

**COVID Update** - Commissioner Lambrew

- Rise in covid cases with four counties designated "orange" (10-24 daily new cases per 100,000 people); indoor masking recommended
- Increase of children testing positive in April from March, but down overall since January
  - 3 children currently in hospital
  - 4 deaths (total) of children from covid
- Vaccinations
  - 56.2% of youth (6-17 years old) have been fully vaccinated – Maine ranks 8<sup>th</sup> nationally
  - Waiting to hear re: authorization/adoption (FDA/CDC) of vaccine booster for children ages 5-11
  - Vaccinations for babies (6 mo.-6 yrs.) authorization/adoption (FDA/CDC) expected mid-June

**Legislative Update** - Ana Hicks

(see 2 attachments)

- Supplemental Budget – has significant investments/policy changes for children/youth
- Expansion of health coverage for children/youth to 300 percent Federal Poverty Level.
  - Improve accessibility and coverage by eliminating premiums; expand oral health services in schools
- Investments in Child Care Workforce and Infrastructure
  - Salary supplements for educators working directly with children in child care programs
- Fully fund free meals in public schools (Federal funding has ending)
- \$10+ million for child welfare programming
- Separate funding to strengthen [Office of Maine's Child Welfare Ombudsman](#)
- Two years tuition free community college for high school graduating classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 who enroll in a Maine community college full-time – **please spread the word!**
- Double State Earned Income Tax Credit

## Legislation

- [LD 533](#) expands the Early Childhood Consultation Program statewide
- [LD 1747](#) provides funding to the Maine CDC to establish a cytomegalovirus screening program for newborn infants
- [LD 1748](#) improves Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) service delivery
- [LD 1781](#) allows the state to extend postpartum coverage for those receiving Mainecare during pregnancy from 60 days to 12 months
- [LD 1357](#) clarifies that private health insurers who provide maternity benefits must include 12 months of postpartum care
- [LD 756](#) provides \$1 million of one-time funding to the Department of Education (DOE) to support the implementation of school-based restorative practices
  - DOE has hired a full-time restorative practice coordinator

*Comment from Commissioner Lambrew*

*Great work accomplished, great Legislative session benefitting Maine children—thanks to everyone who played a role.*

*Comment from Director Pingree*

*Lots of important cross-cutting initiatives, thanks to Legislature and Children’s Cabinet.*

**Follow up on Pre-apprenticeship/Apprenticeship and Career Exploration Grants - Commissioner Fortman**

(see attachment)

- Approximately \$12 million in grants
- 14 successful applicants, serving 2,000 students
- Work in progress of formalizing a system of pre-apprenticeship programming moving to an apprenticeship – students need more than a HS diploma to qualify for a well-paid job and an apprenticeship is one option
- Successful applicants include: Associated General Contractors of Maine, Educate Maine, Foster Career and Technical Education Center, General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, Gorham School District, HospitalityMaine Education Foundation, Industrial Roofing Company, LLC, Lewiston Adult Education / Lewiston Public Schools, Maine AFL CIO, MaineHealth, Portland Adult Education, ReVision Energy Inc., Somerset Career & Technical Center and Washington County Community College
  - Emphasized partnerships between entities serving a variety of populations, including youth in recovery, from immigrant community, formerly justice involved, have a disability

**Taking stock of the Children’s Cabinet Early Childhood Strategies - Dr. Landry**

(see attachment)

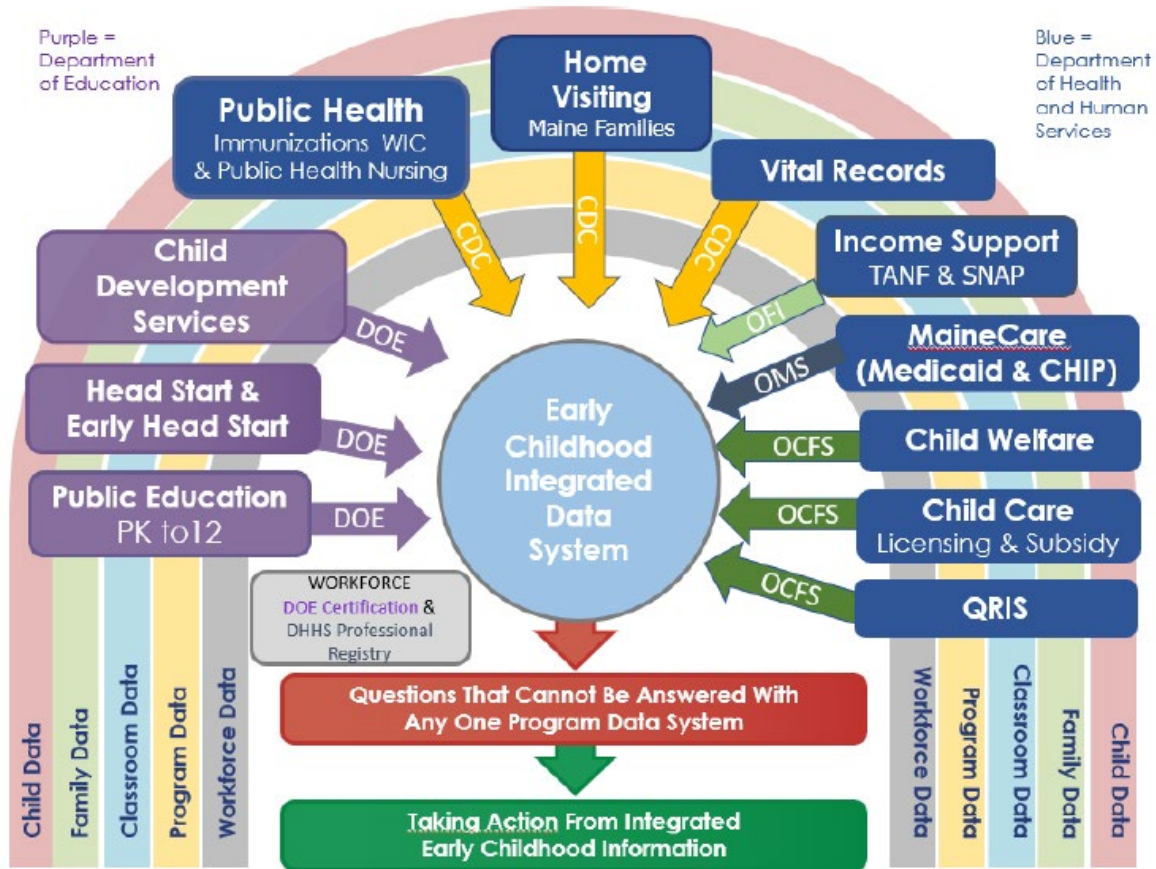
- Due to work done prior, the Children’s Cabinet was well-positioned to respond to the pandemic and support child care providers
  - ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Child Care Stabilization Funds – monthly grant funding to child care providers
    - More than 94% of eligible providers receive funding (ranging from \$350 to \$33,450 per month)
  - Thus far, ARPA stabilization grants awarded totaled \$46,822,486.00 over 7-month period
  - Funds have allowed providers to: avoid charging families when children have to quarantine, not raise tuition, provide reduce/free week of care, provide staff benefits
- Maine received national recognition as one of 10 states to receive highest ranking (working effectively) from [Zero to Three](#)
- Work continues on three pillars (Access, Quality, and Workforce) to reach Children’s Cabinet goal (All Maine children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed)
  - Access - increase access to affordable early care & education, preventive and early intervention services for young children and their families
    - Supporting Infrastructure

- Child Care subsidy program (waive co-pays, provide stipends, streamline application process, etc.)
- Stipends to support newly licensed family child care providers - 39 stipends in 10 different counties
- Child Care Infrastructure Grants for home-based and large care centers
- Coastal Enterprise Inc. Child Care Business Lab - 12 new child care programs
- Expansion grants - School Administrative Units are expanding existing (create new slots and extend part-time slots to full-time) and opening new public pre-K classrooms
  - Projected 174 pre-K units/classrooms

