of workers self-employed in own not incorporated business <sup>48</sup>	% households with self-employment income <sup>49</sup>
<b>Penobscot</b>	12,443	85.33%	16.6%	5.8%	12.9%
<b>Piscataquis</b>	1,793	90.99%	25.2%	9.2%	14.0%
<b>Knox</b>	7,080	91.54%	29.8%	17.0%	25.6%
<b>MAINE</b>	138,794	88.71%	21.0%	9.3%	15.8%

- About half of Piscataquis County microentrepreneurs rely on the business “a great deal” to generate family income.<sup>50</sup>
- A 2001 Piscataquis County Micro-Enterprise Survey conducted by the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy indicated that entrepreneurs are somewhat interested or very interested in getting information or advice on a variety of topics: marketing products/services (59%); taxes (56%); computer use (54%); financial management (50%); government regulations (48%); business planning (46%); getting financing (37%); hiring and retaining employees (37%); customer service (36%); distributing your products (33%); and production practices (21%). Approximately 30 percent of microentrepreneurs indicate an interest in expanding their business.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>45</sup> As of 2006, Association for Enterprise Opportunity, [http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/microenterpriseworks/files/ccStates/MEBSFILENAME/00000000020/Main e-MEBS-2006.pdf](http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/microenterpriseworks/files/ccStates/MEBSFILENAME/00000000020/Main%20e-MEBS-2006.pdf).

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/index.asp?bid=159>

<sup>47</sup> Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation, *Measures of Growth in Focus 2009*, <http://www.mdf.org/publications/Measures-of-Growth-in-Focus-2009/84/>

<sup>48</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey, [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US23019&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2006\\_EST\\_G00\\_DP3&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2006\\_EST\\_G00\\_-&-\\_lang=en&-\\_sse=on](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US23019&-qr_name=ACS_2006_EST_G00_DP3&-ds_name=ACS_2006_EST_G00_-&-_lang=en&-_sse=on)

<sup>49</sup> U.S. Census 2000

<sup>50</sup> Atasoy, Sibel, *The Economic Impact and Importance of Microbusinesses to the New England Economy*, University of Maine, August 2004.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

## PENQUIS SUMMARY NEEDS PROFILE

### Interpersonal Violence

Maine experienced a 12% increase in reported rapes, a 17.2% increase in incidents of forcible rape, and 3.9% increase in domestic assaults from 2006 to 2007.<sup>52</sup> The number of domestic violence deaths doubled from 2007 to 2008.<sup>53</sup> In Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties, there were 552 reported domestic assaults in 2007 (473 Penobscot County; 49 Piscataquis County), a 12.3% increase over the previous year and the highest number reported since 1997. Arrests for rape numbered 19 (14 in Penobscot; 5 in Piscataquis), the same number as the previous year.<sup>54</sup> Area domestic violence agencies served 1,764 individuals in FY08. Rape Response Services, the region's sexual assault victim services agency, provided services to 213 individuals who were impacted by sexual assault during the previous 12-month period.

---

<sup>52</sup> Maine Department of Public Safety, [http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime\\_in\\_maine/2007contents.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/2007contents.htm).

<sup>53</sup> Domestic violence deaths more than double over 2007, The Associated Press, December 10, 2008, <http://pressherald.maintoday.com/story.php?id=226648&ac=PHnews>

<sup>54</sup> Maine Department of Public Safety, [http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime\\_in\\_maine/2007contents.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/2007contents.htm).

## A year ago I was on the Street

A chance. An opportunity. That's all it took for Doug Trask. More than a year ago, Trask, 58, was living on the streets of Portland. A severe type-two diabetic, Trask suffered from neuropathy...

[Click here to read the full story](#)



Golf Classic  
Sep 14, 2009



Details to come  
Summer of 2009

Winter Gala  
Feb 20, 2010

Flamingo-a-Go-Go  
May 09, 2009

Family Expo  
May 16, 2009

[Latest News](#)

**DONATE NOW**

# Peoples Regional Opportunity Program

## Community Needs Assessment – Spring, 2009

### Maine – Economic Trends

- A long term shift toward a service based economy. Maine's manufacturing employment accounts for fewer than 12% of all jobs in the state
- From 1980 – 1999 manufacturing jobs declined by 21%. These jobs have continued to decline over the past 9 years.
- Job sectors with consistent growth are professional and business services, construction, educational services, health care, and social assistance.
  - While selected service industries pay higher than average wages, overall wages per job in manufacturing remain 52 percent higher than service sector jobs and 24% higher than jobs in finance/insurance/real estate
- The median household income in 2007 was \$45,211 as compared to \$50,007 in the U.S.

### Maine – Demographic Trends

- Maine's population is growing older and shifting toward the southern and coastal regions
- By 2020 the elderly will comprise at least 21% of the population in Maine
- Demographic characteristics of the population determine the need for publicly provided services such as education, health care, and other social services

### Cumberland County Demographics

- Total population is 276,074
- Total population under age 5 is 15,462
- In 2006, the percentage of children under the age of 18 living below the poverty level was 11.5%
- In 2008 an estimated 6.2% of children in Cumberland County were on TANF
- In 2008 an estimated 15.4% of children were receiving food stamps

### Economic Characteristics of Cumberland County

- Percentage of residents in the labor force in 2007: 69.7% (US average: 64.7%)
- Families below the poverty level : 7.0%
- Individuals below the poverty level: 10.4%

### Social Characteristics of Cumberland County

- Population 25 years and over: 190,501
- Foreign born: 4,092 or 5.1%
- Speak a language other than English at home: 18,692 or 7.2%

### Educational Attainment Data for Cumberland County

- Public high school drop out rate: 4.88%
- High school graduate or higher: 92.3%
- Bachelor's degree or higher: 38.9%

Demographics by Town

City/Town	Population
<b>Baldwin</b>	<b>1,290</b>
<b>Casco</b>	<b>3,469</b>
Falmouth	10,310
Gray	6,820
Harrison	2,315
Naples	3,274
Yarmouth	8,360
Pownal	1,491
Scarborough	16,970
<b>Westbrook</b>	<b>15,506</b>
North Yarmouth	3,210
Cape Elizabeth	9,068
Cumberland	7,159
<b>Bridgton</b>	<b>4,883</b>
Freeport	7,800
<b>Gorham</b>	<b>14,141</b>
Harpswell	5,239
New Gloucester	4,803
<b>Portland</b>	<b>64,249</b>
Raymond	4,299
Sebago	1,433
Standish	9,285
<b>Windham</b>	<b>16,142</b>
<b>South Portland</b>	<b>23,324</b>
Brunswick	21,172
Frye & LongIslands	272

Children on TANF by Town

City/Town	TANF
<b>Baldwin</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Casco</b>	<b>60</b>
Falmouth	18
Gray	95
Harrison	55
Naples	54
Yarmouth	25
Scarborough	80
<b>Westbrook</b>	<b>360</b>
North Yarmouth	8
Cape Elizabeth	16
Cumberland	22
<b>Bridgton</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Gorham</b>	<b>129</b>
New Gloucester	62
<b>Portland</b>	<b>1520</b>
Raymond	40
Sebago	31
Standish	112
<b>Windham</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>South Portland</b>	<b>332</b>

Children on TANF and Food Stamps by Town and by Age

City/Town	Age 0-3
<b>Baldwin</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Casco</b>	<b>40</b>
Falmouth	13
Gray	57
Harrison	33
Naples	32
Yarmouth	16
Scarborough	50
<b>Westbrook</b>	<b>230</b>
North Yarmouth	3
Cumberland	8
<b>Bridgton</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Gorham</b>	<b>79</b>
New Gloucester	36
<b>Portland</b>	<b>975</b>
Raymond	21
Sebago	17
Standish	67
<b>Windham</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>South Portland</b>	<b>206</b>
Cape Elizabeth	14

City/Town	Age 3
<b>Baldwin</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Casco</b>	<b>20</b>
Falmouth	5
Gray	38
Harrison	22
Naples	22
Yarmouth	9
Scarborough	30
<b>Westbrook</b>	<b>130</b>
North Yarmouth	5
Cumberland	14
<b>Bridgton</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Gorham</b>	<b>50</b>
New Gloucester	26
<b>Portland</b>	<b>545</b>
Raymond	19
Sebago	14
Standish	45
<b>Windham</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>South Portland</b>	<b>126</b>
Cape Elizabeth	2

Child Care Referral for Cumberland County  
 Requests for Provider Referrals  
 October – December 2005

Age of Child	Client Count	% of Clients
Prenatal	9	2.22
Under one	150	37.04
One	102	25.19
Two	70	17.28
Three to four	95	6.91
Five	28	6.91
Six to eight	37	9.14
Nine and over	18	4.4

Age of Child	Client Count	% of Clients
Prenatal	9	2.22
Under one	150	37.04
One	102	25.19
Two	70	17.28
Three to four	95	6.91
Five	28	6.91
Six to eight	37	9.14
Nine and over	18	4.4

## PROP 2009 Community Assessment Process

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Review all existing data sources	December 08/January 09
Compile data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Population, demographic, poverty descriptors</li> <li>➤ Focus on Cumberland County</li> <li>➤ Collect info on seniors for York</li> <li>➤ Collect data relevant to TWP and MYAN from the state</li> </ul>	January, February, March 09
Gather anecdotal, experiential data for staff through small group discussions	March/April 09
Engage town managers in conversations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Include GA administrator in discussion</li> <li>➤ Ask all town managers same series of questions</li> </ul>	April/May 09
Conduct focus groups to confirm data trends identified through data review	May/June 09
<i>Consider evaluation/assessment of existing systems of care for people in need</i>	<i>ONGOING</i>
<i>Consider internal assessment of PROP services/capacity/need</i>	<i>ONGOING – Summer 09</i>
<b>Write/complete assessment</b>	<b>August 09</b>

Gather information on:

- Child development/achievement
- Participation rates for free/reduced lunch
- School success/drop-out/truancy
- Crime/recidivism
- Housing stock
- Substance abuse/use
- Transportation
- Employment rates
- Disabilities
- Obesity/chronic health concerns
- Mobility
- Elders

## PROP Community Assessment Data 2-5-09

DEMOGRAPHICS		
Descriptor	Maine	Cumberland County
Population 2006	1,321,574	274,598 (20.8%)
Size		853 square miles
Racial and Ethnic Minority 2000	38,909 (3.1%)	12,697 (4.8%)
Median Age 2006	41	40
65 & older 2005	192,644 (14.6%)	37,355 (13.6%)
Under 18 2005	277,336 (21%)	58,692 (21.1%)
Household Size 2000	2.39	2.38
Median Household Income 2006	\$43,439	\$51,520
Individuals with physical disabilities 2000	112,661 (9.5%)	19,144 (7.8%)
Individuals with mental disabilities 2000	68,739 (5.8%)	12,492 (5.1%)
# living in poverty 1999	135,501 (11%)	20,352 (8%)
% living in poverty 2004	11.5%	9%
% living in poverty 2005	12.3%	10%
% living in poverty 2006	12.9%	10%
% children living in poverty 2005	16.7%	12.2%
% children living in poverty 2006	17.6%	11.8%
% experiencing unemployment Dec 2008	7.0%	5.2%
<p><i>Cumberland County consists of 3 cities and 25 towns. Portland, South Portland, Brunswick, Scarborough, and Windham have the largest populations. There are 7 service centers in the county: Portland, Brunswick, Bridgton, Freeport, Scarborough, South Portland and Westbrook.</i></p>		
COMMUNITY DOMAIN		
Risk Concern	Maine	Cumberland County
Estimated livable wage for a family of 3 (2006)	\$18.15/hour	\$21.64
Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility (2007)	37.5%	26.9%
#of AFDC/TANF recipients per 1,000 people (2001)	21.14	17.89
Food Stamp usage		9.4%
% of renters (2000)	28.42%	33.24%
# of individuals arrested per 1000 people (2006)	26.5 State average 1.8% reduction in 5 years 22.2% reduction in 10 years	31.7 5.5 increase in 5 years 28.3% reduction in 10 years
# of individuals arrested for violent crime per 1000 (2006)	1.2 4.3% increase in 5 years 11.3% reduction in 10 years	1.7 22.9% increase in 5 years 31.8% reduction in 10 years

*While the proportion of households in Cumberland County that receive entitlement benefits is lower than the state average, the proportion of the overall population that receive such benefits is higher than the state average. It has been suggested that this is a result of the number of households in Cumberland County with a female head of household and children living in poverty.*

FAMILY DOMAIN		
<b>Risk Concern</b>	<b>Maine</b>	<b>Cumberland County</b>
Domestic assaults reported to police (2006)	5,554	<b>1,106</b> <i>Rate is higher than state by population</i>
# of adults in ATOD state-supported programs per 1,000 people over 18y (2001)	7.26	<b>10.05</b>
# of children in foster care per 1,000 people (2002)	9.90	9.09
% of people binge drinking in last 30 days (2002)	14.4%	16.5%
Domestic Violence Arrests per 1,000 people (2002)	4.73	5.32
SCHOOL DOMAIN		
<b>Risk Concern</b>	<b>Maine</b>	<b>Cumberland County</b>
Drop-out rate 2006	5.42%	4.88%
Average Daily Attendance Rate 2007	93.97%	
High School Completion Rate 2006	84.25%	85.43%
% of adolescents 16-19y who have not completed HS (2000)	6.18%	4.63%
INDIVIDUAL DOMAIN		
<b>Risk Concern</b>	<b>Maine</b>	<b>Cumberland County</b>
Rate of depression per 1,000 2006	57.8	67.7
Rate per 100,000 of death by cancer 2001-2005	242	227
Rate per 100,000 of death by heart disease 2001-2005	237	191
Rate per 100,000 of death by Alzheimer's disease 2001-2005	37.5	48.3
Annual Lyme disease cases per 100,000 2003-2007		83.6
# of youth arrested per 1,000 people (2006)	485 21.9% reduction in 5 years 39.6% reduction in 10 years	1,514 13.4% reduction in 5 years 35% reduction in 5 years
# of youth arrested for alcohol-related offenses per 1,000 people (2002)	.78	.05
# of adolescents (10-14y) arrested for personal &	10.09	9.76

property crimes per 1,000 people (2002)		
<b>OUTCOMES</b>		
<b>Concern</b>	<b>Maine</b>	<b>Cumberland County</b>
Adult drunk driving arrests per 1,000 people (2002)	6.56	7.12
Adult alcohol arrests per 100,000 (2000)	983.69	954.09
Alcohol-related traffic fatalities as a % of all traffic fatalities (2001)	25%	44.44%
Drug use during pregnancy: # of pregnant women receiving state-supported treatment per 1000 live births (2001)	7.71	12.02
Adult violent crimes per 100,000 people (2000)	62.24	66.50
Juvenile arrests for property crime per 100,000 people (2002)	2036.80	2175.89
# of adolescents committing suicide per 100,000 (2002)	4.75	6.89

**Data Sources:**

Portland Public Health  
 PROP's Communities Promoting Health  
 Maine Department of Labor  
 Maine Department of Education  
 KIDS Count 2008  
 Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center  
 Great Portland Council of Governments  
 United Way of Greater Portland  
 Maine Safe & Drug-Free Schools Report on Incidence of Prohibited Behavior and Drug & Violence Prevention (The Lobster Report)  
 Cumberland County Municipal Health Survey  
 211 Maine  
 Maine Council on Economic Policy  
 Maine State Housing Authority



Working together for a better community!

**Home**

[About Waldo Cap](#)

[Programs](#)

[Town Fact Sheets](#)

[Jobs Available](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact](#)

[Donate](#)



**"To create opportunities for people to improve their quality of life."**

Waldo Community Action Partners (WCAP) was founded in 1965 as a charitable, educational private non-profit community action agency. WCAP, located in Waldo County, Maine, is designed to make use of and organize public and private resources to assist in the lessening of poverty and address its major causes.

WCAP develops partnerships with other community organizations, involves low-income clients in the agency's operations, and administers a full range of coordinated programs designed to have a measurable impact on poverty.

**Reports and Assessments:**

[2009 Annual Report](#)

[2008 Services Report](#)

[2007 Community Assessment](#)

**Announcements**

**Winter Heating Advisory:**

Click here for information on potential health risks related to various heating sources.

**Website:**

Check back often! Our website is currently under construction.

**Waldo Community Action Partners**

9 Field Street  
P.O. Box 130  
Belfast, Maine 04915  
(207) 338-6809

**Email us**

© 2007 Waldo Community Action Partners. All rights reserved.  
Website design and maintenance by Elite Web Studio

BOD | Staff

Waldo Community Action Partners

# Community Assessment 2008-2009

Assessing Waldo County

# Table of Contents

<b>A NOTE ABOUT FACTS AND STATISTICS REPRESENTED IN THIS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SECTION 1. GENERAL AREA DESCRIPTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SECTION 2. RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION, CULTURE AND LANGUAGES .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>SECTION 3. COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Methodology.....	17
<b>SECTION 4. NEEDS OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.....</b>	<b>19</b>
Unmet Need for Head Start .....	22
Head Start Profile .....	22
Head Start Options 2007-2008 .....	23
Opinions of parents.....	24
Past Recognitions .....	25
<b>SECTION 5. ELEVEN REVIEW AREAS IN COMMUNITY .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b><i>A. TRANSPORTATION.....</i></b>	<b>28</b>
Increases in services during 2007 .....	28
Capitol improvements to increase capacity .....	28
Gaps in transportation services.....	29
<b><i>B. CHILD &amp; YOUTH SERVICES (0-18).....</i></b>	<b>29</b>
Social and Economic Status.....	29
Early Care & Education.....	29
Children with Disabilities .....	30
Substance Use in Waldo County Youth .....	32
<b><i>C. HEALTH/NUTRITION.....</i></b>	<b>34</b>
Food & Nutrition .....	34
Medical.....	40
Dental .....	41
Mental Health .....	43
Air and Water Quality .....	44
Working Poor .....	50
Predatory Lending .....	54

<b><i>F. MUNICIPAL SERVICES</i></b> .....	<b>55</b>
<b><i>G. HOUSING</i></b> .....	<b>55</b>
Subsidized Housing .....	56
Affordable Housing .....	57
Homelessness .....	60
<b><i>H. SOCIAL SERVICES</i></b> .....	<b>61</b>
<b><i>I. ELDER PROGRAMS</i></b> .....	<b>62</b>
<b><i>J. CONSUMER OPTIONS</i></b> .....	<b>63</b>
<b><i>K. EDUCATION</i></b> .....	<b>63</b>
Resources available for Head Start children and families within school system:.....	66
<b>SECTION 6. A WALDO COUNTY FAMILY</b> .....	<b>67</b>
The average Waldo County family .....	67
<b>SECTION 7. DATA FROM LOCAL FOCUS GROUPS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (MARCH 2006)</b> .....	<b>68</b>
Transportation.....	68
Children and Youth .....	68
Health Care .....	68
Recreation.....	69
Employment Opportunities.....	69
Municipal Services .....	70
Housing.....	70
Social Services.....	71
Elder Services .....	71
Consumer Options .....	72
Education .....	72
<b>SECTION 8. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS</b> .....	<b>73</b>
Community Demographics:.....	73
Transportation.....	73
Child & Youth Services.....	73
Health & Nutrition.....	73
Recreation .....	74
Employment/Job Training .....	74
Municipal Services .....	75
Housing.....	75
Social Services.....	75
Elderly Programs .....	75
Consumer Options .....	75
Education.....	76
<b>WORKS CITED</b> .....	<b>77</b>

## **A note about facts and statistics represented in this Community Assessment**

Not all data included in this assessment is updated on a yearly basis. Several different sources are used to represent a holistic picture of the Waldo County community. Therefore, every effort has been made to include the most recent information available from valid and reliable sources. Occasionally, there are discrepancies between statistics cited by different state and local government or planning offices; such as population or percentage of people in poverty. In most cases, the statistics cited are relatively close or within the standard error of measurement. For cases that are egregious or questionable, every effort has been made to include that disparity and cite its original documentation.

According to the Maine State Planning Office, the SPO is in the process of reviewing their population projections methodology and updating their forecast. The SPO anticipates updated town, county, and state projections to be completed in the summer of 2009. Also, beginning in April of 2009, the United States Census employees will use hand-held computers to verify the location of housing units in each community, confirming where the U.S. Census Bureau will send questionnaires and enumerators for the 2010 Census. The 2010 Census will be a comprehensive update of all information cited throughout the Waldo County Community Assessment.

## Section 1. General Area Description

Waldo Community Action Partners' service area encompasses the 730 square miles of Waldo County with approximately 50 persons per square mile based on 2008 estimates. There are 38,342 people, 2.9% of the state's population, living in the 26 municipalities in Waldo County. The estimated population has expanded by 5.7% from 2000-2008. In this same time span, the state population only grew by 3.3% (U.S. Census Bureau).

According to the *Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book*, the median income for 2006 and 2007 in the county was \$40,441, down from the previous rate of \$41,707. The income remains below the state average of \$45,832, leaving less for Waldo County citizens in the way of discretionary income for health care, child care, and housing. The unemployment rate in Waldo County in 2000 was 3.8%, and recent statistics from 2006 and 2007 now have that number at 5.5%. The state unemployment rate is currently 4.7% (United States Census).

The geographic make-up of Waldo County is rural, with the largest municipalities being Belfast, Winterport, Searsport, Lincolnville, and Unity. It is a county comprised of many farms, cottage industries, and grassroots organizations. Waldo County's landscape runs from the seacoast to the hills. There are many traditional fishing and marine based industries along water and many farms, especially dairy, inland. Historically, there has been a large artistic community in the County seat of Belfast and a very "grassroots" feeling throughout the county. Waldo County has succeeded in keeping its small town feel, but some towns are starting to experience the growth that has been coming up the coast of Maine.

Interestingly, the U.S. Census Bureau cites two different numbers for the number of persons living in poverty. According to the most recent available data set, "2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates," 16.3% of people and 11.6% of families live below the poverty level. That data set does list a +/- 2.1% margin of error. The most recent "State and County QuickFacts: Waldo County, Maine" lists poverty number at 14.5%, with no margin of error listed. Of the 16.3% of people living in poverty, 22.7% are children under 18 years of age. *Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book* cites 23.1% of children living in poverty in 2006 and 2005, which is up .8% from the previous year. Similarly, of the 11.6% of Waldo County families listed on the 2005-2007 data set living in poverty, 19.1% have children under 18 years of age and 27.2% of families have children under 5 years of age.

*Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book* states that 51% of Waldo County students received free or reduced lunch in 2007 and 2008, up from 47.1% in 2006. In addition, 8.3 % of Waldo County children receive TANF and 51% are enrolled in the food stamp program.



<b>Annual Estimates of the Population for Minor Civil Divisions in Maine, Listed Alphabetically Within County: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006</b>									
<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Population Estimates</b>							<b>April 1, 2000</b>	
	<b>July 1, 2006</b>	<b>July 1, 2005</b>	<b>July 1, 2004</b>	<b>July 1, 2003</b>	<b>July 1, 2002</b>	<b>July 1, 2001</b>	<b>July 1, 2000</b>	<b>Estimates Base</b>	<b>Census</b>
<b>Waldo County</b>	38,715	38,527	38,344	38,130	37,700	37,097	36,491	36,280	36,280
Belfast	6,803	6,801	6,812	6,792	6,704	6,607	6,438	6,381	6,381
Belmont	884	867	861	854	837	832	824	821	821
Brooks	1,030	1,034	1,036	1,040	1,039	1,034	1,026	1,022	1,022
Burnham	1,153	1,156	1,159	1,163	1,162	1,156	1,146	1,142	1,142
Frankfort	1,052	1,055	1,057	1,060	1,060	1,054	1,045	1,041	1,041
Freedom	649	651	653	655	655	652	647	645	645
Islesboro	664	661	651	648	647	627	609	603	603
Jackson	512	513	514	516	515	512	508	506	506
Knox	767	758	754	758	758	755	750	747	747
Liberty	933	936	939	942	941	937	930	927	927
Lincolnton	2,197	2,196	2,183	2,175	2,155	2,108	2,058	2,042	2,042
Monroe	889	892	894	897	896	892	885	882	882
Montville	1,008	1,012	1,014	1,018	1,018	1,013	1,005	1,002	1,002
Morrill	906	885	860	840	817	790	778	774	774
Northport	1,607	1,581	1,554	1,535	1,500	1,367	1,340	1,331	1,331
Palermo	1,358	1,341	1,321	1,305	1,282	1,255	1,229	1,220	1,220
Prospect	647	649	650	653	652	649	644	642	642
Searsmont	1,359	1,337	1,314	1,288	1,252	1,227	1,186	1,174	1,174
Searsport	2,664	2,673	2,679	2,686	2,685	2,672	2,650	2,641	2,641
Stockton Springs	1,651	1,660	1,667	1,621	1,540	1,505	1,488	1,481	1,481
Swanville	1,451	1,435	1,423	1,419	1,403	1,382	1,364	1,357	1,357
Thorndike	779	729	718	722	722	719	714	712	712
Troy	1,065	1,052	1,029	1,021	999	994	985	981	963
Unity	1,957	1,963	1,965	1,935	1,931	1,902	1,879	1,871	1,889
Waldo	1,101	1,047	983	927	869	812	750	733	733
Winterport	3,629	3,643	3,654	3,660	3,661	3,644	3,613	3,602	3,602

Maine State Planning Office; "Annual Estimates of Population of Maine Towns and Counties, April 2000-July 2006"

Waldo County population rates by age group:

- 5.3% under 5 years old
- 16.4% are 5-17 years old
- 64.1% are 18-64 years old
- 14.3% are 65 years and older

(*Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book*)

According to the Center for Workforce Research and Information, the population growth in Waldo County has been faster than the statewide for several years and the population is older than the statewide average. In April of 2003, the Population Reference Bureau listed Maine 7<sup>th</sup> for “States Ranked by Percent of Population Age 65 and Older”, using statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census. 14.4% of Maine’s population is age 65 or older. In Waldo County, the average age of residents is 42 (U.S. Census).

The live birth rate has fluctuated since the mid-1990s. Over the last few years (as of 2000), the annual numbers have dipped in 2002 and 2004 after a slight increase in 2003, and a sharp spike in 2005 (415 births) and 2006 (432 births). There were 407 live births in Waldo County in 2008. After factoring in the number of residents that die each year, it is clear that over 90% of the annual increase in population is due to migration into the county. The net change in Waldo County’s population due to births and deaths from 2000-2004 was 243 people. The net change in population due to migration from 2000-2004 was 1,876 (Office of Data Research and Vital Statistics, D.H.H.S.).

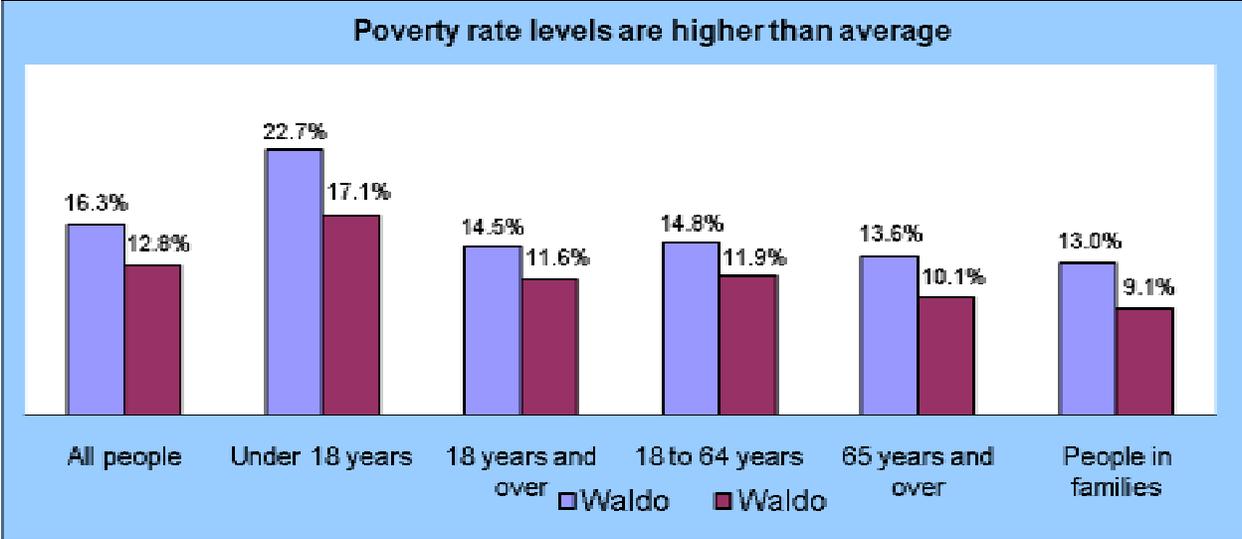
<b>Live Births by Civil Division 2000-2008</b>									
<b>Name</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
MAINE TOTAL	13590	13751	13549	13852	13932	14111	14152	14110	13607
WALDO COUNTY	414	408	373	399	381	425	433	398	407
Belfast	86	85	59	84	59	73	66	68	63
Belmont	9	7	9	6	9	9	11	10	6
Brooks	19	9	13	11	9	12	16	16	14
Burnham	9	13	16	11	13	10	12	11	9
Frankfort	13	19	8	14	18	12	22	18	12
Freedom	6	7	7	10	11	5	8	8	8
Islesboro	1	3	2	2	1	7	2	5	4
Jackson	2	8	5	4	1	6	12	6	6
Knox	5	10	4	8	8	9	15	10	9
Liberty	8	16	9	5	18	16	7	10	12
Lincolntonville	24	13	20	20	17	23	23	21	17
Monroe	7	8	7	10	9	5	8	6	12
Montville	8	11	11	8	13	10	8	13	13
Morrill	12	13	8	13	11	11	12	9	15
Northport	12	11	13	9	11	16	13	17	16
Palermo	19	11	17	10	20	15	12	14	11
Prospect	6	6	3	11	7	6	7	4	6
Searsmont	21	13	14	16	10	10	15	15	13
Searsport	29	28	28	28	20	30	31	23	39
Stockton Springs	17	25	13	10	14	22	20	7	17

Swanville	8	11	16	21	13	13	23	15	13
Thorndike	15	7	13	7	11	10	13	12	11
Troy	17	8	10	16	9	10	6	11	8
Unity	23	15	13	15	21	30	21	22	20
Waldo	3	6	10	9	4	11	8	6	15
Winterport	35	45	45	41	44	44	42	41	38
Maine State Planning Office; 2009									

Live Births by County and Maternal Age					
YEAR	Location	AGE 10-14	AGE 15-19	Age unknown	Total births
2003	Waldo County	0	41		399
2003	Maine	9	1132	1	13852
2004	Waldo County	0	40		381
2004	Maine	1	1101	5	13932
2005	Waldo County	0	38		425
2005	Maine	11	1111	2	14111
2006	Waldo County	0	42		433
2006	Maine	7	1128	1	14152
2007	Waldo County	0	43		398
2007	Maine	8	1167	1	14110
2008	Waldo County	0	51		407
2008	Maine	6	1115	3	13607
Maine State Planning Office, 2009					

The late 1990s and early 2000s was a period of rebound in rural and small town population growth, as more people moved into non-metro counties than moved out. Population growth can be a key indicator of a region's economic health and a generator of future growth and economic expansion. For Waldo County, it appears to be a mixture of positive and negative indicators.

Poverty Rates, 2007		
Age Group	Waldo	Maine
All people	16.3%	12.8%
Under 18 years	22.7%	17.1%
18 years and over	14.5%	11.6%
18 to 64 years	14.8%	11.9%
65 years and over	13.6%	10.1%
People in families	13.0%	9.1%
Center for Workforce Research and Information, 2007		



(Center for Workforce Research and Information; 2007)

\*The bar on the right should read “Maine” and not Waldo.

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2009													
The following dollar amounts are based on the federal poverty level published in the Federal Register.													
Yearly Income	Family Size	100%	120%	125%	133%	135%	150%	160%	170%	185%	200%	250%	350%
										(+25%)			
\$ 10,830	<b>1</b>	\$ 903	\$ 1,083	\$ 1,129	\$ 1,201	\$ 1,219	\$ 1,354	\$ 1,444	\$ 1,535	\$ 1,670 (\$2,088)	\$ 1,805	\$ 2,257	\$ 3,159
\$ 14,570	<b>2</b>	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,457	\$ 1,518	\$ 1,615	\$ 1,640	\$ 1,822	\$ 1,943	\$ 2,065	\$ 2,247 (\$2,809)	\$ 2,429	\$ 3,036	\$ 4,250
\$ 18,310	<b>3</b>	\$ 1,526		\$ 1,908	\$ 2,030		\$ 2,289	\$ 2,442	\$ 2,594	\$ 2,823 (\$3,529)	\$ 3,052		\$ 5,341
\$ 22,050	<b>4</b>	\$ 1,838		\$ 2,297	\$ 2,444		\$ 2,757	\$ 2,940	\$ 3,124	\$ 3,400 (\$4,250)	\$ 3,675		\$ 6,432
\$ 25,790	<b>5</b>	\$ 2,150		\$ 2,687	\$ 2,859		\$ 3,224	\$ 3,439	\$ 3,654	\$ 3,976 (\$4,970)	\$ 4,299		\$ 7,523
\$ 29,530	<b>6</b>	\$ 2,461		\$ 3,077	\$ 3,273		\$ 3,692	\$ 3,938	\$ 4,184	\$ 4,553 (\$5,692)	\$ 4,922		\$ 8,613
\$ 33,270	<b>7</b>	\$ 2,773		\$ 3,466	\$ 3,688		\$ 4,159	\$ 4,436	\$ 4,714	\$ 5,130 (\$6,413)	\$ 5,545		\$ 9,704
\$ 37,010	<b>8</b>	\$ 3,085		\$ 3,856	\$ 4,102		\$ 4,627	\$ 4,935	\$ 5,244	\$ 5,706 (\$7,133)	\$ 6,169		\$ 10,795
\$ 3,740	<b>Each added person</b>	\$ 312		\$ 390	\$ 415		\$ 468	\$ 499	\$ 530	\$ 577 (\$722)	\$ 624		\$ 1,091

Foundation for Health Coverage Education, 2009

<b>Poverty Status</b>						
<b>Number of Persons</b>						
	<b>2000</b>			<b>2003</b>		
<b>Town</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Below Poverty</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Below Poverty</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Belfast	6,195	816	13.20%	6,808	899	13.20%
Belmont	819	84	10.30%	862	107	12.40%
Brooks	1,012	197	19.50%	1,045	218	20.90%
Burnham	1,128	180	16.00%	1,169	180	15.40%
Frankfort	1,041	139	13.40%	1,067	140	13.10%
Freedom	644	99	15.40%	658	111	16.90%
Islesboro	610	44	7.20%	644	35	5.40%
Jackson	490	103	21.00%	520	118	22.70%
Knox	751	99	13.20%	765	119	15.50%
Liberty	919	157	17.10%	941	179	19.00%
Lincolnton	2,036	185	9.10%	2,170	228	10.50%
Monroe	891	156	17.50%	900	155	17.20%
Montville	1,002	145	14.50%	1,021	158	15.50%
Morrill	765	100	13.10%	844	100	11.90%
Northport	1,313	151	11.50%	1,532	176	11.50%
Palermo	1,206	220	18.20%	1,303	225	17.30%
Prospect	637	66	10.40%	655	64	9.70%
Searsmont	1,167	98	8.40%	1,291	125	9.70%
Searsport	2,638	354	13.40%	2,699	359	13.30%
Stockton Springs	1,484	180	12.10%	1,628	176	10.80%
Swanville	1,335	195	14.60%	1,428	218	15.30%
Thorndike	718	125	17.40%	728	119	16.40%
Troy	961	132	13.70%	1,029	123	12.00%
Unity	1,616	352	21.80%	1,927	478	24.80%
Waldo	744	125	16.80%	932	154	16.50%
Winterport	3,582	470	13.10%	3,682	471	12.80%
Waldo County	35,704	4,974	13.90%	38,248	5,436	14.20%

2000-2005 U.S. Census & "Poverty In Maine 2005"

<b>Food Stamp and TANF Statistics, 2004-2007</b>												
	<b>Food Stamp Program</b>						<b>TANF Program</b>					
	<b>May 2004</b>		<b>December 2005</b>		<b>January 2007</b>		<b>May 2004</b>		<b>December 2005</b>		<b>January 2007</b>	
<b>Town</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Persons</b>
Belfast	546	1,003	571	1,052	567	1,054	73	126	70	122	73	129
Belmont	41	99	55	123	48	112	8	14	8	17	8	17
Brooks	97	213	116	220	107	208	16	29	16	29	18	34
Burnham	126	278	126	276	130	276	19	39	10	21	17	32
Frankfort	79	193	95	231	98	240	13	18	22	37	18	30
Freedom	51	104	57	126	60	127	9	19	10	19	8	17
Islesboro	14	32	15	35	11	20	2	5	1	2	1	1
Jackson	45	102	44	97	49	120	7	14	6	15	9	19
Knox	49	104	57	128	61	129	7	9	5	6	2	2
Liberty	74	151	82	169	70	151	12	18	11	21	10	16
Lincolnton	67	145	82	155	90	177	8	17	16	26	17	28
Monroe	49	101	58	117	54	113	6	9	7	9	7	12
Montville	59	134	68	142	64	129	6	12	7	14	7	8
Morrill	49	100	43	93	42	101	10	18	7	20	8	15
Northport	74	156	75	157	71	163	8	13	8	14	9	14
Palermo	51	121	57	136	54	141	8	14	6	7	8	13
Prospect	31	60	48	88	39	72	6	14	7	15	8	17
Searsmont	45	97	62	134	66	156	6	11	7	12	6	10
Searsport	227	454	264	530	262	513	34	57	32	55	42	70
Stockton Springs	72	140	98	218	93	212	9	14	15	26	17	32
Swanville	115	241	122	260	119	268	20	40	24	44	25	47
Thorndike	67	140	60	145	66	142	14	24	7	14	10	20
Troy	84	200	86	193	91	197	19	46	11	35	16	38
Unity	149	317	169	342	172	348	31	54	32	54	22	37
Waldo	59	117	62	121	64	127	8	16	4	5	5	7
Winterport	174	387	190	390	188	419	31	47	24	36	23	42
<b>Waldo County</b>	<b>2,494</b>	<b>5,189</b>	<b>2,762</b>	<b>5,678</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>5,715</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>707</b>
Maine State Planning Office; 2008												

The number of Food Stamp Program and TANF recipients is a strong indicator of the number of individuals potentially eligible for most of WCAP's existing programs and those that could be reached in new programs and directions that WCAP might choose to pursue in the future. Enrollment in the Food Stamp Program has been increasing in Maine for several years and increased sharply in the winter of 2007, as the price of gasoline and heating fuel rose to unprecedented levels. From 2004 to 2007, an additional 242 cases were opened in the Food Stamp Program and an additional four TANF cases were opened. According to *Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book*, 8.3% of children in Waldo County received TANF and 51% of children received food stamps in December of 2008.

Waldo County has:

- an average family size of 2.85 persons
- an average household size of 2.43 individuals
- over 55% of families made up of married couples
- 6% of households lead by single-female with children under 18
- 30.7% of families overall with children under 18
- over 24% of families with individuals over 65

<b>Waldo County Statistics By Town, 2006</b>							
	<b>Avg. family size</b>	<b>Avg. Household size</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Households w/ non-relatives</b>	<b>Married w/ children under 18</b>	<b>Male w/children under 18</b>	<b>Female w/ children under 18</b>
Belfast	2.77	2.23	2,765	352	441	64	207
Belmont	2.79	2.44	336	41	60	11	17
Brooks	2.98	2.47	410	43	90	15	23
Burnham	2.97	2.58	442	52	112	14	26
Frankfort	2.97	2.60	400	46	115	10	15
Freedom	2.84	2.49	259	38	54	14	12
Islesboro	2.69	2.15	280	23	54	9	7
Jackson	2.96	2.48	204	29	48	6	16
Knox	3.06	2.64	283	30	87	5	18
Liberty	2.94	2.55	362	51	88	14	28
Lincolnton	2.82	2.41	846	82	213	15	40
Monroe	2.95	2.48	355	52	83	7	23
Montville	3.00	2.56	391	50	107	18	15
Morrill	3.00	2.59	299	34	81	4	21
Northport	2.83	2.35	566	77	108	16	23
Palermo	2.84	2.48	491	52	104	14	25
Prospect	2.86	2.54	253	30	61	10	17
Searsmont	2.91	2.46	478	70	101	15	27
Searsport	2.86	2.34	1,130	130	212	25	75
Stockton Springs	2.82	2.36	628	69	131	18	31

<b>Waldo County Statistics By Town, 2006</b>							
	<b>Avg. family size</b>	<b>Avg. Household size</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Households w/ non-relatives</b>	<b>Married w/ children under 18</b>	<b>Male w/children under 18</b>	<b>Female w/ children under 18</b>
Swanville	3.03	2.60	522	75	120	21	49
Thorndike	2.89	2.54	279	38	68	6	18
Troy	2.96	2.64	365	47	89	14	19
Unity	2.89	2.27	713	96	124	17	55
Waldo	2.96	2.53	290	36	73	11	17
Winterport	2.96	2.60	1,379	153	374	34	88
Waldo County	2.88	2.43	14,726	1,796	3,198	407	912
Maine	2.90	2.39	518,200	60,950	112,767	12,206	32,352

(U.S. Census Bureau; 2006)

## **Section 2. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Culture and Languages**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's "2007 Waldo County QuickFacts", the population of Waldo County is 97.8% White. There is not a high amount of racial diversity or language diversity. English is the predominate language and the only one used to teach within the local school systems. As is much of Maine, Waldo County does not benefit from a great amount of ethnic diversity. There is however, a great variety in culture, lifestyle, economic level, and educational attainment level.

At any given time in Waldo County, you can find a meeting at the WCAP Conference Room in Belfast or at the Maine Organic Farmers' and Gardeners' Association property in Unity. The culture blends from businesses with the traditional grassroots and earthy feel to the modern Hutchinson Center on Route 3 in Belfast. The county seat of Belfast is currently going through a great amount of change. The arrival of MBNA in the mid-1990s in Belfast spawned a new level of growth and transformation in Waldo County. Many jobs were created, the prices of the housing stock and rental properties increased significantly, the availability of housing decreased, and for many, an entirely new feel to the area arose.

The local flavor of the area can be seen from the docks at the waterfront to the countryside where farmers till the soil and plant their crops. There are many small businesses in the towns and along the country roads where you can find home baked goods and home grown foods, as well as exceptional crafts and antiques.

Waldo County has traditionally been a very low-key place for all walks of life. There are communities of farmers, environmentalists, naturalists, business people, and the socially conscious. The blending of a variety of backgrounds has always been apparent, especially in Belfast. Since the arrival of MBNA (now Bank of America), the landscape changed a bit. There is now more income as well as more cultural diversity.

The new additions to Waldo County continue to provide added diversity to the area. As MBNA/Bank of America grows and shrinks, so too does their influence on income and lifestyle. Many people are able to have jobs that they never imagined and have a higher quality of life. Others have not been so enchanted with the arrival of the credit card company and the effect it has had on the population and lifestyle in the county.

