

MAINE
CHILDREN'S
TRUST



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Mission

Maine Children's Trust works to strengthen families, promote healthy relationships, and support communities to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Our Vision

All Maine children grow up in safe, stable, nurturing families and communities.

Our Values

We believe:

That child abuse is preventable;

In fostering collaboration;

Our work must respect and engage differences;

We must be resource conscious.

Maine Children's Trust envisions a world where all children thrive, and all people are treated with dignity and respect.

We believe Mainers want the best for all children. We all have a role to play in ensuring equity and eliminating the disparities that impact our children's futures.

Our History

Maine Children's Trust was originally created by Statute in 1985 as a part of State Government. In 1994, legislation was enacted that transformed the Trust into a 501(c)3 non-profit governed by a Board of Directors and designated the Trust as a Maine income tax checkoff recipient. The Trust's governing guidelines remain in statute. The Trust provides leadership and coordination of efforts throughout Maine to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. The Trust provides funding and supports for prevention programming, as well as coordinates several statewide collaborative initiatives to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Our Affiliations

Office of the Administration for Children & Families Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention | State Lead

Prevent Child Abuse America | State Chapter

Brazelton Touchpoints Site | Maine Touchpoints Project

Circle of Parents | State Chapter

National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds | Network Affiliate

Parents as Teachers | State Office

National Family Support Network | State Network Lead

Association of State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives | Member

Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework | State Lead

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Drummond Woodsum

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Christopher J. Pezzullo, D.O.

(Executive Committee Member)
Clinical Director, Maine Primary Care Association

Kim Russell

State Director, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Maine

Charles Soltan, Esq.

(Executive Committee Member)
Soltan Bass, LLC

***Represents a local Prevention Council**

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Prevention Advocates,

Maine Children’s Trust has been a pillar of child abuse prevention efforts and support for communities, providers, families, caregivers, and children across Maine since 1994. Two of our statewide initiatives, Maine Families Home Visiting and the Maine Prevention Councils, also have a long-established history of directly supporting parents and caregivers across the state. Building an intentional support system fosters trust, belonging, and hope across the social-ecological model. We have a trusted system and now is the time to bolster that earned trust with further investments to make greater gains in prevention and support our highly trained workforce.

We have heard the saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” However, how often do we have a conversation about what it looks like when a community has the resources it needs to show up for its’ children? It’s clear through research as well as our lived experiences through the pandemic that societal factors assist or hinder raising children in ways that were not readily apparent 5-10 years ago. We must go beyond the family unit to societal factors and a system that set families and children at its core. It takes effort, intentionality, curiosity, and persistence to turn the possibility of a robust child and family well-being system into reality and we have the tools already.

To frame a system of prevention and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect, the research-informed Strengthening Families Five Protective Factors approach increases positive outcomes for all children and families. Children are more likely to thrive when their families have the support they need. By focusing on the five universal family strengths identified in the Protective Factors Framework, community leaders and service providers can better engage, support, and partner with parents and caregivers in order to achieve the best outcomes for kids. It is currently being used in 30 states to shift policy and practice and to help programs working with children and families. It is the basis for all of Maine Children’s Trust programs, initiatives, and efforts including our statewide network of local family-serving providers. We ask you to join a national movement and those in Maine who have led the way to support children and families for years to take the next step in our journey and expand child and family well-being efforts.

With our sincere thanks,

Ben Gilman, Esq.
Board Chair

Heidi Aakjer
Executive Director

Our Call to Action

Every child is filled with tremendous promise and we all have a shared obligation to foster their potential, growth and development. Sadly, not all children are able to reach their potential due to maltreatment, but it doesn't have to be that way. We can change that trajectory for them by working together to make our state a place where children, including those who experience adversity, can thrive because adversity is buffered by support. Together, we can make Maine a place where everyone looks out for children and works to make their communities supportive and connected.

Children thrive when they have regular interactions with responsive, caring adults. Yet neglect is the most commonly reported form of child maltreatment, and it can have long-term effects on children's health and development. Neglect often occurs without intent to harm. Child neglect is more likely to occur in families that are experiencing an overload of stress. The weight of poverty can overload parents' abilities to provide the supportive relationships children need. Family issues, which also reflect broader systems issues such as poverty, mental health, homelessness, domestic violence and stress, can limit parental capacity and contribute significantly to a child being neglected.

