

Impact 2023: Highlights

MCA's legislative advocacy, relationships with policymakers, data and communications, and work in coalitions led to unprecedented advances in policies and investments to improve the well-being of Maine children, youth, and families.

Legislative and Budget Success for Children and Families

7%

OF FAMILY INCOME

With the Right from the Start Coalition, MCA led in bipartisan passage of a comprehensive child care bill that will increase support for child care workers and families with young children, while creating a plan to ensure no family pays more than 7% of income on child care by 2030.

\$59

MILLION

The child care package doubles the funding of a state wage stipend for child care staff, increases eligibility for child care assistance, provides funding to support the child care needs of early childhood educators, and provides additional funding for Head Start.

12

WEEKS

With the passage of Paid Family and Medical Leave, Maine became the 13th state to have a program. It will provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave for eligible workers to care for a new baby, recover from illness, or care for a family member.

\$150

MILLION

State investments in housing, food assistance, education, and children's behavioral health were aligned with the newly created Child Safety and Well-Being Plan to keep children safe by strengthening families. \$1 million in new funding supports two prevention initiatives.

50

THOUSAND FAMILIES

The state Child Dependent Tax Credit was expanded to be fully refundable, meaning 50,000 families with the lowest incomes are now eligible for the full benefit.

Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book 2023

50+

INDICATORS

MCA released its comprehensive Data Book with dozens of indicators about child and family well-being, as well as recommended policy solutions. Highlights featured improvements in child poverty during the pandemic, increases in Maine's rate of child maltreatment, and growing concerns about youth mental health.

Child Safety and Family Well-Being Plan

250

PARTICIPANTS

The Maine Child Welfare Advocacy Network worked with state partners to develop a prevention plan focused on reducing child abuse and neglect by strengthening families. With MCA leadership, MCWAN conducted 13 community and family engagement sessions, so that hundreds of participants informed Version 1.0 of the Plan.