*Note: Licensed child care capacity is above pre-pandemic numbers*

- Help Me Grow Maine – centralized phone number launches this summer, staff being hired/trained including Resource Specialists
  - Care coordination and referral/access for services/programs for families
- Quality - raise the quality of our early care and education system and support families to access quality programming
  - Mini grants to child care programs to improve Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) rating
  - Revise the QRIS system to be a five-star system
  - Increase professional development/coaching opportunities for early educators
  - Early Childhood Consultation Program (ECCP) – will be statewide in January 2023
    - Services for core classrooms, family care providers and child specific
- Workforce - recruit, prepare and retain a diverse early childhood workforce
  - ARPA funds - child care stabilization grants – \$200/mo. stipend/compensation for employees caring for/educating children
    - As of Apr 2022, more than 7,100 child care staff receiving monthly stipends
    - \$12+ million in Governor’s Supplemental Budget Proposal – ongoing salary supplements for child care workers/early childhood educators once Federal funding ends
  - Training/Education
    - TEACH Program -scholarships for early childhood education degrees
    - Establishing early childhood education career pathways (e.g. State of Maine early childhood apprenticeship program, individual articulation agreements, community colleges, etc.)
- Coordination and alignment happening across the system
  - Connections between early childhood and education system and local elementary schools
  - Coordinating across state agencies and external stakeholders to align pre-natal through age 5 system
    - Collaborative Partners Advisory Group is engaging stakeholders with parents directly
- Maine joined national network of *The Best Place for Working Parents*® - 35 employers have received the designation

- Early Childhood Integrated Data System – will collect, integrate, maintain, store, and report information from early childhood programs across multiple agencies that serve children and families from birth to age 5
  - Will help with policy questions/decisions re: investments for best outcomes



- Next steps for Children’s Cabinet
  - Continue to implement *all* strategies - coordinate across agencies/communities to align/streamline access to services and smooth transitions for families – specifically address gaps re: workforce and early intervention
  - Apply for Preschool Development Grant to be released in late summer/early fall

*Note from Dr. Landry re: Child Care Subsidy co-pays will continue to be waived for parents with incomes at or below 60% of the state median income with ARPA funds until September 2023.*

*Note from Jan Gilpin re: Federal Head Start Program - children of families who are eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are now categorically eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start. In Maine, this increases the number of families eligible. Also simplifies enrollment process as families just need to show enrollment in SNAP to prove eligibility.*

**Next meeting**

Tuesday, June 28, 2022  
10:30-11:30am

## **Final Legislation and Budget Initiatives for Maine Children and Youth**

In late April and early May, the Governor signed a bipartisan supplemental budget and several bills that make key investments and policy changes to improve the health and well-being of and opportunities for children, youth and their families.

### **Initiatives Passed in LD 1995, the Supplemental Budget for SFY 22 & 23**

#### **Expansion of health coverage for children and youth:**

- Provides funding to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program (Cub Care) to 300% of the federal poverty level to improve health coverage for thousands of Maine children and youth.
- Improves accessibility to the Children's Health Insurance Program by eliminating premiums and waiting periods.
- Provides funding to Maine Center for Disease Control to expand access to preventive oral health services in Maine schools, including funding for an Oral Health Coordinator position.

#### **Investments in Child Care Workforce and Infrastructure:**

- Provides \$12.1 million in General Fund dollars to increase pay for child care workers and early childhood educators through monthly stipends. Starting July 1, 2023, these monthly stipends will be tiered with higher amounts going to early childhood educators with greater training and experience.
- Provides \$5.2 million in Federal ARPA dollars to increase the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan initiative to support construction and expansion of child care facilities, helping to address geographic gaps and supporting additional sites across Maine.

#### **Invests in Child Nutrition:**

- Provides nearly \$27 million in ongoing General Fund dollars, to be combined with the \$10 million previously set aside by the Governor and Legislature, to fully fund universal free meals in public schools.

#### **Investments in Child Welfare:**

- Invests over \$10 million in child welfare programs and separate funding is provided to [strengthen the Office of Maine's Child Welfare Ombudsman](#):
  - \$2.8 million (\$2.2 million General Fund) investment in staff, including an additional 16 caseworkers and three caseworker supervisors dedicated to night and weekend shifts.
  - \$3.2 million investment (\$2.6 million General Fund) to extend and expand the Homebuilders Program to support families.
  - \$2 million investment of General Fund dollars to expand Family Visit Coaching from a successful pilot to a statewide program.

- \$1 million investment of General Fund dollars in the Parents as Teachers Program, allowing it to expand services.
- \$822,000 investment to expand access to Kinship Navigators services, to create a Parent Mentor Program, and to create a Child Protective Services' contingency fund.

### **Two Years of Free Community College**

- Dedicates \$20 million in one-time General Fund dollars to provide up to two years of free community college for all students from the high school graduating classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 who enroll in a Maine community college full-time.

### **Financial supports for Families with Low to Moderate income:**

- Doubles the state Earned Income Tax Credit, which provides a refundable tax credit to working Maine families. This increase will help low and moderate income families better meet their basic needs. For a family, the maximum credit will increase from \$832 to \$1,734. This increase is estimated to help 100,000 Maine people, primarily working families with incomes of less than \$57,414, by increasing the benefit by an average of \$400 per family, bringing the total EITC benefit per family to an average of \$764 per year.

### **Initiatives passed through individual bills:**

#### **LD 533, An Act To Expand the Statewide Voluntary Early Childhood Consultation Program**

- LD 533 expands Maine's Early Childhood Consultation Program (ECCP®) from 8 counties to statewide, starting on January 1, 2023. ECCP® is an infant and early childhood mental health consultation program that addresses the social-emotional needs of children birth to age eight (0-8) by offering support, education, and consultation to the adults who provide care for them.

#### **LD 1747, An Act To Require Screening for Cytomegalovirus in Certain Newborn Infants**

- LD 1747 provides funding to the Maine CDC to establish a cytomegalovirus screening program for newborn infants. Cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is a common virus that infects people of all ages. Most people infected with CMV show no signs or symptoms. That's because a healthy person's immune system usually keeps the virus from causing illness. However, CMV infection can cause serious health problems for people with weakened immune systems, as well as babies infected with the virus before they are born called congenital CMV (cCMV).

#### **LD 1748, An Act To Improve the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program and To Improve the So-called Leveraging Investments so Families Can Thrive Report**

- LD 1748 improves Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) service delivery by increasing supports available under the Parents as Scholars program for parents seeking education or training, improves the application process, and ensures services are trauma-informed and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

**LD 1781, An Act To Align Postpartum MaineCare Coverage with Federal Law**

- LD 1781 allows the state to extend postpartum coverage for those receiving MaineCare during pregnancy from 60 days to 12 months following the birth of a child. This coverage will remain in place as long as it is allowed by the federal government. Currently this coverage is set to expire on April 1, 2027.

**LD 1537, An Act To Clarify Health Insurance Coverage for Postpartum Care**

- LD 1537 clarifies that private health insurers who provide maternity benefits must include coverage for 12 months of postpartum care that meets the recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. This requirement applies to both individual and group contracts issued by insurers and health maintenance in Maine.

**LD 756, An Act Regarding Criminal Services for Juveniles**

- LD 756 provides \$1 million of one-time funding to the Department of Education (DOE) to support the implementation of school-based restorative practices. This will allow Maine DOE to build out efforts to improve school environments and support students in the juvenile justice system.

# Key Budget Initiatives For Children and Youth

- **Expansion of health coverage for children and youth:**
  - Improve coverage through expansion of CHIP to 300% FPL
  - Improve accessibility through eliminating premiums and waiting periods
  - Funding to Maine CDC to expand access to preventive oral health services in Maine schools
- **Investments in Child Care Workforce and Infrastructure**
  - Funding for Salary Supplements for Early Childhood Educators working in licensed child care programs.
  - More funding for Child Care infrastructure grants
- **Invests in Child Nutrition:**
  - Fully fund universal free meals in public schools.
- **Investments in Child Welfare:**
  - Invests over \$10 million in child welfare programs and separate funding is provided to [strengthen the Office of Maine's Child Welfare Ombudsman](#): Funding for caseworkers, expansion of Homebuilders Program to support families, Family Visit Coaching and Parents as Teachers as well as funding to expand access to Kinship Navigator services, create a Parent Mentor Program and a Child Protective Services contingency fund.



