

Early Care and Education

Programs and Services for PreK-Elementary

Office of Child and Family Services

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Child Care Licensing

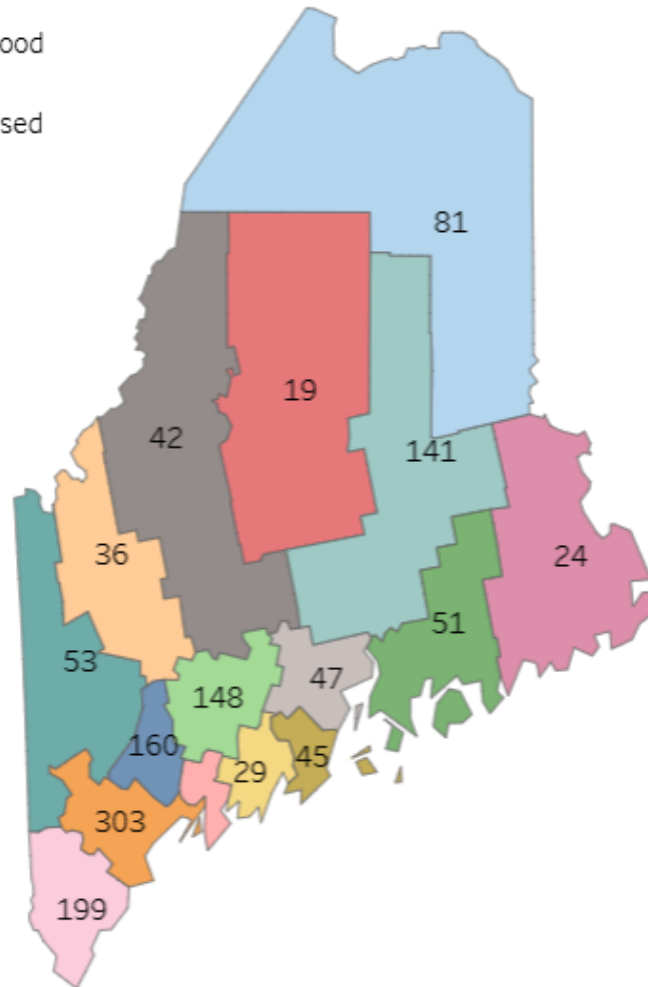
Licensed Providers

The goal of the Department is to provide early childhood education services in a safe, healthy and secure environment. This report shows the number of licensed providers by type, Rising Star rating and county.

Point in Time Data

State Totals

Star Rating ^{A 2}	CHILD CARE FACILITY	FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER
2 Stars	534	569
3 Stars	61	27
4 Stars	49	35
5 Stars	131	8
Grand Total	775	639



Select Month

November 2024



Select Star Rating

- ☒ (All)
- ☐ 2 Stars
- ☐ 3 Stars
- ☐ 4 Stars
- ☐ 5 Stars

Select Provider Type

- ☒ (All)
- ☐ CHILD CARE FACILITY
- ☐ FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER

State Head Start Contracts



- Head Start programs support children's growth from birth to age 5 through services centered on early learning and development, health, and family well-being.
- Maine contracts with 11 Head Start grantees, supporting increased access to Early Head Start and Head Start Preschool.
- 2023 legislation included additional state funding (\$3,600,000) for Head Start providers and an increase in Head Start eligibility for families whose income is up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. OCFS completed contract amendments to incorporate this change and the additional funding in November 2023.
- In 2024, Maine Head Start programs leveraged state funds to support 696 children and families in a variety of ways including staff for additional classrooms and program improvements.



