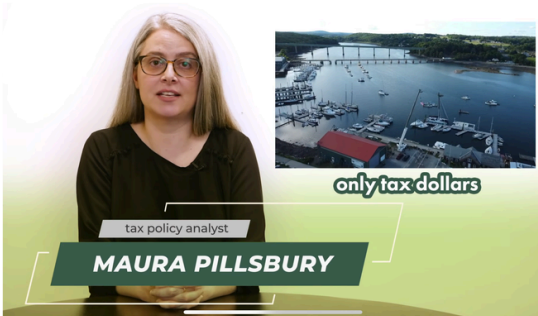
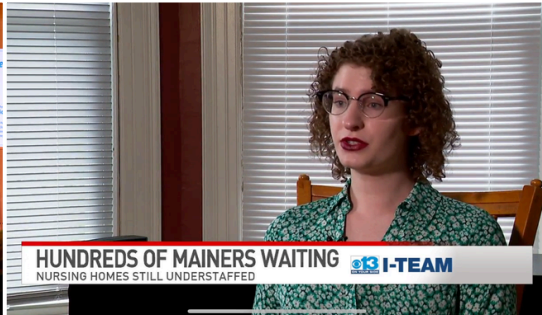


# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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](https://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 breaks to corporations and sometimes poorly targeted to achieve intended outcomes. If we don't reform our economy's tax structure, we lose funding that could be better spent on other programs.



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.

The legislature's tax process through Government Center has stymied many conclusions. Instead of focusing on state health care, and participation in We must also address issues that reform tax and business programs, and oppose expansion of new and existing unimproved

## The High Cost of Undervaluing Direct Care Work



Mailing: PO Box 437  
Street: 1 Weston Court, Suite 103  
Augusta, ME 04332  
207.622.7181 • mecep.org

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



Mailing: PO Box 437  
Street: 1 Weston Court, Suite 103  
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