# Key Budget Initiatives (cont)

## **Two Years of Free Community College**

- Dedicates \$20 million in one-time General Fund dollars to provide up to two years of free community college for all students from the high school graduating classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 who enroll in a Maine community college full-time.

## **Financial supports for Families with Low to Moderate income:**

- Doubles the state Earned Income Tax Credit, which provides a refundable tax credit to working Maine families. This increase will help low and moderate-income families better meet their basic needs. Increase the benefit for families by an average of \$400

# Legislation for Children & Youth

## **LD 533, An Act To Expand the Statewide Voluntary Early Childhood Consultation Program**

- LD 533 expand the Early Childhood Consultation Program from 8 counties to statewide

## **LD 1747, An Act To Require Screening for Cytomegalovirus in Certain Newborn Infants**

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# Overview of Apprenticeship ARPA Successful Applicants

- Associated General Contractors of Maine
- Educate Maine
- Foster Career and Technical Education Center
- General Dynamics Bath Iron Works
- Gorham School District
- HospitalityMaine Education Foundation
- Industrial Roofing Company, LLC
- Lewiston Adult Education / Lewiston Public Schools
- Maine AFL-CIO
- MaineHealth
- Portland Adult Education
- ReVision Energy Inc.
- Somerset Career & Technical Center
- Washington County Community College

	<b>TOTALS</b>
<b>New Apprentices</b>	<b>1,785</b>
<b>New Pre-Apprentices</b>	<b>2,451</b>
<b>New Sponsors</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>New Sub-Sponsors</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>New Occupations</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Trainers Trained</b>	<b>220</b>

**YOUTH SERVED = 2,003 total**

Grantee	Population Focus and total served	Counties & Sector(s) of Focus	Partners	Brief Description
<b>Associated General Contractors of Maine</b>	Youth, Women, People of Color, Justice Involved, People with Disabilities, Rural Communities 255 served <b>240 youth</b>	<b>Statewide</b> Clean Energy Infrastructure	AGC employer partners statewide; Gorham, Bath and Skowhegan high schools,	6-week immersion program for high school seniors upon graduation. Apprenticeship programming for New Crane Operator, Heavy Highway Construction Laborer, Carpentry and Electricians.
<b>Maine AFL-CIO</b>	Youth, Women, People of Color, Justice Involved; Rural Communities 346 served, <b>173 youth</b>	<b>Statewide</b> Clean Energy Infrastructure Manufacturing	IBEW 1253/Augusta Electrical JATC; New England Laborer's; Nokomis H.S.in Newport; American Roots in Westbrook; Rumford Mill; PATHS; Carpenters Local Unions 349 & 352; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, BIW.	Nokomis H.S. Pre-Apprenticeship for 122 students; Adult learners boot camps in Portland, Lewiston, Augusta and Bangor (102 people) Skills Build Program Pre-Apprenticeship Training for 122 youth and adults
<b>Foster Career &amp; Technical Education Center</b>	In-school Youth, Women, People of Color, People with Disabilities, Rural Communities 195 pre-apprentices 28 Apprentices, <b>223 Youth</b>	<b>Franklin and Androscoggin</b> Healthcare Infrastructure Leisure/Hospitality Manufacturing Public Sector & Education	Local employers; MCCS;	Apprenticeship Navigator will connect existing CTE programs to pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities to local employers. Foster CTE will become an intermediary sponsor of apprenticeship.
<b>Portland Adult Education</b>	People of color, Women, Unemployed 120 pre-apprentices, <b>0 youth</b>	<b>Cumberland</b> Clean Energy Healthcare	ReVison Energy, PATHS, MaineHealth, Northern Light Health	Pre-apprenticeship training for apprenticeship programming in electrical occupations, medical assistant and medical office staff occupations.
<b>ReVision Energy</b>	Out of school youth, Women, People of Color 122 apprentices, <b>6 youth</b>	<b>Statewide</b> Clean Energy Infrastructure	LearningWorks YouthBuild and Portland Adult education	Registered apprenticeship programs for electricians, customer service representatives, technical sales representatives and operations managers.

Grantee	Population Focus and total served	Counties & Sector(s) of Focus	Partners	Brief Description
<b>Educate Maine</b>	Youth 65 pre-apprentices 65 apprentices <b>93 youth</b>	<b>Hancock County</b> Infrastructure	Jackson Laboratory, MaineHealth, ProInfoNet, Canyon Networks; MDI Adult Education; EMCC; Hancock County Technical Center, RSU #24 Adult Education, Maine State Chamber, ReadyNation; Cutler Insititute; Jobs for the Future	Will connect learners to apprenticeship programming for electricians, plumbers, HVAC and propane/natural gas technicians.
<b>Washington County Community College</b>	Unemployed, Youth, People of Color, Justice Involved, People with Disabilities 67 apprentices <b>25 youth</b>	<b>Washington County</b> Clean Energy Food & Agriculture Healthcare Retail Manufacturing Public Sector & Education	Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, Community Caring Collaborative, DHHS, Northeastern Workforce Development Board, Educate Maine, St. Croix Tissue, Downeast Insititute,, Mano en Mano,	Focus on developing apprenticeship programming in aquaculture, early childhood education, hybrid/electrical vehicle maintenance, manufacturing and logistics
<b>Maine Health</b>	Youth, Women, People of Color, Justice Involved, People with Disabilities, Rural Communities 705 people, <b>495 youth</b>	<b>Statewide</b> Healthcare	Portland Adult Education, Maine Adult Education System and Technical Education system, Maine Community College System, Maine State Chamber, Educate Maine, Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center Catholic Charities of Maine, In Her Presence, United Way, Goodwill Workforce Solutions, JMG	Apprenticeship programming for medical assistants, phlebotomy and Certified Nursing Assistants
<b>Lewiston Adult Ed./Lewiston Public Schools</b>	Unemployed, Out-of-School Youth, Women, People of Color, Justice Involved, People with Disabilities. 320 pre-apprentices 150 apprentices <b>62 youth</b>	<b>Androscoggin County</b> Healthcare Infrastructure	L/A Chamber of Commerce, Strengthen L/A, Fedcap, EMDC, Community Concepts, Hahnel Brothers, St. Laurent and Sons, HE Callahan, NE Painting and Coatings, Central Maine Healthcare, St. Mary's Health System, D'Youville, Clover, Marshwood/Genesis, Spurwink	Healthcare and Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Academies leading to construction laborer, and PSS/PSR, CRMA, CNS, Medical Assistant apprenticeship programs