Waldo County is changing in many ways. Although MBNA is gone, Bank of America is still a presence employing a smaller workforce. The arrival of the health insurance billing company Athenahealth provides additional employment. The population continues to expand as retirees move to the area, gentrifying the coast and bringing new and varied interests and expertise to the county. This lends a new level of energy to schools, government, recreation, and other yet to be discovered opportunities.

## **Section 3. Community Assessment**

Waldo Community Action Partners (WCAP), a private non-profit organization, was incorporated in 1965 as a Community Action Agency with a Board of Directors comprised of 21 members. The mission of the organization is: "To create opportunities for low-income people to improve their quality of life".

The Community Services Administration (CSA) provided initial funding for Agency programming. In 1983, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) replaced CSA to provide funding for Community Action Agencies around the country. WCAP presently provides programming in four major areas: Child Care, Transportation, Housing, and Outreach/Referral Programming.

The Waldo Community Action Partners called for a Community Assessment study to help determine how well the Agency is currently meeting the needs of the community and what other types of resources and services it can provide in the future. The results of this assessment study will be used to reflect the community's needs, and determine answers to the following questions:

1. What are the services being provided by WCAP and how can they be improved?
2. What services are being provided to Waldo County citizens by other organizations?
3. What are the gaps and overlaps in resources and services being provided?
4. How to direct interventions, partnerships, and referrals?
5. Who are the users of the Agency's services?
6. How is the community changing (e.g., socioeconomic status, demographics, etc.)?
7. How should WCAP develop plans for the actions that will impact future programs and direction?

### **Methodology**

This document is a yearly update of the initial 2006 WCAP Community Assessment. WCAP developed and administered a community assessment focusing on eleven service areas; transportation, children & youth services (0-18), health/nutrition, recreation, employment, municipal, housing, social services, elder services, consumer options, and education.

The initial assessment was conducted over a four month period. It looked at the broad and specific concerns of the community. This study involved using various methodologies to collect and analyze data to identify areas of concern. Data collection included surveys, focus groups, data file review, agency information, and statistical data interpretation. This process will also help reveal gaps and overlaps in resources and services, and enable strategies to be developed for actions that address targeted needs through direct interventions, partnerships, and referrals. WCAP held two large focus group meetings in March of 2006. The WCAP Spring Staff Day event included 80 employees who work in the various WCAP programs. The community forum by invitation included: Head Start Policy Council, Building Communities for Children, Neighbor for Neighbor, Waldo County Healthy Community Coalition, Healthy Living Project, Waldo

County FEMA Board, Senior Resource Collaborative, Waldo County TRIAD, local and county officials, political leaders, and WCAP staff.

At both the WCAP Staff Day and Community Meeting, the focus groups were asked to participate in a two-part exercise to solicit opinions and views concerning services in Waldo County. After providing an overview of Town Fact Sheets and results from a countywide survey and preliminary data collected for the Community Assessment, the first part of the focus group assignment was to solicit the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges in the eleven areas. The second part of the focus group assignment was to divide into eleven service area work groups to discuss ways of addressing the identified challenges and promote the noted strengths in Waldo County.

The information received in the focus groups was collected and compiled. The results are condensed in this report and updated yearly, or as information becomes available.

## Section 4. Needs of Head Start Eligible Children and Their Families

Head Start Numbers for 2007-2008 Year							
Town	Total H.S.	# H.S. MaineCare	% H.S. MaineCare	# Low Income	% Low Income	# Over Income*	% Over Income*
Belfast	34	29	100%	33	97%	1	3%
Belmont	1	1	100%	1	100%	0	-
Brooks	10	6	60%	6	60%	4	40%
Burnham	5	3	60%	3	60%	2	40%
Frankfort	3	2	67%	3	100%	0	-
Freedom	2	2	100%	2	100%	0	-
Islesboro	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
Jackson	3	2	67%	3	100%	0	-
Knox	5	3	60%	4	80%	1	20%
Liberty	2	2	100%	2	100%	0	-
Lincolnton	2	1	50%	2	100%	0	-
Monroe	3	2	67%	3	100%	0	-
Montville	2	2	100%	1	50%	1	50%
Morrill	3	1	33%	2	67%	1	33%
Northport	6	6	100%	6	100%	0	-
Palermo	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
Prospect	2	1	50%	2	100%	0	-
Searsmont	2	2	100%	2	100%	0	-
Searsport	24	20	83%	22	92%	2	8%
Stockton Springs	4	4	100%	3	75%	1	25%
Swanville	15	13	87%	14	93%	1	7%
Thorndike	7	5	71%	6	86%	1	14%
Troy	11	10	91%	10	91%	1	9%
Unity	17	14	24%	16	94%	1	6%
Waldo	6	4	67%	3	50%	3	50%
Winterport	13	10	77%	12	92%	1	8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12%</b>

Waldo County Head Start; 2009

Estimating Head Start Eligible Children***†							
Town	# 3 & 4 Year Olds (Estimate)			Poverty Rate	Estimate Head Start Income Eligible		
	2007	2008	2009		2007	2008	2009
Belfast	143	132	139	23.10%	33	30	32
Belmont	15	18	20	23.10%	3	4	5
Brooks	20	21	28	23.10%	5	5	6
Burnham	24	23	22	23.10%	6	5	5
Frankfort	31	29	36	23.10%	7	7	8
Freedom	21	16	13	23.10%	5	4	3
Islesboro	3	8	9	23.10%	1	2	2
Jackson	5	7	18	23.10%	1	2	4
Knox	16	17	24	23.10%	4	4	6
Liberty	23	34	23	23.10%	5	8	5
Lincolnton	37	40	46	23.10%	9	9	11
Monroe	19	14	13	23.10%	4	3	3
Montville	21	23	18	23.10%	5	5	4
Morrill	24	22	23	23.10%	6	5	5
Northport	20	27	29	23.10%	5	6	7
Palermo	30	35	27	23.10%	7	8	6
Prospect	18	13	13	23.10%	4	3	3
Searsmont	26	20	25	23.10%	6	5	6
Searsport	48	50	61	23.10%	11	12	14
Stockton Springs	24	36	42	23.10%	6	8	10
Swanville	34	26	36	23.10%	8	6	8
Thorndike	18	21	23	23.10%	4	5	5
Troy	25	19	16	23.10%	6	4	4
Unity	36	51	51	23.10%	8	12	12
Waldo	13	15	18	23.10%	3	3	4
Winterport	85	88	86	23.10%	20	20	20
<b>Waldo County</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>23.10%</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>198</b>

\* DHS Vital Statistics; March 2006

\*\* *Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book*

\*\*\* Live birth records for 2003-2004; 2004-2005; 2006-2006

† # 3 and 4 year olds x poverty rate

Estimating Head Start Eligible Children****†							
Town	Prenatal to 3 years old (Estimate)			Poverty Rate	Estimate Head Start Income Eligible		
	2007	2008	2009		2007	2008	2009
Belfast	68	63	3	23.1	16	15	3
Belmont	10	6	1	23.1	2	1	1
Brooks	16	14	1	23.1	4	3	1
Burnham	11	9	0	23.1	3	2	0
Frankfort	18	12	0	23.1	4	3	0
Freedom	8	8	0	23.1	2	2	0
Islesboro	5	4	0	23.1	1	1	0
Jackson	6	6	0	23.1	1	1	0
Knox	10	9	0	23.1	2	2	0
Liberty	10	12	0	23.1	2	3	0
Lincolnton	21	17	0	23.1	5	4	0
Monroe	6	12	0	23.1	1	3	0
Montville	13	13	0	23.1	3	3	0
Morrill	9	15	0	23.1	2	3	0
Northport	17	16	1	23.1	4	4	1
Palermo	14	11	0	23.1	3	2	0
Prospect	4	6	0	23.1	1	1	0
Searsmont	15	13	0	23.1	3	3	0
Searsport	23	39	2	23.1	5	9	2
Stockton Springs	7	17	0	23.1	2	4	0
Swanville	15	13	0	23.1	3	3	0
Thorndike	12	11	0	23.1	3	2	0
Troy	11	8	0	23.1	3	2	0
Unity	22	20	0	23.1	5	5	0
Waldo	6	15	0	23.1	1	3	0
Winterport	41	38	0	23.1	9	9	0
<b>Waldo County</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>92</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>8</b>

\* DHS Vital Statistics; March 2008

\*\* Live Birth Records for 2006-2007; 2007-2008

\*\*\* *Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book*

† Prenatal - 3 year olds x poverty rate

Using the population estimates from 2006, children under five numbers 2,020 according to *Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book* and 23.1% of them live in poverty. To ascertain the number

of three and four year olds, multiply 2,020 times 23.1% times .5 = 233.3 children. The 23.1% poverty rate is an increase from last year's rate of 22.3%.

<b>12 Month Income Guidelines for Program Eligibility</b>				
Household Size	Head Start (100% poverty)	LIHEAP & WX Medicaid (200% poverty)	LIHEAP Hypothermic (230% poverty)	Medicaid (200% of poverty)
1	\$10,830	\$21,660	\$23,920	\$21,660
2	\$14,570	\$29,140	\$32,200	\$29,140
3	\$18,310	\$36,620	\$40,006	\$36,620
4	\$22,050	\$44,100	\$47,626	\$44,100
5	\$25,790	\$51,580	\$55,246	\$51,580
6	\$29,530	\$59,060	\$62,866	\$59,060
7	\$33,270	\$66,540	\$64,295	\$66,540
8	\$37,010	\$74,020	\$65,724	\$74,020
Sources:	Head Start	MSHA	MSHA	
DHHS Poverty Guidelines; 2009				

### **Unmet Need for Head Start**

Waldo County Head Start was fully enrolled for the 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 school years. Recruitment for all program options remains active with waiting lists for most sites. Although Federal Head Start regulations now allow children with family incomes of up to 130% of the poverty level to be enrolled, Waldo County Head Start continues to fill all 182 funded slots using the 100% poverty level criteria. The increase in Waldo County's poverty level from 22.3% to 23.1 % has contributed to the number of Head Start eligible children living in extreme poverty.

Waldo County Head Start, in partnership with Broadreach Child and Family Services and school districts # 3, 34, and 22 provides new Pre-Kindergarten classrooms located throughout the county. Moving into Pre-K programs has helped the program reach Head Start eligible children in a new way while meeting the changing needs of families and the community.

### **Head Start Profile**

Waldo County Head Start recruits potential Head Start children and families from all towns located in Waldo County. Due to the large geographic area involved and limited transportation, the program is not always able to reach children in areas most distant from existing centers. Waldo County strives to serve as many children most in need of Head Start services possible by providing a variety of programming options located in eight different geographic locations.

## **Head Start Options 2007-2008**

Waldo County Head Start operates four Head Start centers for 3-5 year-olds, and four Pre-K (4 year-old) classrooms, in collaboration with local school districts and Broadreach Family & Community Services.

The Belfast Center and the Searsport Center are housed in Head Start buildings. Belfast has one classroom and Searsport has two classrooms. The Unity Head Start operates in a classroom at the Unity Elementary School. There is also a Head Start classroom at the Leroy Smith School in Winterport. These are all part-day, part-year programs, running 4 ½ hours a day, Monday-Thursday, September-June.

The Pre-K classrooms are located at the Ames School in Searsmont, the Unity Elementary School, Morse Memorial Elementary School in Brooks, and the Capt. Albert Stevens School in Belfast. These classrooms are full-day, Monday-Thursday, and follow the school calendar for the district in which they are located.

Waldo County Head Start also collaborates with two (2) local child care programs to provide wrap around care (four hours per day, four days per week) for Head Start eligible children. These classrooms are in four (4) locations, two (2) in Belfast, one (1) in Waldo, and one (1) in Unity. In addition, Waldo County Head Start collaborates with two (2) Home Start Family Child Care Homes located in Liberty and Belfast to provide Head Start services four hours per day, four days per week. Options for wrap around care in community child care centers and family child care homes meet the needs of low-income working families.

Waldo County Head Start provides the following activities to support children's successful transition to Kindergarten:

1. Interagency agreements have been made between Waldo County Head Start and each local school district (Sad #34, 3, 56, & 22) defining specific activities and responsibilities of each party in support of successful transitions.
2. Each Head Start classroom initiates transition activities including scheduling trips to the receiving Kindergarten classrooms, visits to the Head Start classroom by the Kindergarten teachers, an opportunity to ride on a district school bus, and an opportunity to eat lunch in the school cafeteria. Starting in March, each classroom sends home weekly information regarding transitions.
3. Spring parent-teacher conferences are held with each family and transition information specific to that family is discussed.
4. A Transition meeting is held for every child with an IEP including representation from the family, Head Start, CDS and the receiving school.

5. Head Start is providing leadership for an initiative to bring together all community members, agencies, and/or organizations with an interest in supporting the transition process to create an organized, consistent and thoughtful process to support children, families and schools.

Children enrolled in Waldo County Head Start must be either three (3) or four (4) by October 15<sup>th</sup> of the program year. While Waldo County does not have a diverse population, it has seen an increase in the ethnic composition of children enrolled over the past six years, primarily children from African American, Asian, and Native American cultures.

Attendance is carefully tracked and patterns assessed. One trend is clearly affected by the harsh Maine winter. During the months of December, January, and February, many Head Start families are severely challenged to provide adequate and consistent transportation to Head Start programs. Waldo County Head Start provides limited bus transportation to only approximately 50% of enrolled children. Illness throughout the winter months also affects attendance often well into March.

Wait lists are maintained throughout the year at each center and for all collaborations sites. The wait list for Unity and collaboration options are often longer than others due to a trend that has emerged over the past few years. As property along the coastline has increased drastically in price, low-income families have moved toward the more rural inland area of the county where housing is more reasonable.

Waldo County Head Start maintains a 10% ratio of over-income families to income eligible families. According to *Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book* data in 2006, 1,866 or 23.1 % of the children under the age of five (5) in Waldo County live in poverty. In addition, 2,691 or 51% of the school children living in Waldo County receive subsidized school lunch (2008-2009). This data seems to indicate a significant number of children living slightly above the federal poverty level. Six homeless families were enrolled in Waldo County Head Start in the 2007-2008 program year. Five of these families acquired housing during the year.

During the 2007-2008 school year, Waldo County Head Start saw an increase in the number of children diagnosed with special needs and behavioral disabilities. Waldo County CDS reports their numbers down in some part due to fewer screenings being conducted over the past year. Fewer screenings resulted from new special education regulations which went into effect in August, 2007 and tightened eligibility criteria.

Head Start staff is made up mostly of women, a common phenomenon within the early care and education profession. Ethnic composition reflects the county's ethnic demographic and is all white.

### **Opinions of parents**

The "2007-2008 Parent Survey" indicated the majority of respondents shared a positive opinion of Waldo County Head Start programs. A couple of parent comments were:

1. “My child comes home from Head Start every week excited about what she is learning and doing there. She loves her teachers and all the staff.”
2. “Head Start is awesome! I was a former HS kid myself and truly benefited from the program. That is why I am the parent that I am now. Thank you HEAD START!”

### **Past Recognitions**

On November 18, 2004 Waldo County Head Start received an award of Excellence from ACF, Region I, New England.

<b>Maine Kids Count Data 2009</b>						
Maine	<b>COUNTY</b>			<b>STATE</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Previous Rate</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Previous Rate</b>
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>						
Total population-2006 estimate	38,450	n/a	n/a	1,314,967	n/a	n/a
Under 5 years old	2,020	5.30%	5.20%	70,862	5.40%	5.10%
5-17 years old	6,316	16.40%	16.60%	212,675	16.20%	16.30%
18-64 years old	24,634	64.10%	64.70%	839,409	63.80%	64.20%
65 years and older	5,480	14.30%	13.60%	192,021	14.60%	14.40%
<b>PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH</b>						
Children participating in MaineCare ages 0-18, SFY 2008 and 2007	4,795	54.30%	n/a	138,883	46.10%	46.90%
Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, and General Practitioners, 2004 and 2002*	21	2.5	2.5	851	3	3
General practice dentists, 2006 and 2002*	9	0.2	0.2	464	0.4	0.4
Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, 2006 and 2005	361	83.40%	85.90%	12,370	87.40%	87.80%
Low birth-weight infants, 2006 and 2005	30	6.90%	9.40%	971	6.90%	9.50%
Pre-term births, 2006 and 2005	37	8.50%	10.60%	1,304	9.20%	9.50%
Infant mortality, 2002-2006, and 2001-2005 annual avg.*	3	6.5	6.5	78	5.6	5.6
Child deaths (ages 1-14) 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual average **	2	3.2	3.7	41	1.9	1.9
Teen deaths (ages 15-19) 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual average**	2	8.4	9.9	56	6	6
<b>SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS</b>						
Children in poverty, 2006 and 2005	1,866	23.10%	22.30%	46,379	16.90%	16.70%
Children receiving TANF, December 2008 and 2007	694	8.30%	9.00%	22,724	8.00%	8.10%
Children receiving Food Stamps, December 2008 and 2007	2,101	51.00%	47.10%	61,950	21.80%	23.70%
School children receiving subsidized school lunch 2008-09 and 2008-07	2,691	51.00%	47.10%	75,310	39.00%	37.50%

Estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of 3, 2006 and 2004 (rate per hour)	n/a	\$20.04	\$17.54	n/a	\$19.35	\$18.15
Median household income, 2007 and 2006	n/a	\$40,441	\$41,707	n/a	\$45,832	\$43,472
Unemployment, 2007 and 2006	1,050	5.50%	5.20%	33,400	4.70%	4.60%
Domestic assaults reported to police 2007 and 2006***	114	296.5	302.3	5,771	438.9	420.3
Arrests of children 2007 and 2006*	81	19.5	17.2	7,092	51.1	55.9
Arrests of children for crimes against persons 2007 and 2006*	1	0.2	0.2	110	0.8	1
<b>EDUCATION AND LEARNING</b>						
Public High School dropouts 2006-07 and 2005-06	71	5.10%	5.50%	3,182	5.20%	5.20%
Public High School graduates Class of 2007 and 2006	319	79.00%	81.80%	13,166	80.80%	83.80%
Students with disabilities 2007-08, and 2006-07	1,047	20.70%	19.30%	34,425	18.10%	17.60%
Public preschool enrollment 2007-08	134	6.80%	n/a	2,589	4.00%	n/a
<i>Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book, 2009</i>						

## **Section 5. Eleven Review Areas in Community**

### ***A. Transportation***

The Waldo Community Action Partners operates a coordinated transportation system.

- The general public is served by accessible buses or vans, at prescheduled times and days, on routes traveling to Belfast, Bangor, Rockland, Waterville, and Augusta. Riders pay a small fare. This represents 10% of the ridership
- MaineCare Members are entitled to medical transportation provided by accessible buses and vans and by volunteer drivers for a fee for service reimbursed by MaineCare.
- MaineCare Members that arrange their own medical transportation with a family member, friend, or neighbor are eligible for mileage reimbursement paid for by MaineCare through WCAP. MaineCare represents 85% of the ridership.
- Group or individual transports are available for a fee for service by contract or promise to pay on delivery. This represents 5% of the ridership.

Listed below are the services currently provided by the Waldo County Transportation Program: Belfast Industries and the DHHS manager of the Bureau of Mental Health and Retardation have recognized this service as excellent.

- Department of Health and Human Services: Door-to-door transportation to Belfast from all towns in Waldo County available for grocery shopping, personal business, and medical appointments for low-income families.
- General Public Transportation: Scheduled bus routes to Belfast, Bangor, Augusta, Waterville, and Rockland
- MaineCare Transportation: WCTP is a full Medicaid transportation services provider. Reimbursement is available for MaineCare self drive customers traveling to medical appointments. Medical transportation is provided by Agency and or volunteer drivers for all other MaineCare eligible customers.

Contracted Services: Group trips provided are open to the public to points within a 100 mile radius of county line. Transportation is available, under contract, originating in Waldo County to desired destinations anywhere in Maine.

Belfast Shopper: Deviated fixed route for in-town Belfast shopping

### **Increases in services during 2007**

Waldo County Transportation Program increased the number of trips by 14.7% in FY 2008. The number of actual riders increased by 10.9% in the same time period.

### **Capitol improvements to increase capacity**

No new equipment was purchased in 2008 for WCAP's Transportation Program.

Waldo County Head Start added one bus for field trips and all buses now have harnesses to replace booster seats. This allows for more children to fit on the bus.

WCAP and Head Start are active participants in the Safe Kids Car Seat Voucher Program. The program provides car safety seats to families at no cost and provides instruction on proper installation and use of seats at Community Fitting Stations.

### **Gaps in transportation services**

WCAP reports a 10.9% increase in clients using WCAP Transportation services in the past year, with no increase in the number of drivers and personnel to handle the work. WCAP hires local taxi cabs to fill in the gaps at a cost of \$600-700 a day, and WCAP absorbs the cost of setting up the trips.

The biggest issues in the area of Transportation identified by the community assessment is the fluctuation and increase in gas prices and aging vehicle fleets of all Maine Transit providers. This is having a significant impact on the majority of households, many of which now own 1 or 2 vehicles. It affects transportation programs that service the public and client-based agencies, affecting travel and program costs for many organizations. Low-income families struggle with transportation issues to get to work and appointments and to access many State Programs not located within the county. Aging vehicles that are more costly to maintain continue to be a significant issue. According to *Poverty in Maine 2003*, 15% of renters, 4.1% of owners, and 6.3% of households in Waldo County lack access to a vehicle.

## ***B. Child & Youth Services (0-18)***

### **Social and Economic Status**

According to *Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book 2009*;

- 14.5% of Waldo County residents live in poverty.
- 8.3% of children received TANF in 2007 and 2008
- 54.3% of children in Waldo County participated in MaineCare in 2008
- 51% of children received food stamps in 2007 and 2008
- 51% of school age children received subsidized school lunch in 2007-2008 which represents an increase of 3.9% over previous year

Waldo County has a strong system of social service agencies who work collaboratively to provide a safety net for children and their families living in poverty. Pooling limited resources to build opportunities within the county has become the standard. Both state and federal cuts to program budgets, however, have and continue to create serious challenges to continuation of this level of effort. With limited local corporate and philanthropic partners new and innovative ways must be created to meet the rising level of poverty Waldo County children are experiencing.

### **Early Care & Education**

- Waldo County continues to have a wide range of child care and child development options for children ages 3-5.
- A shortage of quality care for infants, toddlers, and school-age children continues to be a challenge.

- Affordability remains a problem for many families as quality child care is a major expense for families who do not qualify for any voucher program or assistance.
- Waldo County Head Start provides 182 slots for income eligible children at locations throughout the county.

Waldo County Child Care Licensed Capacity										
Types of facilities	Number of Programs					Number of Child Care Slots				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Child Care Centers	8	13	20	11	13	355	308	557	464	1076
Small Facilities	1	1	1	*	*	12	12	12	*	*
School Age Programs	1	2	0	*	*	9	59	0	*	*
Preschool Programs	5	4	3	2	2	77	44	52	32	32
Family Child Care	59	49	46	46	46	578	485	522	532	528
Total	74	69	70	59	61	1031	908	1143	1028	1636
*data not available										
MidCoast RDC; 2009										

### Children with Disabilities

Waldo County continues to have the second highest percentage of students enrolled in schools and individual education programs in Maine ages 3-21 who have disabilities requiring the provision of special education services. In 2006, 22.7% of all Waldo County students had an identified disability.

During the 2006-2007 school year, Waldo County Head Start saw an increase in the number of children diagnosed with special needs and behavioral disabilities. Waldo County CDS reports their numbers down in some part due to fewer screenings being conducted over the past year. Fewer screenings resulted from new special education regulations which went into effect in August of 2007 and tightened eligibility criteria.

Head Start Disability Numbers			
Diagnosed Special Need and Behavioral Referrals	Number of Children Served 2005-2006	Number of Children Served 2006-2007	Number of Children Served 2007-2008
Speech/language	32	36	50
Emotional/behavioral	2	14	7
Health	0	4	2
Orthopedic	2	0	0
Autism	0	1	1
Multiple conditions	5	0	2
Developmental Delay	7	12	13
Total	48	67	75

<b>Child Development Services Numbers for Waldo County</b>			
<b>Diagnosed Special Need</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Speech/Language	86	80	60
Multiple Impairment	0	1	4
Developmental Delay	56	57	37
Autism	1	8	11
Other Health Impairment	1	4	4
Hearing Impairment	1	0	0
Orthopedic	-	1	0
Emotional	-	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>119</b>
Waldo County Child Development Services; February 2008			

Children and youth services are in demand but limited in Waldo County. Many families face access issues concerning child care and the availability of youth programs that address their health and well-being. It is particularly difficult for the children with disabilities who make up over 22.73% of school enrollment in the county. There is a litany of challenges confronting children and youth (healthy activity options, literacy, asthma, obesity, diabetes, drug and alcohol abuse, crime, and behavior or mental health disorders), and a need for supported services in the area.

The Game Loft in Belfast provides one outlet for teens after school. The teens conduct and have access to a variety of games and educational programs through their participation in the program. However, this is not where all teens want to be. There needs to be a variety of options for them to join, so that they feel engaged and stimulated.

A number of agencies throughout Waldo County have implemented resources geared towards strengthening families and offering valuable family options, including:

- Raising the Thinking Child – Waldo County Head Start and Broadreach Family and Community Services
- Parent Support Group – Waldo County Head Start GEAR “Family Empowerment Institute”
- Parenting 101 – Broadreach Family and Community Services
- Keep Me Healthy – the Healthy Living Project
- Car Safety Seats – Waldo Community Action Partners
- Oral Health - Waldo Community Action Partners
- Outreach & Referral - Waldo Community Action Partners

## **Substance Use in Waldo County Youth**

According to State of Maine Office of Substance Abuse, since 1993, Maine has been one of several states partnering with the University of Washington for the purpose of developing research-based substance abuse prevention strategies. The Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey (MYDAUS) was a product of that collaboration. The purpose of the survey is to quantify the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances among middle and high school students in Maine, and to identify the risk and protective factors that influence a student's choice of whether or not to engage in these and related harmful behaviors.

1,988 of the enrolled 2,587 students in 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade from Belfast Area High School, Troy Howard Middle School, Searsport District Middle and High School, and Mt. View Junior and High School were surveyed in 2008 with a participation rate of 77%. The results show that alcohol, cigarette, marijuana, binge drinking, prescription drug, inhalant, and stimulant use for Waldo County students is below the state average in every category.

### **Cigarette Smoking**

In the 2008 MYDAUS survey, Waldo County students report .4% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have used cigarettes in the past 30 days as compared to 2.1% statewide. Waldo County students are below the statewide average in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, and only eclipse the statewide rates in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, reporting 14.8% and 22.5% as compared to the statewide average of 14.6% and 19.2% respectively. Cigarette use peaks in 11<sup>th</sup> grade for Waldo County students (22.5%) and then decreases to 20.7% in 12<sup>th</sup> grade as compared to the statewide average of 23.3%. Overall, 10.5% of Waldo County 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported using cigarettes in the last 30 days as compared to 12.1% statewide.

Cigarette smoking rates have continued to decline over the last eight years. In 2000, 21.4% of Waldo County students reported using cigarettes. That number has decreased to 10.5% in 2008, representing a 10.9% statistical decrease. Waldo County is below the state average of 12.1% of students reporting cigarette use in the last 30 days.

Healthy Maine Partnerships state in their 2008 *Tobacco Prevention and Central Advisory Report*: “nearly 21% of people in Maine smoke, and 70% of those have stated that they would like to quit but find it difficult” (p. 12). This particular report is published using statewide data and does not differentiate by town; however, it does give us a look at adult use across the state. The Advisory Report states that 8,515 callers were assisted with the Tobacco HelpLine from July 2007 to June 2008, 3,283 medication vouchers were given and of those, 48% of the callers were receiving their first medication voucher. The Healthy Maine Partnership survey noted a decline in adult smoking trends and also noted a significant decline in high school smokers from 2000-2007.

### **Alcohol Use**

Alcohol use is on the decline as well. In 2000, 33.7% of Waldo County 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported use in the prior 30 days. In 2008, that number had dropped to 23.8%, representing 9.9% statistical decrease. With the exception of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the percentages of Waldo County students reporting alcohol use in the prior 30 days remain below the statewide average for all other grades. 17.8% of Waldo County 8<sup>th</sup> grade students taking the survey reported alcohol use as

compared to 17% statewide. Particularly disturbing is 43.8% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Waldo County and 44.9% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders across the state report alcohol use in the prior 30 days and in total, 23.8% of Waldo County and 25.3% of 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders across the state report alcohol use in the prior 30 days.

Binge drinking appears to be a significant issue among middle and high school students in Waldo County, as 11.1% of Waldo County 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and 12.4% statewide 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders report binge drinking in the prior 2 weeks. As with alcohol and cigarette use, Waldo County students remain below the statewide average in nearly all grades. Interesting statistic to note, 15.7% of Waldo County 9<sup>th</sup> graders report binge drinking in the prior 2 weeks as compared to only 11% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders statewide. While these statistics are certainly eye opening, the binge drinking trend appears to be on the downslide. In 2000, 19% of Waldo County students reported binge drinking as compared to only 15.8% of Maine students. In 2008, those numbers have decreased to 11.1% and 12.5% respectively.

According to the student answers in the 2008 MYDAUS survey, use of alcohol, prescription drugs, inhalants, and stimulants appear to be on the decrease. The rate and frequency of the use of these illegal items is still concerning. However, hundreds of students cited family attachment, opportunities for positive involvement in the community, and rewards for positive involvement as motivating factors not to use.

Other highlights of the 2008 MYDAUS survey:

- 9.6% of Waldo County and 10.8% of Maine students statewide reported using prescription drugs in 2008, down from 22.5% and 17.7% respectively in 2002. This represents a significant statistical decrease of 12.9% for Waldo County students.
- Waldo County students have a slight lead on the overall population in the category of inhalants. In grades 6, 7, and 8, Waldo County students are below the Maine average. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 14.6% of Waldo County students report using inhalants as compared to 12.4% of students statewide. Use of inhalants by Waldo County students remains higher than the state average for grades 9-12, peaking at 14.9% in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Overall, 11.1% of Waldo County students use inhalants as compared to 10.8% of students across the state. Over the years, the trend use for inhalants has fluctuated for Waldo County. Where the state has seen either consistent numbers or a slight decrease since the year 2000, Waldo County was at 14.6% in 2000, peaked at 16.5% in 2004, and in 2008 has dropped to 11.1%, the lowest percentage yet.
- Statistically, Waldo County students feel significantly less safe at school than their statewide counterparts. 24% of Waldo County students and 16.1% of Maine students report feeling unsafe at school in 2008.
- 2.6% of Waldo County students and 2.5% of Maine students statewide report using stimulants in 2008. This number is a major statistical decrease from a high of 9.5% of Waldo County and 7.8% statewide in the year 2000.
- 13.6% of Waldo County and 12% of Maine students report being drunk or high at school.
- 6.8% of Waldo County and 6.3% of Maine students report that they have sold drugs at school and 3.7% of Waldo County, and 4.3% of Maine students report having been arrested.
- On the flip side, 77.4% of Waldo County students participate in clubs, organizations, and

activities at school. 76.2% have done extra work on their own for school and 54% have volunteered to do community service.

## ***C. Health/Nutrition***

### **Food & Nutrition**

The poor nutritional choices and the lack of physical activity of Mainers in all population groups are putting many at risk for obesity and other chronic diseases. According to the Healthy Maine Partnerships publication, “The Burden of Overweight and Obesity in Maine”, data averaged over three years shows that “the obesity epidemic in Maine mirrors that in the U.S. At least 59% of Maine adults were overweight or obese during 2002-2004”. This publication also shows Waldo and Aroostook counties with the highest rates of obesity. In Waldo County, 57.5% of adults are overweight and obese and 39.1% are classified at a healthy weight (BMI 25.0-29.9).

The *Final Report of the Commission to Study Public Health*, submitted to the Maine State Legislators in January 2005, noted that most children consume too much fat, saturated fat, and sodium, and not enough fruits, vegetables, or calcium. It also pointed out that food marketing that targets children has grown rapidly and the overwhelming majority of foods marketed to children are those considered foods of poor nutritional value, high in sugar and/or fat.

The study also reports that overweight people are more likely to have or develop high blood pressure, heart disease, high cholesterol, diabetes, stroke, sleep apnea, orthopedic problems, serious behavioral problems, and certain cancers. Roughly 60% of overweight children already have at least one cardiovascular risk factor of high blood pressure, abnormal lipids, or elevated blood sugar.

Other Facts Include:

- The increased viewing of television results in decreases in fruit and vegetable consumption and increases in consumption of non-nutritive foods.
- High fat, high sugar foods are available for sale in most schools in vending machines, concessions, and as a la carte items.
- Fruit consumption decreases by 11% for every vending machine present in school.
- Approximately 75% of high schools offer an a la carte program at lunchtime with few low fat items, fruit or fruit juice offered.

In Waldo County there are several resources available that provide education and opportunities to improve one’s nutritional status. Local programs for the general public include: Healthy Living Project, Waldo County General Hospital, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. There are also programs that target specific populations (mothers, children, and the elderly). Those programs are provided by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (WCAP), School Lunch Program (school districts); Women, Infants, and Children (MidCoast Community Action Agency), and Meals on Wheels.

In addition, there are ten food cupboards and one soup kitchen located in the county that assists families struggling to put a meal on the table. On average 24,662 to 30,936 meals are served each

month. This translates to approximately 2,600-3,270 people using these services on a regular basis. Food cupboards (which give food and don't necessarily provide meals) in Waldo County are: AMVETS Memorial Post #150, the Greater Belfast Area Ministerium Food Cupboard, Happy Time Food Pantry, Jackson Church Food Pantry, Little River Baptist Church, Northport Food Pantry, the Prospect Community Food Pantry, the Searsport Congregational & Methodist Church Food Cupboard, The Neighbors Cupboard, and Volunteer Regional Food Pantry. There is one soup kitchen (which provides meals and doesn't necessarily give away food) located in Belfast called St. Francis' Soup Kitchen.

All programs received a cut in funding in June of 2007. As a result, programs are now receiving one-half of the government food supplies that they used to. Even so, St. Francis' Kitchen reportedly served 28,076 meals in 2008.

**Waldo County Donated Commodities Report (TEFAP) 2008**

	<b>Jan-08</b>	<b>Feb-08</b>	<b>Mar-08</b>	<b>Apr-08</b>	<b>May-08</b>	<b>Jun-08</b>	<b>Jul-08</b>	<b>Aug-08</b>	<b>Sep-08</b>	<b>Oct-08</b>	<b>Nov-08</b>	<b>Dec-08</b>	<b>To</b>
AMVETS Post #150 # Meals	1620	1350	1395	1710	1314	2106	1476	1971	1800	1719	1809	1863	20
# Households	69	54	58	71	56	81	62	78	72	72	72	72	8
# People	180	150	155	190	146	234	164	219	200	191	201	207	22
Northport Food Pantry # Meals	1026	1035	1143	1242	882	1332	1170	1161	1170	1053	1224	837	13
# Households	46	50	59	61	47	70	58	59	64	58	69	50	6
# People	114	115	127	138	98	148	130	129	130	117	136	93	14
Greater Belfast Area # Meals	5040	7587	4905	5148	6966	5175	4293	8289	3663	6939	4014	6714	68
# Households	295	454	296	308	393	313	262	492	211	397	232	390	40
# People	560	843	545	572	774	575	477	921	407	771	446	746	76
Happy Time # Meals	6237	6840	6624	6876	6678	6408	3771	6552	5670	6588	6876	7632	76
# Households	192	190	192	191	190	189	155	182	171	6876	191	212	89
# People	693	760	736	764	742	712	419	728	630	732	764	848	85
Jackson Church # Meals	792	927	963	675	873	828	855	828	810	747	1197	1296	10
# Households	41	46	46	39	44	45	46	47	50	48	67	69	5
# People	88	103	107	75	97	92	95	92	90	83	133	144	11
Little River # Meals	1278	450	1116	1728	891	1215	1242	1575	909	1422	1548	1350	14
# Households	60	18	56	74	44	55	58	75	49	71	76	64	7
# People	142	50	124	192	99	135	138	175	101	158	172	150	16
Neighbors Cupboard # Meals	1899	927	1467	2241	1944	1746	2286	2070	2097	2457	3213	2439	24
# Households	68	37	63	95	77	71	82	87	77	107	102	89	9
# People	211	103	163	249	216	194	254	230	233	273	357	271	27
Prospect Cupboard # Meals	1017	702	621	639	801	603	675	720	855	783	999	423	88
# Households	50	37	33	34	40	29	34	37	40	38	44	22	4
# People	113	78	69	71	89	67	75	80	95	87	111	47	9

Searsport Church # Meals	1485	1404	828	1305	1656	1503	1071	1710	1710	2079	1746	2142	18
# Households	98	73	48	76	84	80	58	79	79	101	87	94	9
# People	165	156	92	145	184	167	119	190	190	231	194	238	20
St. Francis Kitchen # Meals	3897	3868	3868	3927	3789	1927	1979	457	821	827	1038	994	27
# Households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
# People	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Volunteer Regional Food Pantry (Unity) # Meals	4842	5049	4608	5445	5094	5094	4698	4554	5157	4815	6003	4815	60
# Households	242	241	238	247	228	228	250	220	238	224	286	231	28
# People	538	561	512	605	566	566	522	506	573	535	667	535	66
<b>TOTAL # MEALS</b>	29133	30139	27538	30936	30888	27937	23516	29887	24662	29429	29667	30505	34
<b>TOTAL # HOUSEHOLDS</b>	1161	1200	1089	1196	1203	1161	1065	1356	1051	7992	1226	1293	20
<b>TOTAL # PEOPLE</b>	2804	2919	2630	2396	3011	2890	2393	3270	2649	3178	3181	3279	35
Waldo Community Action Partners' Outreach Office; 2009													

According to Department of Health and Human Services, each month, roughly 6,000 individuals in Waldo County participate in the Food Stamp Program. Enrollment in the program statewide has increased from 10.5% in 2001 to 17.1% in 2007-2008. In all, 88,863 families in Maine receive food stamp benefits.

According to the National Education Association Health Information Network’s publication “Federal Child Nutrition Program for Schools,” “food insecurity” is a threat to an individual’s well-being and long-term health. There is abundant evidence that hunger and food insecurity pose risks to health resulting in high costs to communities through an increased need for medical care. There are also related social and mental health costs. Individuals who are food insecure have been shown to have poor quality diets, making them vulnerable to a variety of diseases and obesity. In addition, the spike in obesity nationwide but especially in the low-income and minority communities, has led to a correlating increase in the incidence of diabetes, which leads to increased risks of developing heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, and/or blindness. Poor nutritional choices and the lack of physical activity continue to be significant contributors to not only obesity, but diabetes, and other chronic diseases.

Children living in food-insecure households tend to do more poorly in school with increased absences, tardiness, more school suspensions, and poorer cognitive functioning. Their overall health status is worse than other children, with more health problems such as headaches, colds, and ear infections. Adolescents in food-insecure households have higher rates of depressive and suicidal symptoms and are twice as likely to have seen a psychologist as other teenagers. Adults who are food-insecure tend to forego needed medical care when hunger threatens. Research shows that eating a nutritious breakfast is key to a student’s ability to concentrate and learn during the school day and the closer to class time students eat, the better they learn. The summer, and long vacations, can be an especially difficult time for low-income families that depend upon school meals to feed their children during the school year.

“Federal Child Nutrition Programs for Schools”, also asserts that, “eating a nutritious breakfast is key to a student’s ability to concentrate and learn through the school day, and the closer to class time students eat, the better they learn”. In addition, 95% of public schools participate in the National School Lunch Program, which serves an average of more than twenty-six million meals per day. In Maine, and specifically in Waldo County, 50% of Waldo County students are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

<b>Women, Infants &amp; Children Program Numbers</b>		
<b>Town</b>	<b>Number of Families 2006-2007</b>	<b>Number of Families 2007-2008</b>
Belfast	179	167
Belmont	16	22
Brooks	24	34
Burnham	4	5
Frankfort	41	35
Freedom	18	6
Islesboro	2	7

<b>Women, Infants &amp; Children Program Numbers</b>		
<b>Town</b>	<b>Number of Families 2006-2007</b>	<b>Number of Families 2007-2008</b>
Jackson	18	11
Knox	11	29
Liberty	29	15
Lincolntonville	3	13
Monroe	8	11
Montville	19	16
Morrill	34	34
Northport	28	30
Palermo	7	4
Prospect	7	9
Searsmont	31	21
Searsport	97	84
Stockton Springs	43	45
Swanville	31	50
Thorndike	12	15
Troy	9	10
Unity	33	19
Waldo	26	14
Winterport	16	26
<b>Total Waldo County</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>732</b>
<b>Out of County</b>		17
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>749</b>
Broadreach (formerly Waldo County Preschool and Family Services); 2008		

The Healthy Waldo Coalition is currently working with the Maine Network of Healthy Communities to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the county's health issues and resources. The end result will be the development and implementation of a community-wide strategic plan for public health improvement.

Please note, due to size constraints, this chart has been minimized. Full data is available at <http://www.maine.gov/education/sfsr1.htm>.

<b>Waldo County Free and Reduced Lunch Report, 2008</b>							
	<b>Enroll</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>% Free</b>	<b>Reduced</b>	<b>% Reduced</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>% Eligible</b>
<b>Waldo County Totals</b>	5357	2190	40.88	518	9.67	2708	50.55
Maine Department of Education, 2009							

## Medical

*Maine Kids Count 2009 Data Book* states that 4,795 children ages 0-18 (54.3%) were enrolled in MaineCare in 2007 and 2008, as compared to the state average of 46.1%. According to “2005 U.S. Census Bureau Report”, 89% of Mainers had insurance and 11% were without insurance. Interestingly, the Maine Health Access Foundation published a report in 2001 called “A Primer on HealthCare Coverage in Maine”, which claimed that 17% of Maine adults are uninsured.

The following is excerpted from the publication, “Facts about HealthCare and Insurance in Maine”, published in 2003 by the Maine Health Access Foundation:

The issues are still the same today as they were in 2002. More than 17% of Maine adults are uninsured. Each day more of those who are insured are enrolling in high deductible policies that provide no preventative care and according to some studies encourage health behavior identical to that of the uninsured (delaying care, not buying necessary prescription drugs, getting care in expensive inappropriate settings i.e. Emergency rooms, rather than their primary care physicians.)

“Over 61% of Maine’s uninsured are adults (age 19-64) with incomes below 200% federal poverty level (\$35,300 for a family of 4). Uninsured Mainers are more likely to seek care when illnesses are more advanced and there is a greater chance they will die, despite the fact that early detection and treatment is more cost effective and often saves lives.

“Lack of insurance may increase the chance of early death by as much as 25%. Uninsured women with breast cancer are 49% more likely to die than insured women.

“A large majority (81%) of small businesses characterized health insurance as very or somewhat important to their efforts to attract and retain employees. Small companies with 50 or fewer workers make up more than 90% of Maine’s business and employ almost 50% of Maine’s workforce. Currently, only 30% of companies with 2-4 workers and 62% of companies with fewer than 10 employees offer health coverage. Ninety percent of companies with 11-50 workers offer coverage, though often not for dependents.

Maine workers who are least able to afford the increasing costs of health care are without coverage.