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

## 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

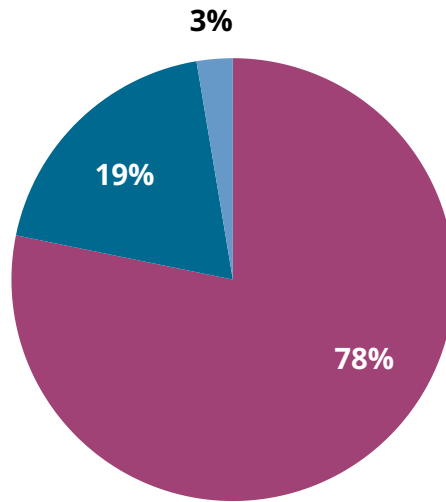
by Opinion Contributor  
April 18, 2023

# Financial Statement

## Revenues

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

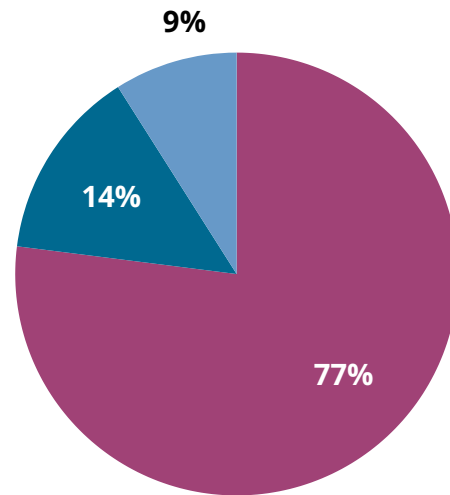
**Total:** \$1,362,906



## 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 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.

# MECEP Donors

Janet and John Alexander • Justin and Rachael Alford • Doug Allen • Tom and Diana Allen • Karin Anderson • Brian Atchinson • Kenneth and Janice Bailey • Colin Baker and Elaine Cinciva • Jo Anne and Michael Bander • Becky Bartovics • Diana Beach • Ann Beaudry and Craig McEwen • Carolyn Becker • Chris and Dorothy Beeuwkes • Peter Benjamin • Mike Bigos and Rachel Lowe • Victoria and Erno Bonebakker • Peter Bowman • Hal Brewster • Bill and Janice Bridgeo • Marilyn Bronzi • Frank Brooks and Marvin Ellison • Jeanne and Robin Brooks • Bill and Margarethe Brown • Richard and Anne Brown • Barbara and Rick Burt • Sandy Butler • Taifa Butler • Laura Buxbaum • Lynn and Mark Caldwell • Philip Caper and Karen Foster • Mike and Dianne Cavanaugh • Nancy and Charles Chandler • Ben and Nicola Chin • John Cotton • Amelia Courtney • Pamela Cox and Rick Kessler • Bill Creighton • Jeanine Crocket • Scott Cuddy • Deb Curtis and Ed Sims • Orlando and Judy Delogu • Ina Indriani Demers • Sara Dickey • Carla Dickstein • Shaun Donnelly • Doreen and Jim Dun • Susan Duncan • Thomas Eichler and Wendy Ross • Jim and Kathryn Elkins • Jonathan Falk and Laura Levenson • Irving Faunce and Jan Collins • Thomas Feeley • Susan Feiner and Bruce Roberts • Lisa Feldman • Peter Felsenthal and Jennifer Litchfield • John Fitzgerald • Carol Florman and Ron Capps • William Foster • Fen and Fran Fowler • Marty Fox and Thyle Shartar • Leonard Freeman • Martha Freeman and Dick Barringer • Craig and Carol Freshley • Deborah Friedman • Anne Gass and Rick Leavitt • Roy Gedat • Holly Gerlaugh-Weidner • Paul and Jean Gilbert • Eleanor Goldberg and Malcolm Burson • Bill and Monica Grabin • Geoff Gratwick and Lucy Quimby • David and Alice Haines • Amy Hanauer • Thom Harnett • Julia Harper • Jody Harris • Steven Hendrickson • Joe Higdon and Ellen Sudow • Daniel Hildreth • Marianne Hill • Wayne and Sharon Hobson • Mary Hough and Paul Schroeder • Michael Howard and Valerie Carter • Kathleen Huntingdon • Marcus and Andrea Hutchins • Tim and Joanie Ingraham • Jodie Ireland and Chris Baker • Wick and Ruth Johnson • Bambi Jones and David Moskovitz • Michael and Dodie Jones • Judy Kahrl • Taylor Kay • Allison Keef • Thomas Kelley and Lucinda White • Valerie Kelley • Brigitte and Harold Kingsbury • Dan and Caitlin Koehler • Ted Koffman and Joanna Allen • Peter Kraut • Ronald Kreisman and Roberta de Araujo • Karen Kusiak • John and Susan Lacasse • Michael and Rebecca Lambert • David Larkin and Susan Chochran • Adam and Diana Lee • Jonathan Lee • Sue and Bud Lewis • Sandy and Lee Liggett • Steve Linnell • Bonnie and Ben Lounsbury • Ben Lund and Barbara Granville • Lisa Lunn • Jane and John Lunt • Grace Maggard • Garrett Martin and Jenny Mayher • Gerry and Chryl Martin • Jess Maurer • Carolyn and David May • Caroline and Bill Mayher • John and Carol McCurry • Susan and Frank McGinty • Beth McPherson and Paul Kando • Peter Millard and Emily Wesson • Lisa and Roy Miller • Rebecca Millett and Kevin Kobel • Margot and Roger Milliken • Peter Mills • Stacy Mitchell and Jacob Halpert • Chip Morrison • Sadhbh Neilan • Will and Pia Neilson • Lindsay and Mark Nelsen • Chip Newell • Bill and Rita Nugent

Frank O'Hara and Jane O'Rourke • Patrick O'Malley • Donald and Carlyle Osier • David and Julie Pease • Ruth Pease • Evan Pease • Anne Perry • Ron and Suzanne Phillips • Cynthia Phinney • Lili and Alex Pugh • Mackin and Christy Pulsifer • Ala and William Reid • Barbara Reinertsen and Terry Nordmann • James Richter and Delores O'Higgins • Betty Robinson and Victoria Larson • Frank and Jinx Roosevelt • Sharon Rosen and John Newton • Jill Rosenthal • Bonnie Rukin • Cheryl Rust • Linda and Jeff Sanborn • Lex and Christine Sant • George and Joyce Schelling • Matt Schlobohm and Kate Brennan • Maxine Sclar • Ellen Seidman • Syd and Deb Sewall • Steve Shannon and Barbara Winterson • Sarah Shed • Ellen Skakalski • Alison Smith • Jane Smith • Denise Soucy and Ned Steinberger • Richard and Alice Spencer • Kenneth Spierer and Joan Leitzer • Lucas St. Clair • Jym St. Pierre • Sarah Standiford and Jeff Fetterer • Susie Stedman • Fred and Anne Stocking • David and Kathleen Stuchiner • Joan Sturmthal and Jon Lund • David and Paula Swetland • Katie Syrett • Annee Tara and Tom Rumpf • Jeff Tarbox • Karen and Nils Tcheyan • Denise and Sheldon Tepler • Will Thieme • Ken and Eve Thorson • Tom and Gretchen Tietenberg • Bronwen and David Tudor • Christopher and Helen Tupper • David and June Vail • Lucy Van Hook • Kathy and Calvin Walker • Rob Walker • Ted Walworth • Steve and Casey Ward • Elizabeth Ward Saxl and Mike Saxl • Gretta Wark • Nina Weissberg and Stuart Martin • Kitty and Mark Wheeler • Mariellen Whelan • Hillary Wiczorek • Margaret Wilson and Lloyd Van Lunen • Paul and Linda Wilson • Carol and Joe Wishcamper • Robert Wood and Emme-King Peterson • Doug and Judy Woodbury • Jeff Neil Young • Peter and Margaret Zack • Anonymous (5)