Community conditions shape a family's life and a child's experiences. Much like a truck that can only carry so much weight before it stops moving forward, difficult life situations can overload parents, making it difficult for them to focus on the best care and support for their children. To support families in providing the best care possible, we need to assist with alleviating community burdens that weigh families down and remove unnecessary obstacles so families and communities thrive.



Our Action Areas

The Trust focuses our efforts to support Maine communities and families in three areas:

- **Strengthening Communities** - We know when communities are strong, inclusive, and supportive then children and families thrive. Support is provided to communities through partnerships, resources, and evidence-based strategies.
 - Prevention Councils match their programming to local needs based on annual community needs assessments and feedback from their local Advisory Boards which are made up of **300 local community and parent leaders**, as well as community requests.
 - We work with **over 17 local organizations**, as well as numerous state and federal organizations because we know that no single individual, organization, or government agency working alone can stop child maltreatment. It is imperative that we work together, sharing best practices and expertise in learning communities, training, and resources.
 - The Trust provided **66 trainings for our contracted partners**. In turn, during the state fiscal year, our partners provided **392 trainings to family-serving professionals, 333 parenting education activities, 336 parent support activities, and 552 public awareness activities**.
- **Supporting Families** - Programs and assistance to families are tailored to the community needs by utilizing various data sets, evaluation results, community feedback, requests, and ongoing involvement by community leaders.
 - Family (Home) Visiting, offering individualized parenting education and support, was provided to **1,887 caregivers with 1,696 children** through **18,098 home visits** last year.
 - **86% of children** in home visiting services received timely developmental screenings.
 - Prevention Councils assisted families with everyday parenting challenges through **333 multi-session parenting education groups with 1,690 caregivers** attending last year.
 - Provided supportive environments for families to connect and share resulting in **1,122 caregivers participating in support groups**.
 - Over **89,963 concrete supports** were provided directly to families through our partners to include diapers, formula, breastfeeding supplies, safety items, and clothing.
- **Leading Primary Prevention Efforts** - The Trust is leading child abuse prevention efforts in Maine through training and expertise to guide proven prevention initiatives both locally and statewide.
 - The Trust provided **31 community grants** focused on child abuse prevention efforts distributed through an annual granting process to local agencies.
 - The Trust offers **best practice and research supported** child abuse prevention trainings that strengthens the capacity of local programs to deliver high-quality services.
 - Public awareness efforts included **statewide campaign for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April** with state and local partners as well as for **Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month in October**. In addition, we continue to support a social norms campaign that focuses on normalizing support for all families.
 - As the Parents as Teachers State Office, MCT received funding through the national office to **support parent leadership and voice** in promotional and programmatic materials.
 - MCT utilizes **NFSN's Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support** for quality assurance and capacity building with the Prevention Councils, which have a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion and was provided to partner agencies.
 - Unifying local, state, and regional organizational efforts, the Trust **convenes a statewide Infant Safe Sleep & Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Coalition** to share data, best practices, resources, and expertise to protect our most vulnerable population, infants under one.

Our Advocacy Efforts

Prevention Mindset Institute

Maine Children's Trust was selected as one of six state CBCAP leads to participate with our invited partners in the Prevention Mindset Institute. This initiative focuses on shifting the collective mindset toward child abuse prevention strategies. Team members include the Associate Director of Child Welfare, the Family First Prevention Services Program Manager, Special Projects Manager for Child & Family Well-Being at DHHS, a parent leader, a local Prevention Council Community Coordinator, as well as the Prevention Initiatives Coordinator and Executive Director of the Trust. With technical assistance from the FRIENDS National Center, an ongoing collaborative effort continues to support a focus on child and family well-being efforts through a prevention lens.

Maine Children's Trust Policy Priorities

Evidence shows that when Maine invests strategically in upstream programs to strengthen families, children experience better outcomes, communities thrive and the state is able to save critical taxpayer dollars on more costly interventions down the road. In partnership with parents, policymakers, and other government and community partners, the Trust is committed to a range of equitable effective policies and services that are proven to support and strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. Prioritizing and investing in the following prevention strategies is everyone's responsibility -- and is a critical first step in ensuring that all Maine families have the opportunity to thrive.