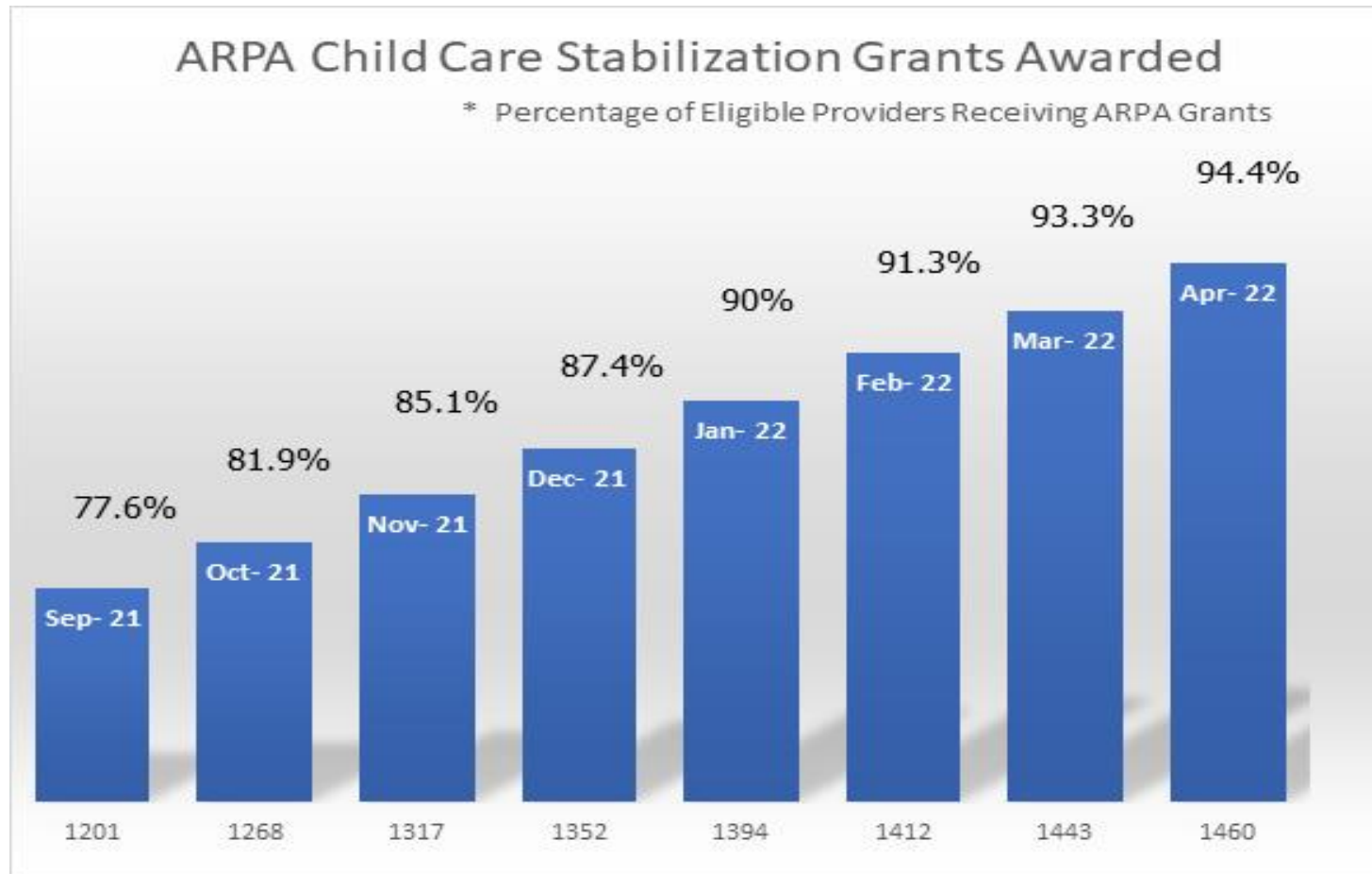
Grantee	Population Focus and total served	Counties & Sector(s) of Focus	Partners	Brief Description
<b>Industrial Roofing Company, LLC</b>	Youth, Rural Communities, Justice Involved, Women, People of Color, 40 pre-apprentices 55 apprentices <b>76 youth</b>	<b>Statewide</b> Infrastructure Manufacturing	National Roofing Contractors Association, National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Maine, Boots2Roots, CareerCenters, Vocational High Schools, EMDC	Developing new in-house apprenticeship training program for roofers.
<b>Hospitality Maine Education Foundation</b>	Youth, Women, People of color, justice involved, people with disabilities 60 pre-apprentices 107 apprentices <b>60 youth</b>	<b>Statewide</b> Leisure and Hospitality	HospitalityMaine member businesses, National Restaurant Association, American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute, MCCC, Maine Tourism Assoc., Maine Adult Education, Goodwill Workforce Solutions, JMG, Learning Works, Inclusion Maine, BRS, MaineHealth, Maine DOC	Expand and/or develop new apprenticeship programming for: Line cook, Hospitality Services, Event Planner and Manager, Sous Chef, Kitchen Manager, Restaurant Manager, Asst. Lodging Manager, Accounting Tech., Maintenance Tech., Vehicle Tech.
<b>Gorham School District</b>	Women, People of Color 120 apprentices <b>0 youth</b>	<b>Cumberland County</b> Healthcare Infrastructure Public Sector & Education	Gorham House, Genesis Healthcare, Gorham Sand and Gravel, Reid & Reid, Kris Way, SMCC, Maine Roads to Quality, Gorham-Westbrook CTE, Goodwill Workforce Solutions, FedCap, BRS	Create apprenticeship programming for Early Childhood Education, Certified Nursing Assistant and CDL A and CDL B drivers
<b>General Dynamics Bath Iron Works</b>	Youth, Women, People of Color, Justice Involved, People with Disabilities, Rural Communities 500 served <b>500 youth</b>	<b>Statewide</b> manufacturing	Southern Maine Community College, JMG, Job Corps, Coastal Counties Workforce Board, CareerCenters, Maine CTE Schools, Hire-A-Vet Initiative	In collaboration with SMCC, expand existing manufacturing technician program at BIW
<b>Somerset Career &amp; Technical Center</b>	In-School Youth 30 pre apprentices 20 Apprentices <b>50 youth</b>	<b>Somerset County</b> Clean Energy Food & Agriculture Healthcare Infrastructure Leisure & Hospitality Manufacturing Public Sector & Education	Sheridan Corporation, Redington Fairview General Hospital, The Bankery, Travers Electric, Reed & Reed, Cianbro, Skowhegan Savings Bank, Hight's Family of Dealerships, KVCC, SMCC, Associated General Contractors	Somerset Career and Technical Center (SCTC) will connect existing programs at the SCTC to businesses willing to hire and mentor apprentices. SCTC is an existing intermediary sponsor of apprenticeship.

# **Children's Cabinet Focus on Early Childhood: Taking Stock of Successes & On-going Work**



# Responding to the Pandemic

- **We have made key investments to stabilize and support Maine's child care industry** which had been hit hard by the pandemic. Maine was one of the first 12 states to release ARPA Child Care Stabilization Funds to the field, building upon the support that had been provided with CARES and CRSSA funding. Monthly grants to programs range from \$350 to \$33,450 with an average grant of \$4,253.





# Responding to the Pandemic

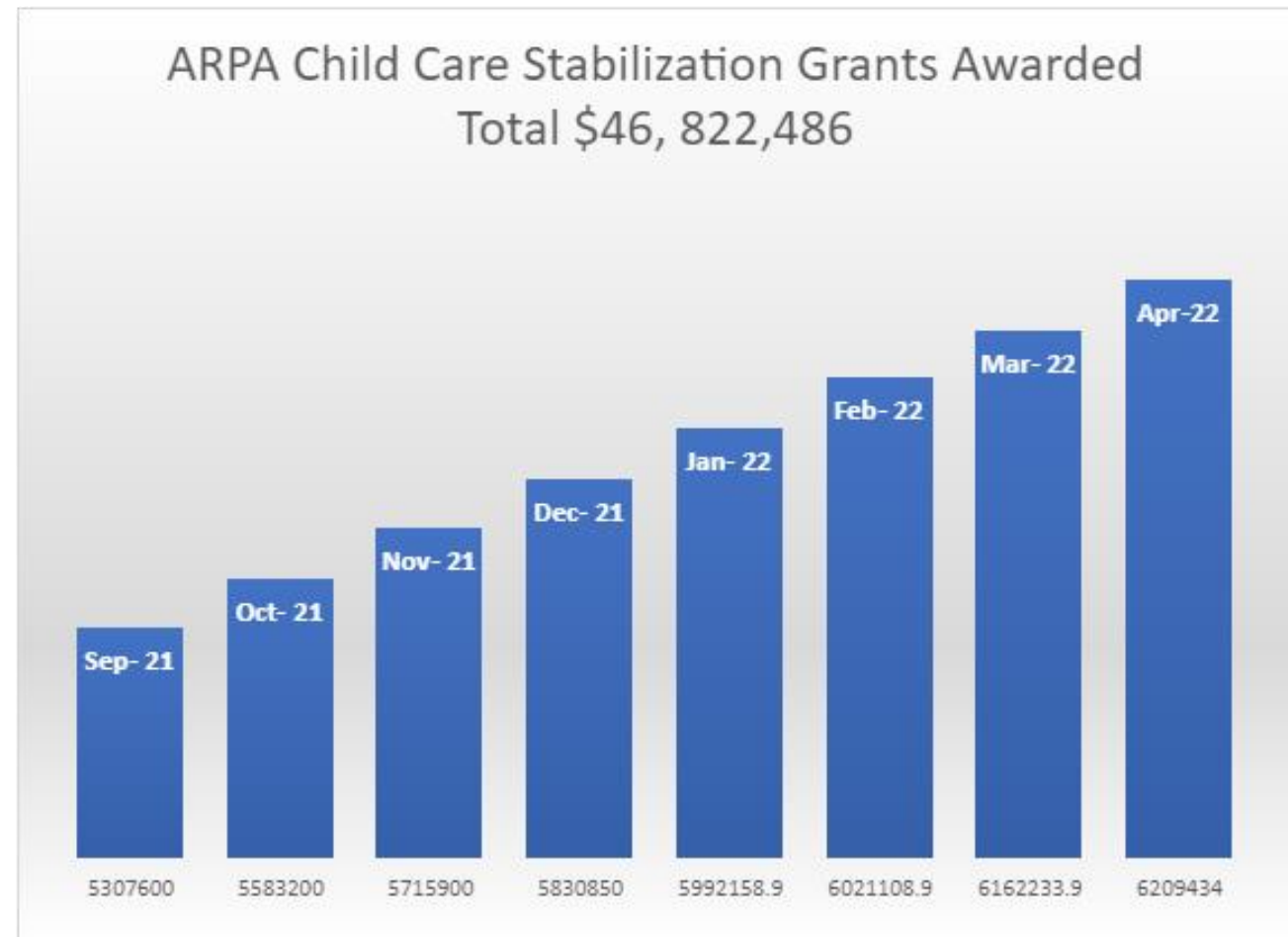
## Feedback from Child Care Programs:

- “Has helped a lot if a teacher has to be out sick, have a little savings to fall back on”
- “Staff loves them, some staff have started IRAs!”
- “Funds are all going to staff wages by raising hourly wage by \$3 per hour per employee”
- “Has allowed me to keep our doors open!”

## Programs have also used funds to:

- Avoid charging families when children have to quarantine.
- Not raise tuition
- Reduce or give free week of care
- Staff benefits

**In April, monthly grants totaled \$6,208,434!**



# National Recognition



Maine was one of 10 states to receive the highest rankings (**Working Effectively**) from the National Organization Zero to Three in its State of Babies report for its programs and policies for infants and toddlers.

Maine received strong rankings in:

- the “**Good Health**” section for Medicaid eligibility limits, percent of uninsured infants and toddlers in low income households, WIC coverage, preventive medical care, and recommended vaccines uptake. (Compared to national averages.)
- the “**Strong Families**” section, low percentage in unsafe neighborhoods, high family resilience, low time in out of home placement, and high adoption and reunification percentages. (Compared to national averages.)
- the “**Positive Early Experiences**” section, high rate of parent reads and sings to baby, high Early Head Start percentage, high child care development fund percentage, and high developmental screenings. (Compared to national averages)



## **ACCESS**

Increase access to affordable early care & education, preventive and early intervention services for young children and their families.

Your family may be eligible for

# low or no cost child care!

The Child Care Subsidy Program lets you choose a child care provider you trust, at an affordable or no cost.

## Eligibility Requirements:

Parent/guardian must be employed, in school or job training, or retired

Family must meet income requirements (at or below 85% of the Maine median income)

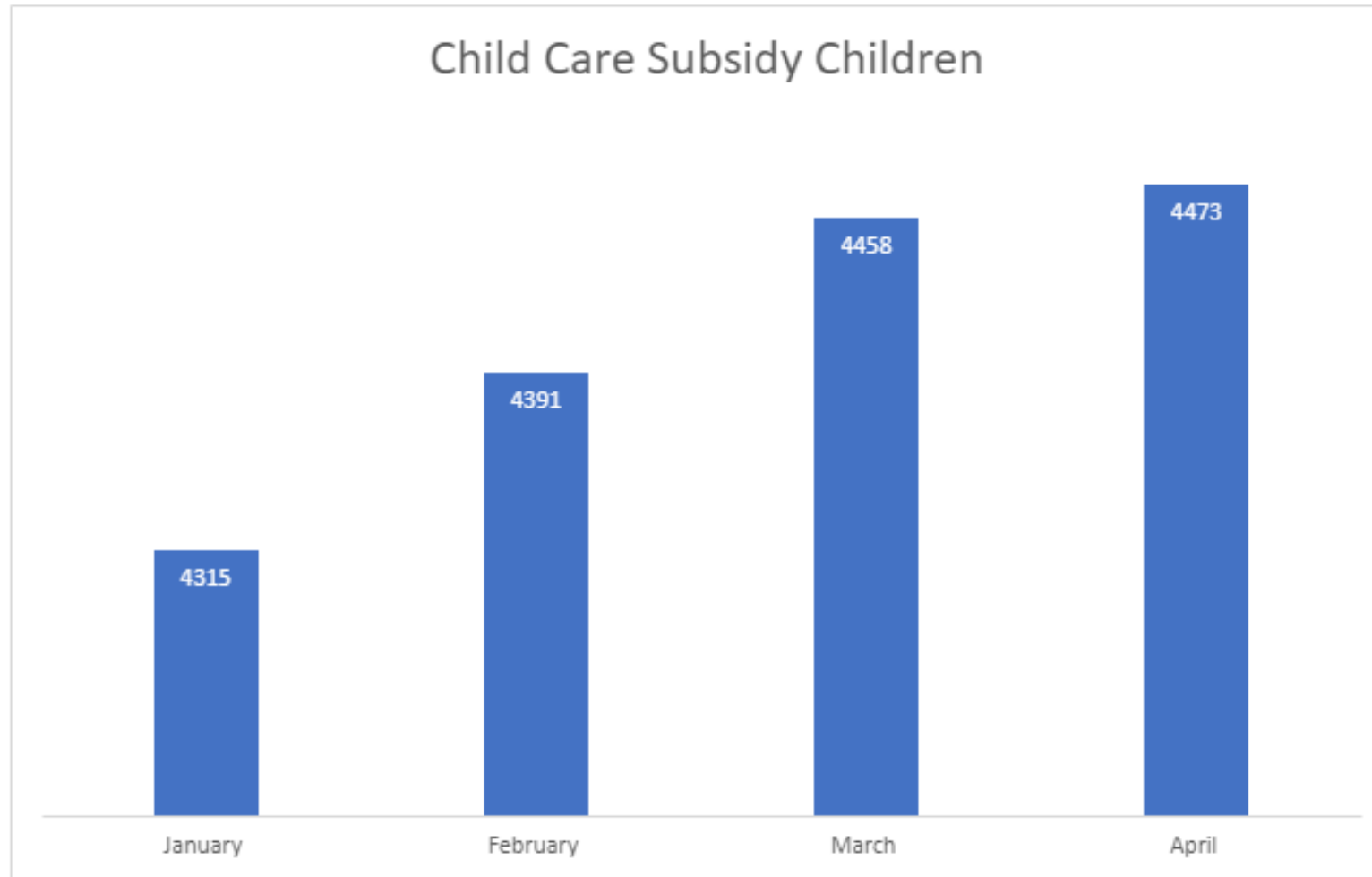


For a family of 4, income eligibility requirements are at or below **\$76,643 a year!**

## Key Strategies to Improve Access by Strengthening the Child Care Subsidy Program:

- ✓ Waive Parent Co-Pays with ARPA funds
- ✓ Provide Weekly \$100 stipends for infants on CCSP (short-term)
- ✓ Increase quality bump for care for infants & toddlers (short-term)
- ✓ Streamlined application process (medium-term)
- ✓ Raising awareness about the program (medium-term)
  - Social Media Campaign
  - Circulating brochure to health care providers, Maine Municipal Association, Career Centers, Community Action Agencies, schools
  - Who else can help to spread the word?