- Only 47% of workers earning less than \$7.00/hour are even offered coverage by their employer.
- 26% of workers earning between \$7.00-\$10.30/hour are in the same situation.”

The cost of health insurance will continue to be a barrier for low-wage workers (above 200% of

poverty) and their families in achieving economic security. As a statewide average, the two earners in a family of four (two parents and two children) would have to jointly make an additional \$3.91 per hour to pay for the employee's average share of employer-sponsored health insurance. A single parent with two children would have to make an additional \$2.58 per hour to purchase employer-sponsored health insurance. To pay the whole cost of any kind of quality health insurance coverage with no employer contribution would clearly be prohibitive for these families (Maine Center for Economic Policy).

According to the Federal Register, in February of 2004:

“The uninsured and underinsured often have complex medical needs, remain outside organized systems of care, and have insufficient resources to obtain care. They may defer care or not receive needed services, and they are about half as likely to receive a routine check-up as insured adults. The uninsured and underinsured also rely heavily on expensive emergency rooms, and because they lack a routine source of care, they often do not receive needed follow-up services.

“Many of the uninsured and underinsured rely on the nation's institutions, systems, and individual health professionals that provide a significant volume of health care services without regard for ability to pay. In many communities, these providers are struggling to care for the increasing numbers of uninsured and underinsured individuals. They face many challenges such as an uneven distribution of the burden of uncompensated care, the fragmentation of services for the uninsured, insufficient numbers of certain types of providers, reduced Medicaid revenues due to the market forces of Medicaid managed care, and a growing need for mental health and substance abuse services.

“While integration among these providers is critical to serve the uninsured and underinsured with greater efficiency and to improve quality of care, many of these providers are so pressured by basic care giving tasks, they need assistance to coordinate their efforts with other providers and to develop integrated community-based systems of care.”

## **Dental**

Maine's Office of Data and Vital Statistics surveyed Dentists in 2006. According to this data, there were 585 dentists practicing in the state of Maine. These findings indicate that in Maine, there is one dentist for every 2,252 patients. This translates to a ratio of one dentist for every 4,266 patients in Waldo County, nearly double the state average. As of July 2009, there are eight dentists, one orthodontist, and one oral surgeon working in Waldo County.

<b>Licensed, Active, Professional Dentists Working in Maine, 2006</b>					
County of Employment	Number of Dentists	Percent of Dentists	2004 Estimated Population	Percent of Population	Population per Dentist
TOTAL	585	100	1,317,253	100	2,252
Androscoggin	44	7.5	107,022	8.1	2,432
Aroostook	23	3.9	73,390	5.6	3,191
Cumberland	185	31.6	273,505	20.8	1,478
Franklin	9	1.5	29,736	2.3	3,304
Hancock	21	3.6	53,556	4.1	2,550
Kennebec	60	10.3	120,645	9.2	2,011
Knox	28	4.8	41,008	3.1	1,465
Lincoln	14	2.4	35,236	2.7	2,517
Oxford	15	2.6	56,614	4.3	3,774
Penobscot	72	12.3	148,196	11.3	2,058
Piscataquis	7	1.2	17,525	1.3	2,504
Sagadahoc	17	2.9	36,927	2.8	2,172
Somerset	12	2.1	51,584	3.9	4,299
Waldo	9	1.5	38,392	2.9	4,266
Washington	10	1.7	33,558	2.5	3,356
York	59	10.1	200,359	15.2	3,396
Maine Department of Health and Human Services Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics; 2006					

The Waldo County Dental Project (WCDP), a program of WCAP, began in 1999. In the beginning, the Dental Project offered oral health services to low-income adults with no dental insurance and served approximately 250 individuals. Today, WCDP is a voucher-based oral health program which works collaboratively with the community to enhance self-esteem and income eligible residents through access to affordable dental care. Services include hygiene clinics for identified groups such as seniors, children, and pregnant women, general dentistry, exams, x-rays, simple restorations, extractions, and limited denture needs.

The Dental Project has also added a prevention and intervention program. Oral health education is being offered to elementary school children through WCDP dental presentations in the classroom on a yearly basis. The Dental Project Coordinator goes into 16 Waldo County elementary schools and gives 30 minute presentations to each class. In addition to dental education, the WCDP has established the School Oral Health Program (SOHP) in M.S.A.D. #34 schools with the fluoride SWISH program and the free dental sealant program.

In 2008, the WCDP referred 71 clients to a Dentist to receive dental care, provided dental cleanings to 78 seniors and 10 residents of Islesboro, provided 95 Pre-Kindergarten and Head Start children with oral health screenings, provided dental health education to 1,800 elementary

school children, and participated in 3 local health fairs. The dental needs of Waldo County residents continue to be a concern as there is only one dentist in the county who takes MaineCare and who will see clients from the hygiene clinics.

## **Mental Health**

Mid-Coast Mental Health Center (MCMHC) is the largest and most comprehensive provider of behavioral health services in Waldo County. They offer a wide range of services that include psychiatric care to adults, children, and families. They have Community Support Services for intensive individualized support to children and their families in their homes and the community.

MCMHC also provides outpatient and community support services with a variety of treatment approaches to children, adolescents, adults, couples, families, elders, and groups who may be experiencing life stresses, transitions, and/or other mental health issues. They have targeted programs such as In-School Therapy and Adolescent Girls Groups.

As part of their Community Integration Services, they offer a variety of group programs that provide emotional support, daily living skill enhancement, service coordination, housing assistance, financial guidance, and advocacy to individuals with major mental illness. These groups include Women and Parenting, Leisure Skills, Exercise and Health, Computer, Cooking for Independence, Clean and Sober, Assertiveness Skills, Creativity Workshop, Smoker's Cessation, and Reminiscing.

Other services that MCMHC provide are: Jail Case Management, Residential Programs, Community Outreach, Crisis Services, and an Elder Care Program.

Hospitalizations for children with mental health diagnoses increased by more than 41 percent between 2000 and 2004. The leading diagnosis for hospitalizations of children age 6-17 is Affective Psychosis, which includes bipolar and manic disorders and depression. This indicates that preventable mental health disorders are going undiagnosed, and treatable conditions are neglected until they result in emergency room or hospital treatment.

Fewer high school students in Maine report feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities. While Maine's teen suicide rate remains significantly higher than the most recently reported national rate, the percent of high school students reporting at least one suicide attempt in the last year has decreased 28.9%.

Historical data (circa 2006) concerning access to Health Care in Waldo County indicates:

- 1 licensed dietitian, ranked 1<sup>st</sup> lowest county in the state. The CDC designated Waldo County as a “medically underserved” area
- 5 licensed chiropractors, ranked 1<sup>st</sup> lowest county in the state
- 10 dental hygienists, ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest county in the state
- 3 licensed optometrists, ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest county in the state
- 45 acute care beds (1.2 per 1,000 population), ranked 1<sup>st</sup> lowest county in the state

- 110 long term nursing care beds (22.4 per 1,000 population), ranked 1<sup>st</sup> lowest county in the state
- 7 dentists, ranked 1<sup>st</sup> lowest county in the state. The state has designated Waldo County as “dentally underserved”

Historical health data concerning Waldo County (circa 2006):

- 14% of adults report their health as fair or poor
- 79% of adults report being physically active
- 23% of adults smoke
- 34% of adults are overweight
- 23% of adults are obese
- 57% of adults in total are overweight and/or obese
- 10% of adults have asthma
- 5% of adults have diabetes
- 24% of adults have hypertension

(Maine Department of Health and Human Services)

### **Air and Water Quality**

A national report, "State of the Air: 2003," released by the American Lung Association, stated despite the seemingly pristine environmental conditions in much of Maine, many areas, especially along the coast, have enough ozone pollution to cause or worsen respiratory problems in adults and children. Maine already has the highest incidence of adult asthma of any state in the nation. Maine also reports higher-than-average rates of lung cancer, emphysema, and other lung diseases.

The primary ingredient in smog; ozone, is associated most often with urban areas heavy in automotive traffic, power plants, and manufacturing facilities. But ozone is also transported easily on air currents, which accounts for at least some of the problem in Maine. Maine's ozone levels are high in part because of the state's location in prevailing air currents. Maine acts "like a giant chimney", especially along the coast, for emissions produced at power plants and manufacturing facilities in Midwestern states.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, excluding the problem of mercury deposition, the state of Maine's freshwater is good. Nearly all of the lakes fully support swimming activities and drinking water, and Maine has surpassed the national average with supporting aquatic life. In 2000, 76.8% of all lake, pond, and reservoir acreage, and 97.7% of all stream and river miles fully supported all the uses designated by EPA, while all of Maine's lakes fully support drinking water use, and over 99% of Maine's rivers fully supported swimming activities, although the national average was merely 67.8 percent.

Unfortunately, Maine is downwind from many major sources of ambient mercury. Additionally, there are many wetlands and forests in Maine, which result in high organic carbon levels in surface water. Even though there may not be much mercury in the sediments, organic carbon converts elemental mercury to the organic form which elevates the risk to fish and their predators.

## **D. Recreation**

Waldo County is rich in parks, lakes, and festivals.

### **Parks**

- State Parks at Warren Island, Swan Lake, Moose Point, and Lake St. George
- Fort Knox and Fort Point
- Grindle Point and Fort Point Lighthouses
- Sears Island
- Lakes Winnecook, Megunticook, Sheepscot, Quantabacook, and St. George. Norton, Coleman, Pitcher, Cargil, Carlton, Unity, Knight's, and Steven's Ponds
- Sheepscot and St. George Rivers
- Ducktrap River and Clair Preserves
- Lincolnville Harbor, Marshall Shores, Kanokolus Beach
- Coastline access at Belfast City Park, Steam Boat Landing, Sandy Point, Bayside Dock, Kelly's Cove, Lincolnville Beach, and more
- Field of Dreams in Unity, Mitchell field in Freedom, as well as athletic fields, basketball courts, and ball fields in many other towns
- Unity Athletic Complex
- Many town/city parks and woodlands
- Belfast City Park

### **Events**

- Maine Celtic Festival
- Brooks Field Days and SpringFest
- Frankfort Memorial Day service, 4th of July Parade, Halloween Family Dance, Valentine Family Dance, and more...
- Freedom Field Day, Strawberry Festival, Blueberry Festival, annual Halloween and Christmas parties, Christmas craft fair
- Lincolnville Strawberry Festival, Blueberry Wing-Ding, Art at the Beach, Christmas by the Sea
- Palermo Strawberry Festival, Light Parade, Annual Ice Fishing Derby, Palermo Days, Children's Halloween, Christmas, and Easter Parties in many towns
- Harbor Day, Memorial Day, and other parades
- Belfast Summer Nights
- Friday Night Art Walk

## **Clubs, Groups, & Organizations**

- Game Loft, YMCA
- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cub Scouts
- Little League, Youth Basketball, Soccer, T-Ball, Farm League, BUM League Basketball, VFW League Ball
- Playhouse Theater, United Methodist Church Teen Drama Club, Belfast Maskers-Youth Teen Theater, Marsh River Theater, Winterport Open Stage Community Theatre
- Community Centers in Morrill, Searsmont, Unity
- Islesboro Youth Center
- Sandy Point Community Club, Stockton Springs Recreation Group, Palermo Youth Activities, Searsport Summer Recreation Program, Islesboro Summer Recreation Program, Belfast Free Library Summer Program
- Montville Snowmobile Club, Palermo Friends and Neighbors ATV Club and Snowmobile Club, Troy Snowbeater's Snowmobile Club, Searsport Snowmobile Club, Riverside Riders Snowmobile Club, Snowdusters, Mountain Goats Snowmobile Club, Northport Ridge Rider's Snowmobile Club
- Unity Raceway
- Arts Center at Kingdom Falls, School Street Arts in Unity, Belfast Dance Studio, Davistown Museum, Grindle Point Lighthouse and Sailor's Memorial Museum, Unity Performing Arts Center, Penobscot Marine Museum
- Islesboro Sporting Club, Waldo County International Cycling and Dining Society, Unity Garden Club, Unity Area Birders, Unity Scrap Baggers Quilt Group, Thorndike Horse and Pony Club, Penobscot Bay Gardeners
- Winterport Senior Citizen Socials, Winterport Women's Club, Senior Citizen's Group, Senior Youth Group
- Community Garden at the Drinkwater School, City Park Swimming Pool
- Camp Forest, Camp Fair Haven Teen Week, and many others
- M.S.A.D. #3, #34, and #56 school sports
- Granges, American Legions, VFW, Lions Club, Rotary
- Hunting, ATV, Snowmobile, and Archery
- Sailing Lessons at Bayside
- Church day camps and after school programs

## **E. Employment/Job Training**

The number and types of jobs that are available in Waldo County have been changing since the mid-1990s. There has been a great increase in the number of service, retail, and finance/insurance/real estate jobs. The acquisition of MBNA, the largest employer in the county,

by Bank of America has caused a shift in jobs, job security, and the availability of business property by the new ownership. The arrival of Athenahealth has helped off-set some job loss as they employ roughly 100 people.

<b>Covered Employment and Wages by Major Industry Division 2008 Waldo County</b>				
Industry Description	Number of Units	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average Wages
Total - All Ownerships	1,130	10,935	\$338,046,096	\$30,914
Total - Private	1,012	9,096	\$282,675,024	\$31,077
Goods-Producing	264	1,964	\$58,228,512	\$29,642
Natural Resources and Mining	22	118	\$2,234,630	\$18,978
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	20	108	\$1,949,675	\$18,108
Construction	180	563	\$17,168,337	\$30,503
Manufacturing	62	1,284	\$38,825,545	\$30,242
Service-Providing	748	7,131	\$224,446,511	\$31,473
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	221	1,797	\$46,115,171	\$25,663
Wholesale Trade	29	143	\$6,264,689	\$43,733
Retail Trade	154	1,484	\$33,054,586	\$22,268
Transportation and Warehousing	36	142	\$5,147,790	\$36,146
Information	23	112	\$5,006,464	\$44,568
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	27	54	\$1,193,193	\$22,233
Professional and Business Services	120	714	\$22,489,599	\$31,494
Admin & Support & Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Serv.	45	374	\$9,457,761	\$25,277
Education and Health Services	97	1,747	\$62,009,768	\$35,488
Health Care and Social Assistance	83	1,482	\$53,444,255	\$36,070
Leisure and Hospitality	113	977	\$14,415,533	\$14,752
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	20	125	\$3,011,878	\$24,047
Accommodation and Food Services	93	852	\$11,403,655	\$13,386
Other Services	113	318	\$7,486,784	\$23,568
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	113	318	\$7,486,784	\$23,568
Total Gov't	118	1,839	\$55,371,072	\$30,104
Total - Federal Gov't	29	107	\$3,927,691	\$36,793

Total - State Gov't	6	134	\$3,751,419	\$27,961
Total - Local Gov't	83	1,598	\$47,691,963	\$29,837
Maine Department of Labor, 2008				

*Seasonal factors, bonus and retroactive payments and high proportions of part-time workers may influence average wages, or large amounts of overtime work. The total number of employees does not match the sum numbers listed as some industry sectors keep confidential the number of employees (and wage levels), but they are counted in the total.*

The total civilian labor force in Waldo County for 2008 was 19,105, of which 18,133 were employed and 972 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 5.2%. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average weekly wage for Waldo County in 2008 was \$582. This would be equivalent to \$14.55 per hour or \$30,264 per year, assuming a 40-hour week worked the year around. This puts Waldo County well below the average weekly wages for the state and nation, as they average \$17 and \$21 per hour respectively.

<b>County Employment and Wages in Maine, 2008</b>		
<b>Area</b>	<b>Employment September 2008</b>	<b>Average Weekly Wage</b>
<b>United States</b>	135,173,800	\$841
<b>Maine</b>	610,800	\$683
<b>Androscoggin</b>	48,860	\$665
<b>Aroostook</b>	30,273	\$571
<b>Cumberland</b>	173,975	\$768
<b>Franklin</b>	11,417	\$627
<b>Hancock</b>	24,850	\$613
<b>Kennebec</b>	60,089	\$685
<b>Knox</b>	17,810	\$617
<b>Lincoln</b>	11,775	\$534
<b>Oxford</b>	17,157	\$585
<b>Penobscot</b>	71,405	\$654
<b>Piscataquis</b>	5,822	\$517
<b>Sagadahoc</b>	16,032	\$776
<b>Somerset</b>	18,031	\$641
<b>Waldo</b>	11,270	\$582
<b>Washington</b>	10,702	\$546
<b>York</b>	70,506	\$654
Bureau of Labor Statistics; 2009		

<b>Labor Force Estimates for Waldo County (not seasonally adjusted)</b>
---

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate		
				Waldo	Maine	U.S.
2008	19,105	18,133	972	5.1%	4.9%	5.2%
2007	18,900	17,995	905	4.8%	4.5%	4.3%
2006	19,579	18,710	869	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%
2005	19,365	18,418	947	4.9%	4.8%	4.9%
2004	19,237	18,405	832	4.3%	4.3%	5.3%
Center for Workforce Research and Information's "Waldo County Profile"; 2008						

According to The Center for Workforce Research and Information, the labor force in Waldo County declined in 2007 after several years of little growth. Other highlights of the *Waldo County Profile* were:

- 2% of all jobs in Maine are with employers in Waldo County.
- There is a higher share of jobs in financial activities and education services sector than most regions of the state.
- Smaller shares of jobs are in professional and business services, wholesale trade, and health care sectors.
- The average monthly earnings in Waldo County are significantly lower than the statewide average.
- The job turnover rate is higher than the statewide average primarily due to greater concentrations of industries with high turnover rates, such as accommodation and agriculture.
- The share of jobs in office and administrative support and education/training occupations is high.

In high-poverty rural areas, low-wage resource-based and manufacturing economies limit the kind of high-skill job growth that attracts college graduates. Research has found that many rural areas will continue to fall short in attracting highly educated workers (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Due to declining numbers of births, the labor force under age 35 has been shrinking. By 2003, baby-boomers ranged in age between 38 and 56. Their participation rate in the labor force reached 66%. Between 1980 and 2003, the number of labor force participants under age 35 declined by 12%, while the number of 35 year olds and over swelled to 67%. (Maine Department of Labor Maine Force; 2005)

The potential link between the employment and unemployment rates, work hours, and poverty is easy to see. To the extent that some formerly non-employed individuals at the low end become employed, their household income will increase. This will reduce poverty. The level of unemployment is likely to be similarly related to work hours among those at the low end of the income distribution, particularly since less-skilled workers and job seekers tend to be among the first laid off and the last hired. Economic output can have an independent effect on work hours. Employers in a growing economy may increase work hours among those they already employ

rather than hire new employees. For employees with low wages, these additional hours will reduce poverty. Growth, high employment, and low unemployment may also reduce poverty by boosting wage levels at the low end of the distribution (Institute for Research on Poverty).

Waldo County has several institutes for post-secondary and continuing education:

- University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Waldo
- University of Maine Hutchinson Center, Belfast
- Unity College, Unity
- New England School of Clinical Hypnotherapy, Northport

According to the Maine Department of Labor Center for Workforce Information, the top employers in Waldo County are:

- Waldo County Healthcare, Inc.
- Pride MFG Company
- Atlantic Salmon of Maine
- Penobscot McCrum
- Hannaford Brothers
- Broadreach Family and Community Services
- Group Home Foundation
- Harbor Hill
- Robbins Lumber

The top five growth occupations in Waldo County and estimate annual openings 2002-2012:

- Medical Assistants (130)
- Social & Human Services Assistants (262)
- Self-Enrichment Education Teachers (70)
- Physician Assistants (44)
- Medical records & Health Information Technicians (61)
- Personal & Home Health Aids (343)

## **Working Poor**

The working poor are people who do not quite meet low-income status in the typical sense of the word. These are people, sometimes parents, who work to make a life for their families, but don't make quite enough to thrive. They often do not qualify for many programs and subsidies because they make a little too much money but they don't make enough money to have what they need in life. They still need parenting classes, life skills, and a little assistance getting whatever else they need. The working poor are also the category of people who often need odd-hours child care. They cannot afford to pay someone to come into their home so that their children can sleep while they work odd hours but there is no place for them to take their children either. They may also struggle with transportation issues in getting to work and appointments.

According to the ASPIRE Program in Waldo County, many of their clients who are able to work are already doing so. They are filling the positions left by those who went to work at MBNA, or they are working at MBNA themselves. ASPIRE has also placed clients in the Support Services

Program at MBNA. This program is designed for people who may have developmental disabilities (approximately 100 individuals). It provides them with good pay and benefits in a real work environment. The program has only been available in the Belfast area for a few years and is a success. The retention rate is very high and the program continues to grow. ASPIRE believes that the most common barriers that remain for their non-working clients are: the need to attend to special needs children, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, and lack of transportation from outlying areas. Transportation many times could be arranged during normal business hours, but many of the jobs that the people could do require odd shifts with nights and weekends. This presents child care issues, as well as transportation issues for many.

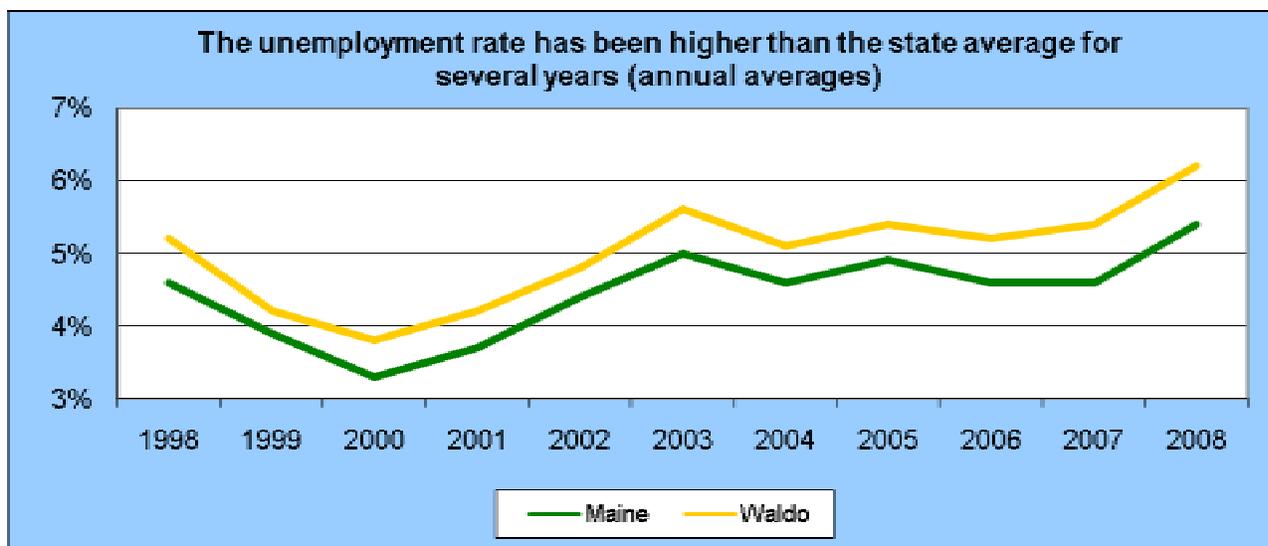
Earnings have improved slightly, relative to the national level since 2000, but still account for a smaller portion of personal income in Maine. Maine households rely more heavily on transfer payments (social security, SSI, food stamps, TANF, etc.) as a source of personal income. Due to the state's older population and attraction to retirees, the portion of income derived from investments such as retirement accounts, interest and dividends and rental income from property is also higher than the national average. The ratio of earned to "unearned" income sources is expected to decline in the coming years as the large population of the "baby boom" generation moves into retirement (Maine State Planning Office).

The minimum wage had its highest value in 1968. At that time, it was 90% of the federal poverty level. It has been between 53% and 62% of the federal poverty level since 1985. This is the lowest percentage since the poverty level was established in 1959. The current federal minimum wage as of July 24, 2009 is \$7.25. Maine's minimum wage has been raised several times in recent years and is currently at \$7.25 per hour with a scheduled raise to \$7.50 per hour in October, 2009.

**Changes that have occurred since last year includ**

- The Career Center in Waldo County no longer has representation in Belfast. The resources for preparing resumes, cover letters, and job search are still available on <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/>
- Athenahealth, the premier provider of physician billing, practice management and EMR services, has moved into one of the former MBNA buildings in Belfast and expects to hire about one thousand employees in the foreseeable future.

The unemployment rate has fluctuated in both the county and the state. After a low in 2007, it is now on the upswing as shown in the graph below.



Center for Workforce Research and Information, "County Profile"

<b>Maine Statewide Average 2008 Monthly Basic Needs Budgets by Family Size (in dollars)</b>					
	<b>Single adult</b>	<b>Single adult, 1 child<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Single adult, 2 children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Two adults, (1 earner) 2 children</b>	<b>Two adults, (2 earners) 2 children</b>
<b>Food</b>	199	328	503	739	739
<b>Rent/Utilities</b>	577	716	716	716	716
<b>Telephone</b>	23	26	26	26	26
<b>Health care<sup>3</sup></b>	180	413	473	549	669
<b>Transportation</b>	377	377	377	599	748
<b>Child care</b>	0	542	873	0	873
<b>Clothing, Household goods, personal care</b>	179	185	190	254	267
<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	1,535	2,586	3,158	2,883	4,038
<b>Annual Expenses</b>	18,424	31,037	37,896	34,593	48,462
<b>Federal and State Taxes</b>	3,736	4,192	3,709	759	5,922
<b>Required Annual Income (per household)</b>	22,160	35,229	41,605	35,352	54,384
<b>Equivalent Hourly Wage (per earner)</b>	10.65	16.94	20.00	17.00	13.07 <sup>4</sup>
<sup>1</sup> pre-school					
<sup>2</sup> pre-school and school-age					
<sup>3</sup> Four primary factors comprise health care estimates: plan premium, share of premium paid by					

employee, out of pocket expenses, and eligibility for Cub Care coverage for dependent children. Between 2006 and 2008 livable wage calculations, methodological changes in the way these component factors are determined produce cost estimates that are not comparable to each other.

<sup>4</sup> This hourly wage is the average wage that *each* adult must earn in order to equal the required household annual income.

Maine Department of Labor Center for Workforce Research and Information; July 2009

<b>Waldo County 2008 Monthly Basic Needs Budgets by Family Size (in dollars)</b>					
	<b>Single adult</b>	<b>Single adult, 1 child<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Single adult, 2 children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Two adults, (1 earner) 2 children</b>	<b>Two adults, (2 earners) 2 children</b>
<b>Food</b>	199	328	503	739	739
<b>Rent/Utilities</b>	610	736	736	736	736
<b>Telephone</b>	23	26	26	26	26
<b>Health care<sup>3</sup></b>	180	413	473	549	669
<b>Transportation</b>	377	377	377	599	748
<b>Child care</b>	0	542	911	0	911
<b>Clothing, Household goods, Personal care</b>	179	185	190	254	267
<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	1,568	2,606	3,216	2,903	4,096
<b>Annual Expenses</b>	18,818	31,275	38,588	34,832	49,154
<b>Federal and State Taxes</b>	3,870	4,272	4,000	927	6,214
<b>Required Annual Income (per household)</b>	22,688	35,547	42,588	35,759	55,368
<b>Equivalent Hourly Wage (per earner)</b>	10.91	17.09	20.48	17.19	13.31 <sup>4</sup>
<sup>1</sup> pre-school					
<sup>2</sup> pre-school and school-age					
<sup>3</sup> Four primary factors comprise health care estimates: plan premium, share of premium paid by employee, out of pocket expenses, and eligibility for Cub Care coverage for dependent children. Between 2006 and 2008 livable wage calculations, methodological changes in the way these component factors are determined produce cost estimates that are not comparable to each other.					
<sup>4</sup> This hourly wage is the average wage that <i>each</i> adult must earn in order to equal the required household annual income.					
Maine Department of Labor Center for Workforce Research and Information; July 2009					

The Institute of Rural Poverty's (IRP) *Dialogue on Poverty 2000 Maine Report* notes that, "people whose work doesn't pay enough must have food, clothes, shelter, and medical care.

Some people who leave welfare don't know that they can still get food stamps, Medicaid, and other services. Many Mainers don't have health insurance or have health insurance that doesn't pay enough of their medical bills. Education and training is important throughout life. Children who have had child care and preschool education, like Head Start, can learn better in school. Many jobs today require computers and other technology skills. The skills and information people need to get and keep jobs continues to change. People need education and training programs to teach them the skills and information they need to get well paying jobs."

## **Predatory Lending**

As reported by the Center for Responsible Lending in 2006:

"A study by Coastal Enterprises Inc. and the Center for Responsible Lending has alerted many in Maine to predatory lending practices that cost Mainers at least \$23 million a year. These predatory practices endanger the homes and financial security of some of Maine's most vulnerable citizens. Based on the findings of the report, approximately 1,000 families are affected each year by these practices.

"Maine is particularly vulnerable to predatory mortgage lending practices. Several unique factors combine to make Mainers particularly vulnerable: a high rate of homeownership, an aging population, declining economies (particularly in rural regions), and escalating housing prices in many parts of the state. These characteristics provide conditions for predatory lending practices to flourish and strip equity from borrowers and their communities. These vulnerabilities may be exacerbated by the dominant trends in the state's sub-prime market, such as the high proportion of sub-prime cash-out refinances (typically where most abuses occur in the sub-prime market).

"Maine's sub-prime market jumped more than 400 percent in the five years through 2004, to 8,000 mortgages. The study found that a disproportionate number of these loans go to rural areas and minorities. Furthermore, a quarter of the people who were in foreclosure in four Maine counties had mortgages with at least one predatory characteristic. The study describes a number of predatory practices. One example of these characteristics: "prepayment penalties over two years," which prevent people from refinancing and keep them chained to expensive loans. Another example: Excessive points and fees that strip homeowners' hard-earned equity, threatening them with the loss of their home, bankruptcy and ruined credit. One problem the study uncovered is the extent to which Mainers could get regular mortgages. As many as 15 percent of borrowers qualified for cheaper loans than they actually got."

## ***F. Municipal Services***

A wide range of services delivery is seen across the 26 municipalities of Waldo County. Several factors influence the degree of services and these include population size (from 520 residents in Jackson to 6,808 in Belfast); the tax rate (from \$8.93 in Islesboro to \$23.70 in Montville); and municipal budgets (from \$400,000 in Freedom to \$6.9 million in Belfast). Except for Belfast which has a Mayor, Town Manager, and City Council, the local governmental structure operating in remaining towns consists of a Board of Selectmen (3-5 members). In addition, Town Managers/Administrators are employed in Islesboro, Lincolnville, Searsport, Stockton Springs, and Winterport.

Several communities have their own police force; Belfast, Islesboro (Public Safety Officer), Lincolnville, Searsport, and Stockton Springs. For the remaining towns, police services are provided by the Waldo County Sheriff's Department and Maine State Police.

All municipalities, except Swanville and Knox, are served by volunteer fire departments. Belfast firefighters, who also serve Swanville, are paid when called into service. Knox receives services from neighboring the communities of Freedom, Thorndike, and Brooks.

The communities of Belfast, Brooks, Islesboro, Liberty, Searsmont, Searsport, Stockton Springs, Unity, and Winterport have their own professional or volunteer ambulance service. Belfast provides ambulance services to Swanville, Northport, Morrill, Belmont, and Waldo. The remaining towns have varied contract arrangements with other municipalities, and/or ambulance companies. Belfast is the home of the Waldo County General Hospital. Community Health Centers are located in Brooks, Islesboro, Liberty, Lincolnville, and Stockton Springs.

In addition to these safety services most of the communities provide road repair, snow plowing, transfer station maintenance and cemetery up-keep. These duties are provided through a blend of town employment and contacted services.

## ***G. Housing***

Affordable housing remains a top concern for Waldo County residents and service providers. Data from Maine Housing indicates that the cost of housing outpaced the rise in median income over the last six years. It is difficult for Waldo County families to find Section-8 housing support. According to MaineHousing employee Maureen Brown, the waitlist for Waldo County's Section-8 vouchers stands at roughly 113 waiting families, as of July 2009. This translates to an estimated wait time of roughly two years. Vouchers are contingent on funding streams and very susceptible to decisions made in both Washington, D.C. and in Augusta, Maine. MaineHousing is hopeful that in the near future there will be an overhaul of the system and funding levels will be raised so that the wait time can be decreased.

The majority of Waldo County's subsidized housing complexes and developments are located in the larger towns of Belfast, Searsport, and Unity. This leaves a void for those families and individuals seeking subsidized and affordable housing in the more isolated and rural areas of Waldo County.

## **Subsidized Housing**

According to [mainehousing.org](http://mainehousing.org), MaineHousing (formerly Maine State Housing Authority) offers programs and services that make housing more affordable to Maine people. Over 90,000 people will benefit from MaineHousing programs this year. Rental housing costs are increasingly out of reach for many lower and moderate income Maine people. Rental assistance, either in the form of housing choice vouchers, subsidized apartments, or affordable rental housing can help. Vouchers can help pay your rent in the apartment of your choice. Subsidized apartments provide qualified tenants below-market rents. However, waiting lists can be long and preference is given to homeless and displaced persons.

### Maine State Housing Authority Complexes (Waldo County)

- Ambassador Apartments
- Bayview Apartments
- Group Home Foundation
- Hilltop Birches I & II

### Rental Housing Loan Program Complexes (Waldo County)

- Bay Head Apartments
- Seaside Heights
- Seabreeze Apartments
- Windward Manor Apartments

### U.S.D.A. Rural Development District 2 complexes (Waldo County)

- Belfast Birches
- Belfast Square Apartments
- Hilltop Birches Apartments
- Huntress Gardens
- Moosehead Trail Village
- Lake St. George Apartments
- Lincolnville Apartments
- Harborlight Square Apartments
- Mariner Woods
- Pinegrove I, II
- Seabreeze Apartments
- Sandy Stream Village
- School Street Village
- Unity Leisure Homes
- Village Heritage Apartments. I, II

### Department of Urban & Housing Development (HUD) Complexes (Waldo County)

- Edward J. Reynolds House

The mission of WCAP's Housing programs is to contribute to the health, safety and credit worthiness of Waldo County residents faced with an aging housing stock and limited resources. Many people cope with faulty wiring, inadequate heating and septic systems, no well or well gone dry, and homes where rehabilitation and/or replacement are badly needed.

Weatherization coordinators have been trained to use the latest technology to analyze heat loss, air infiltration, and indoor quality. When funding is available, the Weatherization Program can add insulation, replace storm windows, repair or replace roofs, and educate low-income families on health and safety issues and how to reduce cold air infiltration, etc. Special attention is paid to maintaining healthy indoor air and eliminating health threats from carbon monoxide and excessive moisture. Heating systems are cleaned, repaired, or replaced through the Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP). In 2008, 56 households (113) individuals were provided CHIP services. These programs are severely challenged by an ever growing need and diminishing resources. The Weatherization program combined to serve 86 households (160 individuals) in 2008. In addition, 25 households (54 individuals) were assisted by the Home Repair, the Appliance Replacement Program replaced 57 refrigerators (118 individuals), and the Above Ground Storage Tank program assisted 23 households (51 individuals). The CMP Line Extension Program assisted 7 households (19 individuals).

### Affordable Housing

Homeownership, the number of housing units, and the affordability of housing are major topics of concern for Waldo County and Maine as a whole. The age of homes is also a matter for the WCAP Housing Program. Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) reports that in Belfast, over 36% of all homes are 25 years or less in age, although almost 50% of all homes are over 70 years old. This indicates a large potential market for weatherization and other housing programs.

<b>Homeownership Demographics</b>				
Area	Year	Total Homeowner Households	Average Household Size	Median Head of Household Age
Waldo County	2003	12,351	2.38	52.2
	2004	12,746	2.39	51.6
	2005	13,007	2.37	52.5
	2006	13,068	2.35	52.9
	2007	13,322	2.34	53.1
	2008	13,249	2.32	53.7
Belfast	2008	2,104	2.13	57.6
Winterport	2008	1,191	2.49	51.1
Searsport	2008	915	2.24	55.3
Lincolntonville	2008	870	2.32	54.8
Stockton Springs	2008	587	2.25	54.7
Northport	2008	540	2.27	56.1
Palermo	2008	517	2.38	53.7
Burnham	2008	442	2.47	51.9
Searsmont	2008	521	2.36	50.9
MaineHousing's "Waldo County Home Ownership Facts"; 2008				

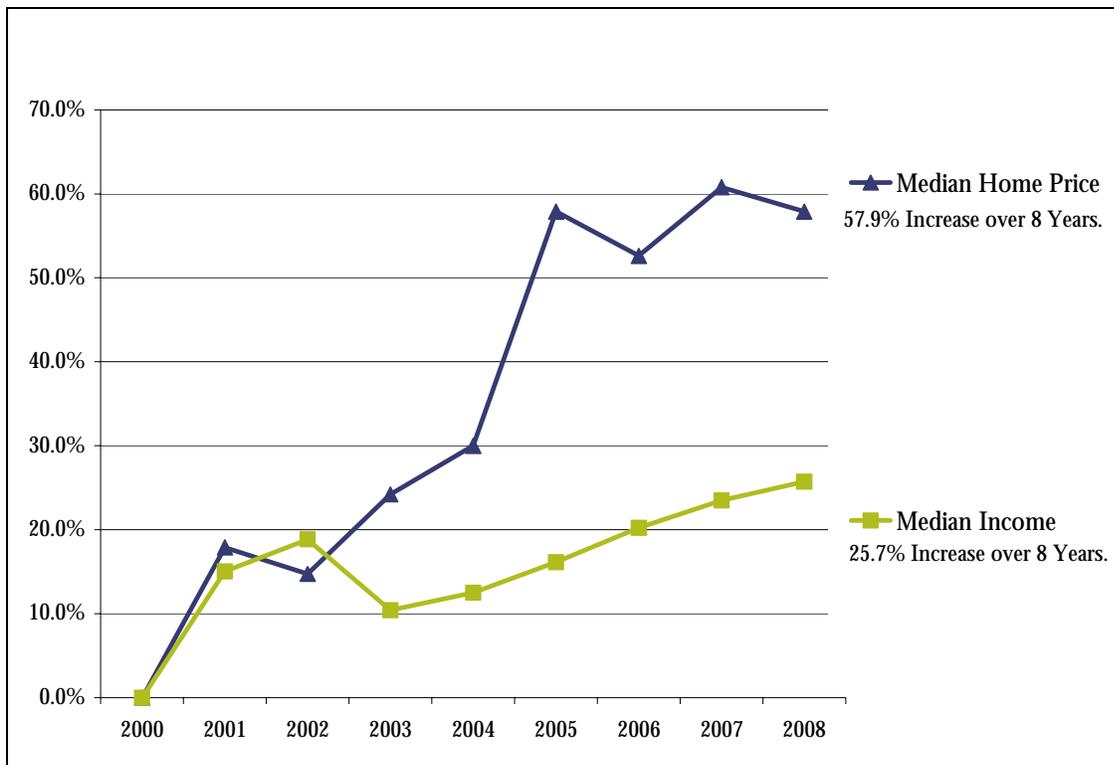
According to the MSHA and the Workforce Housing Coalition (WHC), there is a significant shortage of housing in the mid-coast area. "This is particularly true for the housing that is affordable for low and moderate-income families". The WHC states that, "a typical low-income

household earning \$30,000 per year working can afford a two-bedroom apartment costing \$700 a month, including utilities which is approximately 15% below today’s market rent”. According to HUD guidelines, jobs that pay “low-income” wages include childcare teachers, fire fighters, secretaries, bank tellers, and car mechanics.” MSHA also reports that 50% of Maine renters are unable to afford the fair market rent. In Waldo County a large number of households cannot afford to purchase a median-priced home.

Homeownership Affordability Index							
Area	Year	Affordability Index	Median Home Price <sup>1</sup>	Median Income <sup>2</sup>	Income Needed to Afford Median Home Price	Home Price Affordable at Median Income	Households Unable to Afford Median Home Price
Waldo	2003	0.92	\$118,000	\$37,436	\$40,560	\$108,913	8,267 (53.5%)
County	2004	0.91	\$123,500	\$38,149	\$42,032	\$112,090	8,620 (54.1%)
	2005	0.79	\$150,000	\$39,382	\$49,927	\$118,319	10,066 (62.0%)
	2006	0.83	\$145,000	\$40,773	\$48,925	\$120,840	9,676 (59.2%)
	2007	0.81	\$152,750	\$41,880	\$51,522	\$124,164	10,033 (60.3%)
	2008	0.84	\$150,000	\$42,640	\$50,611	\$126,375	9,732 (58.7%)
Belfast	2008	0.66	\$177,000	\$40,605	\$61,523	\$116,819	2,073 (66.9%)
Winterport	2008	1.03	\$152,000	\$51,755	\$50,232	\$156,609	709 (49.0%)
Searsport	2008	0.83	\$132,000	\$38,095	\$45,817	\$109,752	694 (57.4%)
Lincolnville	2008	0.73	\$227,500	\$54,625	\$74,451	\$166,917	676 (65.8%)
Stockton Springs	2008	0.77	\$160,000	\$44,010	\$57,066	\$123,393	420 (61.9%)
Northport	2008	0.81	\$202,500	\$52,500	\$64,823	\$164,003	384 (59.2%)
Palermo	2008	0.77	\$167,500	\$42,368	\$55,250	\$128,445	373 (66.2%)
Burnham	2008	1.60	\$72,850	\$38,333	\$23,991	\$116,398	135 (27.0%)
Searsmont	2008	0.98	\$141,500	\$47,074	\$47,949	\$138,917	321 (52.0%)
MaineHousing’s “Waldo County Home Ownership Fact”; 2008							

The affordability index is the ratio of Home Price Affordable at Median Income to Median Home Price. An index of less than 1 means the area is generally unaffordable – i.e., a household earning area median income could not cover the payment on a median priced home (30 year mortgage, taxes, and insurance) using no more than 28% of gross income.

### Relative Increases in Home and Price



MaineHousing’s “Waldo County Homeownership Facts 2008”

The forces of supply and demand of affordable housing units are not balanced at the local level. It is generally in a town’s best interest to limit the supply of additional housing units because of the additional costs involved and some towns are actively discouraging residential development through growth caps, zoning, and cumbersome local approval processes. This is impacting growth because homebuyers are being pushed out into rural areas because they cannot afford to purchase a property in town, and pulled out of developed areas because property taxes are so much lower outside of the city.

Throughout coastal Maine, including nine housing market regions that encompass about a third of the state’s towns and 44% of its families, the problem of housing that is within reach of families of average means has become intractable. Many of our communities’ valued occupations, including teaching and policing, do not pay enough to afford the median priced home. In fact, many dual-working households do not earn enough.

Waldo County Homeownership Facts, 2008									
Type of Housing Unit	Housing Units, All Ages	Units Built 2000-06	Units Built 1990-99	Units Built 1980-89	Units Built 1970-79	Units Built 1960-69	Units Built 1950-59	Units Built 1940-49	Units Built Before 1940
All Units	16,151	1,425	3,123	2,491	2,846	990	737	436	4,103
Owned	13,130	1,374	2,706	2,058	2,210	827	571	307	3,077
Rented	3,021	51	417	433	636	163	166	129	1,026

MaineHousing; 2009

The Maine State Housing Authority has documented the problem but even without official studies, the anecdotal evidence from classified ads to conversations with first-time homebuyers is overwhelming. The effects present themselves in three ways:

- First, many young families must now either forego home ownership or move farther away to rural edges 20 or more miles from job centers in search of land and housing they can afford. In the trade of distance for housing, these families now spend 20% of their incomes on transportation, more than they pay for food
- Second, the cost of housing has become a deterrent to the location and expansion of business in need of employees with average wages
- Third, among the lowest income working households, there is growing homelessness. As of July 2001, nearly a third of persons in homeless shelters had jobs.