- **Raise Public Awareness and Support for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention in Maine:** With the right supports, improving child and family well-being in Maine is possible, but building sustained investments in family support programs begins with widespread public awareness that we all have a role. We know that everyone who lives in Maine has an interest in supporting child and family well-being – we all want to live in a place where our families thrive.
- **Strengthen Coordination of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Efforts:** Policymakers and other state partners must work together to prioritize and better coordinate primary prevention policies in order to optimize vital government resources and improve the state's capacity to implement and scale effective prevention strategies and programs.
- **Expand Family Support Services through Maine Families Home Visiting and Maine's Prevention Councils:** Increased funding to stabilize and grow the prevention workforce will help ensure vital services such as parenting education, developmental playgroups, and other services to support healthy children and prevent child abuse and neglect are available for all interested families.
- **Expand Access to Other Critical Prevention and Family Support Programs:** Research shows that a range of coordinated, evidence-based programs work together to produce better outcomes for children and families. These include early childhood interventions, economic supports and family-friendly workplace policies. Sustained policy support and funding for these critical programs mean increased safety for children and economic stability for families.

Supportive Communities & Strong Families Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect

What Families Need to Thrive

Science tells us what children need to thrive and affirms what we already know – children need safe, stable, nurturing environments with engaged and responsive caregivers. Social science also tells us what families need to thrive – these things are described as the five Protective Factors. The Strengthening Families Framework, developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.



The 5 Protective Factors

- 1) Knowledge of Child Development: Information on how kids grow**
- 2) Parental Resilience:** The ability to manage stress and cope with challenges
- 3) Concrete Supports in Times of Need:** Access to services and resources such as food, shelter, and healthcare
- 4) Social-Emotional Competence of Children:** Helping children understand their feelings
- 5) Supportive Social Connections:** Having friends, family, and community that provide emotional support in tough times

What Communities Need to Thrive

CSSP has also developed recommendations for how to apply the Protective Factors approach to transform communities and address root causes of adversity. When the four community conditions below are met, all individuals and families are set up for success.

Essential/Basic Needs: Communities with access for all to things like high quality, affordable, and equitable early learning, K-12, and adult **education; health care;** safe, affordable, and reliable **housing;** and **food security;** along with economic opportunities and **family-friendly employment**

Social Support and Connection: Communities with social connections and neighborhood cohesion where community members are willing to reach out to one another and where help-seeking is normalized with a collective acknowledgement that parenting is hard and all parents benefit from support

Racial and Social Justice: Communities that foster an **anti-racist** and **equitable social structure,** including norms and practices that address historical and structural racism, where all can thrive

Social Contract: Communities that **shift social norms to foster collective responsibility for the welfare of children** create a shift in the social contract (the understanding and agreement between citizens and the government about what citizens are expected to do for themselves and what the government is expected to do). By shifting the norms, a community can encourage high level prevention efforts and messaging, restorative justice practices and a culture of looking out for one another.

Source: <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Community-Conditions-Strengthening-Families-Report-CSSP.pdf>

CBCAP Supported Initiatives

Maine Children's Trust (MCT), like 11 other Children's Trust Funds across the nation, is the designated Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) entity here in Maine. Established by Title II of CAPTA, the Children's Bureau provides this funding to a lead entity as designated by the Governor in each state to administer these funds for the implementation of community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Maine Children's Trust was established in statute to lead child abuse prevention efforts. MCT has been designated as the CBCAP lead since 1997, and for years prior to that time, was the CAPTA state lead for prevention through the Community Based Family Resource and Support Program.

