

# Governor Mills' Children's Cabinet

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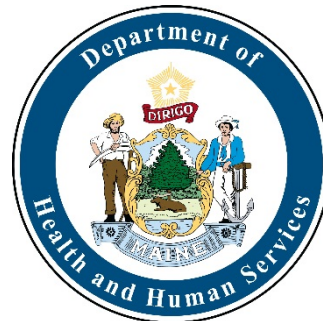
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**“There is no higher priority than our children and. . .it is high time we put children’s health and safety first. I will start with one simple step — calling together the Children’s Cabinet for the first time in years, to tackle these issues.”**

**- Governor Janet T. Mills, Inaugural Speech**



# Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children: All Maine Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared to Succeed

## Access



Increase access to affordable early care & education, preventive and early intervention services for young children and their families.

## Quality



Raise the quality of our early care and education system and support families to access quality programming.

## Workforce



Recruit, prepare and retain a diverse early childhood workforce.



# Children's Cabinet Plan for Youth: All Maine Youth Enter Adulthood Healthy, Connected to Workforce and/or Education

## Basic Needs



Ensure basic needs of youth and their families are met.

## Prevention



Increase prevention services and programming in schools and at the community level.

## Treatment



Increase access to needed behavioral health, including substance use disorder, screenings and treatment.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

## Child Care Assistance with Federal Funding in 2020



**Subsidies for essential workers**  
between April 20 and June 30, 2020



**Three rounds of grants** provided to  
licensed child care providers throughout  
the state to help with losses in revenue  
and increased expenses.



In total, **\$13 million of support** was  
delivered to parents and child care  
providers through OCFS in 2020.

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

## Day Programming and other supports through DOE



Provided **42 grants to support schools** participating in hybrid learning schedules to provide care for children during the days that they were participating in remote learning.



Offered **office hours to teachers**, including pre-K teachers, to provide technical assistance in remote learning and other challenges related to the pandemic starting in March.



Built **Maine Online Opportunities for Sustained Education (MOOSE)**, a library of asynchronous project-based learning modules for PreK through Grade 12. As of January 7th, MOOSE had 13,000 users.



Developed extensive **on-line Continuity of Learning resources for parents**, providing concrete tips and materials to help parents understand and meet their children's emotional and academic needs during the pandemic.



# Access to Quality Early Childhood Care and Education

Policies implemented by Office  
of Child and Family Services  
starting July 1, 2020



Incentivize the expansion of infant care by implementing a new **\$100 per week infant stipend** for programs participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP).



Encourage expansion of infant and toddler care and improved quality by implementing a **10% quality bump payment for providers caring for infants and toddlers** participating in CCSP.



Support individuals in the child care field to **attain post-secondary degrees** in Early Childhood Education through the T.E.A.C.H. program



Offer **Quality Improvement Grants** to support child care programs to improve quality and/or retain accreditation.



## Early Childhood Consultation Partnership

### Supporting Child Care Providers and Parents to Address Behavioral Health Needs

- The 129<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature passed LD 997 providing legislative authorization and funding to implement an **early childhood mental health consultation program at five pilot sites** throughout the state. Five pilot sites are in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Kennebec and Penobscot
- The **Connecticut Early Childhood Consultation Partnership model** was selected based on the strong evidence in support of its effectiveness.
- The ECCP partners **early childhood mental health professionals and early childhood educators** to increase their capacity to support children's social, emotional and behavioral health. Support is also provided for parents.
- Phase in of ECCP, starting with Head Start agencies in February 2021.





## Strengthening Early Childhood Education Through Greater Inclusion and Supporting Transitions

- Developed a professional learning series for early childhood educators from public schools and child care programs **to support inclusive and trauma informed practices** in early care and education settings.
- Published a new series of on-line resources to support educators and families to plan for **successful transitions for children as they enter the public school system**. A team from DHHS and DOE are working on developing greater resources for early childhood educators to support successful transitions.
- Host a **professional learning series for school administrators on early childhood education** to support transitions and build connections between the early care and education systems and public schools at the community level.
- Writing a **Pre-K toolkit** to encourage more school districts to expand or implement new quality public Pre-K programs.



## Increasing Development Screenings Rates and Access to Early Intervention Services



Coordinate Early Intervention efforts across agencies and across departments.



Increase Development Screenings through implementation of on-line screening tool, the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ).



Continue to identify opportunities to better support families to navigate and access comprehensive services.





**Improving access for  
youth to evidence  
based behavioral health  
services and treatment**

## **Policy and Program Changes in 2020**

- Trained provided to **certify 125 clinicians in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)**. TF-CBT is widely recognized as an effective evidence-based treatment modality.
- Initiated a pilot project in Aroostook County to **improve the system of crisis care for youth in Maine**. The pilot provides aftercare and stabilization services for both youth and their family members.
- In partnership with the Office of MaineCare Services, **increased rates by 20% for Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT)**. Two treatment modalities with significant evidence to their effectiveness, as well as TF-CBT.





**Improving access for  
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## **Expanded Efforts in 2021 and beyond**

- OCFS has been awarded a **four-year, \$8.5 million Systems of Care grant** from the federal government to improve behavioral health services available for children and youth in their homes and communities. The Systems of Care team at OCFS will focus on addressing systemic issues that affect access to behavioral health services, particularly in rural communities.
- The Children’s Cabinet secured a grant from the John T. Gorman Foundation to fund a one-year position at OCFS to focus on **expanding evidence-based substance use treatment for youth** across the state.



## COMPREHENSIVE PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 12 SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING CURRICULUM

- Maine's SEL4ME curriculum is **trauma informed**.
- SEL4ME has been **customized by Maine experts** to meet the diverse needs of our student population across the state.
- SEL4ME is classroom based with **free online access** to any educator or school staff with modules designed to be easily embedded into everyday academics and adapted to supplement remote learning.
- SEL4ME may be accessed by families, caregivers, home-schooled entities, community-based organizations, and others **who work directly with children and youth in Maine**.
- SEL4ME Team will continue to edit and develop **new SEL content and trainings**.



## Expanding Opportunities for Meaningful Paid Work Experience for Youth

- Over twenty five counselors at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) at the Department of Labor serve **transition aged youth with disabilities to prepare them to enter employment.** DOL was awarded a 5-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to implement two interventions with high school students with disabilities in Augusta and Bangor areas.
- Staff from the Maine DOL's Apprenticeship Program are collaborating with Career and Technical Education at DOE, the Maine Community College System, businesses, and other stakeholders to develop **new pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programming for youth** for fall of 2021.
- A cross-agency working group which includes staff from the Department of Economic and Community Development, will work to better understand existing opportunities for youth to participate in paid work and **identify opportunities for new programming.**





Questions?