(Community Preservation Advisory Committee 6 Annual Report; February 2003)

## **Homelessness**

Homelessness in Waldo County is difficult to track. As there are no homeless shelters in Waldo County, families often choose to double up with other families or friends or live out of their cars rather than leave the area for shelter. During the 2007 school year, Waldo County Head Start worked with six families who, at one point, were without a place to live. This number cannot give accurate insight into homelessness in Waldo County but it does let us know that homelessness is present and it does affect entire Waldo County families.

The state of Maine has seen increases in the number of homeless people recorded by the “Maine State Housing Authority Point in Time Homeless Survey”. The annual Point of Time Survey provides a snapshot of people experiencing homelessness on a particular night of the year and is usually conducted on January 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. The survey for 2009 was conducted on January 30, 2009 and identified 871 homeless people in the state of Maine, 152 of which were children in families or unaccompanied youth under age 18. Of the homeless individuals who filled out the Point in Time Survey, 60% reported having a high school diploma or better. They cited inability to find work or pay rent, chronic disability, domestic violence, and chronic substance abuse as factors that contributed to their homelessness. The Point of Time Survey done across the state on January 28, 2009 recorded five people whose last residence was in Waldo County.

Locally, area homeless shelters located outside of the county, report that Waldo County residents utilize their services. The Breakwater Teen Shelter which used to house a fair amount of Waldo County youth closed its doors in early 2009. 33 out of 200 clients who stayed at the Hospitality House in Rockland in 2006 were reportedly from Waldo County. New Hope for Women reported serving 212 clients from Waldo County. The Greater Bangor Area Homeless Shelter reported serving between 6-10 people in 2006 that claimed to be from Waldo County. Lastly, the Emmaus center reported being able to serve a few clients from Waldo County in 2006, although most of their services are devoted to Hancock County.

<b>List of nearest homeless shelters to Waldo County</b>
--

H.O.M.E. Inc - Dorr House	Mental Illness/Substance Abuse	207-469-7961	Orland ME
H.O.M.E. Inc - Hospitality House	General	207-469-7961	Bucksport ME
H.O.M.E. Inc - Mandala Farm	General	207-469-7961	Orland ME
H.O.M.E. Inc - St. Francis Inn	General	207-469-7961	East Orland ME
H.O.M.E. Inc - Emmaus	General	207-667-3962	Ellsworth ME
The Next Step	Domestic Violence-Safe Homes	800-315-5579	Ellsworth ME
Bread of Life Ministries	General	207-626-3479	Augusta ME
Family Violence Project	Domestic Violence	877-890-7788	Augusta ME
Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter	General	207-872-8082	Waterville ME
Togus Veterans Affairs	Veterans	207-623-8411 ext. 5658	Augusta ME
Mid-Coast Hospitality House	General	207-594-1422	Rockport ME
New Hope for Women	Domestic Violence-Safe Homes	800-522-3304	Rockland ME
Maine State Housing Authority; 2009			

## ***H. Social Services***

In Waldo County the largest provider of social services is Waldo Community Action Partners. United Way offers few program options in the county such as the “Act of Kindness” effort and the Eastern Maine Funders Energy Initiative. Waldo County General Hospital has a social service department that consists of Hospice, Healthy Living Project, Alcoholics Anonymous, Cancer Support Group, Maine Breast & Cervical Health Program, Pre-Natal Classes, Essential Skills for Parents, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, and Family Caregivers Support & Education.

The menu of services for the WCAP is found on the web site [www.waldocap.org](http://www.waldocap.org). There is no office of DHHS within Waldo County. The Career Center closed its local office in June, 2008.

The County boasts 58 non-profits that often fit in health and education areas and not strictly in the social services arena. The church groups and the food pantries and some local coalitions such as the Barn Raisers in Unity, Neighbor for Neighbor in Waldo County, and the Healthy Communities Coalition work to educate, meet immediate needs, and advocate for those needs not met.

WCAP partners with many of the different entities to stretch every available resource that provides opportunities for families. These affiliations are:

- *Child care Centers:* Broadreach (formerly Waldo County Preschool & Family Services), Belfast Area Children’s Center, Starrett Children's Center, First Steps Child Care, Enriched Beginnings Early Childhood Programs

- *Children & Parent Groups:* Waldo County Child Development Services, Mid-Coast Children's Services, Parents Are Teachers Too, Parent Education Program, Sweetser, Waldo County Child and Parent Council, Waldo County Head Start
- *Health & Nutrition Groups:* Area dental providers, Belfast Public Health Nursing Association, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Coastal Medical Care, Food Cupboards and Soup Kitchens, Healthy Maine Partnership, Maine Breast & Cervical Health Program, Mid-Coast Mental Health Center, School Oral Health Program, Waldo County General Hospital, Winterport Family Practice, Women, Infants & Children
- *Community Groups:* Building Communities for Children, Health Community Coalition, People for People, Neighbor For Neighbor, Salvation Army, Waldo County YMCA
- *Government:* Maine School Administration Districts #34, #56, #22, & #3, Municipalities (26)

## ***I. Elder Programs***

Maine ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the state for elderly population with more than 183,000 and 14.4% of its citizens age 65 and above according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The fastest growing segment is sometimes called the old-old, those over 85. By the year 2010, Maine Census projections predict at least a 33% increase in people aged 55 to 85 or older and that one in five people will be age 65 or older. Women account for 58% of the population 65 and older and 70 % of the population age 85 and older.

According to the Coalition for a Maine Aging Initiative, Maine's older population will increase by 50 percent over the next twenty-five years. At the same time, the population defined as youth will decline by nearly 20 percent. Today there are more than 180,000 persons in Maine who are over 65. Over half live in rural areas. Four in five live in their homes. Many live alone and Maine ranks third in the nation for its percentage of elderly residents living alone. Over 14% of those 65+ years of age had difficulty performing Activities of Daily Living (ADLs include bathing, dressing, eating, and getting around the house) and more than 27% of those age 80+ have difficulty with ADLs. Of those 65+ years of age, 21% reported difficulties with Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs include preparing meals, shopping, managing money, using the telephone, doing housework, and taking medication) and 40.4% of those 80+ having difficulty with IADLs.

The following concerns were identified the Coalition for a Maine Aging Initiative, about challenges facing Maine's elderly in both rural and urban areas:

- Consumers are unaware of what programs are available and are ill prepared to navigate a long-term care system.
- Program eligibility is restrictive and does not adequately account for the complexity of individual circumstances.
- The Medical Eligibility Assessment process was a consistent source of frustration for

participants.

- Transportation remains a major weakness in accessing needed services.
- The cost of prescription drugs is a barrier to medical care.
- Seniors fear financial impoverishment if they access health care and/or medical services.
- Mental health services for seniors are inadequate, especially in rural areas.
- There is an acute shortage of health care workers, both for in-home care and facility-based care.

### ***J. Consumer Options***

Waldo County has many small mom-and-pop businesses with a smattering of large retail chain stores that have little competition. Anecdotal evidence shows that most residents want to support local business but would like more shopping options in the area. Many consumers must travel out of county (Ellsworth, Bangor, Waterville, Augusta, and Rockland) to find shopping variety and bargains. In Belfast the issue of allowing “big box” stores to set up shop has been publicly debated for several years.

### ***K. Education***

The enrollment levels at the public schools in Waldo County have been steadily decreasing since 2001. This represents an average decrease of 1.6% per year, for a total of 13.5% (769 students) over the eight year period. At the same time overall school enrollment is declining, and the county population is increasing at a rate 1.4% a year. This may be an indicator of age of the population. The county may have more very young children and a larger population of people who are already out of school.

<b>Waldo County School Enrollment</b>									
<b>M.S.A.D.</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>#3</b>	Kindergarten	121	121	96	124	117	94	94	86
	Elementary	1,188	1,150	1,004	1,083	1,064	943	874	846
	Secondary	557	513	516	513	497	487	492	495
	<b>All Grades</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>1493</b>	<b>1456</b>
<b>#34</b>	Kindergarten	126	132	144	125	134	99	111	155
	Elementary	1,376	1,384	1,347	1,340	1,299	1,017	1180	1183
	Secondary	630	644	650	618	627	626	641	638
	<b>All Grades</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>2,028</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>1,926</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>1886</b>	<b>1875</b>
<b>#56</b>	Kindergarten	54	54	58	61	68	67	54	56
	Elementary	633	609	613	525	546	484	510	495
	Secondary	237	233	241	227	254	247	234	226
	<b>All Grades</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>758</b>

<b>Burnham (M.S.A.D. #53)</b>	Kindergarten	15	12	12	12	13	13	52	69
	Elementary	149	138	143	126	128	128	*	*
	Secondary	58	64	63	69	74	74	*	*
	<b>All Grades</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>202</b>		
<b>Islesboro School Department</b>	Kindergarten	4	9	5	3	6	4	2	6
	Elementary	63	60	53	52	58	52	50	57
	Secondary	29	26	20	21	32	30	28	34
	<b>All Grades</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Lincolnton School Department</b>	Kindergarten	17	19	21	20	17	16	21	19
	Elementary	235	213	210	205	193	181	198	202
	Secondary	103	118	135	127	125	125	*	*
	<b>All Grades</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>306</b>		
<b>Palermo School Department</b>	Kindergarten	17	9	14	8	19	17	17	7
	Elementary	166	162	153	149	160	130	146	133
	Secondary	63	76	85	84	83	83	*	*
	<b>All Grades</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>213</b>		
<b>Winterport (M.S.A.D. #22)</b>	Kindergarten	45	43	40	34	41	41	52	40
	Elementary	481	473	447	431	424	424	254	275
	Secondary	229	241	253	260	238	238	*	*
	<b>All Grades</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>662</b>		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>5,689</b>	<b>5,550</b>	<b>5,341</b>	<b>5,238</b>	<b>5,244</b>	<b>4,972</b>	<b>4,974</b>	<b>4,920</b>

Maine Department of Education's "Public School October 1<sup>st</sup> Attending Enrollment"; 2009

All of the schools in SAD #3, #34, #56, Islesboro School Department, and Palermo School Department are located in Waldo County. In SAD #53 (Burnham) only Burnham Village School is located in Waldo County. Burnham Village School now houses all the Kindergarteners in that whole district. In the Lincolnton and Palermo School Departments, there is an elementary school which houses K-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Those students then go to high school at Camden Hills and Erskine Academy respectively, which is outside of Waldo County. In M.S.A.D. #22, only the town of Winterport is in Waldo County. Students in Winterport attend high school at Hampden Academy, which is in Penobscot County.

Nation-wide almost 90% of young adults graduate from high school and about 60% of high school seniors continue on to college the following year, with an expectation of future economic success based on educational attainment. In Waldo County, 79% of the class of 2007 attained a high school diploma, and roughly 65% of graduating seniors intend to go onto post secondary education. According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey, 90% of the adult population 25 years and older have a high school degree or better. The education breakdown is as follows:

- 6% have a graduate or professional degree
- 15% have a bachelor's degree

- 7% have an associate's degree
- 43% have a high school diploma or equivalency
- 10% have less than a high school diploma

<b>Graduation and Drop Out Rates Class of 2007</b>							
<b>School Name</b>	<b>Total Regular Diploma Recipients 2006/07</b>	<b>Total Other Diploma Recipients 2006/07</b>	<b>Total Dropouts 12th Grade 2006/07</b>	<b>Total Dropouts 11th Grade 2005/06</b>	<b>Total Dropouts 10th Grade 2004/05</b>	<b>Total Dropouts 9th Grade 2003/04</b>	<b>Class of '07 Total Completion Rate</b>
Islesboro Central School	7	0	0	1	0	0	87.50%
Mt View High School	105	2	19	15	2	4	72.79%
Belfast Area High School	149	0	7	7	5	3	87.13%
Searsport District High School	58	0	9	7	3	1	74.36%
<b>Waldo County total</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>79.46%</b>
Maine Department of Education's "Maine Public Schools Graduation and Drop Out Rates"; 2009							

<b>Rate of Public School Graduates Intending to Enroll in Post Secondary Schools</b>									
	<b>2003</b>			<b>2004</b>			<b>2005</b>		
<b>School</b>	<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>Graduates Intending</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>Graduates Intending</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>Graduates Intending</b>	<b>%</b>
Belfast (M.S.A.D. 34)	144	108	75%	141	88	62%	135	82	61%
Islesboro	9	8	89%	3	1	33%	5	5	100%
Searsport M.S.A.D. 56	43	28	65%	44	33	75%	55	28	51%
Thorndike (M.S.A.D. 3)	118	57	48%	129	87	67%	108	75	69%
Waldo County Total	314	201	64%	317	209	66%	303	190	63%
Statewide Total – Public	12,660	8,382	66%	13,319	9,219	69%	13,027	9,356	72%
Maine Department of Education; 2006									

**Resources available for Head Start children and families within school system:**

Maine Administrative School Districts #3, #22, #34 and #56 all provide some form of 4-year old programming. M.S.A.D. # 34 provides both a full-day and a 2-½ hour day option, four days per week. M.S.A.D. # 56 provides a 2 ½ hour day, four days per week. M.S.A.D. #22 provides a 4-hour day, four days per week. M.S.A.D. #3 has two Pre-K classrooms located in Brooks and Unity, ME that run for 6 hours, four days per week. Each program provides school readiness activities and is currently being accessed by Head Start children and families. Waldo County Head Start is a partner in all districts providing teaching staff and full Head Start services with the exception of M.S.A.D. # 56.

## **Section 6. A Waldo County Family**

### **The average Waldo County family is described as:**

1. There are 38,342 people in Waldo County, representing 2.9% of the state's population.
2. The median age of all Waldo County residents is 42 years old and predominately white (97.9%).
3. Children under 5 represent 5.3% of the population, while those under 18 comprise 21.7%, and senior citizens over 65 make up 14.3% of Waldo County.
4. The family size is 2.8 people, while the average household size is 2.4. There are 14,726 households in Waldo County.
5. Over 55% of families are headed by married couples. Nearly 30% of families have children less than 18 years of age, and a quarter of all families have individuals over 65 years old.
6. 90% of residents have a high school degree or better. About 64% of high school seniors intend to go on to post secondary schools. Only a little over 3% of high school students will drop out.
7. Most workers in Waldo County are employed in jobs related to services, retail trade, & construction.
8. The median household income is \$40,441 a year. The unemployment rate for 2008 is estimated at 5.5%. There are 13,249 homeowner households in Waldo County.
9. Median home price in Belfast is \$150,000, up from \$118,000 in 2003.
10. 16.3% of Waldo County residents live in poverty. For families with children under 18 the rate is 22.7%. The food stamp rate has risen 8.8% from 2004 to 2007, representing an increase of 268 new cases.
11. 51% of Waldo County students receive free or reduced lunch.

## **Section 7. Data from local focus groups with recommendations (March 2006)**

### **Transportation**

While there were many comments saying the existing transportation system was strong and the staff very helpful, there were also the repeated concerns about those who are not Medicaid eligible and have no paid transportation. The high costs of gas and oil and the lack of funding to provide employment and elderly transportation for other than medical issues in the rural areas were mentioned over and over. There is a general feeling that people are not really aware of what is available.

#### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Request that all county programs include a transportation line item within each budget.
- Market the program with Bus Stop signs; understandable brochures in public places; posters at drop off locations; regular newspaper ads
- Set up a county ride board, car pooling system
- Set up satellite system for outlying communities (mini-buses)

### **Children and Youth**

The groups felt strongly that Head Start, WCPFS, YMCA, and Game Loft programs were strengths in the county. The challenges were considered to be increasing special needs population with cuts to CDS programming, reduced funding for child care, a huge lack of organized activities for youth, of before and after school programs, of parenting education for teens, and of drug and alcohol and mental health services for the youth population.

#### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Develop a volunteer system using foster grandparents and retired folks to work with youth after school
- Offer parenting classes to parents of adolescents
- Offer a mentoring program with elder services, the YMCA, and other youth programs in the county
- Keep communities abreast of programming for children regularly and by web sites.

### **Health Care**

The local Belfast Hospital and surrounding clinics received high praise, as did the Dental Project, Hospice, the Food Cupboards, and the new Horizon Health Center. The challenges of health care have overwhelmingly high costs. The list of lacks includes doctors, dentists, mental health services, transportation services, and affordable health insurance.

#### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Consumer education on nutrition, obesity, and diabetes

- An updated Directory of Services widely available
- Affordable Health Insurance
- Increase marketing of Hospice
- Universal preventive care clinics
- Transportation line item in all service budgets

## **Recreation**

The highlights of recreation included our natural areas, parks, open spaces, and the new Belfast Foot Bridge. School sports and Little League got kudos. Belfast Park has a free pool in the summer. The Belfast High School has a pool and a track. Unity boasts the Field of Dreams. There are a lot of theatre and art groups in Waldo County. The YMCA is a boon in the Belfast area. Penobscot Marine Museum and History Walk was mentioned as a strength.

The challenges are mostly for the outlying areas and it was noted that what is available is limited to the tourist seasons. All ages within the county were considered to be challenged in the areas of recreation. Few towns have recreational centers either for the youth or the elderly. Transportation again poses a problem. The YMCA is considered Belfast centered and too expensive. Shopping as a recreation is severely limited in Waldo County. After School programs are limited outside of Belfast.

### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Promote roller skating rink, bowling alley, internet cafes, and concerts
- Market existing trails for walking, biking, and snowmobiling
- Promote existing activities through the Chamber, Village Soup, and Where in Waldo, as well as in local schools
- Promote a Senior Center in several areas in the county
- YMCA Pool
- Write transportation line item in each new program budget
- Promote before and after school programs
- Promote a scholarship program for recreation

## **Employment Opportunities**

Little strength was cited in this area. The Senior Citizens Employment Program and the Belfast Career Center were the only two. The fact that the Career Center is no longer available in the county, few summer jobs for teens are available, Bank of America continues to cut jobs and reduce benefits, few incentives for families to work instead of accepting welfare, and most jobs are not paying a living wage with benefits were all a part of the challenges.

### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Increase the number of living wage jobs
- Train women in the trades
- Promote child care for shift hours
- Increase child care subsidies
- Promote ride-share opportunities

- Use the Chamber to promote linkages between jobs and training opportunities
- Cultivate a political will to increase businesses in the county
- Establish an Enterprise Zone and tax subsidies
- Promote the Career Center opportunities
- Develop a community Apprenticeship program
- Recognize Businesses that support Apprentice Programs

## **Municipal Services**

There was much support for the community spirit within Waldo County and the responsive and helpful officers in the towns. The true form of democracy at town meetings is also appreciated. Collaboration occurs between many of the service providers from firemen, policemen, sheriff's department, and local churches as well as the available social service providers.

There was concern for a better disaster preparedness plan with more collaboration between the hospitals and schools and EMA to prepare. Regulations concerning junkyards throughout the county need to be stronger to eliminate such eyesores. In some areas animal controls were an issue. The overall resounding upset is the high taxes that are paid for minimal services. Many still felt that general assistance is a degrading process for those persons who have exhausted all other options.

### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Promote the services of WCAP
- Designate a WCAP go-to person who can liaison with each town office on a regular basis.
- Promote safety services such as those offered by TRIAD
- Promote Neighborhood Watches
- Encourage town meeting participation and community service

## **Housing**

There have been several new rental units over the past five years in Belfast and Searsport. This was a perceived strength. The overwhelming opinion of both groups was a severe lack of affordable housing and rentals for all income ranges. Elderly folks are being taxed out of their homes. Another considerable opinion is that a Homeless shelter is needed within the county. Old housing stock is a factor and there are too few repair options for low-income families. Concern was expressed for regulations that require debris and clutter be kept at a minimum in all areas.

### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Research the need for a homeless shelter in the county
- Advocate for affordable housing
- Advocate for subsidized mortgages or more soft second monies
- Make the facts known about the waiting lists for rental subsidies and costs of homes.

## **Social Services**

Perceived strengths were the Resource Directory from BCC, the Stone Soup Kitchen, The Neighbor for Neighbor Coalition, the Healthy Communities Coalition, WCAP, Restorative Justice, MBNA Foundation, upcoming website, WHERE IN WALDO, and interested community providers.

Several challenges were focused on Domestic Violence issues and a need for affordable counseling as well as community education. The teen population is considered the most underserved. Transportation issues are discussed. No DHHS office in the county again.

### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Advocate for a full time DHHS office
- Develop a volunteer drop in center for teens
- Provide a mentoring program for teens
- Increase the capacity of Stone Soup Kitchen by volunteer expansion
- Develop a meal program for take home for weekends
- Hold Food Drives to support the kitchen
- Research ways to provide transportation
- Advertise the Kitchen
- Advocate for resources to increase affordable Family and Marriage and Guidance Counseling
- Use the Restorative Justice Program
- Provide hotline for abused families and a family shelter
- Provide free recreation programs
- Promote AA
- Provide Free Financial Counseling
- Create a coastal support organization similar to the Island Institute

## **Elder Services**

Many strengths were identified, including Senior College, YMCA programs, Church activities, Dental Project Clinics, Senior Spectrum, SCSEP, Senior Resource Collaborative (TRIAD), nursing homes, Meals on Wheels, and great opportunities for volunteering. On the challenges side there is a waiting list for most nursing care, medications are expensive, need more day care for elderly, and the new part D of Medicare is very confusing.

### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- Build bridges to purchase meds from Canada
- Advocate for funding for more nursing facilities
- Increase the circulation of “Directory of Services for Waldo County Seniors”
- Publicize senior services more widely
- Advocate to include money for transportation in all Senior programs

## **Consumer Options**

Belfast area boasts space for businesses, has a great COOP store, and has a lot of small personal services and in-home businesses. Has Hannaford, EBS, Viking, Trustworthy, and the Grasshopper is in Searsport. Tozier's Market delivers to locals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Shopping options are severely limited. The shops are geared to tourism and very high priced. The major grocery chain has no competition. There is no department store where one can get regular items needed at a reasonable price. No fabric available in Belfast. No quality clothing store for the business people.

### **Recommendations were as follows:**

- Hold a resource fair to promote businesses and services
- Advocate for another large grocery chain
- Advocate for a full service department store in the area
- Continue to search for retail stores for the Belfast area
- Hold public meetings to solicit support and ideas from the public
- Improve the infrastructure to attract more diverse dining opportunities

## **Education**

The major strength of the county is the Hutchinson Center and the Senior College as well as Unity College. We have excellent Adult Education programs in the county and a great Vocational school. We have an improved library system. School buildings are either new or in the process in much of the county. Searsmont has a Community Center, a Library and a Historical Society. Preschool Education is strong with Head Start, WCPFS, BACC, and Starrett Center. We have Literacy Volunteers and ESL services.

The challenges cited were the expense of college, the length and difficulty of rural bus routes, lack of after-school programs, Special needs providers are scarce, high incidence of sex crimes in the county, more resources to support early intervention, school budgets are driving the tax base up, need stronger leadership in schools with mandatory training for school boards, better collaborations with community resources.

### **Recommendations were made as follows:**

- A plan to unify services from birth to adulthood.
- Develop strategies to combat costs of education and make available
- Advocate for more on-line classes from U of M.
- Provide more supports for child care.
- Provide more apprenticeships.

## **Section 8. Summary of Community Assessment Results**

This Community Assessment is the work of WCAP and its collaborative partners that gathered information about the strengths, concerns, and conditions of families in Waldo County. By examining existing information about the community and collecting opinions and strategies from focus groups, community forums, and surveys, the process identified the accessibility of community assets, resources, and activities as well as gaps, barriers, and emerging needs.

### **Community Demographics:**

- As the County population is increasing, mostly due to migration, school enrollment is steadily decreasing.
- Families living in poverty continue to be a major concern in Waldo County, as the number of families and children receiving essential social services continue to grow.

### **Transportation**

- The biggest issue in the area of Transportation identified by the Community Assessment is the increase in gas prices. This is having a significant impact on the majority of households, many of which now own 1 or 2 vehicles. It affects transportation programs that service the public and client-based agencies, effects travel and program costs of many organizations. Low-income families struggle with transportation issues to get to work and appointments and to access many State Programs not located within the County.

### **Child & Youth Services**

- Many families have issues concerning child care. While there are enough child care slots for children age 3 to 5 there is a shortage of slots for infants/toddlers and before and after school care for children. Currently there is an extensive waiting list for child care vouchers.  
There is also the challenge of providing appropriate services to the children with disabilities who make up over 23% of school enrollment in the County.
- Other issues for children and youth are finding healthy activity options, and an increase in asthma, obesity, diabetes, drugs and alcohol abuse, crime, and behavior and mental health disorders.

### **Health & Nutrition**

- Health & nutrition needs to improve for all segments of the population. The general trend in Maine is toward a less active and more sedentary lifestyle. Poor nutritional practices contribute to the rising rates of obesity, and cardiovascular diseases. These trends call for workable strategies to address healthy activities eating habits and health awareness. Poverty and food insecurity is a threat to low-income families. Individuals who are food insecure have been shown to have poor quality diets, making them vulnerable to a variety

of diseases and obesity and children living in food-insecure households tend to do poorly in school.

- Waldo County faces an ongoing shortage of service providers to provide speech, occupational therapy, developmental therapy, and other therapy. To date, Head Start has been able to find providers from outside the county to provide services. There is also a shortage of oral health options in Waldo County making it the most dentally underserved area in the State
- More needs to be done to provide affordable health insurance coverage for the many uninsured citizens, or those who are underinsured with policies that don't pay enough of the medical bills.
- There are also indications that preventable mental health disorders are going undiagnosed in children, and hospitalization for children with mental health diagnoses has increased.
- Air quality is a concern in Waldo County. Maine has the highest incidence of adult asthma of any state in the nation, and also reports higher-than-average rates of lung cancer, emphysema and other lung diseases. This is aggravated by the poor air quality of coastal Maine, which has enough ozone pollution to cause or worsen respiratory problems. The high ozone levels are due in high part because of the state's location in prevailing air currents that bring in emissions produced at power plants and manufacturing facilities in Midwestern states.
- Conversely, excluding the problem of mercury deposits, the state of Maine's freshwater is good for drinking, swimming and aquatic life.

## **Recreation**

- Waldo County is fortunate to have many recreational parks, events and groups available within the County.

## **Employment/Job Training**

- "Financial stability" is the way one parent expressed what they saw as the most pressing issue for the children and families in their community. Families completing the 2005 – 2006 Parent Survey echoed this remark repeatedly mentioning the high cost of food, oil, gas and child care. The estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of three living in Waldo County in 2004 was \$17.54. There are few jobs within the county paying that rate.
- The acquisition of MBNA, the largest employer in the County, by Bank of America has caused an economic stir in the community resulting in a shift in jobs. About 300 people have lost jobs and expensive business property has been placed on the market.
- Local employment is moving toward service, retail, and finance/insurance/real estate jobs. The unemployment rate has been inching up over the last few years.
- Employers need to plan for a shrinking labor force as baby-boomers head towards retirement and the population under age 35 decreases. This trend will also affect ratio of earned to "unearned" income sources. As the "baby boom" generation moves into retirement more income will be realized through social security, SSI, food stamps, TANF, etc.

- The working poor struggle with transportation issues in getting to work and appointments. They also often need odd-hours child care. A lack of affordable odd-hour child care hinders their employability.
- The practices of predatory lending are a big concern that needs attention as it affects our most vulnerable citizens endangering their homes and financial security.

### **Municipal Services**

- The 26 municipalities of Waldo County deliver a wide range of services and are in most cases the place of last resort for general assistance. Several factors influence the degree of municipal services and these include population size; the tax rate; and municipal budgets.

### **Housing**

- Affordable housing continues to be a major problem in Waldo County. Head Start families are often challenged to find adequate housing in all coastal areas of the county. More families are moving inland where housing is less expensive but resources are harder to reach due to a lack of public transportation. Finding affordable, quality housing is consistently mentioned in IFPAs as the number one goal families would like to address.
- Housing accessibility for low-income families is hampered as there were only 139 Section-8 vouchers issued in Waldo County, leaving 232 families currently on the voucher waiting list with a projected wait time of 12-18 months.

### **Social Services**

- The county is without local DHHS representation, compelling citizens to travel out of county for many state services. A local strength is that the county boasts 58 non-profits that often focus on health and education areas as well as on the social services.

### **Elderly Programs**

- Challenges facing the elderly are: navigating the long-term care system, restrictive program eligibility, transportation in accessing needed services, cost of prescription drugs, fear of financial impoverishment when accessing health care and/or medical services; inadequate mental health services, an acute shortage of health care workers, both for in-home care and facility-based care, difficulty in performing activities of daily living, and many live alone.

### **Consumer Options**

- Most residents want to support local business, but want more shopping options in the area. Many consumers must travel out of county to find shopping variety and bargains. “Big Box” stores continue to be debated.

## **Education**

- School enrollment levels in Waldo County are dropping. A majority of local adults have a high school diploma or less, and have a lower per capita income than those with a college education. A paradox is that nearly 2/3 of high school graduates go onto post secondary education, but many who go on to higher education migrate out of the state for better jobs.
- School preparedness is a concern as a high percentage of the children presented for kindergarten screening are significantly unprepared for kindergarten.

A strength which emerged and was clearly evident in the gathering of the community assessment information is the strong sense of cooperation and collaboration among the individuals, organizations and groups in the County concerned about the low-income community.

At Waldo Community Action Partners, we are committed to continuing to provide high-quality services and working in tandem with other organizations to address the needs of the low-income community. As we conclude this community assessment, we are currently involved in many projects to hopefully address some of these needs. Current projects consist of working with the Healthy Community Coalition in the development of community dialogues, linking with preschool and local school systems to increase school preparedness through the expansion of Head Start school-based services, assisting in the development of a countywide resource website, supporting the formation of a local Community Action Team to respond to large work layoffs, teaming with area dental health providers to create more oral health access in non-traditional places, working with funders to aid families affected by the rise in home fuel costs, and reconnecting with municipalities to improve referral and enhance social services.

## Works Cited

- Acheson, Ann W. Poverty in Maine 2003. Online posting. May 2003. Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy. 25 June 2009.  
<[http://www.umaine.edu/MCSC/Research/HeaSocPol/Poverty\\_Maine\\_2003.htm](http://www.umaine.edu/MCSC/Research/HeaSocPol/Poverty_Maine_2003.htm)>
- Adolf, James R. and Phillip D. McCarthy. "Final Report of the Commission to Study Public Health." Online posting. 2005. Submitted to the Maine State Legislators. 2006.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/obesrpt.pdf>>
- American Lung Association. "State of the Air: 2003." Online posting. 2003. American Lung Association. 2006. <<http://lungaction.org/reports/stateoftheair2003.html>> Path: Maine
- Brown, Maureen; MaineHousing. Telephone conversation. 15 July 2009.
- Center for Responsible Lending. "New Study Says Predatory Lending in Maine is Growing." Online posting. 1 July 2009. Center for Responsible Lending. 13 Feb. 2006.  
<<http://www.responsiblelending.org/media-center/press-releases/archives/study-predatory-lending-in-maine-is-growing.html>>
- CMAI Steering Committee. Getting Old in Maine. Online posting. Jan. 2001. Coalition for Maine Aging. 2006. <[www.umext.maine.edu/reports/Aging01.doc](http://www.umext.maine.edu/reports/Aging01.doc)>
- Foundation for Health Coverage Education. "Federal Poverty Levels." Online posting. 23 Jan. 2009. Foundation for Health Coverage Education. 2006.  
<[http://www.coverageforall.org/pdf/FHCE\\_FedPovertyLevel.pdf](http://www.coverageforall.org/pdf/FHCE_FedPovertyLevel.pdf)>
- Heading for Home. "Residential Development Guidelines." Online posting. 27 July 2009. Heading for Home. 12 May 2005. <<http://headingforhome.org/residential-development-endorsement-guidelines/>>
- Healthy Maine Partnerships. "The Burden of Overweight and Obesity in Maine: County and Regional Differences in Rates of Overweight and Obesity Among Maine Adults." Online posting. Department of Health and Human Services; Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 6 July 2009. <<http://healthymainepartnerships.org/panp/resources.aspx>>
- Healthy Maine Partnerships. Tobacco Prevention & Control Advisory Report. Augusta: Department of Health and Human Services; Maine Center for Disease Control and Office of Substance Abuse; Department of Education. 2008.
- Maine Children's Alliance. Maine KIDS COUNT 2009 Data Book. Augusta: Maine Children's Alliance, 2009.
- Maine Health Access Foundation. "A Primer on HealthCare Coverage in Maine." Online posting. 2001. Maine Health Access Foundation. 6 July 2009.  
<<http://www.mehaf.org/pictures/primer.pdf>>
- MaineHousing. "Annual Point in Time Homeless Survey." Online posting. 28 January 2009. MaineHousing. 7 July 2009.  
<<http://www.mainehousing.org/Documents/Homeless/Homeless-PointInTime2009.pdf>>
- . "Emergency Shelters." Online posting. MaineHousing. 7 July 2009.  
<<http://www.mainehousing.org/HOMELESSShelters.aspx>>
- . "Maine Homeownership Facts 2008." Online posting. 2008. MaineHousing. 22 June 2009.  
<<http://www.mainehousing.org/Documents/HousingFacts/HomeownershipFacts/MaineHomeownershipFacts2008.pdf>>
- . "Subsidized Apartment Listings." Online posting. 22 June 2009. MaineHousing. 7 July 2009.  
<<http://www.mainehousing.org/RENTALSubsidizedHousing.aspx>>

- Maine State Planning Office. "Annual Estimates of Population of Maine Towns and Counties, April 2000 - July 2006." Online posting. 28 June 2007. Town Level Economic & Demographic Data. 22 June 2009.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/economic/towndata.htm>>
- Market Decisions LLC. Summary of MYDAUS/YTS Results. Portland: The Maine Center for Disease Control; The Office of Substance Abuse; Bureau of Health and Human Services, 2008.
- Merrill, Thomas. "Re: live births by town." E-mail to author. 15 July 2009.
- . "Re: state data vital statistics." E-mail to author. 2 July 2009.
- State of Maine. "Active Dentists in Maine." Online posting. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics. 7 July 2009.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bohodr/dentlist06.htm>> Path: Table 2
- . "County Profiles: Waldo." Online posting. 1 July 2009. Center for Workforce Research and Information. 7 July 2009. <<http://www.state.me.us/labor/lmis/county-economic-profiles/PDFs/Waldo.pdf>>
- . "Covered Employment and Wages by Major Industry Division." Online posting. Maine Department of Labor. 22 June 2009. <<http://www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/data.html>> Path: Employment and Wages by Area and Industry; 2008 County
- . "Dentists Licensed in Maine." Online posting. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics. 7 July 2009.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bohodr/dentlist06.htm>> Path: Table 1
- . "First Annual Report of the Community Preservation Advisory Committee." Online posting. Feb 2003. State of Maine 121<sup>st</sup> Legislature. 27 July 2009.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/spo/boards/communitypreservation/reports.htm>>
- . "Geographic Distribution of Programs and Benefits for December 2008." Online posting. 2 Jan. 2009. Department of Health and Human Services. 26 June 2009.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/OIAS/reports/2008/geo-december-overflow.pdf>>
- . "High School Graduation Rates." Online posting. 2 July 2009. Maine Department of Education. 30 June 2009.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/education/enroll/grads/comprate/comprate.htm>>
- . Labor Market Analysis. Online posting. 30 June 2009. Maine Department of Labor Center for Workforce Research and Information. 7 July 2009.  
<<http://198.182.162.220/default.asp>>
- . "Poverty Rates, 2007." Online posting. 19 June 2009. Center for Workforce Research and Information. 2 July 2009. <<http://www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/countyProfiles.html>>
- . "Poverty rate levels are higher than average." Online posting. 19 June 2009. Center for Workforce Research and Information. 2 July 2009.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/countyProfiles.html>>
- . "Public School October 1<sup>st</sup> Attending Enrollment." Online posting. 2 July 2009. Maine Department of Education. 30 June 2009.  
<<http://www.maine.gov/education/enroll/attending/index.shtml>>
- . "State and County Livable Wage Estimates, 2008". Online posting. 1 July 2009. Center for Workforce Research and Information. 14 July 2009.  
<<http://www.state.me.us/labor/lmis/livableWage.html>>
- . "Waldo County Free and Reduced Lunch Report." Online posting. 31 Oct. 2008. Department of Education. 18 Feb. 2009. <<http://www.maine.gov/education/doeindex.htm>> Path: E-rate – School Lunch Report. Keyword: 2009; County.

- National Education Association Health Information Network. "Federal Child Nutrition Programs for Schools." Online posting. 2005. National Education Association Health Information Network. 6 July 2009. <<http://www.neahin.org/programs/physical/federalprograms.htm>>
- United States. "American FactFinder Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2000 – 2007." Online posting. Bureau of the Census. 2 Feb. 2009. <<http://www.factfinder.census.gov>> Keyword: Waldo County, Maine. Path: Main; Geography; Data Sets; Results.
- . "Maine Medical Insurance Statistics." Online posting. 2005. Bureau of the Census.
- . "States Ranked by Percent of Population Age 65 and Older." Online posting. Apr. 2003. Population Reference Bureau. 22 June 2009. <<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2003/WhichUSStatesAretheOldest.aspx>>
- . "Selected Economic Characteristics." Online posting. Bureau of the Census. 22 June 2009. <<http://factfinder.census.gov>> Keyword: Waldo County, Maine. Path: Main; Fact Sheet.
- . "State and County QuickFacts." Online posting. 5 May 2009. Bureau of the Census. 22 June 2009. <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/23/23027.html>>
- . "Department of Health and Human Services: Supplementary Information". Federal Register 65.24, 4 Feb. 2000: 5647.
- Wyman, Paula. "Re: Waldo County data request." E-mail to the author. 16 July 2009.



**OUR SERVICES**

[Home](#) [About WHCA](#) [News](#) [Contact / Locations](#) [Resources](#) [Donate / Volunteer](#) [Job Opportunities](#)

[Open All](#) | [Close All](#)

- [Business Assistance](#)
- [Child & Family Services](#)
- [Farm to Market](#)
- [Financial Services](#)
- [Heating & Utilities](#)
- [House & Home](#)
- [Medication Assistance](#)
- [Rental Assistance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Vehicle Purchase](#)
- [Weatherization](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)  
to receive our  
email newsletter  
[our privacy statement](#)



... with weatherization and home improvement.

**How can we help?**

Washington Hancock Community Agency is a community action agency dedicated to fighting poverty and helping low-income people in Down East Maine. We offer a wide range of services including heating assistance, transportation, weatherization, small business assistance, tax preparation and more.



WHCA brings community resources together to help people in Washington County and Hancock County achieve self-sufficiency and a better quality of life.

**A message from our Executive Director**

For more than 40 years, WHCA has been helping people improve their lives by providing programs that encourage families to become self-sufficient and respond to their basic needs as well as programs that offer them a brighter future. WHCA has created a number of innovative programs that make a difference in the lives of families in Down East Maine. I hope you find the information on our website to be helpful and enlightening.

If you need help and don't find it on this website, call us and we'll do our best to make sure you get what you need. If you can help us help others, we appreciate your support.



Timothy King, WHCA Executive Director

*Timothy J King*

“ In a time when my faith in people was very low, WHCA showed me I could trust them. This I will never forget, 'cause WHCA in my book is the best.”  
~ April Morse

[Top of Page](#)



[WHCA News](#) [Fundraisers](#)

**WHCA NEWS**

**[Car Wash to Benefit Helping Hands Garage](#)**

Helping Hands Garage is hosting a charity car wash in the Washington Hancock Community Agency ... [full story »](#)

**[Retreat for Caregivers](#)**

A retreat for Hancock County Caregivers will be held on Friday, August 7, from 9:30 ... [full story »](#)

**[Volunteers Needed for Friendship Cottage](#)**

Friendship Cottage is seeking volunteers who are caring and committed to join its mission to ... [full story »](#)

**[Hospitals Help Patients Save Money and Win Prizes](#)**

In an effort to spread the word and sign up more patients for its Downeast ... [full story »](#)

[View all news articles.](#)

**WHCA Small Business Needs Assessment Project**  
**Final Report**  
**April 14, 2008**  
**Down East Business Alliance**

**Project Background**

In setting its goals, the WHCA board issued this charge to the agency: “In cooperation with other regional economic development partners, WHCA will undertake an assessment of the needs of micro-enterprises in Washington and Hancock Counties, focusing on Washington County first, based on the results of the Margaret Chase Smith *Poverty In Maine Report of 2006 and Updates*.

In order to address this goal, the Down East Business Alliance invited two other business development partners to conduct a needs assessment of micro businesses.

Our planning effort began in mid July 2008. Keith Small contacted four of our local economic development partners and invited them to join us in conducting an assessment of needs. Two people, Ruth Cash-Smith of Women’s Business Center of Coastal Enterprises, Incorporated, and Georgie Kendall of Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community, accepted our invitation. As we began our planning, we invited members of the Washington County: One Community Economic Development committee to join us in a conference call to design our strategy for conducting this assessment.

**Methodology**

We decided to offer two opportunities for Washington County micro businesses to participate in a focus group: one in Calais, the other in Machias. We chose the focus group structure over a community-wide meeting because it allowed us to dig a bit deeper concentrate on quality of information, rather than quantity. Ruth Cash-Smith, a skilled facilitator, agreed to lead the focus group discussion.

The three partner organizations (Washington Hancock Community Agency, Women’s Business Center, and Women, Work and Community) prepared a list of 86 Washington County businesses to receive an invitation. We made an extra effort to identify businesses that had not been a consumer of any of our business services, so as to attract businesses with a new perspective and those who had not been influenced by any of the project organizers.

We developed our list by reviewing the classified pages of several local newspapers and by noting businesses as the three of us drove across the county on other business. It required significant additional effort to secure complete mailing addresses for the invitations.

To ensure a good cross section of Washington County micro businesses and to meet the demands of operating business owners, we scheduled two breakfast meetings, each two hours in duration. The invitation offered the opportunity to each of the 86 businesses to

select either the Calais or Machias location. Since we had received several affirmative RSVP's to the Machias location and only one to the Calais location, we decided to cancel the Calais focus group breakfast. The one affirmative responder from Calais agreed to attend the Machias.

### **Outcome**

Although we were hoping for a larger turnout, seven people representing six businesses attended the Machias breakfast focus group. The smaller group allowed our focus group facilitator, Ruth Cash Smith, to elicit more expansive answers. The participants appreciated the opportunity to offer their opinions and enjoyed significant networking time after the focus group concluded; actually, they remained in the restaurant talking among themselves for an additional half hour. Two of the seven completed a post-focus group survey.