Core features of CBCAP follow with examples of how they are implemented by Maine Children's Trust:

- **Federal, State, and private funds are blended and made available to community agencies for child abuse and neglect prevention activities and family support programs.** In Maine, the Trust provides granting to local organizations to support child abuse prevention efforts in every county. The Prevention Councils (also in statute as the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils), which act informally as Family Resource Centers, are funded by OCFS, but have been flat-funded for a number of years. Granting has allowed the Prevention Councils to expand their offerings for caregivers. Training has been provided across the Prevention workforce, including the Prevention Councils and Maine Families staff.
- **An emphasis on promoting parent leadership and participation in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of prevention programs.** Granting is provided with intentional coordination and support to the Prevention Councils to focus on family engagement efforts and parent leadership opportunities. As the State Lead for the National Family Support Network (NFSN), we have provided granting and a guided quality assurance and improvement effort with the Prevention Councils using NFSN's Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support. The Standards, which have a strong focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, are a tool for planning, assessing and delivering quality practice.
- **Interagency collaborations with public and private agencies in the State to form a child abuse prevention network to promote greater coordination of resources.** The child abuse prevention network was formalized in 2015 with funding from OCFS, and was the first substantial statewide coordinated effort focusing on child abuse prevention efforts. Through this effort, the Trust supports ten agencies to staff 16 Prevention Councils in their statutory role as the county-level coordinating entity to lead and deliver child abuse prevention efforts. MCT works closely with the Maine CDC and OCFS to offer prevention programming through Maine Families, now providing Parents as Teachers home visiting services to a wider audience. Prevention Councils and Maine Families Programs have participated in joint trainings to intentionally create stronger collaborations.

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- **Funds are used to support programs such as voluntary home visiting programs, parenting programs, family resource centers, respite and crisis care, parent mutual support, and other family support programs.** In the past year, CBCAP funds in Maine supported the prevention workforce in both home visiting (Maine Families/Parents as Teachers) and the Prevention Council network with professional development and training in diversity, equity, and inclusion and family engagement/parent leadership. Providers were given access to translation and interpreter services. CBCAP funded evidence-based and research supported parenting education curricula, materials, and training. Clinical consultation was also provided to the Prevention Councils' staff to better support the workforce.
 - **An emphasis on promoting the increased use and high quality implementation of evidence-based and research supported programs.** The Trust supports evidence-based and research supported programs and practices for both home visiting and the Prevention Council network. There are over 17 state-approved curricula offered to our Prevention Council network. Additionally, we support our most vulnerable population-our children under the age of one with two national programs, Cribs for Kids and the Period of PURPLE Crying, in collaboration with DHHS and hospitals. The Trust provides portable pack n' plays to those in need of a safe sleep environment with required education on safe infant sleep practices through the Prevention Councils. MCT also works with the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome to provide education and public awareness in Maine. Infant safe sleep and abusive head trauma prevention education is provided by each Prevention Council in every county. Efforts for both are also coordinated with the statewide Infant Safe Sleep and Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Coalition convened by MCT.
 - **Programs can also finance the development of a continuum of preventive services through public-private partnerships, financing the start-up, maintenance, expansion, or redesign of child abuse prevention programs, maximizing funding through leveraging funds, and financing public education activities that focus on the promotion of child abuse prevention.*** MCT has three initiatives to provide community outreach and public awareness of child abuse prevention efforts. 1) Granting and training were provided to community organizations to support bystander public awareness and education - The Front Porch Project® of Maine (FPP). The goal is simple – to engage and train the community to help protect children, support families, and prevent abuse and neglect. 2) In partnership with the Office of Child and Family Services, a prevention webinar series is held every other month to share the role we all play in keeping children safe, stable, happy, and healthy, as well as strategies for strengthening families to strengthen families in Maine. 3) April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and as the Prevent Child Abuse America's (PCAA) Maine affiliate, we provide the PCAA public awareness tool kit and resources to all Prevention Councils to share common messaging and promote prevention.

* <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/grant-funding/community-based-child-abuse-prevention-cbcap-grants>

Central Coordination

Maine Children’s Trust has supported home visiting in Maine since the 1990’s through advocacy, grants and training. In 2010, the Trust assumed responsibility for providing system coordination, quality assurance and technical assistance with all the State contracted home visiting sites. Ten years ago, all home visiting system supports came under the Trust’s umbrella – quality assurance, quality improvement, training, technical assistance, staff credentialing, along with data collection and reporting. The Trust became the home of the Parents As Teachers State Office, the national model utilized by Maine’s home visiting system. During this time, more in-depth Standards of Practice were created that allowed for even greater consistency in services offered by the local contracted agencies delivering the program.