## Sponsors

AFL-CIO • A. Phillip Randolph Institute – Maine Chapter • Bureau of Labor Education, University of Maine Orono • Dr. Charles A. Scontras Center for Labor and Community Education, University of Southern Maine • Consumers for Affordable Healthcare • Equality Maine • Frances Perkins Center • Maine Education Association • Maine Equal Justice Partners • Maine People’s Alliance • Maine Women’s Lobby • MSEA-SEIU • New Ventures

## Grantors & Funders

The Annie E. Casey Foundation • Betterment Fund • The Bingham Program • Center on Budget and Policy Priorities • Commission to Study Feasibility of Basic Income Security • Community Catalyst • Consumers for Affordable Health Care • Earned Income Tax Credit State Policy Fund • Elmina B. Sewall Foundation • Helen and George Ladd Charitable Corporation • The Impact Fund • Maine Allcare • Maine Council on Aging • Maine Equal Justice Partners • Maine Health Access Foundation, Inc. • Maine People’s Resource Center • Stoneman Family Foundations

## In Recognition

Jody Harris • Shep Lee • Garrett Martin • Donald P. Moses • Frederic A. Pease (2)

## MaineShare

MECEP is a proud member of MaineShare, which provides funding to more than 40 statewide organizations working every day to make Maine a better place to live.

# MECEP Staff



**Dan D'Ippolito**  
VP, Communications



**Jody Harris**  
VP, Operations  
& Finance



**Garrett Martin**  
President & CEO



**Megan Michaud**  
VP, Programs  
& Policy



**James Myall**  
Economic  
Policy Analyst



**Maura Pillsbury**  
State / Local  
Tax Policy Analyst



**Arthur Phillips**  
Economic  
Policy Analyst



**Josie Phillips**  
State Priorities  
Partnership Fellow



**Karin Leuthy**  
Community  
Engagement  
Manager



**Cara Scozzafava**  
Communications  
Manager



**Ellen Skakalski**  
Development  
Associate



**Ryan Tipping**  
Director, Campaigns  
& Strategy

# MECEP Board of Directors

**Barbara Burt, Chair**  
Communications Expert/  
Nonprofit Leader  
Athens, Georgia

**Lucky Van Hook, Vice Chair**  
Consultant (Climate Resilience  
and Rural Development)  
Brunswick, Maine

**Pamela Cox, Treasurer**  
Retired Senior Vice President,  
World Bank Group  
Bath, Maine

**Ben Chin, Secretary**  
Deputy Director,  
Maine People's Alliance  
Lewiston, Maine

**Maulian Bryant**  
Ambassador,  
Penobscot Nation  
Indian Island, Maine

**Sandra Butler, Ph.D.**  
Professor, School of Social Work,  
University of Maine  
Orono, Maine

**Marcus Hutchins**  
Retired Economist  
Southport, Maine

**Jessica L. Maurer, Esq.**  
Executive Director,  
Maine Council on Aging  
Harpwell, Maine

**Stacy Mitchell**  
Co-Director,  
Institute for Local Self-Reliance  
Portland, Maine

**Matt Schlobohm**  
Executive Director,  
Maine AFL-CIO  
Greene, Maine

**Lee Webb, Ph.D.**  
Senior Policy Fellow,  
Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center  
Camden, Maine

**Maine Center for Economic Policy  
advances equity and prosperity for all  
Maine people through issue-based  
analysis, education, and advocacy.**