### **Findings**

The results of the focus group provided our three organizations with confirmation of information that we already understood:

- ◆ Many businesses are not aware of our services or if they are, have chosen not pursue assistance.
- ◆ We heard that they, like many other micro businesses, are struggling to stay in business and are frustrated that they lose a lot of local business to the chain stores or to Ellsworth and Bangor. The tough economy seemed to create contradictions such as “We want people to buy more local products, but low-income local people often seek out the low price point available from local chain stores or those in Bangor.”
- ◆ They want the government to cut back on regulations, cut their taxes, and leave them alone, but, on the other hand, they are adamant that the government could be fixing some of their business problems.
- ◆ They also seemed to struggle a bit with the collaborative concept and the long-term commitment of any community-wide or county-wide Buy Local campaigns.
- ◆ Although none of these businesses had any prior experience with our programs, they agreed that our three organizations appeared to be on the right track by offering programs that provide access to financing, offer training on business planning principles, initiate opportunities to network with other like-minded businesses, and encourage business to collaborate whenever possible.

Attachments:

- Sample Invitation
- Focus Group Discussion Questions
- Business owner Questionnaire
- Minutes from Machias Focus Group
- Two completed business questionnaires



## Our Programs

[Community Services](#)

[Energy & Housing](#)

[Health services](#)

[Nutrition Services](#)

[Employment & Training](#)

[Keeping Seniors Home](#)

### Volunteers Needed!

Everyone Welcome!  
For more information, call  
WMCA  
1-800-645-9636



Maine WIC

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS THAT MAY ASSIST YOU

We understand that the economy has put some people in difficult situations. Some people may not be aware of our services.

To better serve you, we are making available a site where you can indicate our services that you may need. Please submit the form and our staff will follow up with you to provide support.

[To complete our interactive form please click here.](#)

### [Your Guide to WMCA](#)

**Western Maine Community Action (WMCA)** is a social service agency that has been providing services for over 40 years to people living in the western mountain region of Maine. WMCA is funded with private, local, state and federal money. In fulfilling our mission, we will focus on these major objectives:

- To act as a representative of, and to advocate with and for people, on issues that affect them.
- To provide quality services to meet identified human needs in the most cost effective way possible.
- To promote sensitivity and to foster cooperation within programs, organizations, and communities in meeting the needs of people.
- To mobilize and work with all resources in developing innovative solutions to community problems.

WMCA is a United Way Agency and Equal Opportunity Organization with programs funded in full or in part by: United Way; Franklin County; DHS-CSBG; HHS; DOL; Rural Development: DOE; or Family Planning Assoc. AA/EEO Employer



Family Planning Association of  
Maine



Maine Community Action  
Association



A United Way Agency



The Maine Employment Resource  
Maine Career Center

## Western Maine Community Action, Inc. Community Needs Assessment FY2009-2010

Western Maine Community Action's (WMCA) process in conducting its community needs assessment uses the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center University of Maine/Maine Community Action Association **Poverty in Maine Report** and its updates as a foundation for analyzing emerging trends, gaps in service, and community needs at the county level. This foundational document provides a wealth of information by county in its full report, and its semi-annual updates provide the most recent data available. The most recent update is the Poverty in Maine Update April 2009.

Link to the Poverty in Maine Update April 2009: <http://mainecommunityaction.org/>

In addition to the Poverty Report, Western Maine Community Action regularly "mines" the LIHEAP database for information and data associated with the energy and housing needs of its low income customers. An example of a report prepared using the LIHEAP data is **Families at Risk Winter 2008**. This report is available through a link at the Maine Community Action Association website: <http://mainecommunityaction.org/>

WMCA's Senior Managers routinely review and update needs assessment data using program-specific data to help forecast emerging needs and gaps in service. Examples of some of this program specific-data includes:

### **Maine and national Department of Labor website data:**

[http://www.maine.gov/labor/labor\\_stats/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/labor/labor_stats/index.html)

<http://www.bls.gov/>

### **Maine Family Planning Association and the Center for Disease Control website data:**

[http://www.mainefamilyplanning.org/docs/resources\\_links/](http://www.mainefamilyplanning.org/docs/resources_links/)

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>

### **Maine CDC website resources and data:**

[http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/health\\_indicator\\_comparison.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/health_indicator_comparison.htm)

### **Housing and Energy, including Maine Keeping Seniors Home, data:**

<http://www.mainehousing.org/DATAHousingFacts.aspx>

<http://www.mainehousing.org/DATAHousingReports.aspx>

March 2009: Housing Affordability in Maine—Taking Stock Report

## Western Maine Community Action, Inc. Community Needs Assessment FY2009-2010

<http://www.mainehousingcoalition.org/reports.asp>

**Maine Office of Elder Services data:**

[http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/policy/p\\_r\\_reports.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/policy/p_r_reports.htm)

In addition, Western Maine Community Action uses data collected and analyzed by the Maine State Planning Office to compare and contrast trend data gathered through other sources. Data available through this website includes some town level data, which is useful in helping to confirm anecdotal information and customer feedback.

**Maine State Planning Office data:**

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/economic/index.htm>

Western Maine Community Action's programs also have several databases used for collecting client information which are regularly used to develop reports. These reports serve as a source for local level trend analysis and program needs forecasting. Examples of these databases include Employment and Training's OSOS system, Health Service's Ahlers system, the WIC database, and the foundational database mentioned earlier—LIHEAP's MERAC system.

A year ago, Western Maine Community Action contracted with Patrick Murphy to survey our customers and hold focus groups to help the agency understand where its services are well-marketed, and where information gaps exist. This thorough report was helpful to the agency in helping to determine where it needs to increase its efforts so that customers in need know where to find the resources provided by WMCA. The Patrick Murphy report is available for review.

### **FY2009-2010 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

#### ***Employment and Training Needs:***

The local unemployment rate has escalated dramatically, and is forecasted to trend even higher in the short-term. With increasingly high unemployment rates, and closures of local businesses, WMCA is renewing its efforts to connect people in need with the resources to help them become economically self-sufficient.

#### ***Health Services Needs:***

## **Western Maine Community Action, Inc. Community Needs Assessment FY2009-2010**

As more people become unemployed, WMCA's Health Services clinics are experiencing higher client loads and inquiries from people seeking health care. In some cases, these requests are for general medical needs as people are losing health insurance.

### ***Housing and Energy:***

In the western mountains region of Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties, higher fuel and energy costs have become the standard, not the exception. Although there was a short period of time where gas and home heating costs decreased, in recent days, they are creeping ever upward. The need for energy conservation measures as a piece of the puzzle necessary to create a long-term solution is a priority.

### ***Keeping Seniors Home:***

The number of elders in this region is growing and the need to help them maintain their independence is increasing. Available resources to meet the need are being sought.

### ***Nutrition Services:***

The number of WIC clients being served by WMCA is at an all-time high. These new customers cannot be explained as being solely the result of an increase in pregnancy rates. Analysis seems to link the increase as a result of newly jobless families with a need to seek all available resources in order to sustain or maintain self-sufficiency. Agency capacity to meet this increasing demand is being strained.

### ***Agency Capacity:***

With WMCA experiencing a marked increase in demands for a variety of services, the agency is using all of the data collected through the data sources listed in this needs assessment to respond with a work plan designed to address the needs of all of its customers:

- Newly unemployed
- Un- and under-insured families
- Elder home owners
- Residents seeking to sustain or maintain self-sufficiency, or to become self-sufficient for the first time.



*Helping People Help Themselves*



<a href="#">About YCCAC</a>	<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	<a href="#">Directions YCCAC</a>	<a href="#">Directions YCCHC</a>	<a href="#">Employment</a>	<a href="#">News</a>
-----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------

York County Community Action  
**3rd Annual Golf Scramble**  
*The Links at Outlook Golf Course  
 South Berwick, Maine*



**Thursday, August 13** Click [Here](#)  
**8:30 a.m. tee-off** to Register



[\*Neighborhood Stabilization  
 Program Construction Contractor's Information\*](#)

*It's easy to make a donation...*  
[Click here for more information](#) or click below




[\*Spring Community Advocate\*](#)

**York County Community Action Head Start**  
**Community Assessment Update for 2009**

A Community Assessment is completed in York County Community Action Head Start's (YCHS) service area once every three years prior to the first year continuation grant application. The information and data collected are in accordance with the outline in the Standard 1305.3. This report will serve as an update to the April 2008 Community Assessment. This material provides valuable information regarding the needs and resources of Head Start eligible children and families, and the communities in which they reside. The analysis of this data, collected during the update process, will be used to make decisions regarding the location and program options for specific centers at York County Head Start and to update the goals and objectives for the program.

**Demographic Facts**

Population growth in York County has been faster than the state average.  
The share of foreign born residents is higher than the statewide average, but lower than the national average.

The population is younger than state average.

Educational attainment is similar to the state average.

Most income measures are higher than the average and poverty rates are lower.

Population density: 135 people per square mile

Largest cities (population): Biddeford (21,594), Sanford (21,252), Saco (18,164)

Population born outside U.S.: 1.8%

Median age: 40 years

Average household size: 2.31

Population age 25+ with:

High school diploma - 89.6%

Bachelors or higher degree - 24.3%

Average work commute: 21 minutes

(Maine Department of Labor - Center for Workforce Research and Information – [maine.gov/labor](http://maine.gov/labor))

**Business/Economic Update**

**Workforce Facts**

The civilian labor force continues to grow steadily. Residents employed grew steadily until 2007 when numbers began to level off, and then declined in 2009.

Eleven percent of Maine jobs are with employers in York County.

There is a larger share of jobs in manufacturing, accommodations, and food service sectors than most regions of the state.

A smaller share of jobs is in health care, professional and technical and construction.

The average monthly earnings in York County are slightly lower than the statewide average.

The job turnover rate is significantly higher than the statewide average primarily due to a higher concentration of high turnover industries such as retail trade, accommodation and food services.

The share of jobs in food preparation and serving, architectural and engineering, and production occupations is high.

(Maine Department of Labor - Center for Workforce Research and Information – [maine.gov/labor](http://maine.gov/labor))

Maine ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation with job losses with the majority of these being reported in the retail and manufacturing sectors. There were 2,600 jobs lost in Maine in the first 2 months of 2009. According to the Maine Department of Labor, the unemployment rate for Maine in January 2009 was 7.8%. This was up from 4.8% in January 2008. The Biddeford/South Portland/Portland Labor Market Area was 6.8%, Sanford Area 11%, Dover/Rochester, NH (includes Lebanon, Berwick, South Berwick) 12.9%, and the Portsmouth, NH Area (includes Kittery, Eliot) 8.5% during January 2009. The Maine CareerCenter launched a new online job bank for workers and employers in November 2008 and over 70,000 workers have registered to date. Job gains were recorded in educational and health services.

York County reported the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest foreclosure rate in January with Penobscot County having the highest. This translates into one in every 1,210 housing units in York County. The national rate for the same timeframe was one in every 466 units. One in every 2,262 Maine housing units received a foreclosure filing during January 2009. (Realtytrac.com)

In February 2009, new foreclosure summons for York County Towns were:

Sanford – 11

Biddeford – 10

Buxton – 9

Old Orchard Beach & North Waterboro – 7

Berwick & Saco – 6

Wells – 5

Kennebunk & Kennebunkport – 4

A number of towns had less than 4 with the least amount in Kittery, East Waterboro, Kittery Point, and Eliot at one foreclosure in each.

York County has the most new foreclosures in the state for February 2009 with 106. Penobscot county came in next with 66, then Kennebec with 34 and Cumberland with 24. In January 2009 foreclosure filings in Maine were up 49% from January 2008 and up 14% from December 2008. (Realtytrac.com) New foreclosure filings for Maine in February are 261. Year to date foreclosures are 569.

The state real estate slump is having a crisis impact on families of low-income, according to the Portland Press Herald. (1/5/09) There is a trickle effect to HUD Housing from a lack of revenue dollars from the real estate market coming into communities in the form of transfer taxes from home sales. This type of revenue has been down 44.4% from its peak 3 years ago. In response, the agency has eliminated a subsidy program that aims to persuade developers to set aside portions of their subdivisions for affordable housing, and cut another program that seeks to keep previously affordable housing units from being sold at market rates. A program to make energy-efficiency repairs to homeless shelters also has been scrapped, along with a program that helped people replace inefficient mobile homes built before 1976.

“In York County, real estate transfer taxes dropped more than a third between 2007 and 2008, from \$591,000 to \$392,000. Besides transfer taxes, fees paid to have deeds and mortgages recorded with the county fell from \$1.3 million in 2007 to \$1.1 million in 2008 because of slow sales.” (Boston.com 1/5/09)

As well, since the current economic downturn, there have been major revenue losses for York County towns due to a decrease in excise taxes collected because fewer residents are buying new cars and paying the taxes that go along with such purchases. (TheYorkCountyIndependent.net, 1/16/09)

At 925 employees, Goodall Memorial Hospital is the largest employer in the Sanford area. Due to an increase in patients who need free care, a long-standing delay in state and federal reimbursement for MaineCare (Medicaid) patients and bad debt, Goodall was forced to lay off 30 employees in January 2009 and, in March, cut salaries to all employees to avoid any further layoffs. The hospital president, Darlene Stromstad, said employees have been told the pay cut and benefit reduction will be in effect for one year. Stromstad estimates that charity care has doubled to 10 percent of revenues and that 21 percent of Goodall's patients use the state's Medicaid program. She stated that the hospital is waiting for MaineCare reimbursement for 2006-2008, and by the end of May 2009 will be owed about \$11 million. Stromstad reported, however, that an increase in MaineCare reimbursements from the economic stimulus package will not bring back any of the hospital jobs lost in January. Some of the Goodall layoffs came from the Healthy Families program which provides home visiting services and parenting supports to first-time parents. (Journal Tribune On-Line, March 26, 2009)

After 159 years of operation in downtown Biddeford, WestPoint Home will close, marking the end of the city's textile manufacturing era. As reported in the Biddeford-Saco-OOB Courier on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, WestPoint Home Inc. announced April 3<sup>rd</sup> that it will close its doors in June putting 121 employees out of work. Many employees have worked for the company for 30 to 40 years. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shifts had been let go earlier. It was reported that workers would receive support from the County's Rapid Response Team and the Department of Economic and Community Development. Another mill complex nearby has been re-developed into dozens of small businesses and 40 apartments. The Town of Biddeford will be looking at possibilities for re-development of the WestPoint Home property.

Wood Structures, Inc., founded in 1966, has been one of New England's leading wood truss manufacturers and distributor of engineered wood products for homebuilders and contractors. The main office in Biddeford and the manufacturing facility in Saco will be closing soon, putting 168 people out of work. The offices of Senators Snowe and Collins have reported that "the current economic downturn continues to have an effect on the number of new homes being built in Maine". Saco Mayor Ron Michaud states that this closure "will affect the local economy as well, such as gas stations and sandwich shops that receive business from these employees". (Portland Press Herald, 3/17/09 – Maine's Economics Forecasting Committee)

Approximately 150 manufacturing jobs were lost in Berwick in September 2008. Prime Tanning Co., which has held a central role in Berwick since 1935, closed its Berwick plant and transferred operations to its Hartland facility in central Maine. The company blamed the closure on skyrocketing energy and chemical costs, and weaker sales. According to the Portland Press Herald, the U.S. Department of Labor announced a \$528,722 retraining grant in January for workers laid off from Prime Tanning. The grant will provide assistance with re-employment activities from learning new job skills to paying for child care and transportation.

The largest employer in Wells, R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co., will be closing its catalog and direct-marketing printing plant by mid-June putting 374 employees out of work, according to the Associated Press. (Maine Biz On-Line 3/4/09) Donnelley, a Chicago-based company, bought Spencer Press in

2005. Spencer Press was one of the country's largest privately owned printing companies and employed 700 local workers in 2005 when the company was sold to Donnelley. According to the Journal Tribune (3/6/09), the company has offered severance packages, subsidized health insurance, and out-placement services to its employees. The Maine Department of Labor has applied for Federal funds to provide re-training for workers. At least ½ of the Donnelley employees live in Sanford, according to comments made to the Journal Tribune by the Sanford/Springvale Chamber of Commerce President. The Rapid Response Team in York County, lead by the Sanford/Springvale Career Center will set up sessions with employees regarding their options and available resources by mid-March. According to the Journal Tribune, workers will face a tight labor market. The Maine State Senate Offices are preparing a resource fair for the workers in April 2009. In December 2008, the York Labor Market unemployment rate was 6.2%. In Sanford, it was 9.1%, and most of the Donnelley employees reside in these two areas. The Town of Wells will lose about \$120,000 annually in property taxes from the company.

According to the Journal Tribune (2/24/09), the equivalent of 6 municipal positions will be eliminated in Sanford. The town budget also proposes a 5% cut in funding to the Sanford/Springvale Libraries, a 10% cut in the town's contribution to the St. Thomas School (private school), and a 10% cut to external social service agencies, which includes York County Community Action Corporation.

School Administrative District #57 had planned to eliminate 18 positions, because the District was losing \$688,000 in state aid. As of March 26<sup>th</sup> of this year, the school district's proposed budget included money to reinstate 12 educational technicians who were laid off the beginning of March. The outcome of these lay-offs will be directly affected by the amount of stimulus funds coming in to that district, according to the Waterboro Reporter (March 26, 2009).

The Biddeford High School drop out rate, which was at 9% for 07-08, was higher than the state and county averages. The state and county rates are about 5%. As reported in the Biddeford Journal Tribune, the data shows that the majority of these students are from an economically disadvantaged background. The school district has hired a part-time Drop-Out Coordinator and has gone from allowing 2 credits to 10 credits for credit recovery courses. Schools in York County which had the highest drop out rate in 06-07 were Biddeford, Old Orchard Beach, and Sanford. Those with the lowest were Thornton Academy (Saco) and Kennebunk.

According to the Biddeford-Saco Courier (Nov. 20, 2008), as of November 13<sup>th</sup>, the Biddeford School District had identified 22 homeless youth for that current school year. Biddeford reports that this number has remained consistent over the last few years, unlike the Sanford school district which had 36 homeless youth two years ago. Then the number was 40 the next year and was 22 by November of the 2008 school year. Old Orchard Beach reported that their overall numbers haven't fluctuated drastically, but that families are remaining in homeless situations for a longer period of time. Many of these children are sleeping on other people's couches, in motels, at campgrounds after Labor Day or at the Homeless Shelter in Alfred.

### **Economic and Social Service Needs of York County Families**

According to the Every Child Matters document, "Homeland Insecurity", Maine is the third to lowest state for child welfare spending at \$31.88 per child, versus Rhode Island at \$181.34 or Vermont at \$126.31. Maine is also one of three states with the highest rate of food insecurity, surpassed only by

Mississippi and Louisiana. (mcep.org/news – 5/29/08) Additional food stamp funds in the farm bill will help USDA. It is estimated that every \$5 in food stamp benefits generates \$9.20 in local economy activity.

According to the 2009 Maine Kids Count, the number of children under the age of 5 living in poverty rose from 20% to 21.4% from 2005 to 2006. In 2007, 38% of Maine children under age 18 were living in low-income families. The number of children in poverty in York County decreased from 2004-05 to 2005-06, but the number of children receiving TANF increased from 2006-07 to 2007-08. The number of children receiving Food Stamps during this same time-period remained the same. Of the 19,000 children in Maine who are uninsured, 11,000 (58%) are in low-income families and are income eligible for MaineCare.

The number of children ages 0-17 in Department of Health and Human Services care in York County has decreased by 27 from December 2007 to December 2008. The number of reports made to DHHS by York County Head Start was down as well from 15 reports in 2007-2008 to 10 (from Sept. to March) in 2008-2009. The number of domestic assaults reported to police also decreased from 2005-06 to 2006-07.

Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. conducted an evaluation project that sought to determine the school readiness of kindergarteners at two sites in Maine. Part of the intent of this pilot project was to determine the feasibility of expanding the evaluation to a statewide level. One of the pilot sites was in Sanford and the initial data resulting from the study revealed 10 out of 174 of the kindergarteners screened had elevated blood lead levels. In York County, Biddeford and Sanford are considered “hot spots” for lead contamination in dwellings. The Town of Sanford, Sanford Housing Authority and Sanford Head Start have agreed to be partners in a Lead Prevention Project that will work to educate parents on identification of lead hazards, how to identify lead safe housing and ensuring their children’s safety. Landlords will be educated on identifying and managing lead hazards.

Data from the 2009 Kids Count showed that immunization rates of children ages 19-35 months in Maine decreased from 75.7% in 2006 to 72.9% in 2007.

### **Community Assets/Strengths**

York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC) is hosting a series of free workshops for homeowners who are facing or are concerned about foreclosure. The workshops are put on by Pine Tree Legal and are part of a state-wide foreclosure diversion program which is backed by the State Supreme Court. The program provides information and resources about dispute resolution that can result in residents retaining their home ownership.

YCCAC Head Start has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with York County Shelter Programs, Inc. with the purpose of increasing access and enhancing services to homeless children and families within the York County Shelter Program. The current agreement includes referrals of families to a Head Start home-based program to take place at the shelter in Alfred. Construction of a new larger facility in Sanford may allow for the development of a center-based preschool Head Start program to serve families who are homeless.

According to a Maine Housing press release, the State's expectation is that practically all of the money Maine Housing will receive through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be used directly or indirectly to create jobs in the housing sector and will create an economic boost to Maine's people and businesses. HUD's new Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) provides emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties. The Towns of Sanford and Waterboro are participating in this program through a cooperative effort involving the Towns, York County Shelters, Inc., York County Community Action Corporation and the Sanford Housing Authority. Maine Housing also anticipates receiving funds to prevent homelessness or to "rapidly re-house" people who become homeless. The funds may be used for purposes such as, security deposits, rental assistance, and hiring caseworkers to prevent homelessness.

Maine has the second highest rate of families reading to children every day at 64 percent. Using such programs as Raising Readers, sponsored by the Libra Foundation, Maine has increased the rate of families reading to children at least once a week from less than 80% in 2000 to more than 90% by 2005.

The Maine Humanities Council's Born to Read program serves children up to age five and the professionals who care for them. Born to Read now reaches nearly 7,000 children annually in 261 Maine towns and cities. Nearly 700 providers participate, and more than 7,000 books are given to families each year. (Maine Children's Alliance Newsletter 1/8/09)

The construction of a new Buxton elementary school, which will consolidate student populations from 4 aging Buxton schools into one K-5 building, was second on the state's prioritized list of proposed projects. The cost of the project will be \$28 million with a target completion date of August 2010. The School District has plans to develop Universal Pre-K and special needs classrooms in one of the nearby vacant elementary schools in 2010. SAD 6, SAD 60, and the Biddeford School District all plan to open Universal Pre-K programs in collaboration with Head Start and Child Development Services, (local LEA), sometime within the next 2 years. Meetings with each District Superintendent's Offices have already taken place. Towns that could be affected by these collaborations are North Berwick, Berwick, Lebanon, Limington, Buxton, and Biddeford.

Strategies for a Stronger Sanford Council is working with the Lafayette School Principal and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant group to create an after school program for fall 2009 for the Lafayette students as well as other neighborhood children. They plan to bring in older students and residents to tutor and mentor the younger students. The group is working with River Tree Center For The Arts, who are interested in giving free music lessons twice a week to Sanford students during the after school program.

# **ATTACHMENT K**

## **Poverty in Maine Updates**

**Volume I, Issue I February, 2008**  
**Volume I, Issue 2 August, 2008**  
**Volume 2, Issue I April, 2009**

**Maine Community Action Association**  
**Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center**

**Available from the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center Website  
at <http://mcspolicycenter.umaine.edu/>**



# POVERTY IN MAINE UPDATE

Volume I, Issue I

February, 2008

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Poverty Remains Persistent

Benefits

Food stamps

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Free and Reduced School Lunch Program

## Dear Readers,

This *Poverty in Maine Update* newsletter is created by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center with the support of the state's ten Community Action Agencies. Community Actions have been working to alleviate the conditions of poverty around our state for over 40 years. Periodically we will publish the most current information available that describes trends, profiles those most at risk, and measures the extent of poverty in our state.

This first issue focuses on two basic areas of survival—heat and food. This update shows the extent to which citizens in Maine increasingly are in need of assistance to heat their homes and feed their families. The information presented here also provides insight into the profiles of these families needing assistance and where they live in Maine. The next newsletter will focus on regional poverty rates, employment and income, and trends in these measures.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful in gaining a better understanding about our neighbors in need.

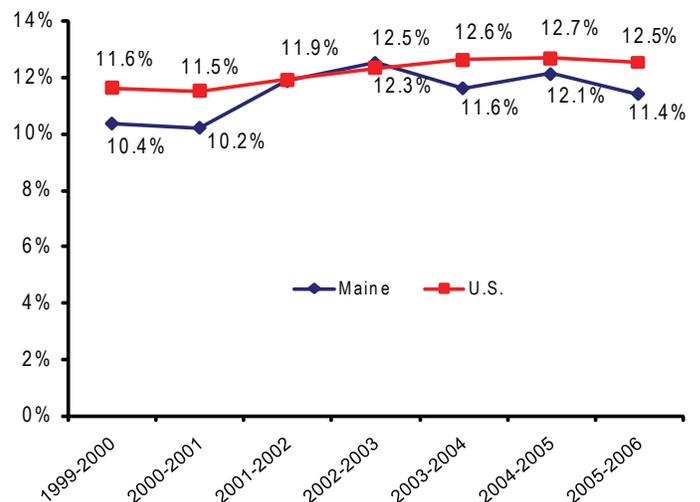
Fenwick L Fowler, President  
Maine Community Action Association

## Poverty Remains Persistent

Maine's two-year average poverty rate has fluctuated more than the U.S. rate. While Maine's rate has generally remained below the national average, the state's 2005-06 rate of 11.4% remains higher than its recent low of 10.2% in 2000-2001.

Although figures will not be available for some time, analysts suggest that the recent national economic downturn is likely to result in worsening poverty rates by 2007-2008.

Maine and U.S. Poverty Rates, 2-Year Averages



Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

Margaret Chase Smith  
Policy Center  
University of Maine

Maine Community  
Action Association

# Benefits

## 2006 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family or Household	
1	\$ 9,800
2	13,200
3	16,600
4	20,000
For each additional person, add	3,400

Poverty guidelines are issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and are used in determining financial eligibility for many federally-funded programs, including food stamps, the free and reduced school lunch program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Head Start, parts of Medicaid, and many other

benefits and programs. Some programs use a percentage multiple in determining eligibility, and many programs have other provisions in addition to income (e.g., level of allowable assets, allowable deductions from income).

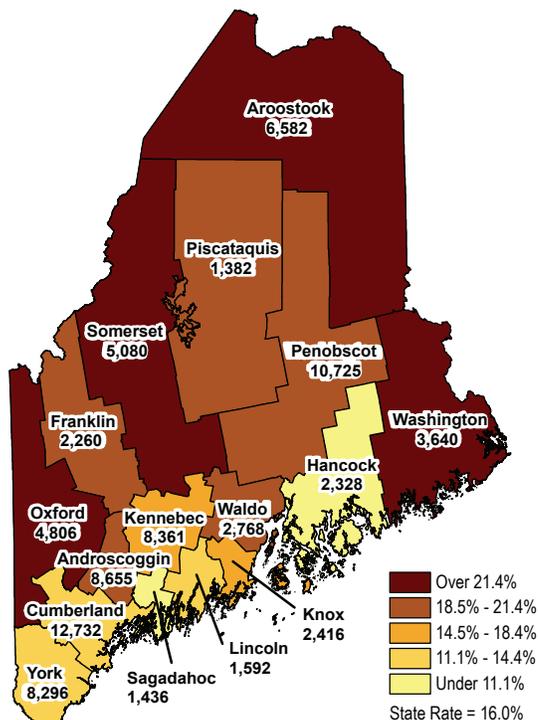
For example:

**LIHEAP eligibility:** Household income 150% of the federal poverty guideline, 170% for households with members age 60 and over or age 2 and under.

**National School Lunch Program eligibility:** Free lunch: household income 130% of federal poverty guideline; reduced price lunch: 185% of federal poverty guideline. (For schools offering breakfast, the same guidelines apply.)

**Food stamps eligibility:** Household gross monthly income at 130% of poverty guideline and net monthly income (after allowable deductions) at 100% of poverty guideline. In addition, there are levels of allowable assets and allowances made based on age, disability, and source of income.

Households Receiving Food Stamps  
Monthly Average by County, 2006-2007



Source: Average calculated from DHHS monthly report, Geographic Distribution of Programs and Benefits (RE-PM001)

## Food Stamps

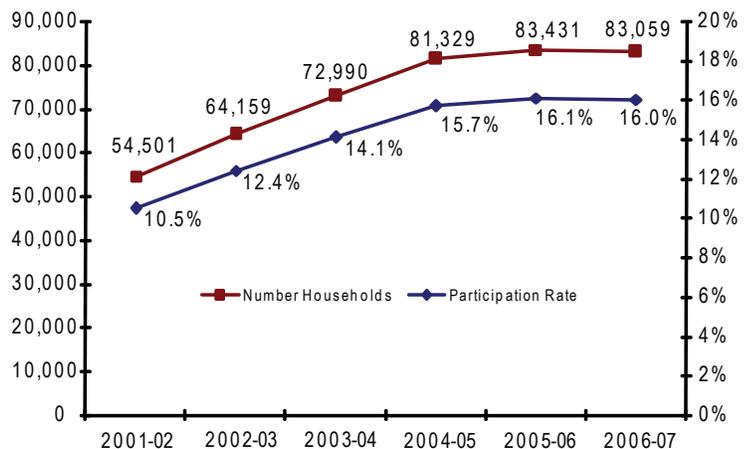
The USDA's food stamp program is one of the most wide-reaching low-income benefit programs in Maine. Statewide, in the most recent fiscal year (2006-2007), over 83,000 households (16% of the state's total) received food stamps. In Aroostook, Oxford, Somerset, and Washington counties, more than 21% of households received food stamps. Washington County's rate of 25.8% was the highest in the state, while in Sagadahoc and Hancock counties (lowest in the state) a little over 10% of households received food stamps. Cumberland and Penobscot counties had the largest absolute numbers of households receiving food stamps, and sparsely-populated Piscataquis County had the fewest.

## Food Stamps Trends

The number of households receiving food stamps and the overall participation rate leveled off in the last fiscal year, following a significant increase over the previous five years. Increased use was likely related to effective outreach by the Department of Health and Human Services to enroll eligible clients, and possibly to the switch from paper food stamps to a

debit card system, which was more acceptable to users. The leveling off in the number of households is likely an indicator that food stamp program utilization more truly reflects the level of need in Maine's population, compared with earlier years when there was likely under-enrollment. Food stamps is an "open-ended" program, with no set amount of money allocated to it each year. The level of funding increases as need and demand increase. If Maine experiences an economic downturn, we would expect to see an increase in participation in food stamps and similar programs.

Households Receiving Food Stamps and Program Participation Rates



## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

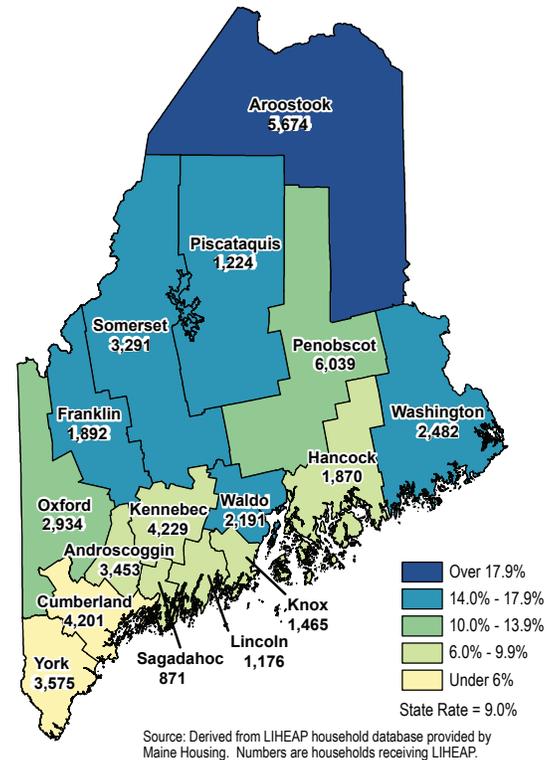
The recent surge in fuel prices, combined with colder than usual weather in the earlier part of the winter, has brought the plight of lower-income Mainers into sharp focus. CAP agencies are seeing a rise in applications for fuel assistance, including an increase in numbers of applications from families whose incomes are over the LIHEAP qualifying limit and who are therefore ineligible for the benefit. Unlike the food stamp program, LIHEAP has a fixed amount of funding, allocated to each state each year by the U.S. Congress. Funding does not automatically increase when there is increased demand due to increasing fuel prices or to more households in need, though in some years there have been supplemental emergency funds. This year, the same amount of money received from LIHEAP will buy a household much less fuel, leaving many families struggling to heat their homes and pay other bills.

In the previous fiscal year (2006-2007), 46,575 households were served by LIHEAP, or 9% of the state's households. The number of individuals served was 96,455.

LIHEAP household participation rates in 2006-2007 ranged from just under 4% in Cumberland County to over 18% in Aroostook County. The largest number of households served was in Penobscot County, 6,039.

The number of households receiving LIHEAP benefits is considerably less than the number receiving food stamps. There are some differences in eligibility requirements between the two programs that may account for some of the discrepancy. For example, food stamps may be issued to some members of a household, discounting the income of other members, while income of all household members is used in determining LIHEAP eligibility.

Households Receiving LIHEAP by County, 2006-2007



Food Stamp and LIHEAP Household Participation Rates, 2006-2007

	Households (2000 Census)	2006-07 Households Receiving Food Stamps, Monthly Average		2006-07 Households Receiving LIHEAP	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Androscoggin	42,028	8,655	20.6%	3,453	8.2%
Aroostook	30,356	6,582	21.7%	5,674	18.7%
Cumberland	107,989	12,732	11.8%	4,201	3.9%
Franklin	11,806	2,260	19.1%	1,892	16.1%
Hancock	21,864	2,328	10.6%	1,870	8.6%
Kennebec	47,683	8,361	17.5%	4,229	8.9%
Knox	16,608	2,416	14.5%	1,465	8.8%
Lincoln	14,158	1,592	11.2%	1,176	8.3%
Oxford	22,314	4,806	21.5%	2,934	13.1%
Penobscot	58,096	10,725	18.5%	6,039	10.4%
Piscataquis	7,278	1,382	19.0%	1,224	16.8%
Sagadahoc	14,117	1,436	10.2%	871	6.2%
Somerset	20,496	5,080	24.8%	3,291	16.0%
Waldo	14,726	2,768	18.8%	2,191	14.9%
Washington	14,118	3,640	25.8%	2,482	17.6%
York	74,563	8,296	11.1%	3,575	4.8%
STATE *	518,200	83,059	16.0%	46,575	9.0%

The discrepancy between the number of households receiving LIHEAP benefits and those receiving food stamps also underscores the difference between programs that are open-ended (“entitlements”) and those with annual funding limits.

The level of the LIHEAP benefit fluctuates depending on the number of eligible applicants, the price of fuel, and the specific level of funds appropriated.

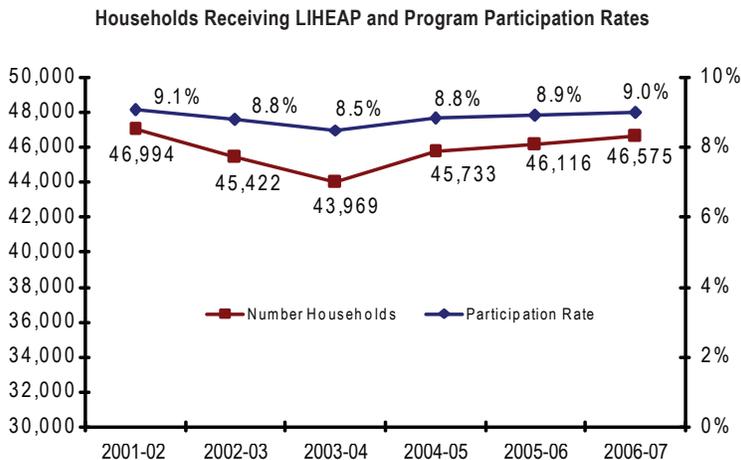
\*LIHEAP state totals include a few households with missing town information in the database.

LIHEAP Household Characteristics, 2006-2007

	Total Households	Total Individuals	Average Household Income	Applicant Age 65 or Over		Single Person Households	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Androscoggin	3,453	7,026	\$13,422	1,249	36.2%	1,714	49.6%
Aroostook	5,674	11,339	\$13,678	2,267	40.0%	2,683	47.3%
Cumberland	4,201	8,380	\$13,407	1,590	37.8%	2,141	51.0%
Franklin	1,892	3,985	\$13,641	587	31.0%	856	45.2%
Hancock	1,870	3,848	\$12,479	666	35.6%	872	46.6%
Kennebec	4,229	8,827	\$13,235	1,301	30.8%	1,998	47.2%
Knox	1,465	3,035	\$13,464	522	35.6%	670	45.7%
Lincoln	1,176	2,490	\$13,394	395	33.6%	525	44.6%
Oxford	2,934	6,178	\$12,927	960	32.7%	1,335	45.5%
Penobscot	6,039	12,839	\$13,016	1,732	28.7%	2,651	43.9%
Piscataquis	1,224	2,547	\$12,846	407	33.3%	547	44.7%
Sagadahoc	871	1,815	\$13,578	263	30.2%	404	46.4%
Somerset	3,291	6,913	\$12,906	1,078	32.8%	1,495	45.4%
Waldo	2,191	4,796	\$12,741	682	31.1%	954	43.5%
Washington	2,482	5,090	\$12,199	916	36.9%	1,135	45.7%
York	3,575	7,330	\$14,263	1,351	37.8%	1,748	48.9%
STATE*	46,575	96,455	\$13,242	15,966	34.3%	21,728	46.7%

\*LIHEAP state totals include a few households with missing town information in the database.

Over one-third of households statewide receiving LIHEAP benefits were elderly (age 65 or over); close to half were single-person households; and the average household income was \$13,342. Aroostook County, with one of the oldest populations in the state, had the highest proportion of elderly households receiving LIHEAP benefits (40%), and Penobscot had the lowest (28.7%).



LIHEAP Trends

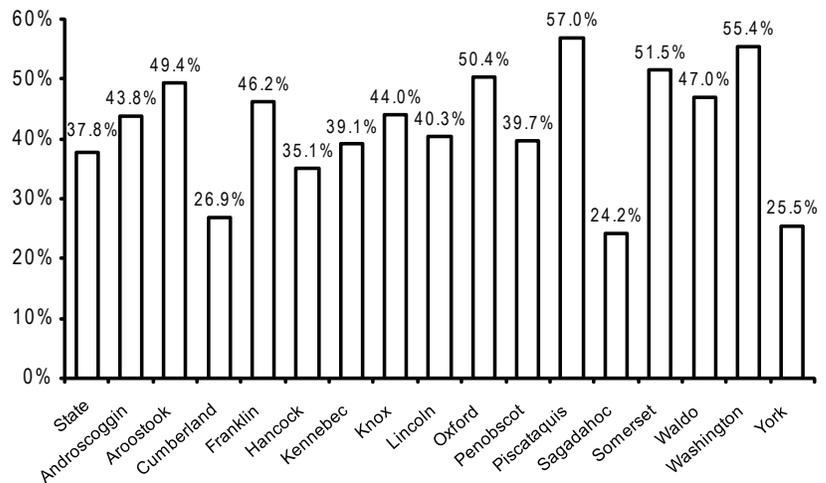
Over the last six years, the number of households receiving LIHEAP benefits has remained fairly stable, with a slight decline in 2002-2004. This is in contrast to the increase in households receiving food stamps during most of this same period.

## Free and Reduced School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program for students enrolled in grades K-12 is administered through the state's Department of Education, which operates the program through agreements with local schools.

Because eligibility levels are somewhat less stringent than for food stamps, the participation rate in the lunch program is somewhat higher than for food stamps. In the current school year (2007-2008), 66,162 students are eligible for free or reduced lunch, which is 37.8% of enrolled students.

Enrolled Students Eligible for Free or Reduced School Lunch, as of October 1, 2007



Free and Reduced Lunch School Eligibility

	Total Enrolled	Free Lunch		Reduced Lunch Eligible		Total Eligible	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Androscoggin	15,164	5,448	35.9%	1,191	7.9%	6,639	43.8%
Aroostook	11,032	4,243	38.5%	1,208	10.9%	5,451	49.4%
Cumberland	33,961	7,554	22.2%	1,583	4.7%	9,137	26.9%
Franklin	4,345	1,590	36.6%	419	9.6%	2,009	46.2%
Hancock	5,645	1,465	26.0%	514	9.1%	1,979	35.1%
Kennebec	16,555	5,145	31.1%	1,325	8.0%	6,470	39.1%
Knox	3,365	1,221	36.3%	259	7.7%	1,480	44.0%
Lincoln	4,004	1,286	32.1%	329	8.2%	1,615	40.3%
Oxford	10,158	4,067	40.0%	1,050	10.3%	5,117	50.4%
Penobscot	20,764	6,577	31.7%	1,674	8.1%	8,251	39.7%
Piscataquis	2,542	1,134	44.6%	314	12.4%	1,448	57.0%
Sagadahoc	3,932	762	19.4%	190	4.8%	952	24.2%
Somerset	8,913	3,660	41.1%	934	10.5%	4,594	51.5%
Waldo	5,343	1,973	36.9%	540	10.1%	2,513	47.0%
Washington	3,503	1,586	45.3%	356	10.2%	1,942	55.5%
York	25,757	5,051	19.6%	1,514	5.9%	6,565	25.5%
STATE	174,983	52,762	30.2%	13,400	7.7%	66,162	37.8%

Close to or greater than half the students in Aroostook, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Washington counties are eligible for free or reduced lunch. By way of contrast, only about one-quarter of students in Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and York counties are eligible.

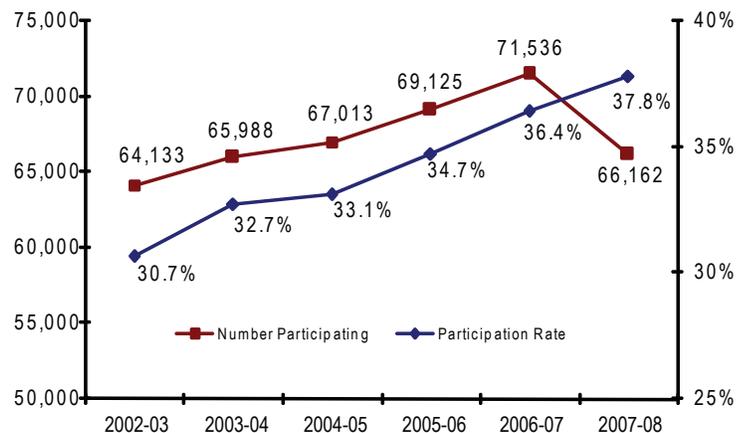
The percentage of eligible students is important not only as an indicator of poverty but also because having a higher percentage of eligible students entitles the school or district to other kinds of federal funds and programs aimed at disadvantaged students.

## School Lunch Program Trends

The percentage of students eligible for the school lunch program statewide has increased steadily over the past six years, from 30.7% in 2002-03 to 37.8% in the current school year.

The number of eligible students also increased each year until this year, when there was a marked decrease due to a decline in the overall student population.