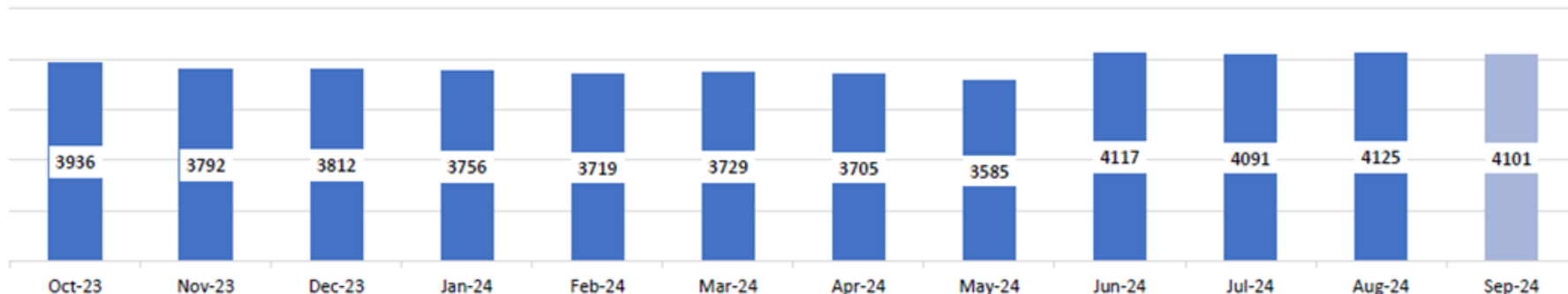
To support access to early care and education for Maine children, CCAP helps eligible families to pay for child care so parents can work, go to school, or participate in a job training program. Families must meet income guidelines, where household income is up to 125% of State Median Income.

Program Information: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/sites/maine.gov.dhhs/files/inline-files/Facts%20about%20CCAP.pdf>

Income Guidelines: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/sites/maine.gov.dhhs/files/inline-files/10192024%20income%20guidelines.pdf>

Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP)

Number of Children in CCAP by Month



Percent of Children in CCAP by Age Group

By Age Group (FFY24)												
Age Group	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Infant	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%
Toddler	21%	22%	23%	23%	23%	23%	22%	22%	21%	21%	21%	22%
Preschool	29%	30%	31%	32%	33%	34%	36%	36%	35%	36%	26%	28%
School Age	45%	43%	42%	41%	40%	38%	38%	38%	39%	38%	48%	46%



Help Me Grow (HMG) Maine is a free information line linking families and professionals to information about child development and community resources for children, prenatal to eight years old. Families can access Help Me Grow online and by dialing 211 option 5 to speak to a Family Support Specialist who will listen, link to services, and provide ongoing support when needed. Help Me Grow also provides access to development screening for young children.

Program Information: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-development>

Help Me Grow Maine



2024
Update



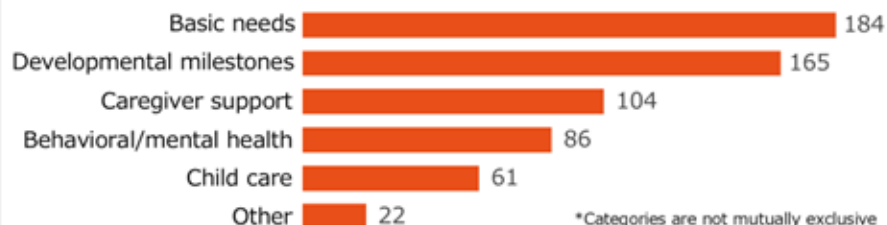
Data from 1/1/24 to 9/30/24



588 unique children served



Number of HMG Cases by Concern*



Resources Provided

1,118

total
resources
provided

389

different
resources
provided

6 resources
represented
20% of all
resources
provided

Resource	Count
Child Development Services	53
Child Care Choices	48
Ages and Stages Screenings	34
DHHS Community Care Team	34
Attend Behavior App	30
Child Care Affordability Program	30



Developmental Screenings

130

total developmental screenings
(47 at outreach events)

ASQ -3

- ▶ 69 screens
- ▶ 52% screens indicated a concern/need for monitoring

ASQ:SE-2

- ▶ 61 screens
- ▶ 38% screens indicated a concern/need for monitoring



Connections



83%
connected

For Help Me Grow cases that have closed and have known outcomes, **83% of families have been connected** to one or more service. An additional 2% have services pending.