# Participation in CCSP is Rebounding and Increasing

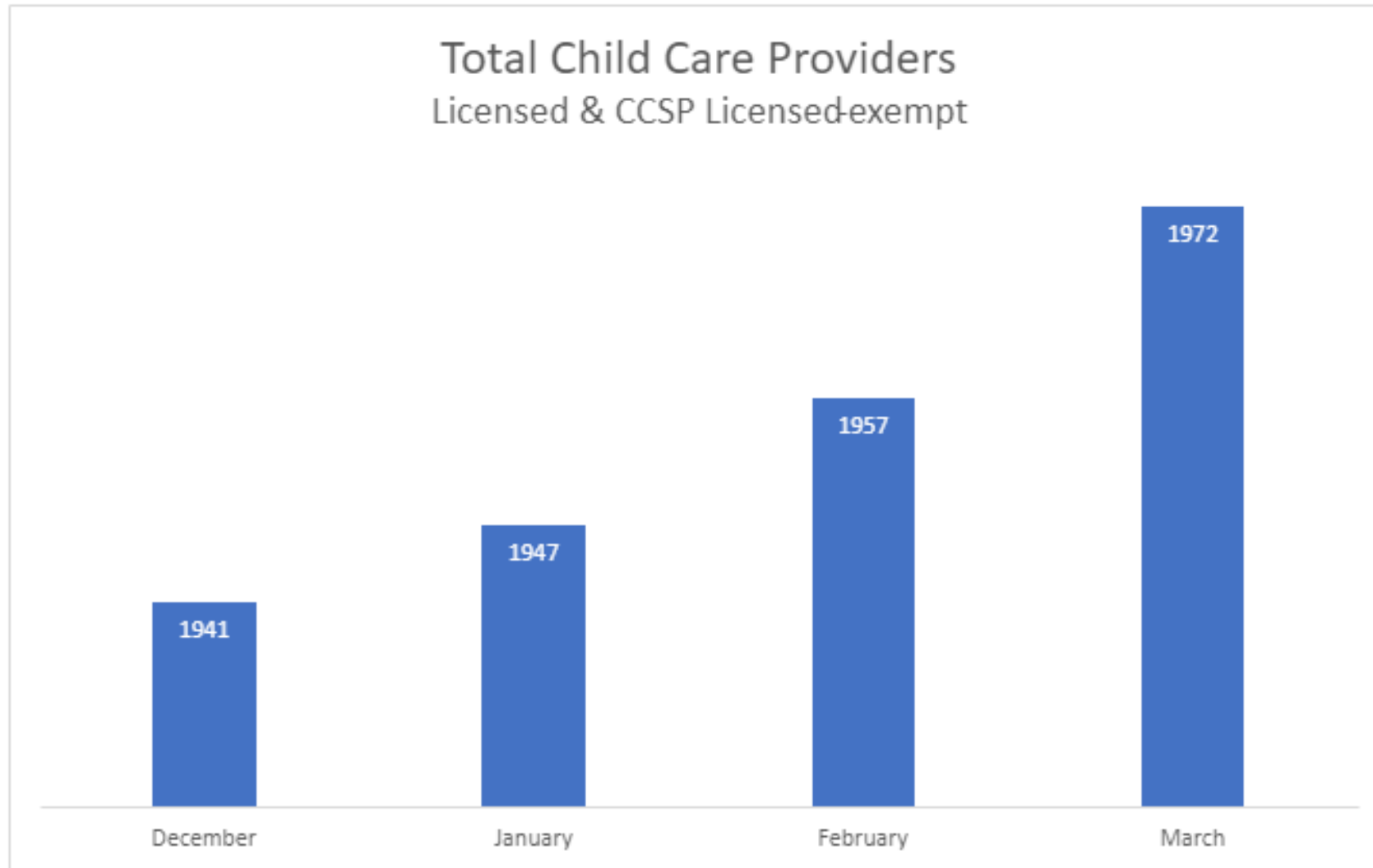




# Expanding Child Care Infrastructure and Supporting Child Care Businesses to Succeed

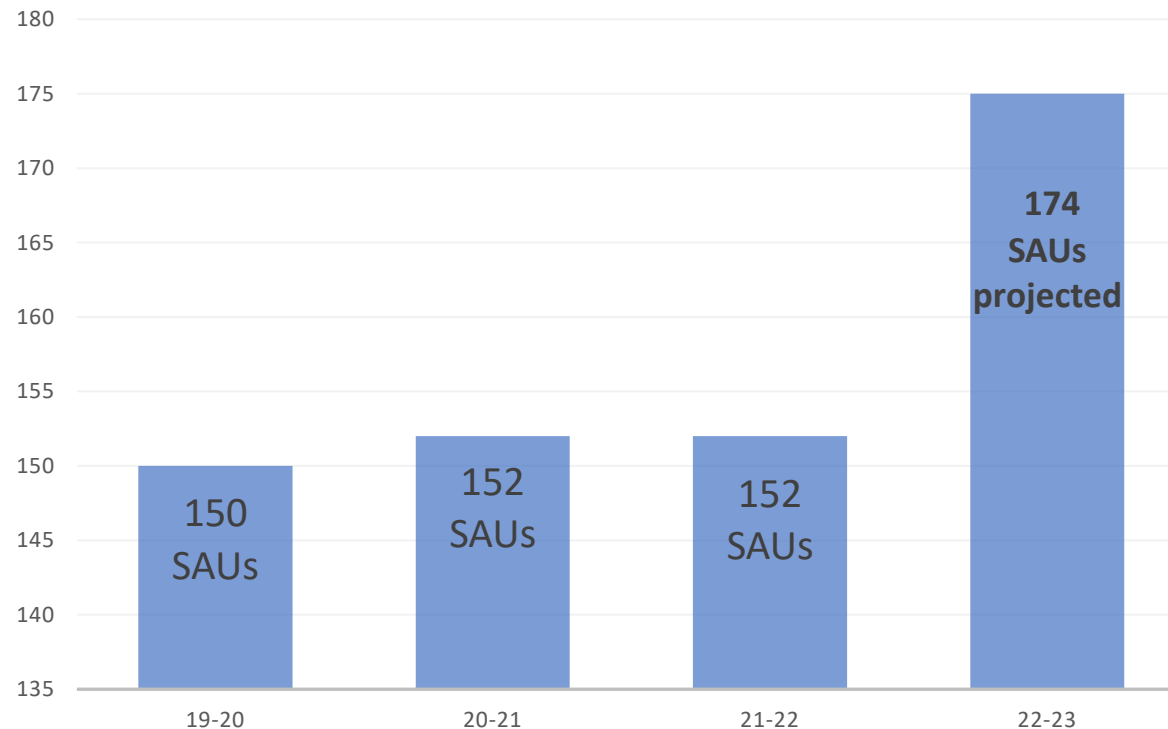
- \$2,000 stipends to support Newly Licensed Family Child Care with costs for opening started on July 1, 2021
  - Have provided **39 stipends** in **10 different counties**.
- **Child Care Infrastructure Grant Applications** to be released in the next month
  - Supplemental Budget provided a **\$5.1 million increase**, bringing total available funding for these grants to **more than \$15 million**
  - Roll out application for home-based programs, then for larger child care centers.
- Office of Child and Family Services Licensing Staff and Maine Roads to Quality staff have worked closely with **Coastal Enterprise Inc on their Child Care Business Lab**. The Business Lab has led to the establishment of **12 new child care programs with 174 new child care slots with 6 new businesses in the process of coming on-line for an anticipated additional 132 slots**. Currently working with cohorts in **Lewiston and Rim Counties**. Cohort in **Portland** starting soon with funding from a Congressional earmark.
- Maine Roads to Quality has developed a business support training for directors of child care programs. They recently trained 15 providers and will be training another 12-13 providers.

# Number of licensed Providers is Rebounding Closer to pre-pandemic levels



# Pre-K Expansion Grants

- The Early Learning Team has finalized contracts with **12 School Administrative Units** to expand public pre-K this fall. These grants will help to create almost 300 new public pre-K slots and extend more than 120 slots from part-time to full-day/full-week slots.
- At least **10 additional School Administrative Units** throughout the state are using their federal funds to open approximately 12 new public pre-K classrooms.