In 2016, the Maine DHHS consolidated all home visiting contracts and the system supports (infrastructure) into one contract with the Trust. The Trust has managed the direct service contracts with the local agencies since that time for no additional cost to the grant beyond the infrastructure costs. In 2022, Maine Families piloted services to families referred from Child Protective Services with funding from Family First Prevention Services and in 2023 this effort expanded statewide.

Funding for Maine Families is provided through the Department of Human Services: Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Child and Family Services.

Local Contacts

Androscoggin, Oxford, & Northern Cumberland

Community Concepts, Inc.
207-783-3990

Aroostook

Aroostook Council for Healthy Families
207-532-1141

Greater Portland

The Opportunity Alliance
207-553-5801

Franklin

Franklin County Children's Task Force
207-778-6960

Hancock

Maine Family Planning
207-667-5304 Ext. 225

Kennebec & Somerset

KVCAP
207-859-1577

Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, & Part of Cumberland County

The Parent Program of MidCoast Maine
207-832-0343

Penobscot & Piscataquis

Penquis
207-974-2481

Waldo

University of Maine Cooperative Extension
207-342-5971

Washington

Down East Community Hospital
207-225-0438

York & Part of Cumberland County

Southern Maine Health Care
207-490-7704

Evidence-Based Services to Families

Offered in every county of the state through a well-established and rigorously accountable system of performance-based contracts with local agencies, Maine Families Home Visiting is a voluntary program available for pregnant women, expectant couples, and parents or primary caregivers of children from birth to age three.

As affiliates of the international Parents as Teachers (PAT) evidence-based model, services are delivered by highly-trained specialists to ensure safe home environments, promote healthy growth and development for babies and toddlers, and provide key connections to needed services. Family visitors use a non-judgmental and compassionate approach that empowers parents with skills, tools, and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of their baby.

The intensity and length of service is matched to family needs in response to an individualized needs assessment. This allows for careful optimization of resources, in which highest-need families receive more frequent visits over a longer period of time. Maine Families consistently delivers positive outcomes for Maine's youngest children and their families in areas such as maternal and child health, child development, safety, and family well-being.

Maine Families' Programs Receive National Recognition As Blue-Ribbon Affiliates

In 2022, all eleven Maine Families Home Visiting Programs underwent a year-long rigorous self-study and review process with the Parents as Teachers (PAT) National Center to demonstrate fidelity to the PAT model. As a result of this review, every Maine Families Program earned a prestigious endorsement from PAT as "Blue-Ribbon Affiliates" and continues to maintain this status in the 2023 performance year. This endorsement is an exclusive recognition offered only to top-performing home-visiting affiliates within Parents as Teachers' international network every five years. Blue Ribbon Affiliates are exemplary programs, delivering the highest quality services to children and families. To earn this endorsement, programs underwent a year-long rigorous self-study and review process from the National Center to demonstrate compliance with the Parents as Teachers model. Implementation with quality and fidelity is vital in home-visiting programs as it determines a program's effectiveness in accomplishing its original goals and intended outcomes. This quality endorsement process further demonstrates Maine Families programs' accountability and credibility to the community, its funders, elected officials, and the partner organizations with which they work.



Prevention Councils

Central Coordination

Maine Children's Trust has supported the prevention efforts of the Prevention Councils since the 1990's with grant funding, public awareness, and technical assistance. Since 2015, the Maine Department of Human Services has executed agreements with the Trust to lead and coordinate a statewide project to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through this effort, the Trust supports the Prevention Councils in their statutory role as the county-level coordinating entity to lead and deliver child abuse prevention efforts.

The Prevention Council statute guides the Trust in providing central statewide leadership, strengthening the network, and ensuring ongoing delivery of free research supported child abuse programming in every county in Maine. A toolkit has been developed to guide data evaluation, integrate data with community feedback, and develop prevention plans and priorities. The Trust provides a centralized data system, core programming training, and technical assistance to ensure consistency in service delivery, as well as model fidelity.

