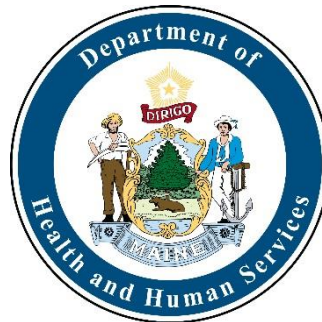


# Social Services Update

## Economic Recovery Committee

Deputy Commissioner Bethany Hamm

June 19, 2020



# Assistance Programs

- **Food Supplement/SNAP:** Federally-funded benefits to help families buy food.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** Cash assistance for families with children who meet income criteria. Includes services like Parents as Scholars, ASPIRE, and other **programming** to work toward financial independence.
- **MaineCare:** Free and low-cost health coverage for individuals meeting income, age, and/or medical condition requirements.
- **General Assistance:** Assistance for basic needs like rent administered by municipalities.
- **Pandemic EBT:** Short-term Federally-funded program to provide financial support for food to families who receive free or reduced lunch in schools.
- **Child Care Subsidy:** Helps eligible families to pay for child care.

# Policy Responses to COVID-19

- **Food Supplement/SNAP**
  - Households receive max. allotment regardless of income
  - Increased Worker Supplement Benefit from \$50 to \$100/month (for families working a certain # of hours)
  - Pandemic EBT for families with children
- **TANF**
  - No families lose benefits during civil emergency
- **MaineCare**
  - No loss of coverage during civil emergency
- **General Assistance**
  - All applications considered “emergency” under GA statute, allowing additional expenses and requiring eligibility determination in 24hrs

# Policy Responses to COVID-19

- **MaineHousing**

- MaineHousing established a \$5 million rental assistance program. One-time assistance of \$500 provided to renters by local Community Action Agencies. Program runs through end of June.
- Will be replaced with temporary \$2 million program in July with Community Development Block Grant funding. Expect funding to run out quickly.

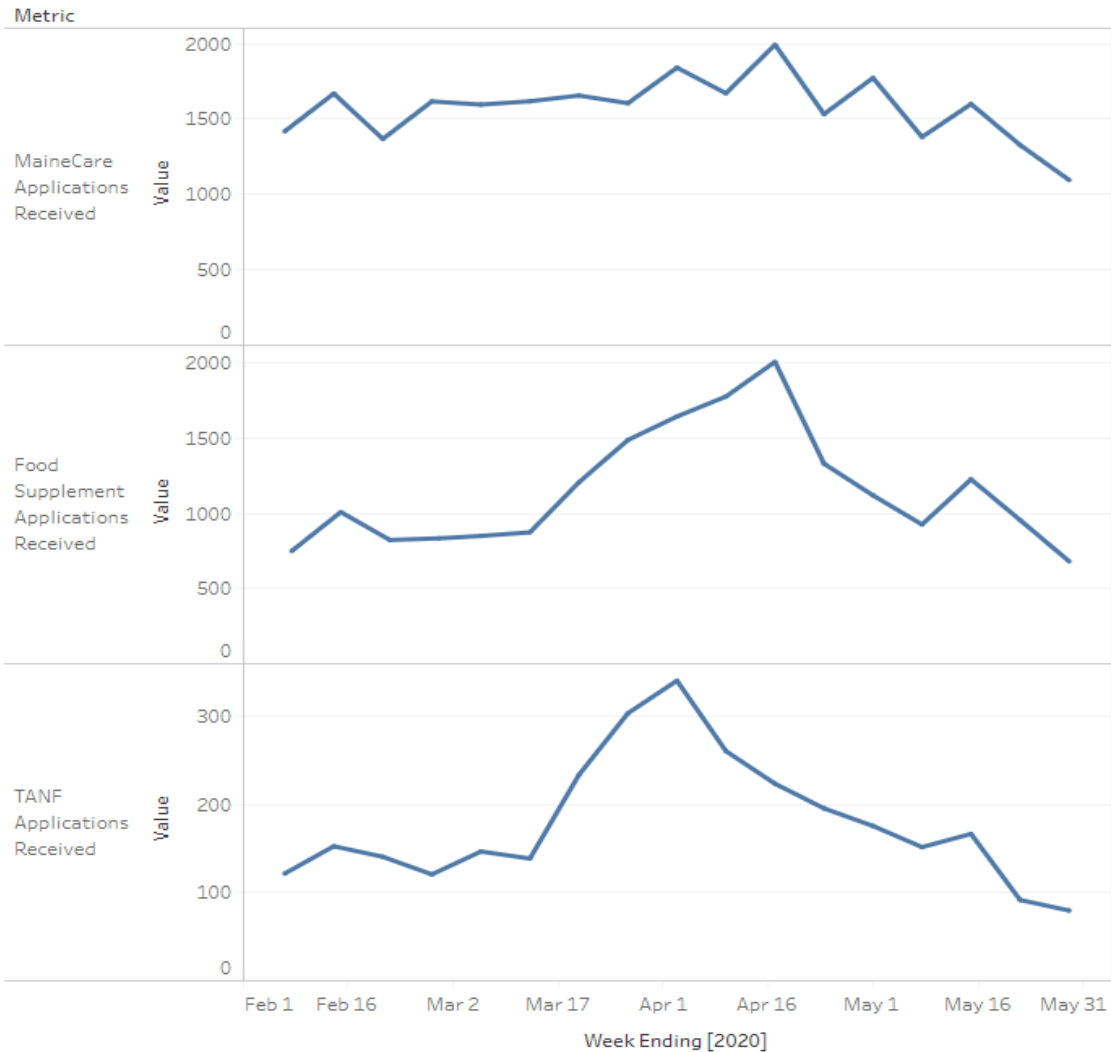
- **Health Coverage Campaign via CoverME**

- Launched statewide campaign to promote awareness of affordable health insurance options, particularly for people whose employment or income has been impacted by COVID-19



# Trends in Applications

OFI Applications Received



# Trends in Enrollment

	February	June	Increase	
	Caseloads		Cases	Percent
MaineCare	298,743	308,917	+10,174	+3.4%
FS/SNAP	167,412	174,723	+7,311	+4.4%
TANF	9,817	10,309	+492	+5.0%

# Future Challenges

- \$600/wk pandemic unemployment insurance benefits will stop at the end of July (without Congressional action).
- Courts are expected to restart eviction hearings in early August.
- Access to affordable child care.
- Lack of clarity about how long maximum SNAP allotment will be available from the federal government and whether Pandemic EBT will be extended into the summer.
- Because of federal law, certain low-income immigrants are not able to access benefits.