# Ensure No Wrong Door for Families Accessing Services (Long-Term)



## Centralized phone line for families to call will be launched this summer!

### Staff is currently being hired and trained.

- Resource specialists who will staff the centralized phone line and care coordination for families are receiving their national certification on quality information and referral services
- Other trainings staff are participating in include:
  - Motivational Interviewing
  - Ages and Stages (including SE)
  - Parents as Teachers Foundation
  - Touchpoints (standard and development focus)
  - Learn the Signs Act Early
  - ECCS Care Coordination training
  - Database training



**Raise the quality of our early care and education system and support families to access quality programming.**

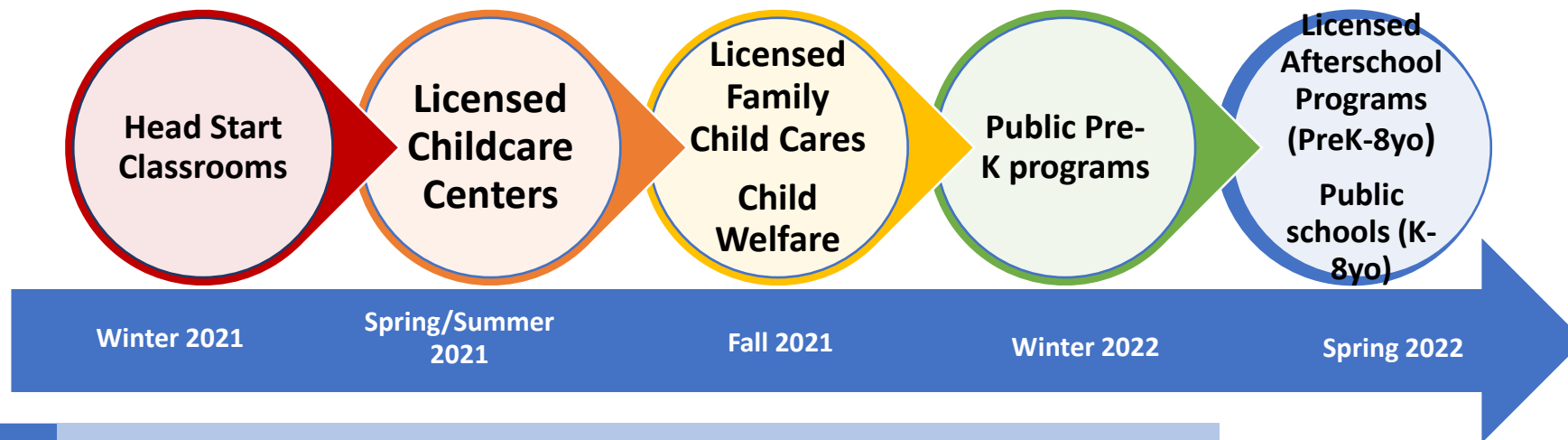
## QUALITY

- ✓ Provide mini-grants to child care programs to improve quality and rating on the QRIS. (Short-Term)
- ✓ Revise the QRIS system to be a five-star system to bring all licensed child care programs into the state's quality rating system. (Medium-term)
- ✓ Increase professional development and coaching opportunities for early educators in center-based and family child care programs. (Long-Term)

# Early Childhood Consultation Program (ECCP)

ECCP is an infant and early childhood mental health consultation program that addresses the social-emotional needs of children birth to age eight (0-8) by offering **support, education, and consultation to the adults** who provide care for them.

**The 8-county pilot will move statewide in January 2023.**



Child Specific Service

**44** Child specific cases completed, **98%** of children in child specific cases were not suspended/expelled

Core Classroom Service

**40** Core Classroom services completed, **698** children impacted. **6** public pre-K classrooms opened for Core Classroom services.

Family Child Care Provider Service

**2** Family Child Care Provider services completed

*““The consultant for my child’s classroom/case was extremely compassionate and dedicated to finding resources for my child. Highly recommend.”*

**- Parent**

# Stipends for Child Care Workforce

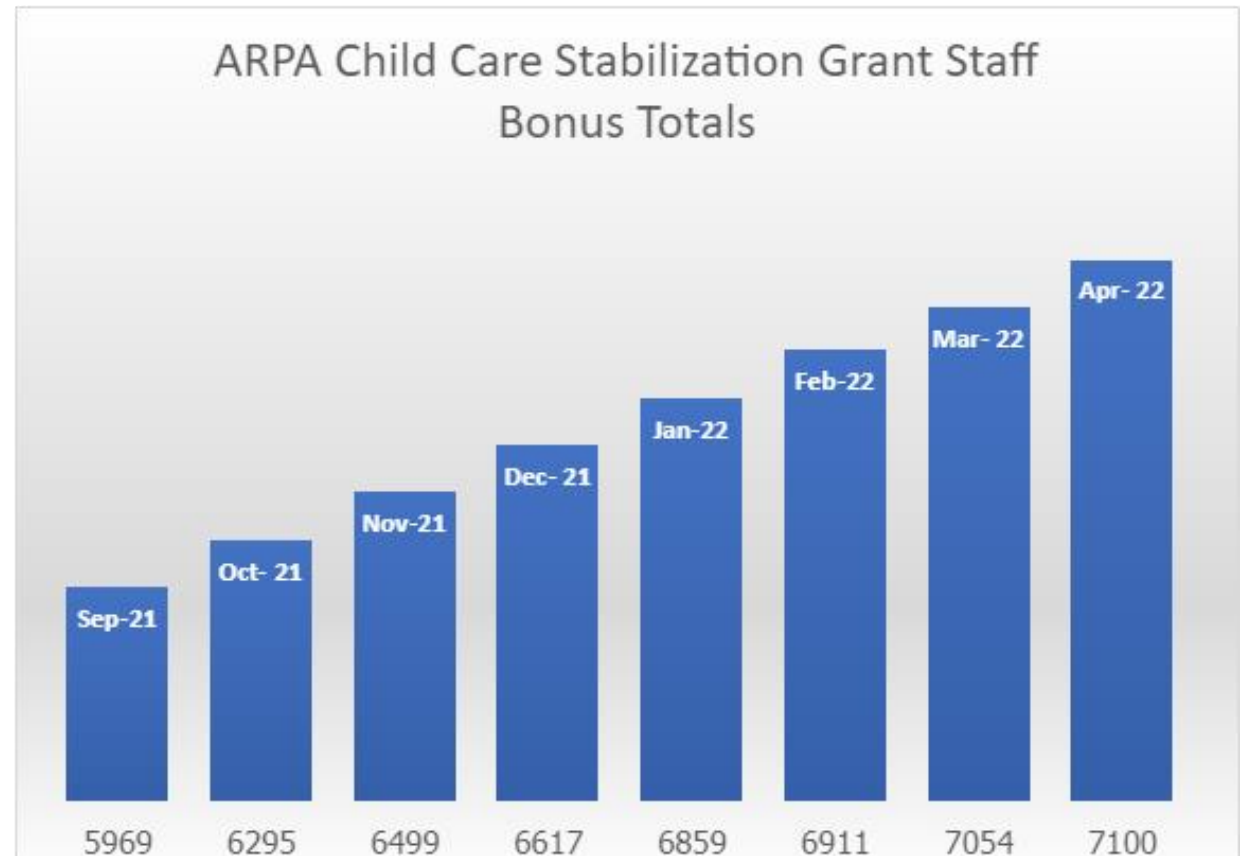


## WORKFORCE

Recruit, prepare and retain a diverse early childhood workforce.

