



\$500 for Every Maine Baby's Future!

What is the Harold Alfond® College Challenge?

The Harold Alfond® College Challenge provides a \$500 Grant (Alfond Grant) for every Maine resident baby under the age of one to help families save for the cost of education beyond high school. The Alfond Grant is invested in a NextGen College Investing Plan® account. The NextGen College Investing Plan is Maine's Section 529 qualified tuition plan, administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME).

Mr. Alfond, the late Maine philanthropist and founder of Dexter Shoe Company, had a lifelong commitment to the people of Maine. Believing that all Maine children deserve the opportunity to succeed, he made \$500 available to every Maine baby through his foundation. There is no obligation for families to contribute their own money, although his foundation hopes families, businesses and communities will invest in the future of Maine children. The Harold Alfond College Challenge is Mr. Alfond's legacy gift to every Maine baby to help raise aspirations and create success for Maine families.

How can we help?

Maine organizations employ and assist Maine families in many ways. Use your connection to Maine people to be sure that every Maine baby claims his/her \$500 Alfond Grant. Consider doing something at your location such as:

- **Telling families about the Alfond Grant and distribute brochures;**
- Building awareness by displaying Harold Alfond College Challenge information materials in prominent places throughout your facility where families and employees will be;
- Linking your website to the Harold Alfond College Challenge website: www.500forbaby.org;
- Consider making a contribution to the NextGen account of employees who have a baby.

Contact your FAME College Access Counselor to:

- Schedule an information session about the Harold Alfond College Challenge for employees;
- Request informational materials to display;
- Host or volunteer at a "Casting Call" or other event in your area;
- Get personal assistance in completing applications; or
- Learn more about NextGen and additional grant programs available to Maine residents of all ages.

College Access Counselor for Southern and Western Maine Counties:
Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Kennebec, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, York
Jessica Whittier, 800-228-3734 ext 3555, jwhittier@famemaine.com

College Access Counselor for Northern and Eastern Maine Counties:
Aroostook, Hancock, Knox, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo, Washington
Mila Tappan, 800-228-3734 ext 3504, mtappan@famemaine.com

Who is eligible for the Harold Alfond® College Challenge?

- ✓ Every Maine resident baby under one year of age.
- ✓ Adopted children and children who become Maine residents before the child's first birthday.
- ✓ No family income limits apply.
- ✓ No need to contribute personal funds ever, though an investment in the baby's future is encouraged.
- ✓ A NextGen® account naming the baby as a beneficiary must be opened on or before the baby's first birthday.

How do families receive their baby's \$500 Alfond Grant?

The family must open a NextGen® account on or before baby's first birthday so the Alfond Grant can be credited to this account.

- They can complete the online application at www.500forbaby.org
OR
- Request a paper kit to be mailed to them by calling 1-800-228-3734 or going online www.500forbaby.org. For more information or to ask for help in completing the application, families may contact FAME at info@500forbaby.org or by calling 1-800-228-3734

OR

They can contact their financial advisor.

Anyone 18 years or older may open a NextGen account for the benefit of the Maine resident baby, regardless of relationship to the baby, income or residency, and obtain the Alfond Grant. No personal contributions to the NextGen account are required to obtain the grant, ever; however, an investment in the baby's future is encouraged, and additional matching grants are available for those who do contribute. See Grant Terms and Conditions for more details.

Can family and friends contribute additional funds to the child's account?

Yes! Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends, and others can make contributions to the child's NextGen account. Although no additional contributions are required, the Harold Alfond Foundation hopes that families will take the college challenge and continue contributing to the child's NextGen account.

Are there any restrictions on the use of the Alfond Grant?

The Alfond Grant, including any earnings on the funds, may only be used for qualified higher education expenses (as defined by the Internal Revenue Code) at accredited postsecondary schools, including two- and four-year colleges and universities, trade schools, graduate schools, and some foreign institutions that participate in certain federal financial aid programs. Alfond Grant beneficiaries can pursue certificate programs, as well as associate, bachelor, master, doctoral, and professional degrees beyond high school. The grant and any earnings must be used prior to the account beneficiary turning 28 years old.

Did you know?

- People with education beyond high school lead healthier lives [Alliance for Excellent Education, November 2006].
- Individuals with a college education earn more over their lifetimes than those without a degree [U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, March 1998, 1999, 2000].
- Saving small amounts of money regularly and over time can add up. As Mr. Alfond was fond of saying, "if you chop enough wood, you get a pile."
- Families who save for college education expenses may be in a better position when it comes to paying for college costs by replacing college debt with savings.



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The Alfond Grant is awarded to a NextGen account. Other terms and conditions apply. NextGen is a Section 529 plan administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). Before you invest in NextGen, request a NextGen Program Description from your Maine bank or financial advisor, or call FAME at 1-800-228-3734 and read it carefully. The Program Description contains more complete information, including investment objectives, charges, expenses and risks of investing in NextGen, which you should carefully consider before investing. You also should consider whether your or your designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a registered broker-dealer, Member [SIPC](#), is the program manager and underwriter.

Please remember there is always the risk of losing money when you invest in securities.