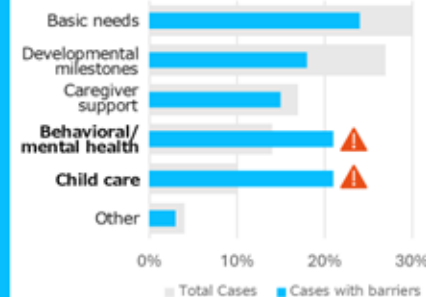


Barriers

29 cases
experienced
195 barriers

- ▶ 72% of cases with barriers had 5+ barriers
- ▶ 21% of cases with barriers had 10+ barriers
- ▶ Top barriers were cultural sensitivities and eligibility

% of HMG Cases by Concern




Maine ECE Workforce Salary Supplement Program

- \$31 million per year in state general funds
- Monthly grants from the state to licensed early care and education programs
- Programs then distribute funding to their staff in their wages/compensation

SUPPLMENT TIER LEVELS	ECE WORKFORCE REGISTRY LEVELS (MRTQ PDN)	MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT AMOUNT
Tier 1	Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4	\$240
Tier 2	Level 5, Level 6	\$360
Tier 3	Level 7, Level 8	\$540

Maine ECE Workforce Registry Levels

	Less than HS	HS	CDA/Maine Credential	Associates	Bachelors	Masters	Doctorate
Level 8						Related Masters and 5 years of experience	Related Doctorate and 2 years of experience
Level 7					Related Bachelors and 5 years of experience	Related Masters and 2 years of experience	Related Doctorate
Level 6				Related Associates and 5 years of experience	Related Bachelors and 2 years of experience	Related Masters OR Unrelated Masters with 24 college credits in ECE and 5 years of experience	
Level 5			6 years of Experience	Related Associates and 2 years of experience	Related Bachelors OR Unrelated Bachelors with 12 college credits in ECE and 5 years of experience		
Level 4		5 Years of Experience And 135 hours of CKT OR 9 college credits in ECE	3 Years of Experience	Related Associates OR Unrelated Associates with 12 college credits in ECE and 2 years of experience			
Level 3		3 years of Experience and 90 hours of CKT OR 6 college credits in ECE	1 Year of Experience				
Level 2		1 year of Experience And 45 hours of CKT OR 3 college credits in ECE					
Level 1	30 days of Experience and 6 hours of Core Knowledge Training (CKT)					<div> <p>Related Degrees include Early Childhood Education or Development, or Human Services</p> <p>An unrelated degree can be considered related with 36 related credits</p> </div>	

ECE Workforce Salary Supplement Program Data

MRTQ Lattice	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sept '24	Oct '24	Nov '24
Level 0	164	92	106	76	80	71	73	77	68	74	58	60
Tier 1												
Level 1	3543	3648	3652	3712	3696	3695	3725	3694	3595	3536	3623	3661
Level 2	424	437	483	511	525	523	532	543	556	580	582	586
Level 3	294	313	334	347	352	341	358	367	367	378	388	392
Level 4	449	459	475	476	469	479	477	466	459	466	481	479
Total 1	4710	4857	4944	5046	5042	5038	5092	5070	4977	4960	5074	5118
Tier 2												
Level 5	675	691	746	763	764	772	778	780	787	794	797	806
Level 6	498	514	525	534	532	534	553	549	557	542	550	550
Total 2	1173	1205	1271	1297	1296	1306	1331	1329	1344	1336	1347	1356
Tier 3												
Level 7	670	724	763	778	791	802	807	801	813	827	853	858
Level 8	225	243	262	262	262	267	268	256	274	294	304	304
Total 3	895	967	1025	1040	1053	1069	1075	1057	1087	1121	1157	1162
Total Staff	6942	7121	7346	7459	7471	7484	7571	7533	7476	7491	7636	7696