**Stabilizing the workforce:** Through ARPA funds, the state is investing in the child care workforce. Programs receiving child care stabilization grants are required to pass through **\$200 per month for employees caring for and educating children.**

ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grant Staff Bonus Totals





# Salary Supplements Passed in the Supplemental Budget

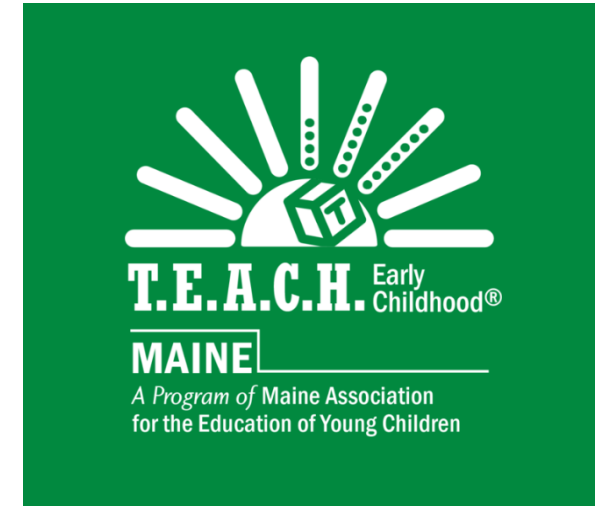
- The Supplemental Budget Proposal made a significant investment in the child care and early childhood workforce by **providing more than \$12 million for salary supplements for child care and early childhood educators in licensed child care programs** including funding for implementation.
- These supplements will continue the existing monthly stipends when federal funding ends. By July 1, 2023, OCFS will establish a program of tiered supplements based upon experience and education.



# Training & Education

## Scholarships for Early Childhood Education Degrees:

- With funding from the Child Development Block Grant Fund, TEACH program has awarded a total of 40 Scholarships since 2020 to individuals employed by a licensed child care program.
- TEACH covers 80 – 90% of tuition, a travel stipend and a bonus structure for scholars who complete their contract. Support from MaineAEYC staff



## Establishing Early Childhood Education Career Pathways:

Maine Roads to Quality in partnership with OCFS, DOE, DOL and Institutes of Higher Education

- State of Maine Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program (working closely with DOL team)
- Individual Articulation Agreements
- Eastern Maine Community College Micro-Credential Articulation
- State Team to the National EarlyEdU Conference



# Coordination and Alignment Across the System

## Making Connections between Early Childhood Education System and Local Elementary Schools

- Supporting **smooth transitions** into public school, project being led by staff from OCFS and Early Learning Team at DOE
- **Leading Early Series for School Administrators**, led by Early Learning Team, MRTQ and Maine AEYC

## Coordinating across state agencies and external stakeholders to align pre-natal through age 5 system

- **Early Intervention Workgroup** focused on aligning and coordinating programs and policies
- **Collaborative Partners Advisory Group** is engaging stakeholders and parents.



## THE BEST PLACE FOR WORKING PARENTS®

Maine has joined a growing national network of business leaders proving that family friendly is business friendly, through a first of its kind, 3 minute on-line self-assessment highlighting only the top 10 research-backed policies that benefit working parents AND businesses bottom lines. Launched in early April, 35 employers in Maine have received the Best Place for Working Parents® designation.

**Allagash Brewing**

**Androscoggin Bank**

**Avesta Housing**

**Bar Harbor Savings and Loan  
Association**

**Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences**

**Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine**

**Community Dental**

**CST Holding Co.**

**Full Plates Full Potential**

**The Genesis Fund**

**Habitat for Humanity of Greater  
Portland**

**Hollywood Casino Hotel & Raceway**

**House of J. Henry**

**Island Housing Trust**

**Katahdin Trust Company**

**Ledgemere Country Day School**

**Lifeline for ME**

**Loon Echo Land Trust**

**Maine Association of Nonprofits**

**Maine Bankers Association**

**Maine Community Bank**

**Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners  
Association**

**Maine Savings Federal Credit Union  
Museum L-A**

**Mid-coast Hunger Prevention Program**

**Norway Savings Bank**

**One River CPAs**

**Portland Downtown**

**Saco & Biddeford Savings**

**Schooner Estates**

**Sebago Technics**

**SeniorsPlus**

**State of Maine**

**Waldo County YMCA**

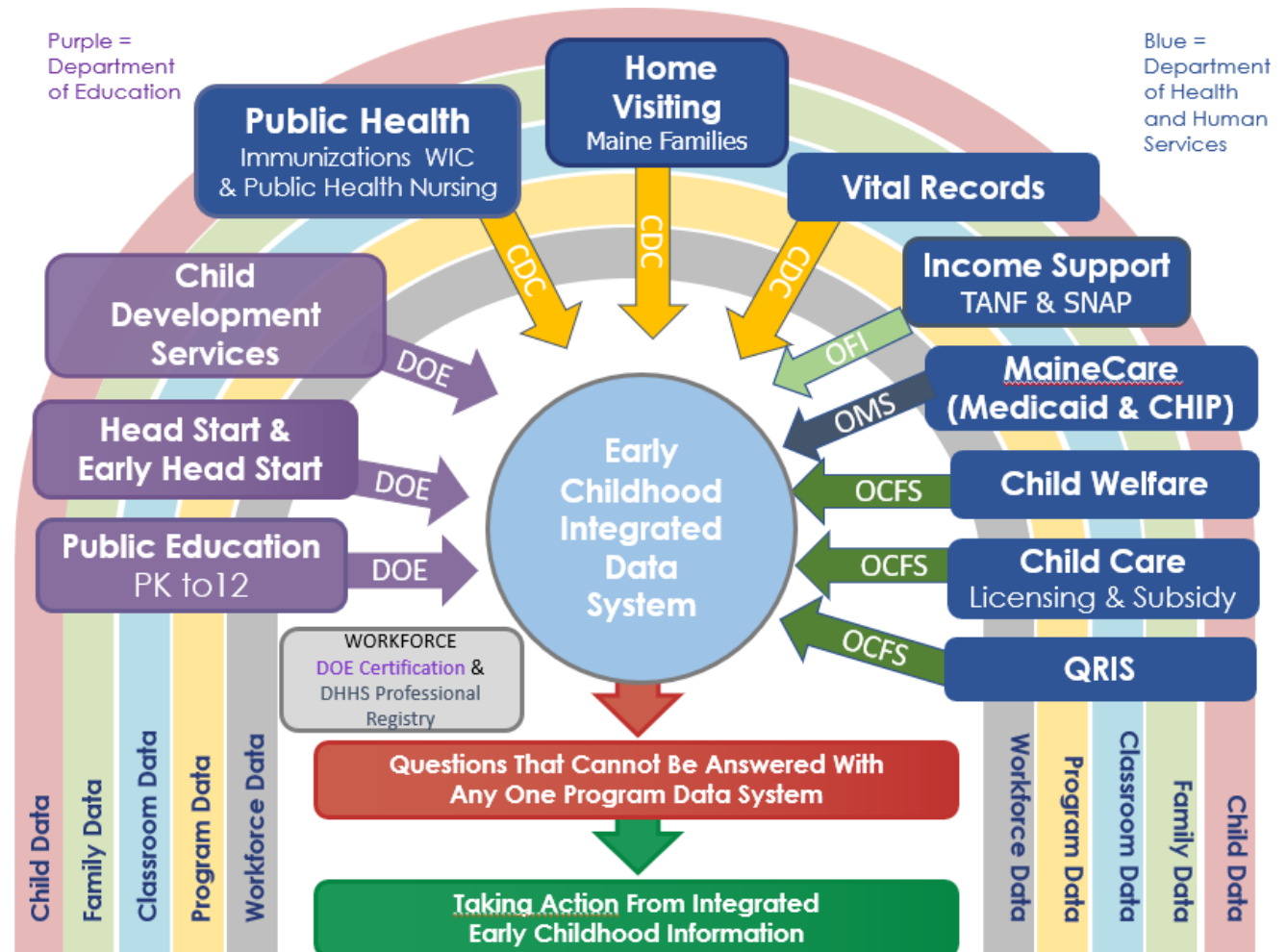
**The Windowdressers**



# Planning for an Early Childhood Integrated Database

An Early Childhood Integrated Data System collects, integrates, maintains, stores, and reports information from early childhood programs across multiple agencies that serve children and families from birth to age 5.

Integrating data across programs will help us understand how well we are meeting children's and families' needs, and what investments could be effective at improving outcomes.



# Next Steps

- Address Gaps: Focus on pipeline for the early childhood workforce, both for EC education and early intervention.
- Continue to implement strategies: All of the work will continue with a focus on coordination across agencies and communities to align and streamline access to services and smooth transitions for families.
- Well-positioned to apply for the next round of the Preschool Development Grants which are to be released in late summer/early fall.