Enrolled Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch and Program Participation Rates



## Sources

Food stamp information is computed from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services monthly report, Geographic Distribution of Programs and Benefits (RE-PM001). <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/OIAS/reports/reports.html>

LIHEAP information is derived from annual household databases provided to the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center by Maine Housing.

School Lunch Program information is computed from an annual report of the Maine State Department of Education. [http://portalx.bisoex.state.me.us/pls/doi\\_sfsr/eddev.ed534.ed534\\_parameters](http://portalx.bisoex.state.me.us/pls/doi_sfsr/eddev.ed534.ed534_parameters)

*Any and all figures presented here are the responsibility of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and not of the provider sources.*



5784 York Complex, #4 • University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469  
[www.umaine.edu/mcsc](http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc)



PO Box 200 • East Wilton, ME 04234-0200  
[www.mainecommunityaction.org](http://www.mainecommunityaction.org)



# POVERTY IN MAINE UPDATE

Volume 1, Issue 2

August, 2008

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Regional Poverty  
Disparities  
Continue

Income

Census-reported  
Income Estimates

Personal Income

Employment

Food Stamp  
Program News

Margaret Chase Smith  
Policy Center  
University of Maine

Maine Community  
Action Association

## Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the second Poverty in Maine Update newsletter, produced by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, University of Maine, with the support of the state's ten Community Action agencies. Our periodic newsletters aim to present a picture of poverty in Maine, based on the most current and reliable data available from state and federal sources. This issue focuses on the latest trends in regional poverty patterns, income and employment.

In the past several years, and especially in this most recent year, costs for gasoline, fuel oil, and food have risen at remarkably high rates while statewide median incomes have risen at a much slower pace. In assessing immediate trends, this combination of cost increases with very little offsetting income growth presents all of us with the very frightening possibility that many Maine families will go without heat this winter.

As this newsletter goes to publication there is no other more critically dangerous trend facing Maine's leaders than this issue of food and fuel. There are thousands of Maine families that will not have enough income to sustain themselves during this upcoming winter.

We hope that you find this newsletter useful in understanding the issues and scope of poverty and economic distress within the state. We also hope that the state's leaders will use this information to design policies and programs that are most responsive to the needs of Maine's most vulnerable citizens.

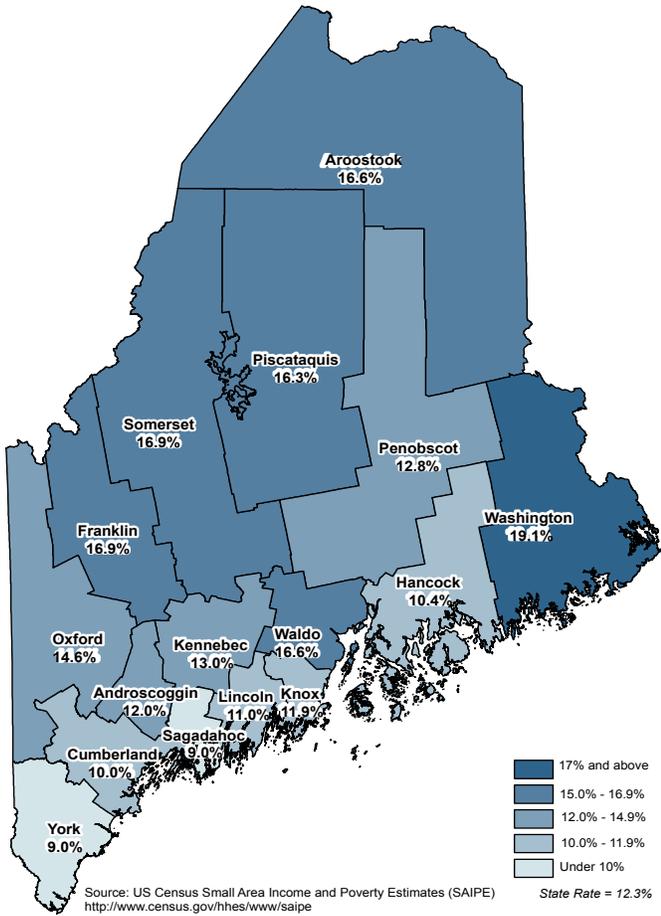
Matthew Smith, President  
Maine Community Action Association

## REGIONAL POVERTY DISPARITIES CONTINUE

The marked regional disparities in poverty that have persisted for decades continue in Maine. In 2005, the most recent year for which county-level poverty rates are available, individual poverty rates ranged from a high of 19.1% in Washington County, followed by Somerset and Franklin counties (16.9%), and Aroostook and Waldo counties (16.6%).

Lowest poverty rates in 2005 were in York and Sagadahoc counties (9%), followed by Cumberland County (10%) and Hancock County (10.4%).

Figure 1: Individual Poverty Rates, 2005

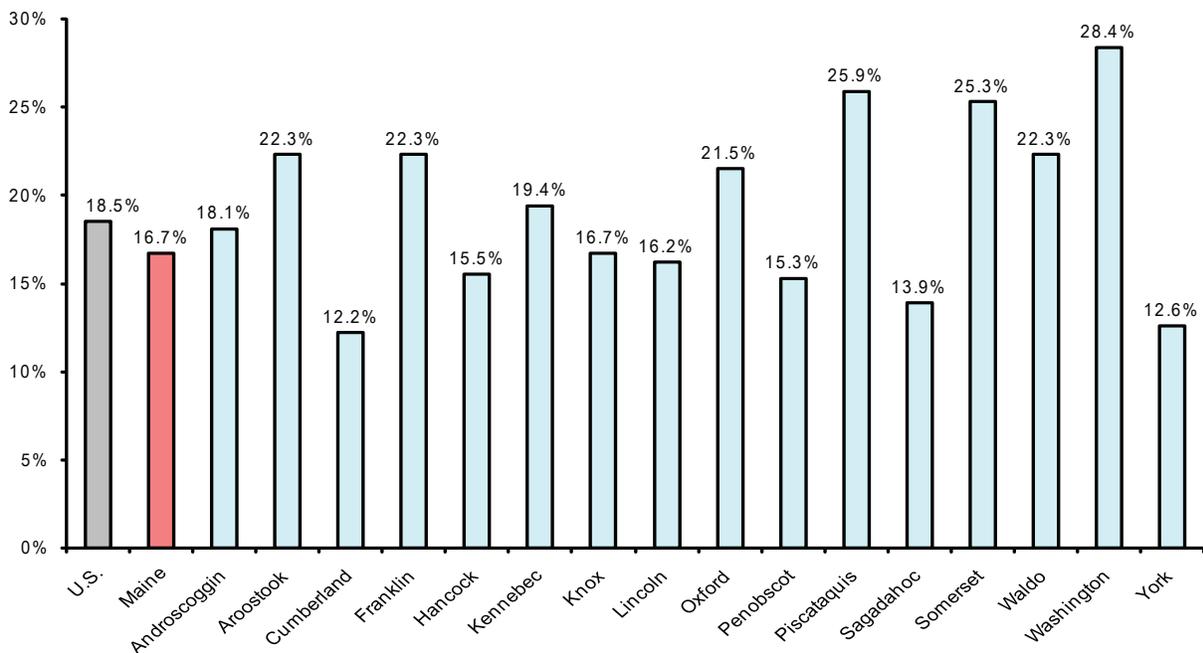


Nine counties had poverty rates above the state's rate of 12.3% in 2005 (Figure 1). In 2004, the state's individual poverty rate estimate was 11.5%. Compared with 2004, the poverty rate in 2005 increased in every county except Penobscot and Androscoggin; greatest increases were in Franklin, Oxford, and Piscataquis counties.

Poverty differentially impacts children. In 2005, an estimated 16.7% of Maine children age 17 and under were below poverty, compared with the national rate of 18.5% (Figure 2).

Regional disparities are also evident in child poverty rates. Highest rates of child poverty were in Washington (28.4%), Piscataquis (25.9%) and Somerset (25.3%) counties. Lowest child poverty rates were in Cumberland (12.2%) and York (12.6%) counties.

Figure 2: Age 0-17 in Poverty, 2005: U.S., Maine, and Maine Counties (Percent under 18 below poverty)



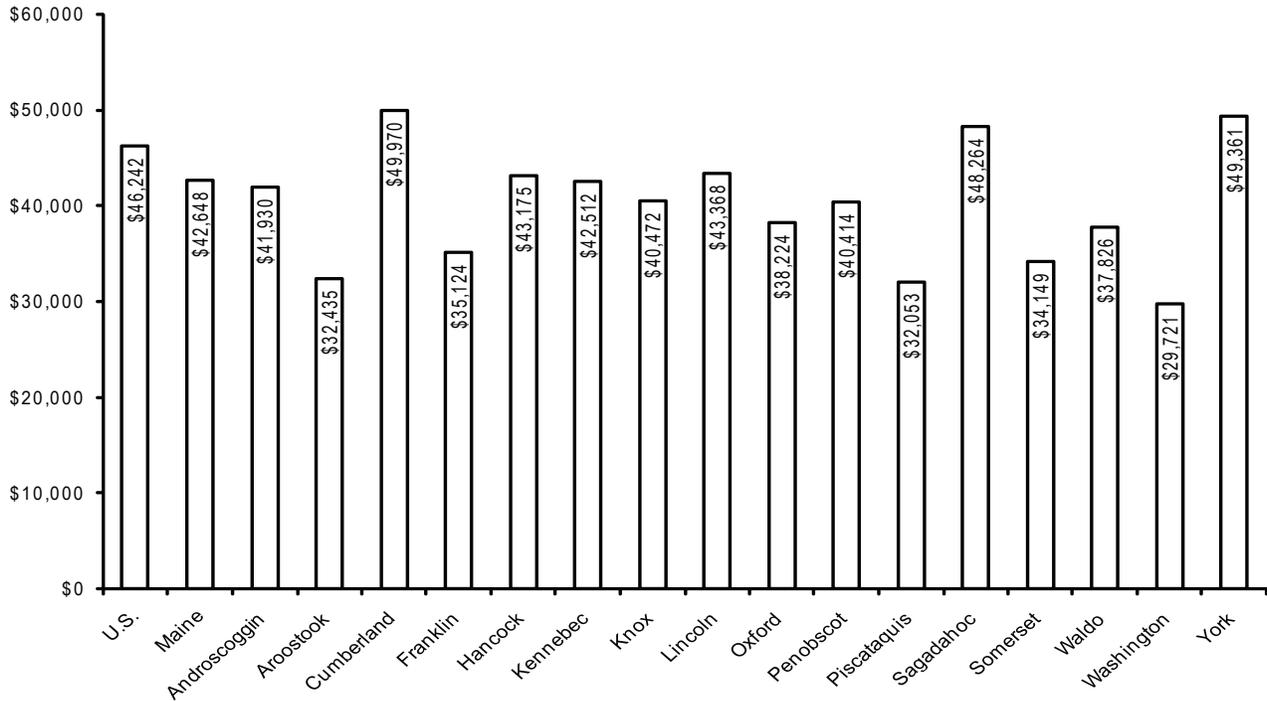
Source: U.S. Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2007)

# INCOME

## Census-reported Income Estimates

Maine is consistently in the lower tier of states in median household income. Maine's median household income averaged over the 3-year period from 2003 to 2005 was \$42,000, placing it as the 36th lowest state in the country (i.e., only 14 states had lower household incomes) (U.S. Census 2006).

Figure 3: Median Household Income, 2005: U.S., Maine and Maine Counties

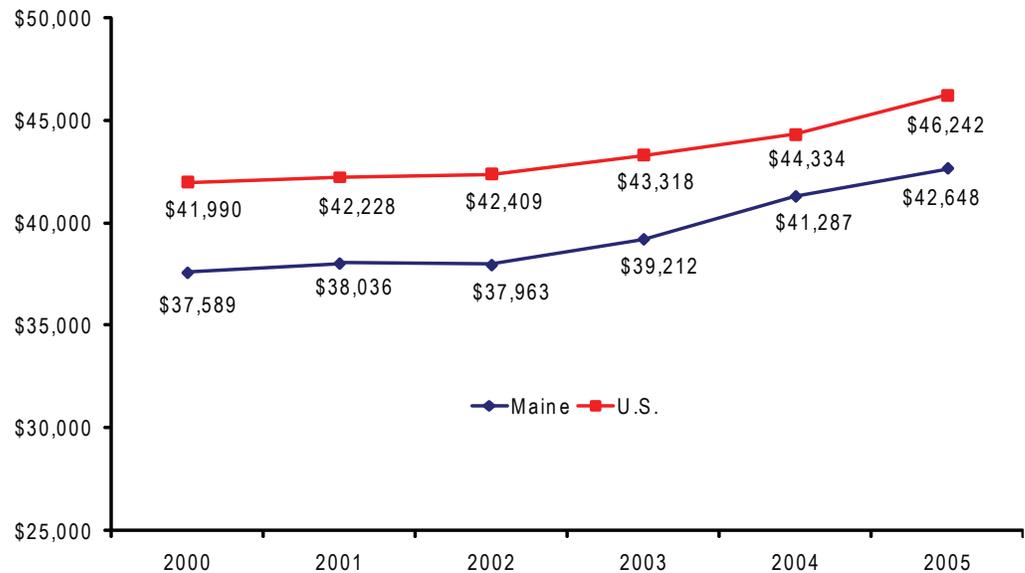


Source: U.S. Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2007)

There are marked disparities in income from one county to another (Figure 3): Aroostook, Piscataquis and Washington counties' 2005 median household income was more than 24% lower than the state median of \$42,648. However, the State Planning Office suggests that comparison between Maine and other states and between counties within the state should be done with caution, as there are major differences in cost of living that can affect purchasing power.

On a more positive note, the gap between Maine's median household income and that of the country as a whole has narrowed somewhat in the period from 2003 to 2005 (Figure 4). In 2002, Maine's median household income was 89.5% of the U.S. median, and by 2005 it had improved to 92% of the national figure.

Figure 4: Median Household Income Trends, Maine and U.S., 2000-2005



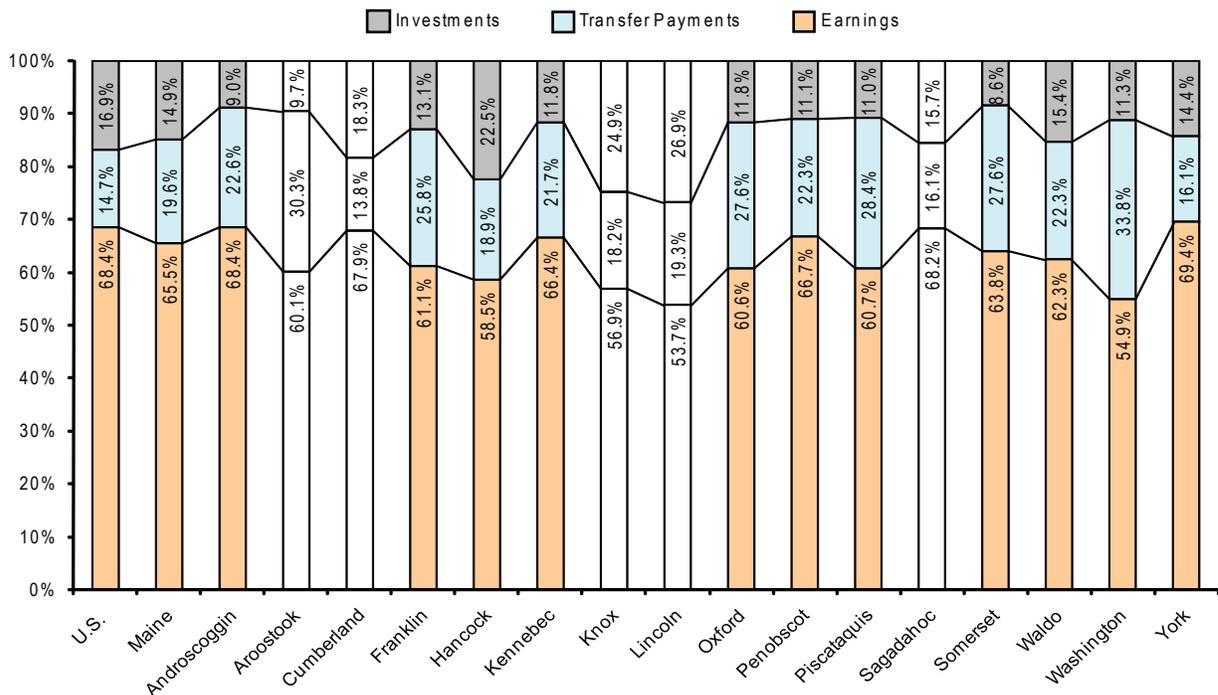
Source: U.S. Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2007)

## Personal Income

Economists generally use the measure of “personal income” as the most accurate indicator of income and economic activity in a metropolitan area, county, state, or region. It is a composite measure, derived from a number of different sources, while the Census uses self-reported household income and does not include all income categories. The three components of personal income are: wages and self-employment; investments (dividends, interest, rent); and transfer payments.

*Transfer payments* are defined as payments for which no current services are performed and are primarily given by federal, state and local governments, for example, government retirement and disability benefits (e.g., social security, military pensions); medical payments to providers (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid); income maintenance benefits (e.g., food stamps, TANF); and unemployment insurance benefits.

Figure 5: Percentage of Personal Income by Type, U.S., Maine, and Maine Counties, 2006



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

A higher proportion of income from transfer payments in an area is generally an indicator of higher levels of poverty or near poverty, presence of an older population, or both.

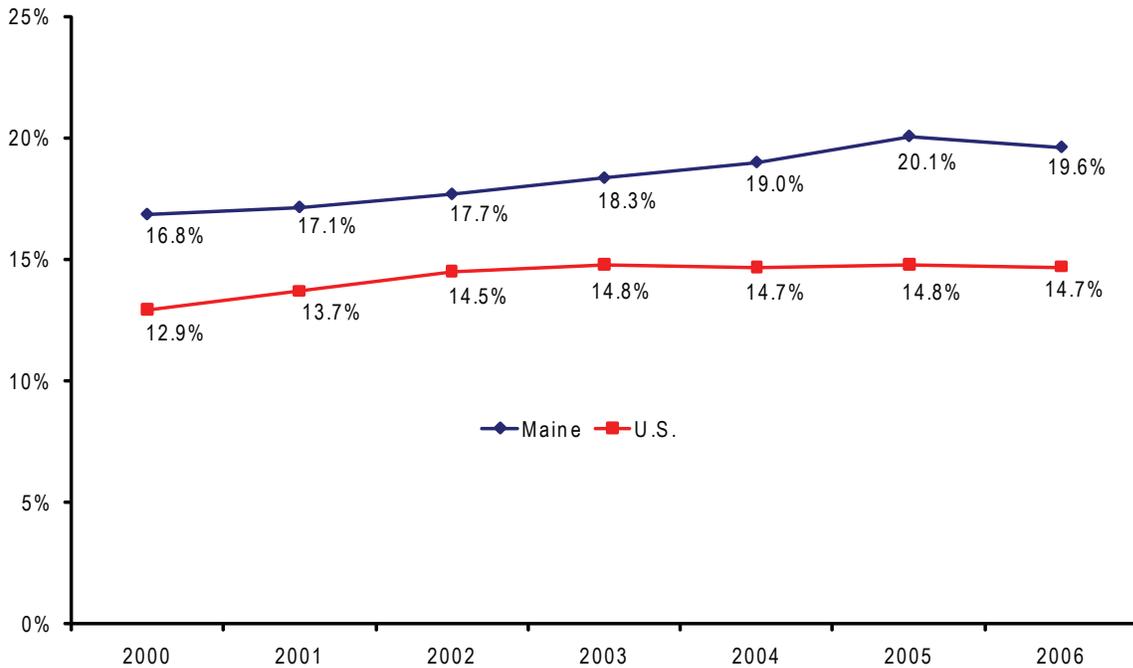
Nationally and in Maine, government medical benefits comprise the largest proportion of transfer payments. In most Maine counties, close to half of transfer payments are medical payments made to providers. As the population ages, we would expect to see medical benefits constituting an increasing share of transfer payments.

In 2006, wage and self-employment income was a smaller proportion of personal income in Maine than in the nation. In Maine 65.5% of personal income was from wages, while in the U.S. it was 68.4% (Figure 5). Personal income from investments in Maine was likewise lower than in the U.S. as a whole. However, personal income from transfer payments was substantially higher in Maine (19.6%) than in the U.S. (14.7%).

Within the state, there are marked differences between counties in the proportion of personal income from various sources. In 2006, in Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington counties over one quarter of county personal income was from transfer payments, with Washington County having the highest proportion at 33.8% (Figure 5). These are among the oldest and poorest counties in the state.

Over time, transfer payments have constituted an increasing proportion of Maine's total personal income, compared with the U.S. as a whole, where the proportion has remained relatively the same since 2002 (Figure 6). This is perhaps to be expected, given Maine's demographic trends, particularly its increasing proportion of elderly and lower-income residents.

Figure 6: Transfer Payments Trends, Maine and U.S., 2000-2006  
(Percent of total personal income)



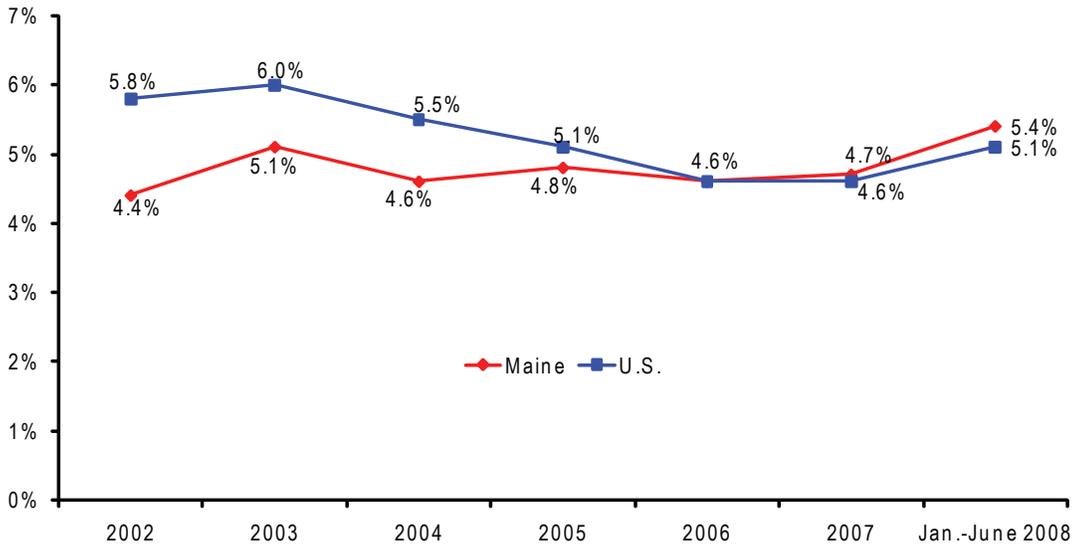
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

The largest proportion of transfer payments are not means-tested benefits, but are “entitlements” such as Social Security and Medicare. However, in the near term as Maine and the nation face difficult economic times, we are already seeing an increase in the amount of transfer payments in needs-based “safety net” programs such as food stamps, free and reduced school lunch, and Medicaid.

# EMPLOYMENT

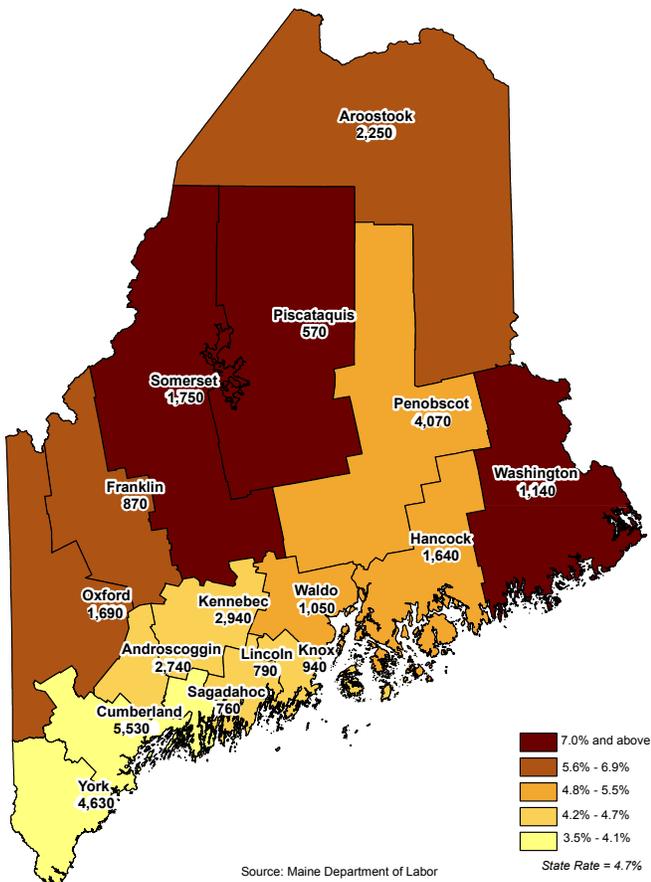
Maine's recent employment picture remains mixed, with a continued decline in jobs in manufacturing and natural-resource based industries. The recent *Measures of Growth in Focus* report (Maine Economic Growth Council 2008) notes that through 2006, the number of jobs in Maine has continued to grow, though slowly, with greatest growth from 2005 to 2006 in the sectors of professional and business services, construction, educational services, and health care and social assistance.

Figure 7: Maine and U.S. Annual Monthly Average Unemployment Rate Trends, 2002 – June, 2008



Source: Maine Department of Labor

Figure 8: Monthly Average Unemployment, 2007



Source: Maine Department of Labor

The report also notes that the proportion of Mainers holding multiple jobs (8.2% in 2006) continues to be higher than the U.S. rate (5.2%), and that the gap has been widening over the past several years. The Growth Council report notes that the rate of multiple job holding suggests that “many jobs are not paying a livable wage or providing adequate benefits to meet basic needs” (2008: 9).

Maine unemployment increased from 2006 to 2007 (Figure 7). The state's average annual unemployment rate of 4.7% exceeded the national average of 4.6% for the first time in a number of years. The trend in increasing unemployment is continuing so far in 2008. For the first six months of 2008 (January-June), there was a fairly marked increase in the unemployment rate in both Maine and the nation. In this time period, the monthly average unemployment rate in Maine was 5.4% and in the U.S. it was 5.1%.

If the first six months of 2008 are any indication, it appears that this year will see another increase in Maine’s unemployment rate.

As in previous years, there were major differences in unemployment between Maine’s counties (Figure 8, Table 1).

Highest unemployment rates were in Washington (7.7%) and Piscataquis (7.6%) counties, with Somerset County following close behind (7.0%). Lowest unemployment rates were in Cumberland (3.5%), Sagadahoc (4.0%) and York (4.1%) counties.

Table 1: Labor Force and Monthly Average Unemployment Rates, 2007

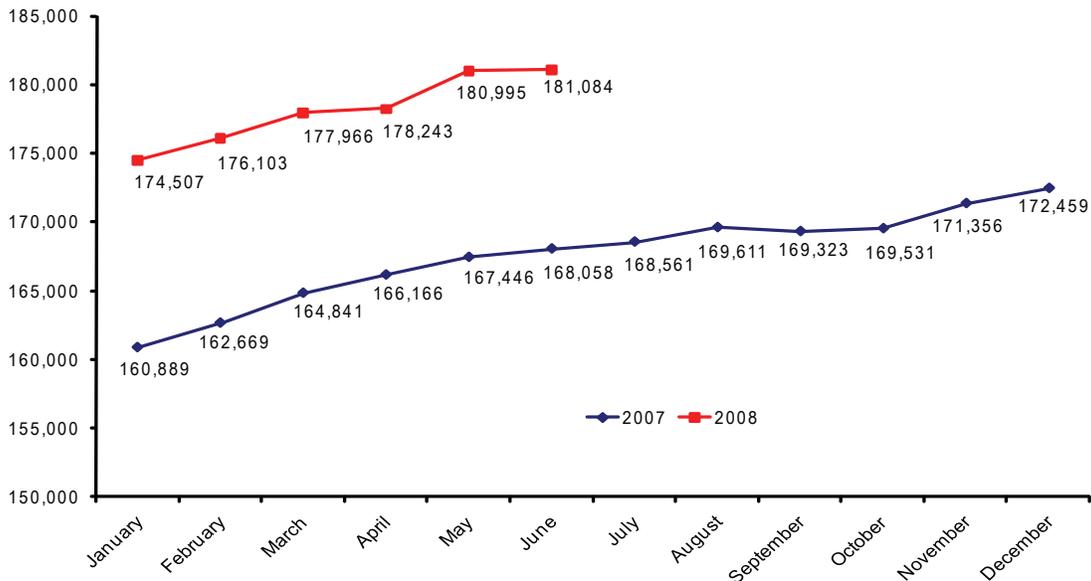
	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Androscoggin	58,480	2,740	4.7%
Aroostook	35,400	2,250	6.4%
Cumberland	158,040	5,530	3.5%
Franklin	14,270	870	6.1%
Hancock	29,630	1,640	5.5%
Kennebec	63,150	2,940	4.6%
Knox	21,390	940	4.4%
Lincoln	18,450	790	4.3%
Oxford	28,580	1,690	5.9%
Penobscot	77,880	4,070	5.2%
Piscataquis	7,530	570	7.6%
Sagadahoc	19,110	760	4.0%
Somerset	25,140	1,750	7.0%
Waldo	19,020	1,050	5.5%
Washington	14,710	1,140	7.7%
York	113,930	4,630	4.1%
STATE	704,700	33,400	4.7%

Source: Maine Department of Labor

## FOOD STAMP PROGRAM NEWS

We reported in our earlier newsletter (February 2008) on annual figures and trends for the food stamp program through FY2007. Normally, monthly average annual figures are the most useful measure for analyzing year-to-year trends, since this approach evens out any month-to-month fluctuations. As we reported previously, participation in Maine’s food stamp program has been increasing for a number of years.

Figure 9: Trends in Maine Food Stamp Use by Month, January 2007 - June 2008  
(Number of individuals receiving food stamps)



Source: Maine DHHS monthly reports

DHHS figures indicate that the upswing in enrollment in the food stamp program in the first six months of 2008 continues at a sharp rate (Figure 9). While we will not know the full extent of the trend until the end of the year, the increase in food stamp use may be an “early warning” indicator of the impact of difficult economic times in Maine. Rapid cost increases for home heating and gas, rising food costs, and a relatively flat job market differentially impact Maine’s lower-income population.

## Sources

Maine Department of Health and Human Services. n.d. Geographic Distribution of Programs and Benefits, Report RE-PM001. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Child and Family Services. Augusta. <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/OIAS/reports/reports.html>

Maine Department of Labor. 2008. "Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Maine and Maine's Counties, by Month and Annual Average, 2007, 2008." Division of Labor Market Information Services (in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Augusta.

Maine Economic Growth Council. 2008. *Measures of Growth in Focus*. Prepared for the Maine Economic Growth Council by the Maine Development Foundation, Augusta, ME.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. 2008. Table CA04: "County Income and Employment Summary," and CA35: "Personal Current Transfer Receipts." Regional Economic Information System, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, DC. <http://www.bea.gov/regional/rims/>

U.S. Census Bureau. 2006. "Three-Year-Average Median Household Income by State: 2003-2005." Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. [From: Current Population Survey, 2004 to 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.] <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income05/statemhi3.html>

U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program. 2007. "State and County Estimates." <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/county.html>

*Any and all figures presented here are the responsibility of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and not of the provider sources.*



5784 York Complex, #4 • University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469  
[www.umaine.edu/mcsc](http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc)



PO Box 200 • East Wilton, ME 04234-0200  
[www.mainecommunityaction.org](http://www.mainecommunityaction.org)



# POVERTY IN MAINE UPDATE

Volume 2, Issue 1

April, 2009

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Poverty is Persistent

Benefits

Food Stamps

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Free and Reduced Lunch Program

## Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the first of two *Poverty in Maine Update* newsletters for 2009, produced by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, University of Maine, with the support of the state's ten Community Action agencies. Our newsletters aim to present a picture of poverty in Maine, based on the most current and reliable data available from state and federal sources. This issue focuses on the latest trends in poverty rates and in major benefits programs serving the state's most vulnerable populations.

In reviewing the analysis here, readers should recognize that the impact of the current national recession is adding critical stress on Maine families that is not yet fully measured by the numbers in this newsletter. We anticipate that the recession will add significantly to the sober-

ing picture presented here. As we go to publication there is reason to be very worried about the future for Maine's low and middle income families. There are tens of thousands of Mainers who will struggle to maintain enough income to sustain themselves, especially if layoffs continue and fuel prices rise during the next winter.

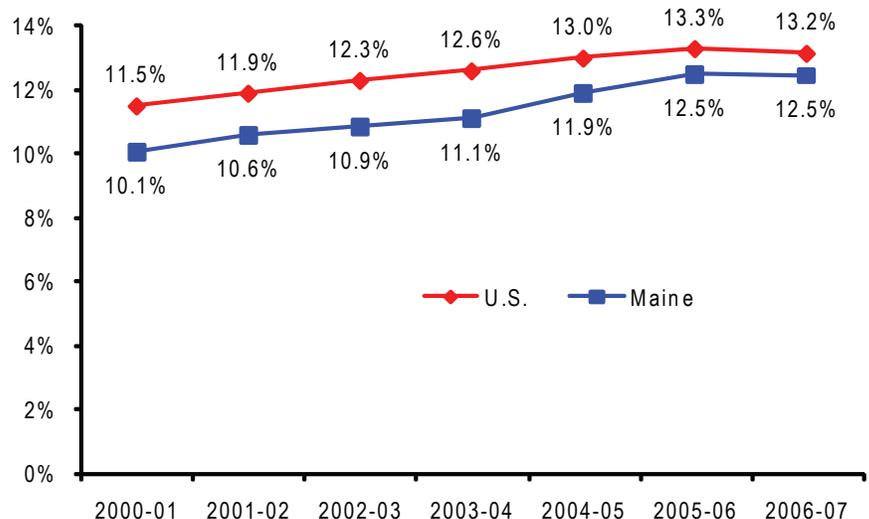
We hope you find this newsletter useful in understanding the issues and scope of poverty and economic distress in the state. We also hope that state leaders will use this information to design policies and programs that are most responsive to the needs of Maine's most vulnerable citizens.

Executive Director,  
Maine Community Action Association

## POVERTY IS PERSISTENT

The individual poverty rate in Maine remained at an elevated level through 2007. The state's two-year average individual poverty rate of 12.5 percent in 2006-07 was the same as in 2005-2006. It remains higher than its recent low of 10.1 percent in 2000-2001. By contrast, the two-year average poverty rate declined in the U.S. in the 2006-2007 period compared with 2005-2006.

Figure 1: Maine and U.S. Individual Poverty Rate Estimates, Two-year Averages\*



\* Because of possible fluctuations due to sampling error in poverty estimates, the Census Bureau recommends reporting changes in state poverty rates over time as two-year averages.

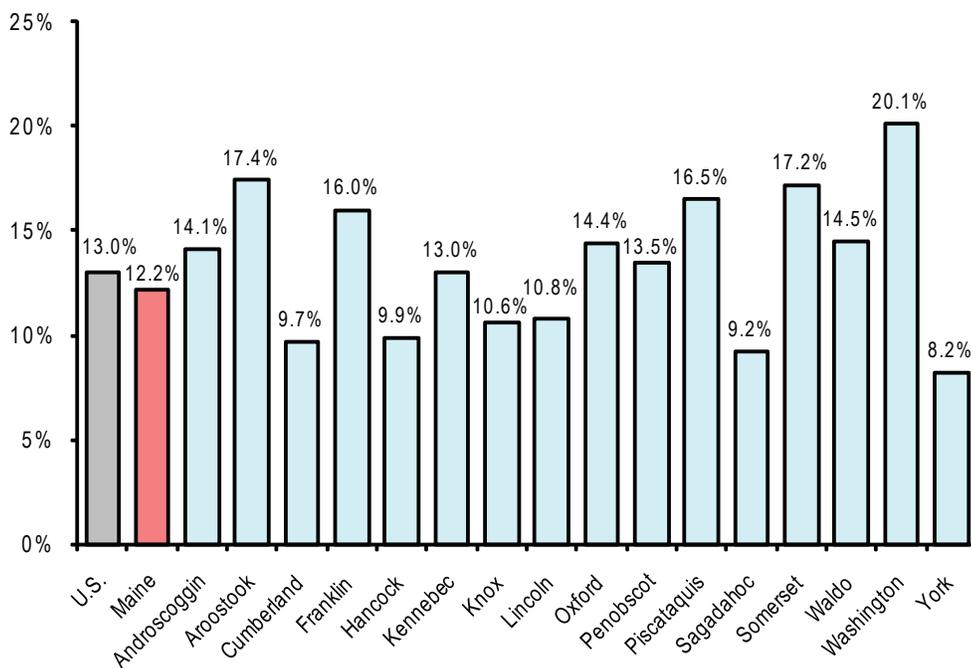
Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center  
University of Maine

Maine Community Action Association

The poverty rate is considered a “lagging” indicator, in that it tends to rise after the “official” end of recessions. Poverty in 2008-09 is likely to show an increase both nationally and in Maine, reflecting the impact of the severe national and global economic downturn.

Regional poverty disparities continued in 2007. Washington County passed the dubious milestone of having a poverty rate of over 20 percent, more than double that of York County, with 8.2 percent, the lowest in the state. Somerset and Aroostook counties both had 2007 poverty rates of over 17 percent.

Figure 2: Individual Poverty Rates, 2007: U.S., Maine and Maine Counties



## BENEFITS

### 2007 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family or Household	Guideline
1	\$10,210
2	13,690
3	17,170
4	20,650
For each additional person, add	\$3,480

Poverty guidelines, issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, are used in determining eligibility for many federally-funded programs, including food stamps, the free and reduced school lunch program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Head Start, parts of Medicaid, and many other programs. Some programs use a percentage multiple in determining eligibility, and

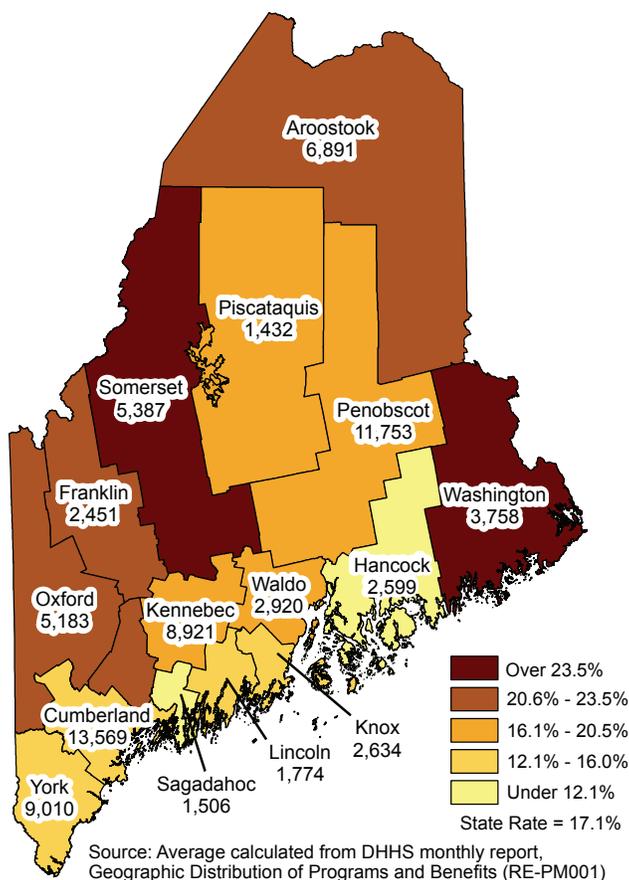
many have other provisions besides income (e.g., level of allowable assets, allowable deductions from income).

**LIHEAP eligibility:** In FY 2007-08, household income 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, 170 percent for households with members age 60 and over or age two and under.

**National School Lunch Program Eligibility:** Free lunch--household income 130 percent of federal poverty guideline; reduced price lunch--185 percent of federal poverty guideline. (For schools offering breakfast, the same guidelines apply.)

**Food Stamps [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] eligibility:** Household gross monthly income at 130 percent of poverty guideline, and net monthly income (after allowable deductions) at 100 percent of poverty guideline. However, there are also levels of allowable assets, and allowances made based on age, disability, and source of income.

Figure 3: Households Receiving Food Stamps, Monthly Average by County, FY 2007-08



Source: Average calculated from DHHS monthly report, Geographic Distribution of Programs and Benefits (RE-PM001)

## Food Stamps [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program]

The USDA's food stamp program (recently renamed "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," or SNAP) is one of the most wide-reaching, low-income benefit programs in Maine. In FY 2007-08, a monthly average of 88,863 households in the state received food stamps, or 17.1 percent of Maine households.

Washington and Somerset counties had the highest rate of food stamp use, with a monthly average of over 26 percent of households receiving food stamps, while Sagadahoc County had the lowest rate, 10.7 percent. In Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford and Penobscot counties, more than 20 percent of households received food stamps. Cumberland and Penobscot counties had the largest absolute numbers of households receiving food stamps, and sparsely-populated Piscataquis County had the fewest (Figure 3 and Table 1).