ECE Workforce Training and Credentials

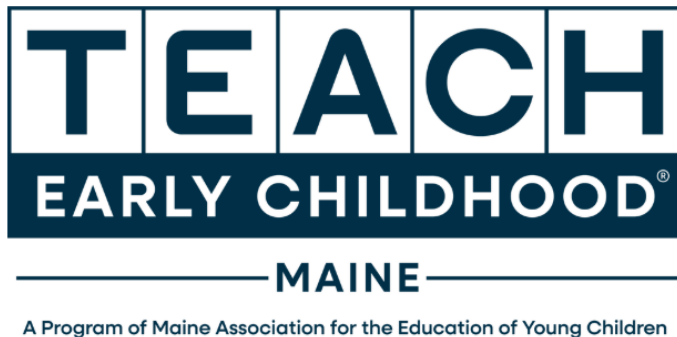


Training

- This past year MRTQ PDN offered 113 facilitated training courses, including 24 deliveries of Infant & Toddler MELDS (Maine Early Learning and Development Standards) and 20 deliveries of Preschool MELDS.

Credentialing

- 60 Certified Early Childhood Assistant credentials (CECAs) were awarded to graduating high school students who completed Early Childhood Education Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and met testing and portfolio requirements
- 34 credentials were awarded in the following areas: Child Care Director, Family Child Care, Infant and Toddler, Inclusion, and Technical Assistance



Scholarships

- TEACH Early Childhood Maine collaborates with early childhood educators, higher education institutes, child care centers, and family child care programs to offer scholarships and supports that improve the knowledge and compensation of early childhood educators. In return, young children receive high quality and consistent education from highly qualified educators. <https://www.maineaeyc.org/teach>

Apprenticeships

- The Maine ECE Registered Apprenticeship Program provides advanced knowledge and skills that are applied from on-the-job-learning through (free) MRTQ PDN Core Knowledge Training.
- RAPS are an earn-while-you-learn model. As the apprentices gain more knowledge and skills, they receive wage increases, utilizing additional wage supplements provided to the Sponsoring Employers.

Technical Assistance & Peer-to-Peer Networks



Staff at Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network provide **onsite and virtual consultation and facilitate peer-to-peer networks** related to quality early childhood practices. This includes support from consultants at the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS).

- 57 programs participated in intensive, short-term consultation that includes the development of a detailed plan outlining specific activities to meet desired outcomes.
- 334 contacts made by phone or email to MRTQ PDN technical assistance staff, who provided resources and/or connections to partner agencies and organizations.
- 53 Communities of Practice were offered with 403 attendees and 5 Professional Learning Communities were offered with 57 attendees

Maine Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation



The Maine Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP®) is an infant and early childhood mental health consultation program that addresses the social-emotional needs of children birth to age eight by offering support, education, and consultation to the adults who provide care and education for them. ECCP® provides strategies, support, and training to improve the capacity of educators and providers as they work with children who have challenging behaviors or social-emotional concerns. ECCP® also incorporates brief consultation to families of children referred for support through the child's early childhood education setting.

Program Information: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-care/early-childhood-consultation-partnership>

Maine Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Data

January – September 2024 ECCP Data

- Maine ECCP served 119 early childhood programs/schools and 334 teaching staff
- 1,178 children were served in child care center classrooms, family child care programs, and through stand-alone child specific services:
 - 1,025 children served in child care centers
 - 82 children served in family child care programs
 - 71 children served through stand-alone child specific services
- 57 classroom and community training sessions were provided with 614 participants trained.

Child Retention Rates

- 100% of children were retained at the completion of services
- 100% were retained at the 1-month follow-up
- 97.7% were retained at the 6-month follow-up





The First4ME Early Care and Education project was established under the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Child and Family Services to provide funding to pilot sites to create opportunities and improve social, emotional, educational and health outcomes for children under 6 years of age, their families, and the programs and classrooms that serve them.

The project is delivered through a holistic, two generation approach that integrates funding, coaching, and comprehensive resources and services into traditional child care centers and family child care settings.

First4ME continues to progress through its three-year pilot phase timeline of August 2023-July 2026.

First4ME

First4ME is in four counties, supporting 18 child care providers, partnering with seven school districts and serving 576 children.

An evaluation of the pilot and its impact on children, families, child care providers and schools is being conducted. The evaluation will inform future decisions, including sustainability of the First4ME program and possible expansion to other communities interested in implementing this framework.

