

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Your generosity makes MECEP's work possible. Your engagement strengthens our work and amplifies our impact. Your commitment to renewed support means a brighter future for Mainers and MECEP alike.

MECEP is a backbone organization supporting workers, families, communities, partners, lawmakers, government officials, and the media. In a world without MECEP, who answers lawmakers' calls for help understanding the intricacies of Maine's tax code? Who shows up to deliver testimony against policies that create false choices, undercut the well-being of children and families, or expand racial inequities? Who assists legislative committees by providing credible analysis and insight that leads to evidence-based, equitable policy solutions? Who proactively informs media about pressing issues? Who puts facts in front of voters when it matters most? A healthy democracy in Maine depends in part on MECEP's existence.

When I started working at MECEP, I believed the job of a nonprofit was to make itself obsolete. Since then, I've come to appreciate that we have an enduring role to play. Regardless of election outcomes, MECEP is vital to a well-functioning government. This is particularly true for Maine's citizen legislature where members are part-time, term-limited, and have limited staffing to help sort out all the policy issues they contend with.

2024 is MECEP's 30th anniversary. The children who benefited from MECEP's early work are adults now, many with children of their own. And MECEP's work continues to benefit these same people through policies that boost incomes, make education more affordable, increase accessibility and affordability of child care, increase and enhance worker protections, and hold corporations accountable so that communities have the resources to thrive.

When we say the impact of our work spans generations, we know it's true. Whether you're an avid reader of our work, or a first-time or longstanding donor, thank you for helping us deliver for Maine people and communities!

With gratitude,



Garrett Martin, President & CEO

ANALYSIS THAT MATTERS

from over the last year

160+ media citations including new weekly “Wednesday Sit-Down” series on CBS13/FOX23

Published **6** major reports and briefs and nearly **40** blog articles

95+ pieces of testimony delivered before the Maine legislature

Provided messaging guidance and communications support to partners and coalitions on **5** priority issues

Launched new **Explainers** series presenting the nuts and bolts on big issues impacting Mainers

Coordinate and participate in multiple coalitions and committees that advance **racial equity** and **worker justice** and provide **tax, budget, and economic insights**

Brought people together to share ideas about **labor organizing** with Amazon Labor Union founder Chris Smalls and hosted tax experts for a virtual Conference on **challenging corporate power**

Helped enact policies and shift worldview around **Paid Family & Medical Leave, refundable child tax credit, child care subsidies, property tax fix, affordable housing, and free community college**

STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR WORK:

Sign up for our email list: mecep.org/engage



Your support puts words into action

Last year MECEP leveraged support from more than **200** donors to impact the lives of more than **270,000** Maine families



Policy Brief: Are Tax Giveaways Worth the Money?

Business tax breaks shouldn't go to massive corporations, but instead to supporting Maine people and small businesses.

By Maura Pillsbury | April, 2023

Executive Summary

Maine forgoes billions of dollars in revenue each year by giving tax giveaways to corporations, and sometimes poorly targeted to achieve intended outcomes. If we continue to use unproven tax breaks, we lose funding that could be better spent on our economy.



Instead of this information, we expect this information is evidence that extend and extend information.

The legislature tax giveaways process through Government. Government stymied many conclusions.

A broad body of research on effectiveness of tax giveaways has found that tax giveaway programs targeting business behavior often have high price tags and little proof showing they are money well spent.

Instead of for state should care, and pay for all Maine participate in.

We must also Maine will co issues that reform tax business ad programs, and oppose expansion of new and existing unproven

The High Cost of Undervaluing Direct Care Work



Maine Center for Economic Policy

Mailing: PO Box 437
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Augusta, ME 04332
207.622.7181 • mecep.org

Brief: Providing workers the support they need to enter and stay in the labor force

Maine Center for Economic Policy

Mailing: PO Box 437
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Augusta, ME 04332
207.622.7181 • mecep.org

Brief: The state of labor organizing in Maine

At a glance:

- Labor unions play an essential role in delivering better wages, benefits, and working conditions not just for their members, but for all workers
- Women and people of color see even more pronounced gains in wages, retirement security, and health care coverage because of being union members
- Labor unions contribute to increased civic and community engagement
- Maine and the nation are seeing a resurgence in worker organizing across a wide range of sectors
- Public support of unions is at a 60 year high despite the share of workers who belong to a union continuing to lag
- Recent policy changes in Maine will improve opportunities for workers who organize and secure good jobs
- Labor laws still fall short when it comes to upholding the rights of workers to organize and have greater say

Unionized workers play an essential role in advancing economic justice

40-hour work week. Protections for worker health and safety. These are hard fought standards secured by unionized workers that benefit all workers.

