



# MAINE



## BUILDING ON THE PROMISE: PROFILES OF STATE INITIATIVES TO BUILD ON EARLY HEAD START

### INITIATIVE SUMMARY

Maine has two initiatives that build on Early Head Start (EHS):

- **Fund for a Healthy Maine** – Since 2001, the Fund for a Healthy Maine has provided tobacco settlement money to existing Head Start and EHS programs to expand the number of children who receive full-day, full-year services. Local programs have the option of using these funds for EHS, depending on the needs in the community. While funds are generally used to expand the day and year of existing slots, some programs have used Fund for a Healthy Maine dollars to add new slots.
- **Supplemental** – Since the 1980s, Maine has provided state general revenue funds to all Head Start programs to add additional slots, some of which may now be used for EHS.

### APPROACHES USED TO BUILD ON EHS

- ✓ Extend the day or year of existing Head Start/EHS services. (Fund for a Healthy Maine)
- ✓ Increase the capacity of existing Head Start and EHS programs to serve additional children and pregnant women. (Supplemental)

### PROGRAM

#### Child and Family Eligibility

- **Family Income:** 65 percent of children must be from families earning below the federal poverty level, 35 percent may be over that level
- **Parental Work Status:** No requirement
- **Child Age:** Children are eligible for EHS from birth to age three and eligible for Head Start from age three to school age.
- **Other Risk Factors:** Status as a foster child
- **Length of Eligibility:** Families remain eligible for the program year
- **Expectant Mothers Served:** Yes

**Number Served by State Initiative:** 40 children are receiving EHS services through these two initiatives out of a total of 482 children birth to age five in FY 2007.

**Number Served by Federally Funded Early Head Start:** In comparison to the state initiative, federally funded EHS served 489 children birth to age three and expectant mothers (according to federal Program Information Report data for 2006).

**Eligible Providers**

Federal Head Start grantees (this includes all the federal EHS grantees in Maine-in 2007, the seven agencies that received federal EHS grants also received federal Head Start grants)

**Co-pay**

No co-pay required

**Program Standards**

**Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards Required?** The Fund for a Healthy Maine initiative contract requires that Head Start Program Performance Standards apply and that services are provided full-day, full-year.

The Supplemental initiative contract requires that all programs meet the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.

**Additional State Standards:** State child care licensing requirements are required in both initiatives. The state also specifies some other basic requirements, including that participating programs participate in a Collaborative Community Assessment and Planning Process to meet the child care and early education needs of their service area.

**Do other children besides those enrolled in the EHS model benefit when services are delivered in child care settings?**

Not applicable to either initiative; all services are delivered by Head Start grantees.

**Length of Day/Year**

Fund for a Healthy Maine dollars are intended to support full-day, year-round services.

The Supplemental funding does not specify length of day/year, and most slots are part-day, school year.

**FUNDING AND SUPPORTS**

**Sources and Budget for Fiscal Year 2007 (unless otherwise noted)**

Maine made \$3.8 million available in FY 2007 for both initiatives, children birth to age five:

- \$2.4 million is made available for children birth to five for the Fund for a Healthy Maine program, financed with tobacco tax dollars (figures for birth to three not available); and
- \$1.4 million in state general revenue is available for children birth to five in the Supplemental initiative (figures for birth to three not available).

In both initiatives, programs receive 1/12<sup>th</sup> of their annual grant amount each month, as long as they are in compliance and are delivering services. They receive the full contract amount if they serve at least 90% of the number of children planned for in that contract year.

**What support and technical assistance does the state offer?**

All participating programs are federal grantees, and therefore may receive technical assistance and professional development for the state-funded services as they do for their federally funded services.

Maine has a state-funded Infant-Toddler Specialist who works with EHS programs paid for with federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) infant and toddler set-aside funds.

**What incentives are there for child care providers to participate?**

Not applicable to the Fund for a Healthy Maine initiative.