Table 1: Monthly Average Number of Households and Individuals Receiving Food Stamps and Program Participation Rates, FY 2007-08

	Households*	FS Cases		Population*	FS Individuals	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Androscoggin	42,028	9,053	21.5%	100,164	18,786	18.8%
Aroostook	30,356	6,891	22.7%	71,993	13,087	18.2%
Cumberland	107,989	13,569	12.6%	257,982	26,247	10.2%
Franklin	11,806	2,451	20.8%	28,268	4,856	17.2%
Hancock	21,864	2,599	11.9%	50,394	5,301	10.5%
Kennebec	47,683	8,921	18.7%	113,534	17,649	15.5%
Knox	16,608	2,634	15.9%	38,292	5,320	13.9%
Lincoln	14,158	1,774	12.5%	33,269	3,826	11.5%
Oxford	22,314	5,183	23.2%	53,734	10,615	19.8%
Penobscot	58,096	11,753	20.2%	138,605	22,726	16.4%
Piscataquis	7,278	1,432	19.7%	17,011	3,052	17.9%
Sagadahoc	14,117	1,506	10.7%	34,909	3,298	9.4%
Somerset	20,496	5,387	26.3%	49,980	10,984	22.0%
Waldo	14,726	2,920	19.8%	35,704	6,176	17.3%
Washington	14,118	3,758	26.6%	32,985	7,207	21.8%
York	74,563	9,010	12.1%	184,069	18,520	10.1%
STATE**	518,200	88,863	17.1%	1,240,893	177,695	14.3%

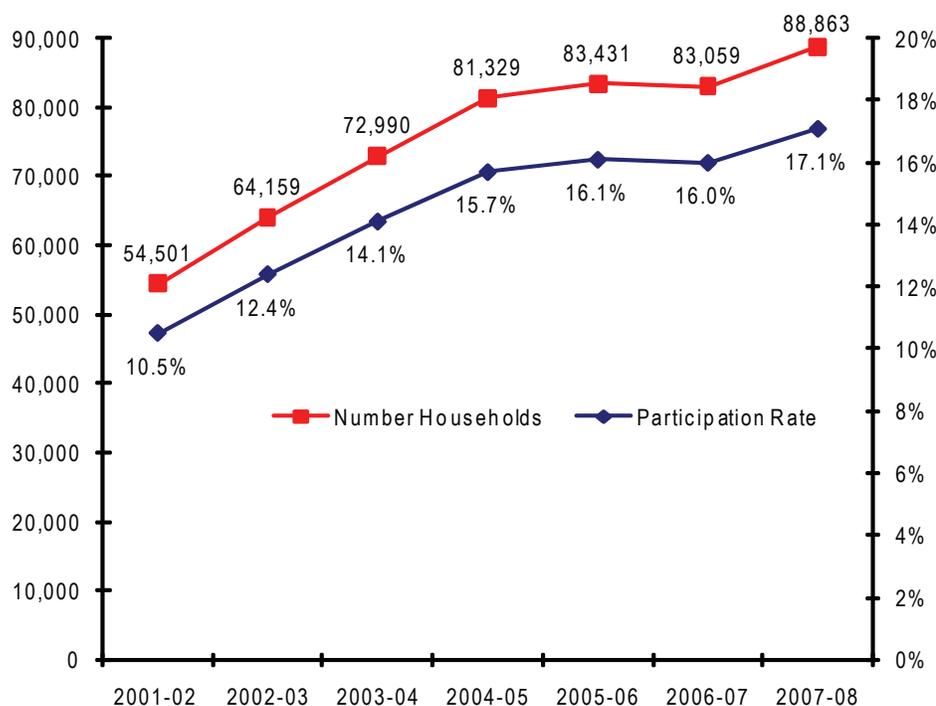
\* Household and population numbers are from the 2000 US Census

\*\*State food stamp figures include a few households with unknown or NH addresses

In FY 2007-08, a monthly average of 177,695 individuals received food stamps, or 14.3 percent of the state's population (Table 1). Somerset County had the highest percentage of individuals receiving food stamps (22.0 percent), followed by

Washington (21.8 percent), Oxford (19.8 percent), Androscoggin (18.8 percent) and Aroostook (18.2 percent) counties. Cumberland County had the largest number of individuals receiving food stamps (26,247).

Figure 4: Monthly Average Number of Households Receiving Food Stamps and Program Participation Rates, by Year, FY 2002 – FY 2008



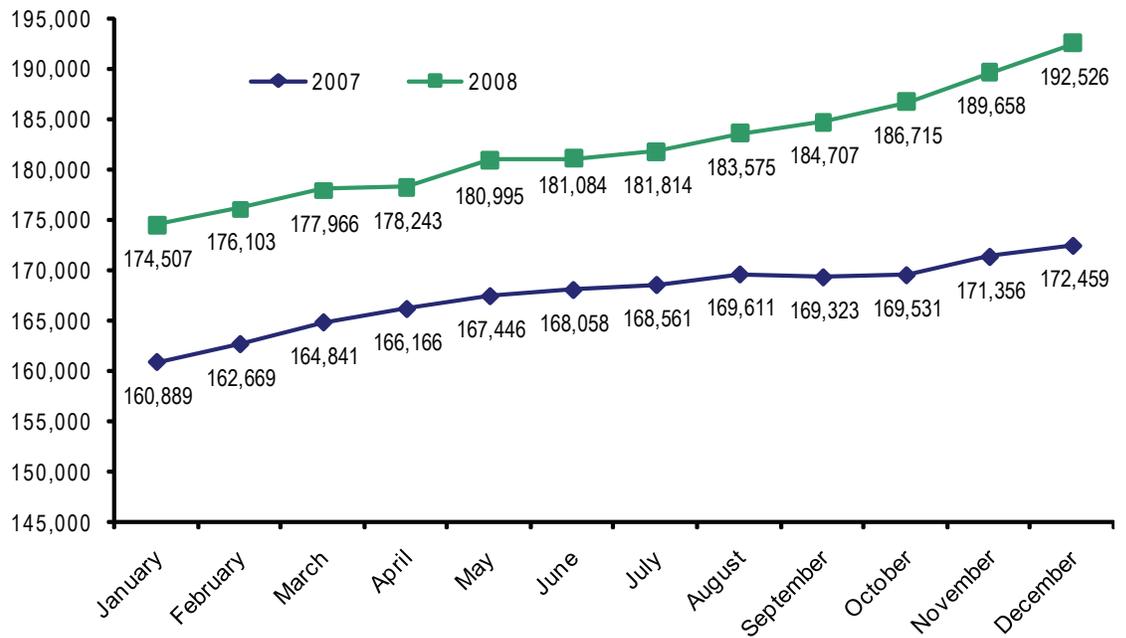
### Trends in Food Stamp Use

After leveling off in the previous two fiscal years, the number of households receiving food stamps showed a dramatic upturn, from a monthly average of 83,059 (16 percent of the state's households) in FY 2006-07 to 88,863 (17.1 percent of the state's households) in FY 2007-08 (Figure 4).

In earlier years (2001-2006) increases in food stamp use can be explained more by changes in the administration of the program, such as increased outreach efforts to enroll those eligible, and the switch from paper to a debit card system, rather than by increases in the level of need.

However, the current increase in food stamp program participation is likely closely related to increased levels of need related to the economic downturn and possibly to last year's spike in fuel prices. Because food stamps is such a broad-based safety net program, it can be seen as a sensitive and immediate indicator of short-term patterns of economic distress.

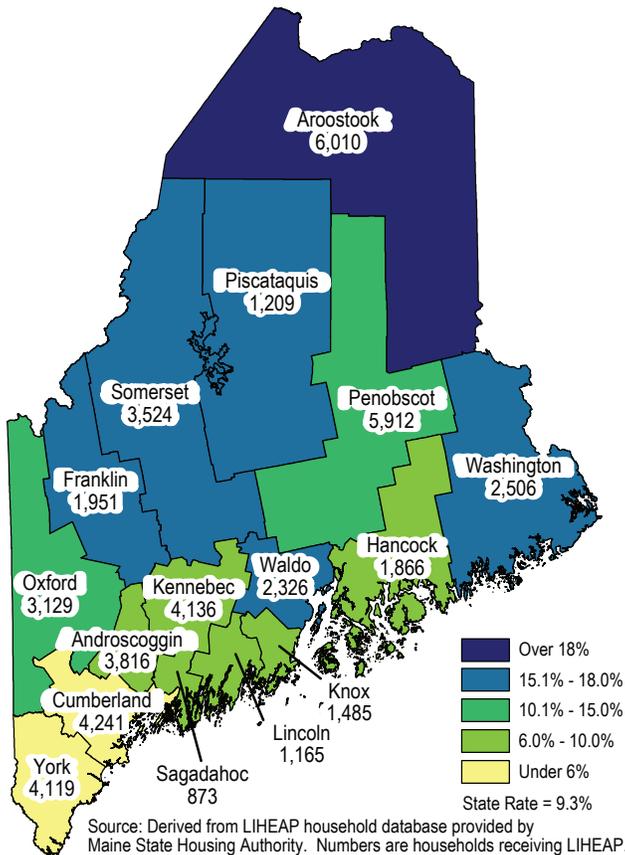
Figure 5: Number of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps, by Month, 2007 and 2008



Looking at month-by-month comparisons between 2007 and 2008

in the number of individuals receiving food stamps further illustrates the major upswing in the use of food stamps statewide (Figure 5). For example, comparing December 2008 with December 2007, there was an increase of over 20,000 in the number of people receiving food stamps (an 11.5 percent increase), from 172,469 in December 2007 to 192,526 in Decem-

Figure 6: Households Receiving LIHEAP, by County, FY 2007-08



### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The sharp surge in fuel prices in the FY 2007-08 heating season, along with colder than normal winter temperatures, caused hardship for many Mainers, especially the state's lower income population. Community Action Agencies (CAPs) saw a major rise in applications for fuel assistance, including an increase in applications from families whose incomes were over the LIHEAP qualifying limit and who were therefore not eligible for benefits. Communities, businesses, non-profit agencies, and coalitions of organizations attempted to bridge the gap between existing resources and levels of need by setting up temporary emergency fuel assistance programs. These programs helped to provide additional resources for those whose LIHEAP benefits were exhausted and for some families whose incomes exceeded the LIHEAP qualifying level but who were in severe distress because of the unforeseen increase in fuel prices.

The "fuel crisis" of 2008 highlights the fact that there are a substantial (but uncounted) number of working families in the state who are not included in poverty statistics, but who are in danger of suffering hardship with any upward spike in prices for basic needs such as food or fuel.

For the 2008-09 heating season (beginning October 1, 2008), the federal government passed a temporary change in eligibility requirements allowing additional Maine households to receive

LIHEAP benefits (household income 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines, or 230 percent for households with members over 60 or under two). There was also an increased funding level. These changes, combined with the sharp drop

in oil prices, should enable the LIHEAP program to provide more benefits to an expanded number of households during the current fiscal year.

In 2007-08, 48,278 Maine households received LIHEAP benefits, or 9.3 percent of all households in the state (Table 3). The number of individuals in these households came to 100,569 (Table 2). LIHEAP household participation rates ranged from just under four percent in Cumberland County to almost 20 percent in Aroostook County (Figure 6 and Table 3). Aroostook County also had the largest number of households receiving

Table 2: Characteristics of LIHEAP Recipients, FY 2007-08

	Total Households	Total Individuals	Average Household Income	Applicant Age 65 or Over		Single Person Households	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Androscoggin	3,816	7,881	\$14,037	1,354	35.5%	1,832	48.0%
Aroostook	6,010	12,111	\$14,521	2,374	39.5%	2,779	46.2%
Cumberland	4,241	8,593	\$14,322	1,542	36.4%	2,115	49.9%
Franklin	1,951	4,095	\$14,085	643	33.0%	885	45.4%
Hancock	1,866	3,795	\$12,987	684	36.7%	889	47.6%
Kennebec	4,136	8,661	\$14,198	1,326	32.1%	1,947	47.1%
Knox	1,485	3,085	\$13,911	528	35.6%	679	45.7%
Lincoln	1,165	2,434	\$13,838	411	35.3%	538	46.2%
Oxford	3,129	6,667	\$13,783	1,000	32.0%	1,412	45.1%
Penobscot	5,912	12,539	\$13,863	1,820	30.8%	2,633	44.5%
Piscataquis	1,209	2,484	\$13,582	421	34.8%	540	44.7%
Sagadahoc	873	1,871	\$14,381	279	32.0%	398	45.6%
Somerset	3,524	7,543	\$13,790	1,203	34.1%	1,534	43.5%
Waldo	2,326	5,018	\$13,537	751	32.3%	1,042	44.8%
Washington	2,506	5,139	\$12,888	945	37.7%	1,136	45.3%
York	4,119	8,624	\$15,043	1,495	36.3%	1,960	47.6%
Unk. & NH	10	29		0	0.0%	2	20.0%
STATE	48,278	100,569	\$14,030	16,776	34.7%	22,321	46.2%

LIHEAP, 6,010. Over one-third of households statewide receiving LIHEAP were elderly (65 or over). Aroostook County, with one of the oldest populations in the state, had the highest proportion of elderly receiving LIHEAP (39.5 percent), while Penobscot had the lowest (30.8 percent). Close to half (46.2 percent) of households statewide receiving LIHEAP were single-person households (Table 2).

Table 3: Food Stamp and LIHEAP Household Participation Rates, FY 2007-08

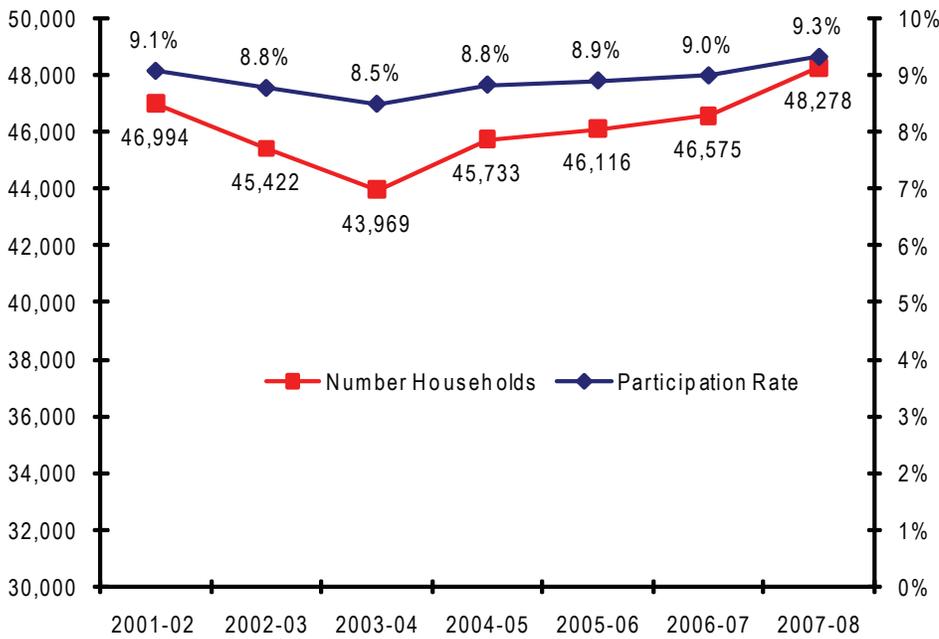
	Households (2000 Census)	Monthly Avg. Food Stamp Cases		Households Receiving LIHEAP	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Androscoggin	42,028	9,053	21.5%	3,816	9.1%
Aroostook	30,356	6,891	22.7%	6,010	19.8%
Cumberland	107,989	13,569	12.6%	4,241	3.9%
Franklin	11,806	2,451	20.8%	1,951	16.5%
Hancock	21,864	2,599	11.9%	1,866	8.5%
Kennebec	47,683	8,921	18.7%	4,136	8.7%
Knox	16,608	2,634	15.9%	1,485	8.9%
Lincoln	14,158	1,774	12.5%	1,165	8.2%
Oxford	22,314	5,183	23.2%	3,129	14.0%
Penobscot	58,096	11,753	20.2%	5,912	10.2%
Piscataquis	7,278	1,432	19.7%	1,209	16.6%
Sagadahoc	14,117	1,506	10.7%	873	6.2%
Somerset	20,496	5,387	26.3%	3,524	17.2%
Waldo	14,726	2,920	19.8%	2,326	15.8%
Washington	14,118	3,758	26.6%	2,506	17.8%
York	74,563	9,010	12.1%	4,119	5.5%
STATE*	518,200	88,863	17.1%	48,278	9.3%

\*State figures include a few households with missing or NH addresses

The number of households receiving LIHEAP benefits is considerably less than the number receiving food stamps (Table 3). Differences in eligibility for the two programs may account for some of the discrepancy. For example, food stamps may be issued to some members of the households discounting the income of others, while income from all household members is used in determining eligibility for LIHEAP. Moreover, those who live in subsidized housing where heat is included in the rent are not eligible for LIHEAP benefits, but are likely to be receiving foodstamps.

The discrepancy between the number of households receiving LIHEAP and those receiving food stamps also underscores the differences between open-ended programs such as food stamps ("entitlements") and those such as LIHEAP with annual funding limits allocated to each state. The level of a household's LIHEAP benefit, and how much fuel cost the benefit will cover, can fluctuate from year to year depending on the number of eligible applicants, the price of fuel, and the level of funds appropriated in a given year.

Figure 7: Households Receiving LIHEAP and Program Participation Rates, FY 2002 - FY 2008



### LIHEAP Trends

Over the period from FY 2002 through FY 2007, the number of households receiving LIHEAP benefits remained relatively stable, with a slight dip in 2002-2004 (Figure 7). However in FY 2007-08, there was an increase in the number of households to the highest point in the last seven years. Although fewer households receive LIHEAP than receive food stamps, this pattern of increased use parallels recent increases seen in the food stamp and free and reduced school lunch programs, and all are very likely related to the state and national economic downturn.

## Free and Reduced School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program for students in grades K-12 is administered through the state's Department of Education which operates the program through agreements with local schools. Participation is open to private as well as public schools.

Income-eligibility requirements are somewhat different for the lunch program than for food stamps, resulting in a higher participation rate for the lunch program than for food stamps. In the current school year (2008-09), 75,364 students are eligible for free or reduced lunch, or 39.1 percent of enrolled students (Figure 8).

More than half of students in Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties are eligible for free or reduced lunch. In Cumberland, Sagadahoc and York counties, less than a third are eligible.

Figure 8: Enrolled Students Eligible for Free or Reduced School Lunch, October 1, 2008

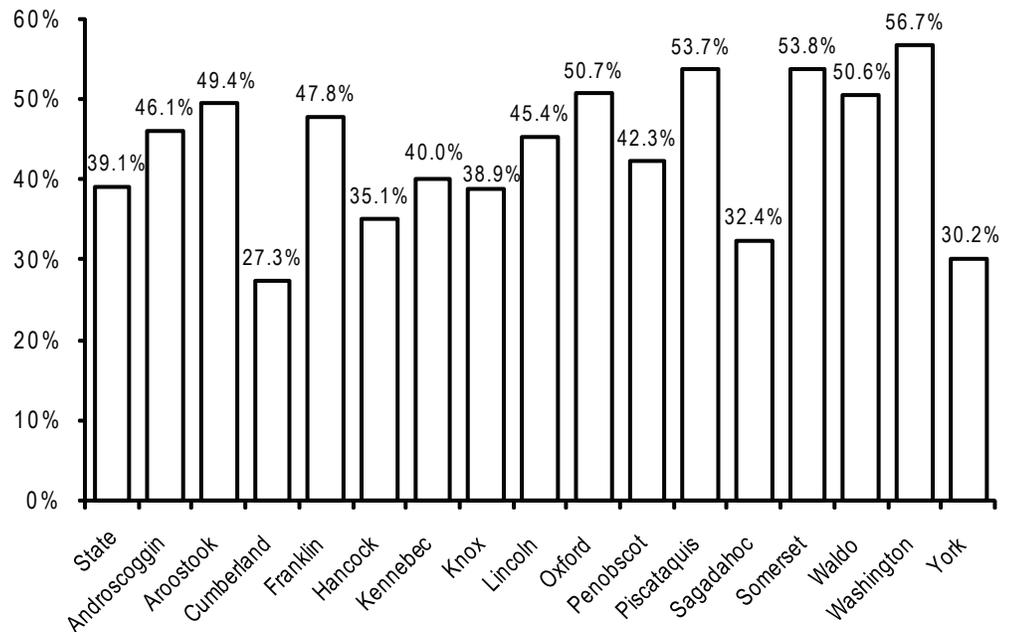
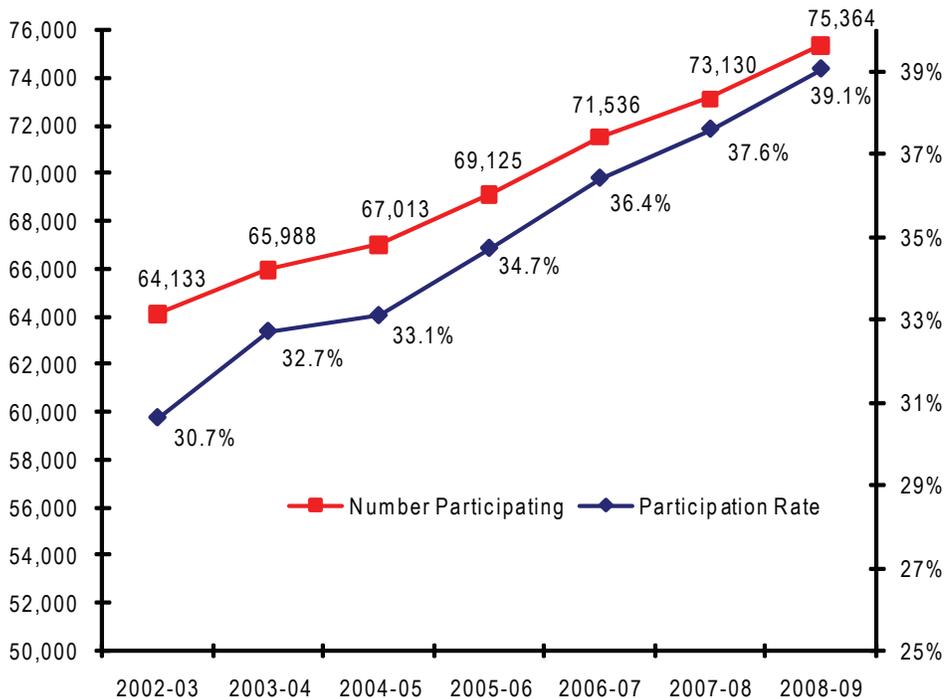


Table 4 shows breakdowns by county for free and reduced lunch. The percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch is important as a poverty indicator. However, the percentage of eligible students also has practical implications. A higher eligibility level entitles schools and school districts to obtain additional federal funds and to participate in programs aimed at disadvantaged students.

Table 4: Free and Reduced Lunch School Eligibility, October 1, 2008

	Total Enrolled	Free Lunch		Reduced Lunch Eligible		Total Eligible	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Androscoggin	15,145	5,768	38.1%	1,215	8.0%	6,983	46.1%
Aroostook	11,124	4,340	39.0%	1,159	10.4%	5,499	49.4%
Cumberland	41,251	9,243	22.4%	2,025	4.9%	11,268	27.3%
Franklin	4,239	1,653	39.0%	373	8.8%	2,026	47.8%
Hancock	6,771	1,815	26.8%	558	8.2%	2,373	35.1%
Kennebec	18,660	5,982	32.1%	1,483	8.0%	7,465	40.0%
Knox	4,769	1,509	31.6%	346	7.3%	1,855	38.9%
Lincoln	4,059	1,438	35.4%	403	9.9%	1,841	45.4%
Oxford	9,966	4,130	41.4%	920	9.2%	5,050	50.7%
Penobscot	21,955	7,565	34.5%	1,715	7.8%	9,280	42.3%
Piscataquis	2,774	1,186	42.8%	303	10.9%	1,489	53.7%
Sagadahoc	5,413	1,372	25.4%	382	7.1%	1,754	32.4%
Somerset	8,307	3,586	43.2%	880	10.6%	4,466	53.8%
Waldo	5,357	2,190	40.9%	518	9.7%	2,708	50.6%
Washington	4,869	2,247	46.2%	513	10.5%	2,760	56.7%
York	28,336	6,629	23.4%	1,918	6.8%	8,547	30.2%
<b>STATE</b>	<b>192,995</b>	<b>60,653</b>	<b>31.4%</b>	<b>14,711</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>75,364</b>	<b>39.1%</b>

Figure 9: Enrolled Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch and Program Participation Rates, FY 2003 – FY 2009



### School Lunch Program Trends

The number of eligible students and the program participation rate has increased each year for the past seven years, generally paralleling the pattern of increases seen in the food stamps program. The rate of increase in school lunch eligibility was sharper this year than in the previous year, a trend seen also in food stamp enrollment. This is perhaps not surprising, since students whose families are receiving either food stamps or TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) are automatically eligible for free school lunch; the parent or caregiver need only check off that the student is a food stamps or TANF recipient when they return the application form to the school in the fall.

#### Correction Corner

The February 2008 *Poverty in Maine Update* newsletter indicated the number of students eligible for the lunch program in FY 2008 as 66,162, with a participation rate of 37.8 percent. Updated figures from the Department of Education indicate that the number was 73,130 and the participation rate 37.6 percent. The trend line shown here in Figure 9 reflects these updated and corrected numbers. The online version of the February 2008 newsletter has been updated with the correct figures. It is available at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center Website, <http://mcpolicycenter.umaine.edu>

## Sources

Poverty rates information is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, December 2008. "State and County Estimates." <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/county.html>

Food stamp information is computed from the Maine DHHS monthly report, Geographic Distribution of Programs and Benefits (RE-PM001). <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/OIAS/reports/reports.html>

LIHEAP information is derived from annual household databases provided to the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center by Maine Housing.

School Lunch Program information is computed from an annual report of the Maine State Department of Education. [http://portalx.bisoex.state.me.us/pls/doi\\_sfsr/eddev.ed534.ed534\\_parameters](http://portalx.bisoex.state.me.us/pls/doi_sfsr/eddev.ed534.ed534_parameters)

*Any and all figures presented here are the responsibility of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and not of the provider sources.*



5784 York Complex, #4 • University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469  
<http://mcspolicycenter.umaine.edu>



PO Box 200 East Wilton, ME 04234-0200  
[www.mainecommunityaction.org](http://www.mainecommunityaction.org)

# **ATTACHMENT L**

**Department of Health & Human Services**

**Rules 10-144 Chapter 2**

**Community Services Block Grant  
Program**

**Available on State of Maine web site:**

**<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/chaps10.htm>**

**10-144 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Chapter 2: COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

---

NOTE: This chapter was formerly with the Executive Department, Division of Community Services. Now under the Department of Health and Human Services, it is being replaced by a chapter entitled: RULES: COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES.

---

**Basis Statement:** These rules were adopted to enable the Division of Community Services to provide consistent statewide guidelines for the use of federal funds appropriated under the Community Services Block Grant Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35). The rules also implement the Maine Community Services Act (P.L. 1983, Chapter 176, Section 3). These rules establish funding and program requirements, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, procurement and property management procedures for administrative and program expenditures made by the Community Action Agencies which are the designated recipients of CSBG funds from the Division. The costs of administration of this program for designated recipients will vary depending on the work plan submitted by each approved Community Action Agency. The Division anticipates its administrative expenditures to not exceed \$ 86,357.00 in the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 1984.

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
1.1 Policy .....	1
1.2 Definitions .....	1
1.3 Designation .....	4
1.4 Community Action Agency Board of Directors .....	6
1.5 Annual Funding Requirements .....	8
1.6 CSBG Evaluation.....	14
1.7 Monitoring and Technical Assistance.....	15
1.8 Financial Policies and Procedures .....	16
1.9 Safeguarding of Information and Investigations.....	18
1.10 Allocation.....	19
Attachment A. Procurement.....	21

## 1.1 Policy

The purpose of the original rules for the Community Services Block Grant Program was to implement on a State and local level Title VI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, 42 U.S.C. Section 9901 *et seq.* That Act establishes a five-year Community services Block Grant Program through which federal grants will be made to states in order to provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community.

These rules were amended to improve upon the Community Services Block Grant Program and to implement the Maine Community Services Act , 5 M.R.S.A. Section 3511 *et seq.* and the Human Services Reauthorization Act (P.L. 98-558). These rules are applicable to all agencies which have been designated or have applied for designation as eligible to receive Community Services Block Grant funds.

## 1.2 Definitions

As used in these rules, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- A. **Agency-wide audit.** "Agency-wide audit" means a financial audit of all agency funds, restricted and unrestricted, by an independent qualified outside auditor which leads to submission of agency financial statements as of the end of the CAA's fiscal year. Such agency financial statements at a minimum shall include:
1. Auditor's report (opinion).
  2. Statement of support, Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances, showing unrestricted and restricted funds.
  3. Comparative consolidated Agency Balance Sheet showing unrestricted and restricted funds.
  4. Appropriate notes to financial statements.
  5. A schedule of grant Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Grant Balances.
- B. **Community Action Agency.** "Community Action Agency" (CAA) means a private, nonprofit agency which has previously been designated by and authorized to accept funds from the federal Community Services Administration under the United States Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.
- C. **Conflict of interest.** "Conflict of interest" means any of the following:
1. A person employed by a community action agency while serving, or while a member of his or her immediate family serves, on a board or committee of that agency if that board or committee has authority to order personnel actions affecting his or her job;

2. A board member of a community action agency participating in any decision affecting an organization of which he/she is also an officer or employee when the organization is contracting with that agency to perform a component of its CSBG work program
  3. A person whose salary is paid for in whole or in part with CSBG funds for a job over which a member of his or her immediate family exercises supervisory authority; or
  4. A board member participating in any decision in which the member or a member of his/her immediate family has a direct or indirect financial interest.
- D. **Delegate agency.** "Delegate agency" means any agency, corporation, municipality, board or council which receives CSBG funds from a community action agency under the terms of any agreement, subcontract or contract for special services when such funds exceed \$20,000 in any program year.
- E. **Direct service.** "Direct service" means an expenditure that is directly attributable to a client benefit and is not an agency or program administrative cost.
- F. **Division.** "Division" means the Division of Community Services, within the Executive Department, State of Maine, or its successor agency.
- G. **Immediate family.** "Immediate family" means any of the following persons: husband, wife, father, father-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, son, son-in-law daughter, daughter-in-law.
- H. **Low-income person.** "Low-income person" means a person whose income is at or below 150% of the poverty line promulgated by the federal Office of Management and Budget or who is eligible for any other program which has income guidelines and is operated by the community action agency.
- I. **Procurement standards.** "Procurement standards" means procedures for purchasing property, services, equipment and inventory for programs operated in whole or in part with CSBG funds which are consistent with the provisions of Attachment 0 of OMB Circular A-110, Section 1.8 of these rules and Attachment A.
- J. **Property management standards.** "Property management standards" means procedures for maintaining and disposing of property acquired in whole or in part with CSBG funds which are consistent with the provisions of Attachment N to OMB Circular A-110 and Section 1.8(B) of these rules.
- K. **Service area.** "Service area" means the geographic area within the jurisdiction of the community action agency and which area is to be served with CSBG funds. In no event shall the geographic boundaries of a CSBG service area be different from those of a county in the State of Maine, unless specifically authorized by the Director of the Division, provided that a community action agency may target CSBG funds to specific communities within this service area in light of the following factors:

1. The extent of persistent unemployment and underemployment;
2. The number and proportion of persons receiving cash or other assistance on a needs basis from public agencies or private organizations;
3. The number of migrant or transient low-income families;
4. School dropout rates, or other incidence of low educational attainment.
5. The incidence of disease, disability and infant mortality;
6. Substandard housing conditions;
7. Adequacy of community facilities and services; and
8. The incidence of crime and juvenile delinquency.

Notwithstanding the above factors, residents of all communities within the community action agency's service area shall be eligible for CSBG-funded services.

### **1.3 Designation**

- A. No community action agency may receive, obligate, or expend Community Services Block Grant funds under a sub-grant with the Division unless it maintains a designation under these rules.
- B. The Division shall designate an agency as eligible to receive Community Services Block Grant funds for its service area and to carry out the purposes of a Community Services Block-Grant program as defined in the Maine Community Service Act and these rules. The following criteria shall be considered:
  1. A board of directors established in accordance with Section 1.4.
  2. Evidence of adequate fiscal control and fund accounting procedures in order to assure the proper disbursement of and accounting for CSBG funds.
  3. Evidence of adequate program planning for a comprehensive program in accordance with Section 1.5(C)(1).

#### **C. Term of Designation**

A designation shall be effective for seven years unless withdrawn prior thereto in accordance with Section 1.3(D). Prior to the expiration of a community action agency's designation, the Division, at its discretion, may conduct a public hearing in the agency's service area in order to generate public comment regarding the agency's effectiveness.

**D. Withdrawal of Designation**

1. The Division may withdraw the designation of a community action agency when the agency has demonstrated substantial incompetency and a clear inability to carry out the purposes of the Maine Community Services Act, the CSBG Program or these rules. Such incompetency and inability shall at a minimum be documented by a noncompliance finding as a result of the procedures established by Section 1.7 (B) of these rules.
2. The Division shall notify the Community Services Advisory Board,, the CAA executive director and board chairperson of a proposed withdrawal of designation. This notice shall be written and shall state the reasons for the intent to withdraw the designation, what corrective actions are necessary and a reasonable time, not to exceed 6 months, within which the agency must rectify the problem.
3. At the end of the time provided for in Subsection (2) above a designation withdrawal evaluation focusing on the specific conditions cited in the notice of intent to withdraw designation shall be performed by the Division. The results of this evaluation shall be shared with the CAA executive director and board, and the Community Services Advisory Board.
4. The CAA may request a hearing before a review board to show cause why the CAA should not have its designation withdrawn. The request shall be made to the Division director within 10 working days of receipt of the results of the evaluation. A meeting of the Community Services Advisory Board shall be scheduled within 20 working days of receipt of the request in order to appoint an ad hoc review board to be composed of 3 members of the Community Services Advisory Board.
5. The review board shall hold a hearing within 20 working days of its appointment.
6. The review board shall issue a written recommendation in support of or in opposition to the Division's evaluation within 10 working days of the review board hearing.
7. Within 5 working days of the review board's recommendation, the Director of the Division shall issue an order which withdraws designation, or rescinds the notice of intent, or provides for other appropriate action. If no hearing was requested, the Division Director may issue a withdrawal of designation within 15 working days after the notice of the results of the evaluation.
8. To appeal the Division's order withdrawing designation, the community action agency must file a petition for review of the final agency decision in the appropriate superior court within 30 days, under the Maine Rule of Civil Procedure, Rule 80B.
9. Notwithstanding any other provision, financial malfeasance by a community action agency may be cause for immediate withdrawal of the agency's designation by the Division. Financial malfeasance is the mismanagement and/or

unlawful use of CSBG funds which has a significant impact on the CSBG program.

#### 1.4 Community Action Agency Board of Directors

- A. **Composition of the Board.** The board shall consist of at least fifteen and not more than thirty members.
1. Elected public officials or their permanent representatives or officials of public agencies operating in the service area shall comprise one-third of the board.
  2. Representatives of low-income persons shall comprise one-third of the board.
  3. Representatives of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, civic, education, or other major groups and interests in the community shall comprise one-third of the board.
  4. No person shall serve on the board of directors where a conflict of interest exists, as defined in Section 1.2(C)(1) and (3).
- B. **Board Powers and Responsibilities.** The board of directors of a CAA shall possess the following powers and responsibilities:
1. To provide overall direction, oversight and policies of the agency;
  2. To hire, fire, and evaluate the performance of the executive director of the CAA;
  3. To determine major personnel, organization, fiscal and program policies;
  4. To determine overall program goals and priorities for the CAA including provisions for evaluating programs against performance;
  5. To make final approval of all program proposals, budgets and contracts;
  6. To enforce compliance with all contract and grant requirements;
  7. To convene public meetings to provide low-income and other citizens of the service area the opportunity to comment upon policies and programs of the community action agencies;
  8. To determine rules and procedures for the board of directors and committees consistent with these rules;
  9. To select the officers and all committees of the board of directors;
  10. To hold meetings of the board of directors in accordance with the freedom of access law;

11. To perform an annual agency-wide audit which shall be submitted to the Division of Community Services within 6 months of the end of the CAA's fiscal year;
12. To evaluate agency programs and assess community and agency needs;
13. To fill all board vacancies as soon as reasonably practicable.

**C. Meetings and Minutes**

1. Full board meetings shall be held at least once every ten weeks, and at least six times annually. Annual meetings shall be publicized with a notice in a local newspaper no less than seven days prior to the annual meeting.
2. No less than five days prior to each full board meeting, the agenda and all attachments except those documents that emanated from the Division shall be mailed to the Division. Minutes and all attachments of each board meeting and all committee meetings shall be recorded and copies forwarded to the Division no later than the date of mailing the agenda of the next meeting. Minutes shall be made available to the public upon request. All meetings of CAA boards shall be open to the public.
3. Voting by proxy is not permitted at meetings of the board or of its committees. This prohibition applies to all members of the board.

**D. Bylaw Requirements.** The bylaws of the community action agency shall include the following:

1. The total number of seats on the board and the allotment of seats to public officials, representatives of low-income individuals, and representatives of organizations.
2. Specific procedures for selecting board members:
  - a. Each sector of the board should reasonably reflect the geographic distribution of low-income people served by the CAA.
  - b. Representatives of low-income persons shall be chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they represent the low-income persons in the geographic area served by the CAA. low income persons shall be permitted to vote in the selection process. In order to qualify for board membership a low-income representative need not be low-income himself or herself.
  - c. The board shall select organizations from the private sector such as business and industry, educational, welfare, civic, labor, or religious organizations to be represented on the board of directors. Once an organization is selected and indicates its agreement to be represented, it shall choose the person to represent it on the board.

3. A description of performance standards (such as attendance, etc.) for members of the board, the violation of which may be grounds for removal. This shall include standards of conduct for board members.
4. A description of specific procedures to be followed in the case of removal of representatives of low-income persons, organizations, and public officials.
5. Provisions for the selection and service of board member alternates if alternates are to be used including:
  - a. Alternates must be elected/selected in the same manner, at the same time, and by the same people who have elected/selected the representative.
  - b. No alternate may be counted toward a quorum or cast a vote when his/her primary board member is present at a meeting.
  - c. No alternate may hold an office of the board.
6. Procedures for selecting new board members in the case of a vacancy on the board including:
  - a. An explanation of when a vacancy occurs; and
  - b. A provision that all board vacancies shall be filled as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Provision for the term of office for board members and provision for the total length of service which shall be the same for all sectors.
8. Provision for residency requirement, if any.
9. Provisions for the appointment and responsibilities of board committees, if any. Each sector of the board must be fairly represented on the executive committee. Each sector of the board should be fairly represented on other committees to the maximum extent feasible.
10. Provision for the number of members present which shall constitutes quorum for board or committee meetings:
  - a. Members present shall represent more than 50% of the non-vacant seats on the board or committee; and
  - b. At least one representative from each sector must be present for a board meeting.
11. Provision for board members to abstain from voting on any matters that present a conflict of interest as defined in Section 1.2(C)(2) and (4).

## 1.5. Annual Requirements

- A. Community action agencies shall submit the following items upon designation and thereafter submit to the Division any changes or amendments to those items:
  - 1. Articles of Incorporation;
  - 2. Proof of IRS Section 501(c)(3) status;
  - 3. A statement of the appeals procedure available to denied applicants for services operated in conjunction with CSBG funds;
  - 4. Biographical summaries of the community action agency executive director and fiscal officer.
  
- B. The following documents are to be reviewed by the board of directors each year and submitted to the Division if any amendments or changes have been made:
  - 1. Bylaws
  - 2. Personnel Policies;
  - 3. Affirmative Action Plan; and
  - 4. Financial Procedures Manual, which documents all financial activities.
  
- C. Annually the CAA shall:
  - 1. Adequately plan for a comprehensive program designed to use available funds:
    - a. To provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes and conditions of poverty in the service area or those areas of the service area where poverty is a particularly acute problem.
    - b. To provide activities designed to assist low-income residents including the elderly poor in the service area:
      - (i) To secure and retain meaningful employment;
      - (ii) To attain an adequate education;
      - (iii) To make better use of available income;
      - (iv) To obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
      - (v) To obtain emergency assistance through loans or grants to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the

need for health services, nutritious food, housing, and employment-related assistance;

- (vi) To remove obstacles and solve problems which block the achievement of self-sufficiency;
  - (vii) To achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community;
  - (viii) To make more effective use of other programs related to the purposes of this CSBG program.
- c. To provide on an emergency basis for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious food stuffs, and related services as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among the poor .
  - d. To coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services to low-income individuals.
  - e. To encourage the use of the private sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the service area.

2. Agree and certify that:

- a. No CSBG funds of a community action agency or its delegate agency shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any staff member or agent acting for such recipient or delegate agency to engage in any activity designed to influence legislation or appropriations pending before the U.S. Congress.
- b. Its board members, volunteers and employees will not:
  - (i) Use his or her official position authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for public office; or
  - (ii) Directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command or advise a state, local or CAA officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency or person for political purposes.
- c. Its employees will not be a candidate for public elective office, except nonpartisan candidacies are permitted. An employee may be a candidate in any election if none of the candidates is to be nominated or elected at such election as representing a party any of whose candidates for Presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which Presidential electors were selected.
- d. No CSBG funds or CSBG-funded employees or equipment shall be used for activities to provide voters with transportation to the polls or provide

similar assistance in connection with an election or any voter registration activity. This does not prohibit access to the public areas or office space to a community action agency's facilities for voter registration activities, so long as those activities do not Interfere with the normal operation of the office.

- e. It will provide for coordination between antipoverty programs in its service area where appropriate with the emergency energy crisis intervention program (ECIP) conducted in its service area.
  - f. No person shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under a CSBG sub-grant.
3. Submit the following documents as a part of its funding application on a date set by the Division:
    - a. Work Plan (CSBG forms 2, 2a - 4 copies;
    - b. Budget (CSBG Forms 3, 4, 5) - 4 copies;
    - c. Board Membership List by sector and indicating the date of appointment/election and the term of office;
    - d. Updated Financial Procedures Manual.
  4. Submit agency and program information and data as prescribed by the Division for purpose of preparation of the annual report. This information is to be made available to the Division by December 1 of each calendar year. The reporting period shall be the previous federal fiscal year beginning, on October 1 and ending on September 30. This information shall include, but not be limited to the following:
    - a. Senior staff;
    - b. Board membership;
    - c. Program services information, such as households served and program budget information;
    - d. Brief program descriptions for use in program glossary;
    - e. Summary of agency financial support data by source of funds: total, federal, state, county, town and others, as well as the percent each category represents of total agency funding;
    - f. Agency administrative budget and employment
  5. Submit a copy of the CAA annual report.

**D. Funding Approval**

1. The Division will approve an application for funding from a designated agency when the work plan:
  - a. Shows evidence of adequate program planning;
  - b. Proposes services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the service area; and
  - c. Provides that CSBG funds will be used for direct service activities designed to assist low-income residents as set forth in Section 1.5C(1)(b) as follows:
    - i. At least 10% of the CSBG funds for CSBG FY 1985;
    - ii. At least 20% of the CSBG funds for CSBG FY 1986;
    - iii. At least 30% of the CSBG funds for CSBG FY 1987.
2. The Division reserves the right to require an applicant for CSBG funding to alter or revise its work plan and/or budget in order to meet realistic planning objectives or avoid duplication.
3. The Division reserves the right to publicize and issue a Request for Proposals in a competitive CSBG funding process for any service area or any portion of a service area when:
  - a. The service area is not being served;
  - b. A withdrawal of designation has occurred or has been initiated; or
  - c. The Division has discretionary funds to be expended.
4. The Division reserves the right to place a special condition on any sub-grant. Special conditions may include but are not limited to:
  - a. Designating mandatory provisions of an approved work plan;
  - b. Establishing alterations in a community action agency's service area;
  - c. Assuring compliance with state and federal rules and laws and the sub-grant;
  - d. Requiring improved service delivery to area residents;
  - e. Assuring implementation of the CSBG plan.