Wednesday Sit-Down: Maine's minimum wage

by Gregg Lagerquist, WGME | Wed, October 4th 2023, 10:01 PM EDT



Garrett Martin from the Maine Center for Economic Policy sat down with CBS13 to discuss Maine's minimum wage. (WGME)

Explainers



Tribal Sovereignty

While the restoration of self-governance has proved critically important for tribes throughout Indian Country, unique provisions in federal and Maine law have led to the Wabanaki nations being left behind, unable to access the full benefits of their sovereign status.

[Click here for the Tribal Sovereignty explainer.](#)



Paid Family and Medical Leave

At some point in their life, almost every Mainer will need to take extended time away from work for a major life event, like welcoming a new baby, recovering from an illness, or caring for an ailing family member.

[Click here for the Paid Family and Medical Leave explainer.](#)



The Debt Ceiling

The debt ceiling is like the nation's credit limit. When resources are limited due to economic downturns or tax cuts that aren't paid for, the need to borrow more to honor existing commitments increases.

[Click here for the Debt Ceiling explainer.](#)



The Child Tax Credit

Providing financial relief to American taxpayers with dependent children and lifting millions of children out of poverty, the Child Tax Credit is one of the most effective tools for helping families manage the rising cost of raising children.

[Click here for the Child Tax Credit explainer.](#)



Predatory Lending

Lenders are considered predatory when they use practices that involve fraudulent, unfair, and abusive loan terms, including ultra-high interest rates and fees, aggressive and deceptive sales tactics, and terms that rob borrowers of their equity.

[Click here for the Predatory Lending explainer.](#)

Maine lawmakers can transform Maine with the next budget

by Opinion Contributor
February 23, 2023

COLUMNS | Posted June 18 | Updated June 22 | Portland Press Herald

Commentary: Business incentive tax giveaway not the program Maine needs

Gov. Mills' proposed Dirigo Business Incentive Program focuses on the cost of doing business. The focus needs to be on supporting Maine's workers.

Family friendly policies are the solution to workforce challenges

by Opinion Contributor
June 11, 2023

Mainebiz

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Op-ed: We all pay the price for ineffective corporate tax giveaways

April 9, 2023

Rising poverty proves policies like improved child tax credit matter

by Opinion Contributor
September 26, 2023

Stronger Maine child tax credit is key for a more prosperous future

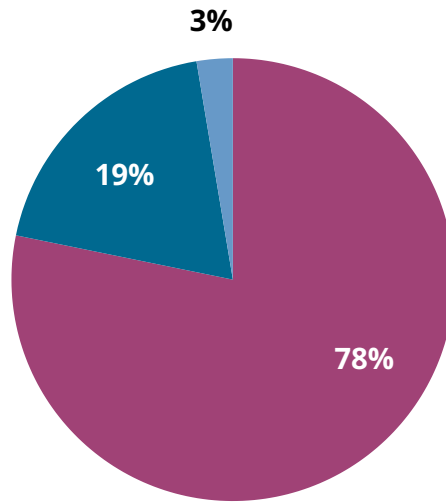
by Opinion Contributor
April 18, 2023

Financial Statement

Revenues

■ Grants	\$1,065,883
■ Donations	\$261,164
■ Other	\$35,859

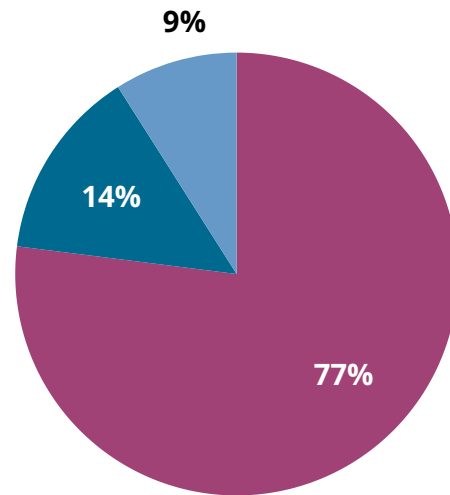
Total: \$1,362,906



Expenses

■ Research & Analysis	\$1,148,693
■ Fundraising & Grants Management	\$208,853
■ Management & General	\$134,263

Total: \$1,491,809



Assets

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$1,255,630
Net Assets End of Year	\$1,035,911

Unrestricted Funds	\$475,915
Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$221,951
Restricted for Operating Reserves	\$338,045

Total: \$1,035,911

Note: MECEP operates on a modified cash basis. Revenues include grant income received in 2023 and restricted for use in 2024 and exclude grants received in 2024 and restricted for use in 2025.

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