Funding for the Prevention Councils is provided through the Department of Human Service: Office of Child and Family Services.

Local Contacts

Androscoggin & Oxford
Community Concepts, Inc.
207-783-3990

Aroostook
Aroostook Council for Healthy Families
207-532-1141

Cumberland & York
Kids Free to Grow
207-985-5975

Franklin
Franklin County Children's Task Force
207-778-6960

Hancock & Washington
Sunrise Opportunities
207-225-3426

Kennebec & Somerset
KVCAP
207-859-1577

Sagadahoc
Midcoast Maine Community Action Program
207-442-7963

Lincoln & Knox
Healthy Kids
207-563-1818

Penobscot & Piscataquis
Penquis
207-974-2481

Waldo
Waldo Community Action Program
207-338-6809



Prevention Councils

Research Supported Services to Families

Formally known in statute as the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils, the Prevention Councils use a structured approach to build a system of support for local communities and the families that live in them by:

- Focusing on primary and secondary child abuse prevention strategies
- Utilizing the social-ecological model
- Using the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework, a strengths-based approach developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy's
- Delivering evidence-based and informed curriculums and supports
- Conducting an annual Needs Assessment
- Creating an annual Prevention Plan that is informed by OCFS Child Maltreatment data
- Offering activities in response to unique county-specific needs and use SMART objectives for each county in Maine
- Encouraging active participation from the community through an Advisory Board comprised of diverse community leaders, as well as leveraging community partnerships
- Evaluating parenting education and professional training to ensure families voices are heard

The Prevention Councils support all families and also serve focused populations identified through prevention planning and offer programs for fathers, substance-affected families, co-parenting/separated families, prenatal families, as well as offering education in child sexual abuse prevention. In addition, the Prevention Councils provide training to family-serving professionals in each county in the following trainings: Infant Safe Sleep, Protective Factors, Mandated Reporting, and Period of PURPLE Crying, an abusive head trauma prevention training.

Local Resources - Interactive Map

Connection to Local Resources

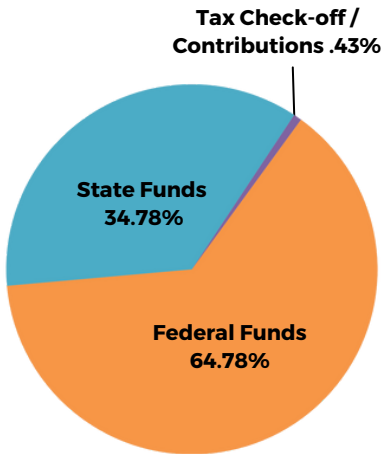
Local resources by county are shown on a interactive map easily accessible on the Trust's website. Here caregivers and professionals have the latest information on trainings, playgroups, support groups, events, and more provided by each local Prevention Council. The map can be searched by the age of the child(ren), by subject area such as specialty groups for fathers or families with children with special health needs, or by activity. Activities are often held virtually and participants can join from a location that works best for them. Visit www.mechildrenstrust.org and click on Local Resources to find out more.



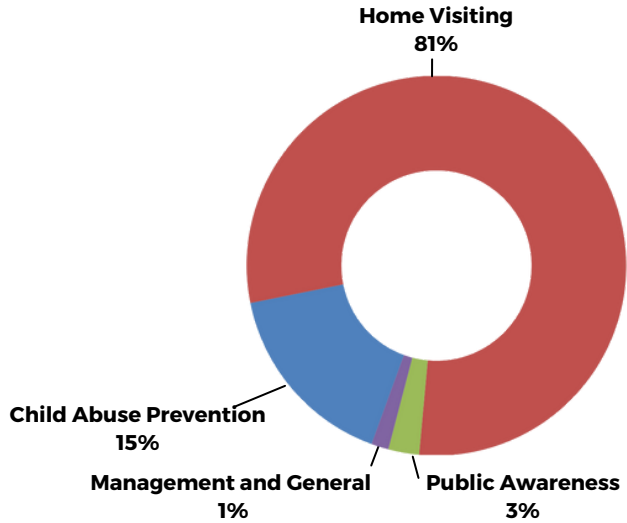
FY23 Financial Overview

Maine Children’s Trust receives funding from both the federal and state governments, as well as individual donors, in support of our mission to prevent child abuse and neglect. According to the Trust’s last audit, 99% of Maine Children’s Trust funding is used to meet its’ mission, with just 1% spent on overhead. Below is an overview summary of our agency funding sources and initiatives funded for FY23 beginning on July 1, 2022.