- D. The Division approval of the work plan and budget is expressly contingent on the following conditions:
- a. **Improvement of Real Property**  
  
The community action agency agrees to expend no CSBG funds for the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction or permanent improvement of any building or other facility, with the exception of low-cost residential weatherization or other energy-related home repairs.
  - b. **Fidelity Bonding/Liability Insurance** The community action agency agrees to:
    - i. Secure fidelity bonding in the aggregate amount of no less than \$500,000 for each employee and board member authorized to sign checks or obligate funds for the agency;
    - ii. Assume liability for unauthorized or improper fund obligations;
    - iii. Obtain adequate liability insurance for all professional staff, for personal injury and for property damage and
    - iv. Secure indemnification insurance for board members.
  - c. **CSBG Fund Accounting**  
  
The community action agency agrees to maintain records in a manner that demonstrates proper disbursement of and accounting for CSBG funds and to cooperate with the Division's annual audit of CSBG funds or with other state or federal investigations fulfilling the purposes of Section 679 of the Community Services Block Grant Act.
  - d. **Nondiscrimination.** The community action agency agrees that no person shall on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, color, age or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with CSBG funds.
  - e. **Quarterly and Periodic Reports.** The community action agency agrees to submit quarterly financial reports on CSBG Form 269 no later than twenty working days after the end of each calendar quarter. Such quarterly financial reports shall indicate all actual personnel, non-personnel and other expenditures for the quarter.
  - f. **Revisions of Work Plan or Budget.** The community action agency agrees to submit to the Division for its approval four (4) copies of CSBG Form 8, with attachments as necessary,, in the event of any proposed revision of an agency's approved work plan (Form 2 and 2A) or approved budget (CSBG Form 3, 4 and 5). No revision will be effective until the Division

grants written approval on CSBG Form 8, except that the Sub-Grantee may transfer total amounts not to exceed 10% from one line item cost category of an approved budget to another line item cost category without securing prior Division approval.

**E. Procedure for Termination of Funding**

1. The Division may terminate present or future funding for any community action agency which received funding in the previous fiscal year for cause.
  - a. "For cause" shall include but not be limited to the following reasons:
    - (i) The Division's CSBG grant or any State appropriation or both have been suspended or terminated in whole or in part by CSBG, the State, or both;
    - (ii) The CAA has failed or is unwilling to comply with the terms and conditions of its approved work plan, budget or its sub-grant;
    - (iii) The CAA has submitted required reports which are incorrect or incomplete in any material respect or are filed untimely;
    - (iv) The CAA has failed to adequately monitor and evaluate program activities delegated to another agency or party;
    - (v) The CAA has failed to respond adequately to an audit disallowance under any CSBG sub-grant between the CAA and the Division. Notwithstanding the above, the Division shall not withhold funds for allowable costs incurred prior to any such termination;
    - (vi) Any matter that would constitute grounds for withdrawal of designation under Section 1.3(D).
2. A termination shall be preceded by a written notice of intent to terminate sent from the Division to the CAA executive director and board chairperson and the Community Services Advisory Board chairperson. The notice shall state the grounds for termination and set forth the procedure by which the CAA may show cause why the funding should not be terminated.
3. The CAA may request a hearing before a review board to show cause why the CAA should not be terminated. The request shall be made to the Division director within 10 working days of receipt of the notice of intent. A meeting of the Community Services Advisory Board shall be scheduled within 20 working days of receipt of the request in order to appoint an ad hoc review board to be composed of 3 members of the Community Services Advisory Board.
4. The review board shall hold a hearing within 20 working days of its appointment.

5. The review board shall issue a written recommendation in support of or in opposition to the Division's notice of intent within 10 working days of the review board hearing.
6. Within 5 working days of the review board's recommendation, the Director of the Division shall issue an order which terminates funding for the CAA, or rescinds the notice of intent, or provides for other appropriate action. If no hearing was requested, the Division Director may issue a termination order within 15 working days after the notice of intent to terminate.
7. A termination order is reviewable by the Secretary of Health and Human Services upon the request of either the CAA or the Division within 5 working days of the order. The Division shall request a review by the Secretary of any termination order. Such review shall be based upon the record. The termination order shall not become effective until a finding is issued by the Secretary confirming the Division's finding of cause.
8. To appeal the Division's termination order, the community action agency must file a petition for review of the final agency decision in the appropriate superior court within 30 days, under the Maine Rules of Civil Procedures, Rule 80B.

## **1.6 CSBG Evaluation**

- A. An evaluation of each community action agency shall be performed by the Division, or its subcontractor designee every three years.
- B. This evaluation shall evaluate, make recommendations, and identify required remedial actions in any or all of the following areas:
  1. The extent of compliance with the provisions of these rules, the Division's CSBG sub-grant agreement, State statutes and pertinent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant and regulatory requirements.
  2. The extent of effective management and coordination of all agency programs, whether or not funded by the Division, which may include but are not limited to Home Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Transportation, Energy Crisis Intervention, Head Start, WIC, Family Planning, Housing, Day Care, Commodity Food, and Alcoholism programs.
  3. The extent of unresolved questioned costs identified in the most recent final audit of each agency program.
  4. The extent of accurate reporting of fiscal disbursements and proper accounting for expenditures, as required by Section 1.5(C) of these rules.
  5. The extent of participation of low-income residents in agency decision making.
  6. The extent of the organization and functioning of the board of directors.

7. The extent to which financial, material and human resources are mobilized.
8. The extent to which the agency develops and maintains effective community support and community relations.

## 1.7 Monitoring and Technical Assistance

- A. **Monitoring.** The Division will assign fiscal and program monitors to ensure compliance with federal regulations, with these rules and with each sub-grant.
1. Monitors will be responsible for making periodic on-site visits to each community action agency.
  2. Monitoring visits will include a review of compliance, CSBG administration and contract performance.
  3. Monitors will be required to submit on-site reports to the Director of the Division with a copy to the executive director of the community action agency, within thirty calendar days of the visit.
  4. Program monitors will be responsible for attending community action agency board of directors meetings on a quarterly basis.
  5. Fiscal monitors will determine the accuracy of record keeping and make a thorough examination of the agency's CSBG budget for conformity to program rules and agency work plans.
  6. Monitors will provide training and technical assistance. This T&TA will be the result of either Division or the CAA's recognized needs and will be separate from compliance monitoring.
- B. **Monitoring follow-up and noncompliance findings.** Division CSBG program and fiscal monitoring staff will adhere to the following schedule in the case of noncompliance with federal regulations, these rules, an agency's approved work plan or the sub-grant agreement.
1. Within ten calendar days of a determination of noncompliance, resulting from a monitoring visit and made after consultation with the Division's CSBG Program Director and with the Business Manager, if appropriate, the nature of the noncompliance will be reported in writing to the community action agency requesting correction of the problem. Appropriate corrective action must be made within a reasonable and appropriate time not to exceed thirty calendar days of receipt of the notice
  2. Monitoring staff will work with the agency throughout the period providing technical assistance to work out the problem.

3. Monitoring staff will prepare a final report on the result of any noncompliance finding and will send copies to the CSBG Program Director of the Division and the community action agency's executive director and board chairperson.
  4. If a significant noncompliance condition is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Division by the agency within the stated time frames, the Director of the Division may withhold that community action agency's funding for the coming month or months until the noncompliance is resolved to the Division's satisfaction. Written notice of the Division's intent to withhold shall be given to the CAA executive director and board and to the Community Services Advisory Board.
- D. **Technical Assistance.** The Division will provide technical assistance and training to community action agencies to enhance general program performance and to correct noncompliance conditions based on:
1. Periodic monitoring findings;
  2. Evaluation findings;
  3. Agency requests; and
  4. Periodic assessment of training or technical assistance needs.

## 1.8 Financial Policies and Procedures

- A. **Procurement.** When purchasing materials, equipment, property or services with CSBG funds, the community action agency shall follow the requirements of Attachment A, "Procurement" , which is hereby incorporated by reference.
- B. **Property Management Requirements**
1. **Federal Requirements.** The CAA shall be bound by, and the Division shall use in its review, general federal property management requirements set out in Attachment N to OMB Circular A-110. Reference to the "Federal sponsoring agency" shall be interpreted to read "Division of Community Services".
  2. **Inventory.** Each CAA shall maintain and update an accurate listing of all property, tools and equipment retained in its inventory which have a unit cost of more than \$300 and are purchased in whole or in part with CSBG funds.
  3. **Property Purchase.** Each CAA shall secure prior approval from the Division for the purchase of any vehicle, equipment, single inventory item or tool with an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more, at least a portion of which is CSBG funded.

#### 4. Property Disposition

- a. The CAA shall request and receive approval for disposition of any equipment, single inventory item or tool with a unit acquisition cost of \$1000 or more purchased in whole or in part with CSBG funds or any vehicle regardless of acquisition cost purchased in whole or in part with CSBG funds. All requests shall be submitted to the Division. The Division reserves the right to require reprogramming the entire resale amount.
- b. Prior to the sale of any vehicle approved for disposition purchased in whole or in part with CSBG funds, the CAA shall:
  - (i) Prepare a bid announcement which identifies each vehicle, describes its condition and states that the high bid on each vehicle will be accepted;
  - (ii) Place an advertisement in a local newspaper for three days announcing a public sale with sealed bids to be submitted no later than a specified date and hour with the bid announcement to be mailed in advance upon request.
  - (iii) Prepare a notice of bid award to be mailed to all bidders;
  - (iv) Prepare title transfer documents;
  - (v) Reprogram the proceeds from the vehicle sale into the current CSBG budget;
  - (vi) Retain documentation for all bid solicitation, award and title transfer for no less than three years from the date of sale.
- c. Public Sale of Other Materials, Equipment or Property. The CAA shall follow identical procedures as in 4(b) above in the case of the sale of any other property purchased in whole or in part with CSBG funds, with the qualification that like equipment or materials may be sold and listed in the bid announcement in lots, with quantities identified.

#### C. Records

##### 1. Retention of Records

- a. Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to a CSBG sub-grant are covered by these requirements.
- b. The retention period for each year's records starts from the end date of the CAA's program year.
- c. Records shall be retained for a minimum of three years. If any litigation, claim or audit has not been fully resolved before the expiration of the

three-year period, all relevant records shall be retained until one year after resolution.

2. Access to Records

- a. CAA's and CAA delegate agency(ies) shall provide the following agencies and persons with access to all books, records, documents and compilations of data relating to the CSBG program:
  - (i) The Division and its authorized representatives;
  - (ii) The United States Comptroller General or his/her designee; and
  - (iii) Department of Health and Human Services.

**1.9 Safeguarding of Information and Investigations**

All employees and other persons involved in the administration of the CSBG program shall adhere to the following policy regarding the safeguarding of information:

- A. Except as provided in Subsection B, the names of applicants for assistance from programs administered by a CAA and specific information about individually named applicants, such as income, assets, and assistance received, shall be confidential, shall not be open to public inspection, and shall not be released to any person or agency not directly involved in the administration or auditing of the CSBG program.
- B. Confidential information, as described in Subsection A, will be released only under the following circumstances:
  - 1. Information concerning applicants for and recipients of assistance provided in whole or in part with CSBG funds may be used or disclosed for purposes directly connected with the administration of the CSBG or related program, including:
    - a. Establishing eligibility;
    - b. Determining type and amount of assistance; and
    - c. Providing services for applicants and recipients.
  - 2. Any confidential information about an applicant will be released if the applicant gives written consent to such release.
  - 3. All information pertaining to a decision on eligibility for assistance will be made available to the applicant or recipient or his or her authorized representative in conjunction with an agency appeals procedure under Section 1.5(A)(3) of these rules.

4. A State agency with a legitimate reason to know shall have access to the information.

**C. Investigations**

1. The Division will immediately follow up and investigate any reports from recipients, denied applicants, and other sources concerning poor administration of the program, conflict of interest or any other alleged violation of these rules or the CSBG program. The Division will notify the CAA of all such reports and nature of the complaint.
2. The Division will provide to complaining parties and the executive director and board chairperson of the community action agency involved a written response stating the results of the investigation of the complaint.

**1.10 Allocation**

- A. The allocation of Community Services Block Grant funds shall be distributed as follows:

1. At least 90% shall be passed through to designated community action agencies.
  - a. Fifty percent (50%) of the amount passed through shall be divided equally among all designated agencies. If two designated agencies combine into one designated agency, they shall be treated as two designated agencies for the first year for the purpose of this subsection (a).
  - b. Fifty percent (50%) of the amount passed through shall be divided among all designated agencies based on each agency's percentage of the State's low-income households.
2. Five percent (5%) shall be retained by the Division for administrative expenses at the State level.
3. Up to 5% shall be set aside by the Division for a discretionary fund. This fund may be:
  - a. Retained by the Division for special projects or training;
  - b. Awarded to organizations or agencies which submit successful proposals in response to the Division's Request for Proposals; or
  - c. Used for any other lawful purpose.

- B. Any funds which are transferred to the Community Services Block Grant shall be distributed in an equitable manner to be established by the Division with 20% being divided equally among all designated agencies.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: P & S Law 1982 Chapter 94; P.L. 1983 Chapter 110; P & S Law 1983 Chapter 45; 5 M.R.S.A. §§ 3511 *et seq.*

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 1982

AMENDED:

November 1, 1983  
Sec. 1.10 - June 15, 19814 (EMERGENCY)  
August 22, 1984  
September 15, 1985  
October 25 - Appendix A  
January 25, 1987 - Section 1.10(A)(1)(a)

EFFECTIVE DATE (ELECTRONIC CONVERSION):

May 5, 1996

AMENDED:

December 13, 2005 – Section 1.10(A)(1), filing 2005-493

## ATTACHMENT A

### Procurement

#### A. General Procurement Goals and Objectives

1. The community action agency must ensure that all procurement of materials, property or equipment with CSBG funds are conducted in a manner to provide open and free competition and to avoid any appearance of impropriety.
2. The CAA must maintain a written code of conduct to govern the performance of its officers, employees or agents engaged in the award of contracts and the administration of CSBG funds. The code shall include at a minimum the following provisions:
  - a. No CAA employee, officer or agent shall participate in the selection, award or administration of a contract in which CSBG funds are to be used where to his or her knowledge any of the following persons or entities may possibly benefit from the selection, award or administration of such contract.
    - (i) The employee, officer or agent;
    - (ii) A member of the immediate family of the employee, officer or agent;
    - (iii) A partner of the employee, officer or agent;
    - (iv) An organization in which any person described in subsections (I) through (III) above has a financial interest or with whom said person is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment.
  - b. No CAA employee, officer or agent shall solicit or accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from a contractor or potential contractor;
  - c. The CAA agrees not to employ any person while he or she, or a member of his or her immediate family, is an officer or agent of the sub-grantee or exercises supervisory authority over that person; and
  - d. Disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of the code.
3. Proposed procurement actions shall follow a procedure to assure the avoidance of purchasing unnecessary or duplicative items. Where appropriate, an analysis shall be made of lease and purchase alternatives to determine which would be the most economical and practical procurement.

4. Solicitations for goods and services shall be based upon a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product or service to be procured.
5. The CAA shall make positive efforts to utilize small and minority owned businesses as a source of supplies and services. Such efforts shall allow these sources the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts which utilize CSBG funds.
6. Any information concerning contract requirements which CAA's personnel share with one prospective contractor must be shared with all prospective contractors to whom the CAA has sent bid materials. ..
7. Some form of price or cost analysis shall be made in connection with every procurement action.
8. Awards shall be made to the bidder whose bid is responsive to the requirements set out in the Invitation to Bid or Request for Proposals and is most advantageous to the recipient, price and other factors considered. Bid awards shall be In writing with all bidders notified of the successful bidder. All bid documents shall become public information subject to disclosure upon request after the bids are opened.
9. Contracts shall be made only with responsible contractors who possess the potential ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration shall be given to such matters as contractor integrity, record of past performance, financial and technical resources or accessibility to other necessary resources.
10. The following provisions must appear in all contracts where procurement is, In whole or in part, CSBG funded:
  - a. Contracts other than small purchases shall contain provisions or conditions which will allow for administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as may be appropriate.
  - b. All contracts In excess of \$10,000 shall contain suitable provisions for termination by the CAA including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement. In addition, such contracts shall describe conditions under which the contract may be terminated because of circumstances beyond the control of the contractor.
  - c. All contracts awarded in excess of \$10,000 by community action agencies and their contractors shall contain a provision requiring compliance with Executive Order 11246, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity", as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (41 CFR Part 60).
  - d. All contracts and subgrants for construction or repair shall include a provision for compliance with the Copeland 'Anti-Kickback' Act (18

USC 874) as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR, Part 3). This Act provides that each contractor or agency shall be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled. The community action agency shall report all suspected or reported violations to the grantor agency.

- e. Where applicable, all contracts awarded by community action agencies in excess of \$2,000 for construction contracts and In excess of \$2,500 for other contracts which involve the employment of mechanics or laborers for work financed in whole or in part by CSBG funds shall include a provision for compliance with sections 103 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 USC 327-330) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR, Part 5). These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence.
  - f. All contracts (except those awarded by the small purchases procedures of Section B.1) awarded by community action agencies shall include a provision to the effect that (1) the Division of Community Services, the Federal grantor agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to that specific contract; and. (2.) the contractor must place the same provision as stated in subsection (1) In any subcontract which would have had to have the provision were It awarded directly by the community action agency.
  - g. Community action agencies shall require contractors to maintain all required records for three years after final payments have been made and all other pending matters are closed. If an audit litigation or other action involving the records is started before the end of the 3 year period, the records must be retained until all issues arising out of the action are resolved or until the end of the 3 year period whichever Is later.
  - h. Contracts and subcontracts of amounts in excess of \$100,000 shall contain a provision which requires compliance with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 1857(h)), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1368). Executive Order 11738, and Environmental Protection Agency regulations (40 CFR Part 15). The provision shall require a reporting of violations to the grantor agency and to the U.S.E.P.A. Assistant Administrator for Enforcement (ENM-329).
11. The community action agency shall request and obtain written approval from the Division for any agency procurement contract, agreement or bid proposal prior to its award when:

- a. The procurement is for furnishing any of the work or services provided for in a sub-grant agreement with a community action agency;
  - b. The procurement, at least a portion of which is CSBG funded, is expected to exceed \$10,000; or
  - c. The proposed procurement is a sole source procurement including when only one bid or proposal is received, in which the aggregated expenditure is expected to exceed \$5,000, at least a portion of which is CSBG funded.
  - d. The community action agency fails to comply with its own procurement procedures, with the requirements of this Attachment, the rules or with OMB Circular A-110, Attachment 0.
12. A system for contract administration shall be maintained to ensure contractor conformance with terms, conditions and specifications of the contract and to ensure adequate and timely follow-up of all purchases.
13. Procurement records and files for purchases in excess of \$300 shall include:
- a. Basis for contractor selection;
  - b. Justification for lack of competition when competitive bids or offers are not obtained;
  - c. Basis for award cost or price; and.
  - d. Executed contract if one is required
14. The CAA shall be bound by, and the Division shall use in Its review, general federal procurement principles set out in Attachment 0 to OMB Circular A-110. Reference to the "Federal sponsoring agency" shall be interpreted to read "Division of Community Services".

**B. Procurement Procedures**

1. In the case of individual purchases of \$300 or less, at least a portion of which Is CSBG funded, the CAA may purchase items or services from the most convenient supplier provided the price is reasonable.
2. In the case of individual purchases between \$300 and \$2,500, the CAA shall:
  - a. Perform a price survey for the required Items or services;
  - b. Receive price quotations or bids from at least three reputable vendors and document them on a survey sheet; and

- 
- c. Purchase the items or services from the vendor whose bid or proposal will be the most advantageous to the CAA, price and other relevant factors considered.
3. Competitive sealed bids with advertising and executed contracts are required for all other procurements, except as provided in Section B(4) below.
    - a. The CAA must prepare an Invitation to Bid or a Request for Proposals, which:
      - (i) Identifies all requirements which prospective bidders must fulfill;
      - (ii) Identifies all factors which the CAA will consider in evaluating bids;
      - (iii) Establishes relative weights of all factors, including cost, by means of which the CAA will rank bids; and
      - (iv) Establishes the maximum amount of the contract, its duration, and Its geographical scope and states that failure to execute the contract will result in bid disqualification.
    - b. The Invitation to Bid or Request for Proposals shall include the following provisions:
      - (i) The contract award is subject to prior approval by the Division upon review by its Attorney;
      - (ii) Any and all bids may be rejected when it is in the interests of the CAA to do so;
      - (iii) All bids constitute firm offers which may not be withdrawn for a specified period of time from the bid opening;
      - (iv) The submission of a bid constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Invitation to Bid or Request for Proposals; and
      - (v) All bids must be sealed and received by the specified CAA contact person prior to a specified time for a bid opening at a specified time and location.
    - c. The CAA must publish a newspaper advertisement in, at a minimum, the newspaper with the greatest circulation in the CAA's service area.
    - d. This newspaper advertisement shall specify and provide at least the following:
      - (i) A concise description of the materials, supplies or services to be procured;

- (ii) The CAA's contact person from whom prospective bidders may obtain bid materials;
    - (iii) The deadline for delivery of sealed bids, including time of day and the time and place for the bid opening;
    - (iv) A statement that the advertisement is subject In all respects to the terms and conditions of the Invitation to Bid or Request for Proposals.
  - e. The newspaper advertisement shall be published with enough time prior to the bid opening to permit prospective bidders to obtain, prepare and submit bids.
  - f. The Invitation to Bid or Request for Proposals must be mailed or delivered to no less than three prospective contractors who may reasonably be expected to submit a bid.
4. Sole source procurement may be used when procurement is infeasible under the methods set forth in Section B(1)(2) or (3).
- a. Sole source procurement may be used only when:
    - (i) Public exigency or emergency will not permit a delay necessary for competitive solicitation, or
    - (ii) A specific item or service Is available from only one source;
  - b. A written statement justifying the use of sole source procurement shall be included in the CAA procurement file.
5. The Division will not reimburse the CAA for procurements which are not made and documented in accordance with this part, Including:
- a. Documentation of the basis of contractor selection, including the method by which multiple price quotations from varying contractors were compared and evaluated: and
  - b. Documentation of the basis for the contract award amount, including the estimate for materials or services which the CAA expects to procure by means of the subcontractor.
6. The Division may permit procurement by methods other than as provided in these rules upon the written request with justification from a CAA.

**C. Division Responsibilities Regarding Procurements**

- 1. The Division will provide prompt and timely review of all proposed sole source procurements requiring approval and will answer any such request In writing within a time frame which meets the needs which have prompted the request. If the

Division denies a request for proposed sole source procurement, it will provide written reasons for this denial and technical assistance in finding alternative means of meeting the procurement need which necessitated the request.

2. Division staff will provide technical assistance for CAA's compliance with these requirements.
3. The Division may require that all bid materials be submitted to the Division for its prior written approval.
4. In any case where a CAA receives no responsive bid to an Invitation to Bid or Request for Proposal, or decides for any reason to award no bid, it shall immediately notify the Division's Attorney. 4 decision to reject all bids for proposals shall be supported by a well-documented rationale.
5. Neither the Division nor the State of Maine assumes any liability in the event of protests, disputes, or breaches of contract.

# **ATTACHMENT M**

## **Maine Child and Family Services Program Report**

**CSBG Performance Measures for All Agencies**

**Results Oriented Management &  
Accountability/ROMA**

**Fiscal Year: 2008**

## Maine Child and Family Services Program Report

### **CSBG Performance Measures for All Agencies**

**Fiscal Year: 2008**

#### CSBG/ROMA Goal 1: Low-Income People Become More Self-Sufficient

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b># of Agencies</b>
1.1.A	Of the <u>429</u> unemployed participants expected to achieve employment, <u>293 (68.3%)</u> will achieve employment and be continuously employed for at least 90 days.	5
1.2.A	Of the <u>1115</u> unemployed or under employed participants expected to be successful, <u>654 (58.7%)</u> will get, maintain or improve their employment by completing a job training or education course	8
1.2.B	Of the <u>487</u> unemployed or under employed participants expected to be successful, <u>341 (70%)</u> will get, maintain or improve their employment by completing a job training or education course	1
1.2.C	Of the <u>487</u> unemployed or under employed participants expected to be successful, <u>341 (70%)</u> will get, maintain or improve their employment by completing a job training or education course	1
1.2.H	Of the <u>341</u> unemployed or underemployed participants expected to be successful, <u>259 (76%)</u> will remain in or obtain safe and affordable housing in support of employment.	8
1.3.B.2	Of the <u>66</u> customers participating in the FDA program, <u>48 (72.7%)</u> will save at least \$150 within 6 months	8
1.3.B.3.a	Of the <u>55</u> customers participating in the Family Development Account program, <u>10 (18.2%)</u> will save enough money to start or expand a business during the program year.	5
1.3.B.3.b	Of the <u>59</u> customers participating in the Family Development Account program, <u>13 (22%)</u> will save enough money to increase education during the program year.	6
1.3.B.3.c	Of the <u>66</u> customers participating in the Family Development Account program, <u>10 (15.2%)</u> will save enough money to purchase a home during the program year.	8
<b>Custom Measures</b>		
1.1.A	Of the 10 unemployed participants in FSS expected to achieve employment, 5 (50%) achieved employment & was continuously employed for 90 days.	1
1.1.A	Of the 100 families served in Early Head Start, 36 currently employed and an additional 27 in job training will gain employment	1

	for a total of 63 employed families.	
1.1.A	Of the 600 families served in Head Start, 363 currently employed and an additional 46 will gain employment for a total of 409 employed families.	1
1.1.A	of the 90 families receiving child care subsidy, 63 will obtain or maintain employment & was continuously employed for 90 days	1
1.1.B	Of the 109 customers currently employed, 64 will obtain an increase in employment income.	1
1.1.C	Of the 28 unemployed WIA adult participants expected to achieve employment, 25 achieved "living wage" employment and benefits.	1
1.2.D	Of the 17 children were enrolled in before/after school programs, 17 were enrolled in order for their parents to acquire or maintain employment.	1
1.2.D	Of the 17 families enrolling children in before school child care, 17 will be able to gain or maintain employment	1
1.2.E	Of the 114 children were enrolled in preschool child care programs, 64 were enrolled in order for their parents to acquire or maintain employment.	1
1.2.E	Of the 160 families receiving childcare, 144 will maintain employment for at least 90 days.	1
1.2.E	Of the 35 enrolled Family Development participants, 15 obtained care for child or other dependent in order to acquire or maintain employment.	1
1.2.F	Of the 20 handicapped or low-income people seeking Employment Transportation, 20 (100%) will be provided transportation services that enable them to hold a job 90 days or more	1
1.2.F	Of the 35 enrolled Family Development participants, 14 obtained access to reliable transportation or driver's license in order to acquire or maintain employment.	1
1.2.F	Of the 50 people that apply for automobile purchase or repair loans to acquire or maintain employment, 40 will be approved for a loan.	1
1.2.G	Of the 1344 women between the ages of 23 and 50 years, 558 (42%) will gain or maintain employment.	1
1.2.G	Of the 35 enrolled Family Development participants, 15 obtained mental health care services for themselves or family member in support of employment stability.	1
1.2.H	Of the 6 families enrolled in YCCAC's Family Independence Program, 4 will achieve at least three of the following: live in safe affordable housing - have affordable child care - have	1

	transportation needs met - have a job earning at least \$ 9 per hour - co	
1.3.A.1	Of the 106 people who receive tax assistance, 90 (85%) will increase financial assets.	1
1.3.A.1	Of the 300 customers participating in the free tax preparation program, 255 (85%) will identify at least one Federal or State tax credit to which they are entitled.	1
1.3.A.1	Of the 40 individuals participating in WHCA's tax preparation program, 30 will access the Earned Income Tax Credit.	1
1.3.A.3	Of the 1,700 people requesting LIAP services, 1100 (65%) will receive benefits	1
1.3.A.3	Of the 15 families requesting power line extensions, 8 (53%) will receive credits up to \$2,800 per family	1
1.3.A.3	Of the 2,000 people applying for TLP services, 1800 (90%) will receive a benefit of \$10.50 per month	1
1.3.A.3	Of the 5040 customers, 4788 will have expected aggregate savings of \$1,149,120.	1
1.3.A.3	Of the 5400 people that apply for telephone lifeline, 3500 people are approved for a benefit.	1
1.3.B.1	Of the 2 customers, 2 will demonstrate ability to complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days.	1
1.3.B.3.a	Of the 20 Incubator Without Walls micro business members, 10 will create a job for themselves or an employee.	1
1.3.B.3.a	Of the 40 customers with children who receive final court orders 36 (90%) will obtain or maintain court ordered child support payments.	1
1.3.B.3.a	Of the 6 micro businesses that submit a WHCA business loan application to the loan committee, 4 will receive loan approval.	1
1.3.B.3.b	Of the 20 enrolled in the FDA programs, 15 (75%) will complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days.	1

CSBG/ROMA Goal 2: The Conditions in Which Low-Income People Live Are Improved

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b># of Agencies</b>
2.1.B	As a result of the <u>12</u> housing projects/initiatives, <u>186</u> safe and affordable housing units will be created.	7
2.1.C	As a result of the <u>166</u> home improvement projects/initiatives, <u>3234</u> safe and affordable housing units for low-income participants will be preserved or improved through construction, weatherization or	10

	rehabilitation.	
2.1.D	As a result of the <u>286</u> health care services/facilities, <u>365991</u> new or maintained opportunities will be available for low-income participants.	9
Custom Measures		
2.1	Of approximately 100 families who will receive housing services at least 30 (30%) families will be maintained in safe, affordable housing	1
2.1	Of the 25 people requesting AGST replacement, 20 (80%) will have their tanks replaced	1
2.1	Of the 54,000 trips for 1,000 people requesting Transportation, a total of 1,300,000 miles will be provided to 1000 people (100%).	1
2.1	Of the 80 customers who seek Weatherization services, 50 (63%) will obtain services and save at least one dollar in energy costs for every dollar invested.	1
2.1	Of the 80 people requesting assistance with primary heating systems, 40 (50%) will receive services that show a heating efficiency in excess of 80%	1
2.1.A	As the result of the 10 business assistance projects, 27 "living wage" jobs will be created or retained.	1
2.1.D	As a result of 2 health care facilities in Waterville and Skowhegan, 442 units of access (unit=clinic/day) will be available for low income participants per year.	1
2.1.E	As a result of 560 eligible Head Start and Early Head Start slots 600 children will receive safe and affordable care and education.	1
2.1.E	As the result of the 133 accessible safe and affordable child care services/facilities, 1900 new or maintained child care opportunities will be available to low-income families.	1
2.1.F	Of the 20 available after school slots, 15 youth will receive and achieve opportunities for learning and social connection.	1
2.1.G	As a result of 1 new, preserved, or expanded transportation resource, 6000 new or maintained opportunities will be available for low-income participants.	1
2.1.G	As a result of Penquis Lynx transportation, 5 projects are administered to low income individuals who do not have their own transportation, to assure access to health care and shopping.	1
2.1.G	As a result of the 1 transportation service, 37076 new or maintained opportunities will be available for low-income participants	1
2.2.B	As a result of 7 new and maintained housing projects, there will be	1

	6 community centers available to community members.	
2.2.C	As a result of participation in 6 committees and boards, 8 public health initiatives will be supported.	1

CSBG/ROMA Goal 3: Low-Income People Own a Stake in Their Community

Indicator	Performance Target	# of Agencies
3.1	<u>1388920</u> volunteer hours will be donated to the CAA.	10
3.2	Of the <u>13005</u> people invited to participate in customer feedback opportunities, <u>4795 (36.9%)</u> will respond.	10
3.2.A	<u>197</u> low-income individuals will serve on agency governance/advisory groups/committees.	10
3.2.C	Of the <u>445</u> people seeking to purchase a home, <u>197 (44.3%)</u> will achieve ownership.	9
3.2.D	As a result of CAA created or supported programs and services, <u>425</u> low –income participants will be engaged in community groups or committees.	10
Custom Measures		
3.2.B	10 low-income people will acquire a business in the community as a result of community action assistance.	1
3.2.C	Of the 80 people that participate in the Incubator Without Walls Program and other micro enterprise training 12 (15%) will start or expand their business.	1
3.2.D	In order to assure the MCAA's Poverty and Economic Security 2nd annual Symposium's success, 100 low-income individuals will contribute to the development of the day-long conference.	1

CSBG/ROMA Goal 4: Partnerships Among Supporters and Providers of Services to Low-Income People are Achieved

Indicator	Performance Target	# of Agencies
4.1	The CAA works with <u>1002</u> public and private organizations to expand resources and opportunities to achieve family and community outcomes.	10
Custom Measures		
4.1	Of approximately 2,300 families requesting services 1000 (44%) will be appropriately referred and receive services	1

4.1	Of the 275 senior volunteers serving Knox, Lincoln & Waldo Counties, 175 will provide hours of service to high priority community activities (disaster preparedness, transportation, food programs and literacy activities.)	1
4.1	Of the 36 press releases submitted, 27 will be printed in a local newspaper.	1
4.1	Of the 500 WHCA annual reports distributed to community members, 50 will report they received beneficial information	1

CSBG/ROMA Goal 5: Agencies Increase Their Capacity to Achieve Results

Indicator	Performance Target	# of Agencies
5.1.F	The dollar value of volunteer time will be <u>\$13,421,993.00</u>	10
Custom Measures		
5.1	Of 215 KVCAP employees, 150 will participate in at least 1 Wellness Team sponsored activity.	1
5.1.A	As a result of the state-wide ROMA/CSBG committee and partnerships, there will be one state-wide symposium and 6 full CSBG committee meetings.	1
5.1.A	Penquis will make 2 distinct improvements to complete the agency information system.	1
5.1.B	Of the 45 new applications for funding to meet community need, 20 (44%) will result in an award.	1

Low-Income People, Especially Vulnerable Populations, Achieve  
CSBG/ROMA Goal 6: Their Potential by Strengthening Family and Other Supportive Systems

Indicator	Performance Target	# of Agencies
6.1.A	Of the <u>8673</u> seniors who are receiving agency services, <u>6470 (74.6%)</u> will remain in independent living situations that meet their needs for at least 6 months.	9
6.2.A	Of the <u>19272</u> households seeking emergency services, <u>18917 (98.2%)</u> will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	5
6.2.B	Of the <u>58500</u> customers seeking heating assistance, <u>50833 (86.9%)</u> will receive assistance within 45 days.	10
6.2.B	Of the <u>450</u> households seeking emergency services, <u>390 (86.7%)</u>	3

	will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	
6.2.B	Of the <u>4581</u> households seeking services for “no heat” or “no electricity” situations, <u>4084 (89.2%)</u> will receive assistance that resolves the crisis within 48 hours.	10
6.2.C	Of the <u>76</u> households seeking emergency services, <u>51 (67.1%)</u> will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	2
6.2.D	Of the <u>60</u> households seeking emergency services, <u>60 (100%)</u> will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	1
6.2.E	Of the <u>4</u> households seeking emergency services, <u>4 (100%)</u> will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	1
6.2.F	Of the <u>3</u> households seeking emergency services, <u>3 (100%)</u> will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	1
6.2.G	Of the <u>65</u> households seeking emergency services, <u>65 (100%)</u> will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	1
6.2.H	Of the <u>1</u> household seeking emergency services, <u>1 (100%)</u> will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	1
6.3.A.2	Of the <u>12030</u> customers who receive food supplements for infants and children, <u>9668 (80.4%)</u> will have heights and weights within 10% of age appropriate level.	5
6.3.A.3	Of the <u>3916</u> children enrolled in agency services, <u>3386 (86.5%)</u> will demonstrate progress toward meeting developmental goals.	9
6.3.B	Of the <u>2959</u> youth enrolled in agency services, <u>2296 (77.6%)</u> will demonstrate goals such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased communication skills</li> <li>• Increased self-awareness</li> <li>• Increased safety habits (no substance use, wear seat belts, use cont</li> </ul>	5
6.3.C.2	Of the <u>2977</u> parents enrolled in agency services, <u>2462 (82.7%)</u> will demonstrate improved family functioning skills.	7
Custom Measures		
6.1.B	Of the 141 adults with disabilities seeking housing assistance, 71	1

	will receive a section VIII voucher.	
6.2.A	Of the 20100 persons seeking food items, 100% will be served.	1
6.2.B	Of the 1000 households seeking services for "no heat" or "no electricity" situations, 800 (80%) will receive assistance that resolves the crisis within 48 hours.	1
6.2.B	Of the 1050 individuals with legal issues, 893 (85%) will either secure paralegal assistance with pro se litigation or legal paperwork or a referral to an affordable legal service provider within three weeks.	1
6.2.C	Of the 10 households seeking emergency shelter services, 6 will receive assistance that resolves the immediate crisis within two weeks.	1
6.2.C	Of the 60 households seeking services for "no heat" or "no electricity" situations, 55 (92%) will receive assistance that resolves the crisis within 48 hours.	1
6.2.E	Of the 140 cases served in the law project who are victims of domestic violence, at least 90 (65%) will receive an interim or final court order addressing protection from abuse, divorce and/or child custody issues.	1
6.3.B	Of 100 teens that attend the SETC, 30 will be engaged in activities in a safe environment on an average of twice per week for at least one quarter of the year.	1
6.3.B	Of the 100 teens that attend the SETC, 45 will provide input into programming.	1
6.3.B	Of the 1258 youth enrolled in agency services, 1220 will demonstrate goals such as: increased communication skills, increased self-awareness, increased safety habits (no substance use, wear seat belts, uses contraceptives, etc.), increased school performance.	1
6.3.C	Of the 400 women actively engaged in The Women's Project, 200 (50%) will attend support groups and/or parenting classes and activities that will improve their capacity to parent.	1
6.3.C.1	Of the 35 parents enrolled in Family Development, 14 will participate in services to learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	1

# **APPENDICES**

## **A**

An Act to Create the Maine Council on  
Poverty & Economic Security, April 17, 2008

## **B**

Office of the Governor - Proclamation  
Community Action Month, September, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Create the Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-H** is enacted to read:

**6-H.**

Economic  
Development

Maine Council  
on Poverty and  
Economic Security

5 MRSA  
§13171

Legislative per  
diem for appointed  
members plus  
expenses

**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA c. 391** is enacted to read:

### **CHAPTER 391**

### **POVERTY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY**

#### **§ 13171. Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security**

The Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 6-H and referred to in this section as "the council," advises the Governor and the Legislature on approaches that this State can successfully employ to end poverty and provide economic security to those who are poor or near poor in the State and benchmarks to measure the State's progress in reaching those goals. For purposes of this chapter, "poverty" means either having family income below the nonfarm income official poverty line or below the annual basic needs budget as adjusted to family size determined by the Department of Labor under Title 26, section 1405.

**1. Membership; terms; meetings.** The council consists of 21 appointed, voting members and 5 ex officio, nonvoting members.

A. Voting members of the council are as set out in this paragraph:

(1) Two members of the Senate, who may not be from the same political party, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) Four members of the House of Representatives, of whom no more than 2 may be members of the same political party; appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) One member of the nonprofit community serving individuals living in or near poverty, appointed by the Governor based on recommendations of statewide organizations serving low-income persons;

(4) One member representing faith-based organizations, appointed by the Governor based on recommendations of statewide faith-based organizations;

(5) Two individuals living in or near poverty, one of whom has had experience with homelessness, appointed by the Governor based on recommendations of statewide poverty advocacy organizations;

(6) One representative of an advocacy organization specializing in public policy related to poverty, appointed by the Governor based on recommendations of statewide advocacy organizations;

(7) One person who has experienced poverty who is disabled, appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of statewide disability organizations;

(8) One representative of children living in or near poverty, appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of statewide children's advocacy organizations;

(9) Two members representing the business community, appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of statewide business organizations;

(10) One person who has experienced poverty who is a woman, appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of statewide women's organizations with expertise in issues related to poverty;

(11) One representative of a statewide organization with expertise in economic policy analysis relating to challenges faced by low-income persons, appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of statewide organizations with expertise in issues related to poverty;

(12) Two representatives of economic development organizations, appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of economic development organizations;

(13) One person who has experienced poverty who is elderly, appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of statewide organizations representing or serving elderly individuals; and

(14) One representative of Native Americans, appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation.

B. The following individuals, or their designees, shall serve on the council as ex officio, nonvoting members: the Director of the State Planning Office within the Executive Department; the Commissioner of Health and Human Services; the Commissioner of Labor; the Commissioner of Education; and the Director of the Maine State Housing Authority.

C. Members of the council must have experience with issues of poverty and economic insecurity and represent the geographic diversity of the State.

D. Members of the council serve for a term of 3 years except that initial appointments must be for 1, 2 and 3 years in order to provide for staggered terms. At the end of a term an outgoing member serves until a successor has been appointed. A member may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

E. The members of the council shall elect a chair from among their members by majority vote at the first meeting of the council. The chair serves for the duration of that member's term unless a majority of the membership elects another chair. At the end of the chair's term as member, the membership shall elect a new chair by majority vote.

**2. Duties of council.** The council shall:

A. Identify the number of those living at or near the poverty level in the State, and among certain subpopulations, including children, households headed by single females, the elderly, racial minorities and people with disabilities;

B. Identify the risk factors and underlying causes of poverty through consultation with experts, service providers and individuals living in or near poverty and review research literature to identify the best practices for prevention and reduction of poverty;

C. Examine the long-term effects of poverty on individuals, their families and their communities, including the costs of poverty to municipalities, the State and the State's economy;

D. Examine programs that are targeted to assist people living in poverty or near poverty and identify any inadequacies or gaps in such programs;

E. Recommend public policy strategies and procedures for the elimination of poverty in the State;

F. Establish measurable benchmarks for the elimination of poverty in the State by setting percentage reductions in the number of people living in or near poverty in the next 5, 10 and 20 years; and

G. Establish procedures for the operation of the council.

**3. Staff assistance.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide necessary staffing services to the council.

**4. Compensation.** Legislative members of the council are entitled to receive the legislative per diem described in Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the council. Public members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled, to the extent that funds are available, to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their attendance at authorized meetings of the council.

**5. Outside funding.** The council may not accept General Fund funding but may seek outside funding to cover costs of the council.

**6. Report.** The council shall report to the Governor and the Legislature by February 15th annually on the State's progress in reducing the number of people living in or near poverty and with recommendations, including legislative recommendations, for ensuring that the goal of ending poverty is reached in a timely and effective manner consistent with benchmarks established by the council.

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

## LEGISLATURE

### Legislature 0081

Initiative: Allocates funds for per diem and expenses for legislative members who will serve as members of the Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,320
All Other	\$0	\$1,200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,520</b>

Effective 90 days following adjournment of the 123rd  
Legislature, First Special Session, unless otherwise indicated.

WHEREAS, community action agencies were created when the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was signed into law; and

WHEREAS, community action agencies have for 45 years promoted self-sufficiency for the limited income; and

WHEREAS, community action agencies have made an essential contribution to individuals and families in Maine by providing them with innovative and cost-effective programs; and

WHEREAS, community action agencies are needed as major participants in the reform of the welfare system as we know it; and

WHEREAS, welfare reform in Maine has benefited from the State's partnership with community action agencies; and

WHEREAS, those with limited income continue to need opportunities to improve their lives and their living conditions thus ensuring that all citizens are able to live in dignity; and

WHEREAS, Maine and the entire United States must continue to wage war on poverty by providing support and opportunities for all citizens in need of assistance,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2009 as

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize community action agencies' 45 years of continued service to the people of Maine.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this thirteenth day of August in the Year Two Thousand and Nine.

John E. Baldacci  
Governor

Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State  
TRUE ATTESTED COPY



*John E. Baldacci, Governor*

*Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner*

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, creed, gender, age, or national origin, in admission to, access to or operations of its programs, services, or activities or its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and in accordance with the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Maine Human Rights Act. Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the DHHS' ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinator, State House Station #11, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-4289 (V) or 207-287 3488 (V), TTY: 800-606-0215. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of DHHS are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinator. This notice is available in alternate formats, upon request.

*Caring..Responsive..Well-Managed  
We are DHHS.*