In the Supplemental initiative, local programs determine what, if any, incentives to offer to community partners, including child care providers. Each local program submits a statement of need as part of their application for the funding, which includes the necessary incentives for their community partners.

## GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

**What state agency administers the funding for these initiatives?**

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services

**How does the funding flow to local providers?**

Fund for a Healthy Maine dollars are divided equally so each federal grantee in Maine receives the same amount based on available funding for the year. Each program has a contractual grant agreement with the state that specifies the amount of money they will receive, and the local programs indicate the number of children they can serve for that amount. Programs must report on performance measures on a monthly basis and they receive 1/12<sup>th</sup> of their total funds each month. Programs must keep 90 percent of the slots filled at all times.

Supplemental funds are allocated to each federal Head Start grantee using a needs-based formula developed when the initiative originated in the 1980s. Local programs have contractual grant agreements with the state specifying how many children the program will serve for each age group.

**Can a child in the state initiative also have a child care subsidy?**

Yes

**Does the state coordinate with federally funded Head Start agencies to conduct any of the activities?**

Maine has an agreement with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) regional office that state-funded Head Start and EHS slots be monitored as part of the federal review process. Programs may receive technical assistance and professional development for the state funded services as they do for their federally funded services.

**Does the state coordinate with the Head Start–State Collaboration Office to conduct activities?**

The Head Start–State Collaboration Officer is also the program manager for the two initiatives, as well as the CCDBG Child Care Administrator. Consequently, planning, program selection, technical assistance, and professional development activities are coordinated.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**What state agencies are responsible for monitoring, and how often is on-site monitoring conducted in a year?**

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services Contract Agreement Administrators monitor the required reporting of performance measures. The state Program Director reviews the performance measures for compliance. Formerly, the Department of Health and Human Services visited state funded Head Start programs annually, but due to a reorganization that resulted in fewer staff, this practice has been discontinued. The department hopes to reinstate this practice.

State licensing - All programs must have a Maine child care license, and the Maine Licensing and Regulatory Services division within the Department of Health and Human Services monitors grantees once a year.

**Are there specific measurement tools used to monitor services provided?**

Fund for a Healthy Maine programs must report on the performance measures outlined in the contract agreement on a monthly basis to receive funding.

Maine Licensing and Regulatory Services uses a site visit checklist to determine if programs are in compliance with licensing regulations.

**Are programs also monitored by federal agencies?**

Maine has an agreement with the federal ACF regional office that state-funded EHS slots operated by federal Head Start grantees undergo the federal review process every three years.

**Has the state evaluated the effectiveness of the state EHS initiative?**

No formal evaluation has been completed. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services compiles an annual report on how the Fund for a Healthy Maine funds were used in the previous year.

**Are state funded programs required to report data to the state?**

To receive Fund for a Healthy Maine dollars, programs must report on a subset of Program Information Report (PIR) data points, including enrollment, immunizations, provision of a medical home, and access to preventative medical services. Additional measures are reported on child cognitive and socio-emotional outcomes and physical development. The specific measures are outlined in the contract agreement.

## SOURCES

**Interviewed**

[Carolyn Drugge](#), Maine State Child Care Administrator, Maine Head Start-State Collaboration Director, Early Childhood Division – Child Care and Head Start, Maine Department of Health and Human Services; June 2007 (updated April 2008)

**Online Information**

- The Maine Department of Health and Human Services maintains a website on [Early Childhood Information](#) and has made available their [FY 2008 Contract Agreement](#) for Head Start and Early Head Start services.
- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has individual [state profiles](#) analyzing the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data from 2006.

*This profile was written by [Rachel Schumacher](#), Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and [Elizabeth DiLauro](#), ZERO TO THREE, as part of the **Building on the Promise: State Initiatives to Expand Access to Early Head Start and Their Families** report.*

*To download the full report and view other state profiles, visit [http://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/state\\_ehs.html](http://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/state_ehs.html) or <http://www.zerotothree.org/stateEHS>.*