Agency Funding Sources



Agency Funding Disbursed



Total Revenue By Source

Federal Funds	\$7,767,223
State Funds	\$4,170,570
Tax Check-off/ Contributions	\$51,792
Total Revenue	\$11,989,586

Total Disbursements by Category

Child Abuse Prevention	\$1,727,051
Home Visiting	\$9,624,512
Public Awareness	\$411,192
Management and General	\$167,993
Total Disbursements	\$11,930,748

Executive Team

Executive Director
Heidi Aakjer, MPA

Finance Director
Kara Parks



2023 Partners In Prevention for Child Abuse Prevention Month

Thank you to our 2023 Partners in Prevention who joined Maine Children's Trust to speak with a unified voice for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Our message is clear - Supportive Communities & Strong Families Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect. Thirty-one partners participated in a joint public awareness campaign, shared social media messaging provided by the Trust throughout the month of April, as well as in newsletters, on websites, listservs, local newspapers, presentations, and more.

- Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. & The Kinship Program
- Alford Scholarship Foundation
- Count ME In
- Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership
- Department of Public Safety
- Family Child Care Association of Maine
- Fight Crime: Invest In Kids
- Kennebec Savings Bank
- KidsPeace Foster Care and Community Programs
- Maine Association for the Education of Young Children
- Maine Association for Nonprofits
- Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians
- Maine Bankers Association
- Maine Chapter - American College of Emergency Physicians
- Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Maine Chiefs of Police Association
- Maine Children's Home
- Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Maine Council of Churches
- Maine Osteopathic Association
- Maine Parent Federation
- Maine Primary Care Association
- Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network
- Maine State Library
- Maine State Parent Ambassadors
- MaineHealth
- Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
- Maine Primary Care Association
- Mission: Readiness
- NAMI Maine
- National Association of Social Work Maine Chapter
- ReadyNation
- Sweetser



In late 2020, Maine Children's Trust launched a new primary prevention project, The Front Porch Project® of Maine. The Front Porch Project® workshop for community members looks at why people do (and don't) get involved if they feel concerned about a child and their family, and provides strategies on how you can help support them. In the workshop, participants will increase their awareness of the importance of prevention in supporting families and children, explore how to build relationships by connecting with others in times of need or stress, foster the idea that it's okay to ask for and receive help in stressful times, learn how to be most helpful to other caregivers without causing harm, and feel confident in offering support.

Of the participants who completed the post-evaluation survey in 2023:

- 99% agree or strongly agree that they believe that they have a responsibility to help prevent child abuse and neglect as a member of my community.
- 96% agree or strongly agree that they are equipped with effective strategies that help protect children and assist families in their community.
- 94% agree or strongly agree that they are likely to intervene in situations to protect children and support families.
- 92% agree or strongly agree that they feel comfortable with intervening in concerning situations to protect children and help families in my community.

The Front Porch Project® was developed by the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance and is research based programming developed by American Humane Association, guided by Butler Institute for Families.



Giving is easy!

Every act of giving to Maine Children's Trust is in support of child and family well-being efforts across the state. Giving is quick, easy, and tax-deductible!

Did you know that over 99% of Maine Children's Trust funding is used to meet its mission, with just 1% spent on overhead!

- 1** Simply “check off” a donation on your Maine Income Tax Return Schedule CP/Voluntary Contributions and Park Passes
- 2** Mail a check to our address below:
56 Leighton Road
Augusta, Maine 04330
- 3** Go to www.mechildrenstrust.org and click to donate by credit card or PayPal.

For more information:

Phone: 207-623-5120

Email: info@mechildrenstrust.org





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56 Leighton Rd., Augusta, ME 04330
207-623-5120

info@mechildrenstrust.org
www.mechildrenstrust.org

 MaineChildrensTrust

 MaineFamilies

