

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Dear Friend and Supporter,

As 2025 came to a close, Maine families faced rising costs, cuts to essential programs, and federal decisions that rippled through every community. MECEP continued to play a vital role connecting the dots and protecting what matters most — economic security, dignity, and opportunity for every Mainer.

Your support makes this possible. It ensures MECEP can:

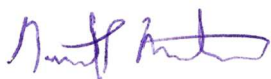
- **Advocate for Maine workers and families** by raising wages, strengthening protections, and mitigating the real-world impact of federal cuts.
- **Champion tax fairness** so the wealthiest pay what they owe and communities have the resources they need for strong schools, safe roads, and vital services.
- **Strengthen partners and coalitions** by helping advance a unified tax fairness movement anchored in sound policy and powerful shared messaging.
- **Equip elected officials** with credible, data-driven insights that lead to people-first policy solutions.

Progress is never guaranteed. It takes persistence. Some victories come quickly; others take years. But every step forward — every report, every testimony, every partnership — builds the momentum that leads to lasting wins for Maine people.

Forward progress happens in partnership with you.

By supporting MECEP, you strengthen the foundation of a statewide policy landscape that puts people first, and together, we make it possible for Maine to move forward. MECEP leverages your support to impact the lives of more than 270,000 Maine families!

With gratitude for your continued support and engagement,



Garrett Martin
President & CEO



Maine Center for Economic Policy at a glance:

We fight for equity and prosperity for all Maine people through issue-based analysis, education, and advocacy.

As the lone voice speaking up or part of a coalition, we're committed to pushing back against powerful forces representing corporate and wealthy interests, ensuring every voice in Maine is heard and valued.



MECEP keeps Maine moving forward.
Support our work at mecep.org/donate:

Creating lasting change that helps Mainers thrive doesn't happen in a vacuum.

Lawmakers need reliable information and sound solutions

Term-limits and minimal staffing of Maine's citizen legislature mean MECEP is a backbone organization for good governance.

→ **Each legislative session, MECEP testifies on dozens of priority issues and helps originate, revise, and advance bills through the legislative process.**

"Very much appreciate all your input along the way! I can't even count the number of times you and your testimony provided just the right piece of information to help us ask good questions or make a decision."

– Maine Legislator

Advocates need a partner they can count on

MECEP is a thought partner and strategic ally to individuals and groups advancing economic justice in Maine.

→ **MECEP is a founding member of Mainers for Tax Fairness and the Coalition on Racial Equity, creating permanent statewide infrastructure to amplify voices of impacted communities in policy debates. MECEP has also served on leadership teams and as the primary research partner of successful ballot campaigns and policy coalitions.**

"I appreciate all MECEP does, including giving voice to those who are too often not heard."

– Advocacy Ally, MECEP Donor & Former Maine Legislator

People and the media need timely and accessible information

MECEP helps frame the issues and increase understanding through fact-based analysis.

→ **MECEP reports and analysis are regularly cited in the media and online content generated by MECEP staff is routinely viewed and shared on social media and through member communications.**

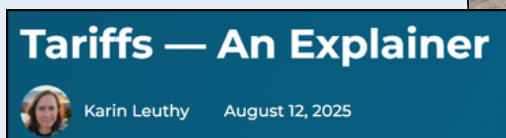
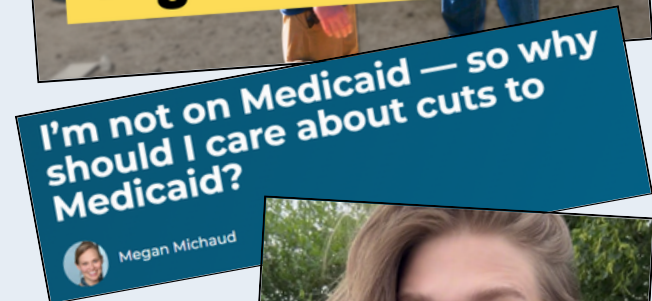
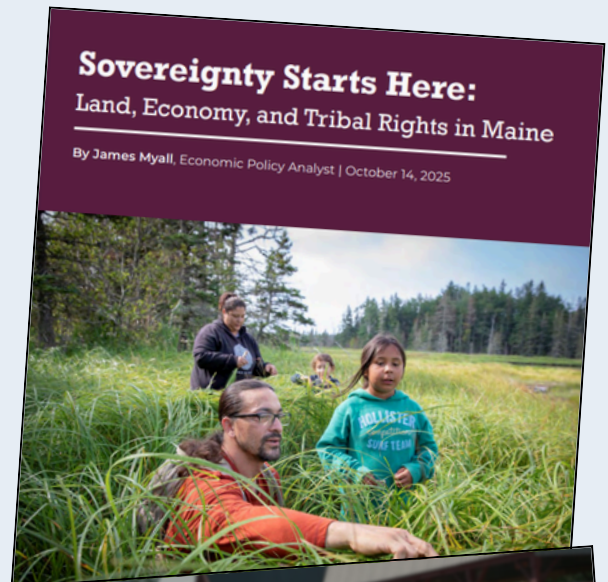
"Thanks for sharing this [MECEP blogpost]. It's honestly the clearest summation I've seen on the subject."

– Bangor Daily News Reporter

YOUR SUPPORT GETS RESULTS

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

- ➔ Advanced tax fairness by helping *raise the real estate transfer tax on home sales over \$1 million*; and *doubling the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit* for children under six, resulting in *greater economic security for 188,700 children*
- ➔ Built bipartisan support for *two new top tax brackets* and a *2% surcharge on income over \$1 million* to fund PreK–12 education
- ➔ Helped make history as *Maine guaranteed more than 11,000 farmworkers the full state minimum wage* for their essential work
- ➔ Helped pass a law ensuring *32,000 Maine workers facing shift cuts are paid when they're called in and then sent home*
- ➔ Guided lawmakers to pass two *budgets that invest in health care, housing, education, child care, and economic opportunity*
- ➔ Helped *block harmful cuts to programs that make child care more affordable* and *raise wages for 7,700 early childhood educators*
- ➔ Pushed lawmakers to include *supplemental budget funding* for a one-time *cost-of-living increase* for *24,000 direct care workers*
- ➔ Strengthened *protections from medical debt* by removing it from credit reports and *expanding streamlined Free Care eligibility* for families experiencing poverty



MECEP HIGHLIGHTS

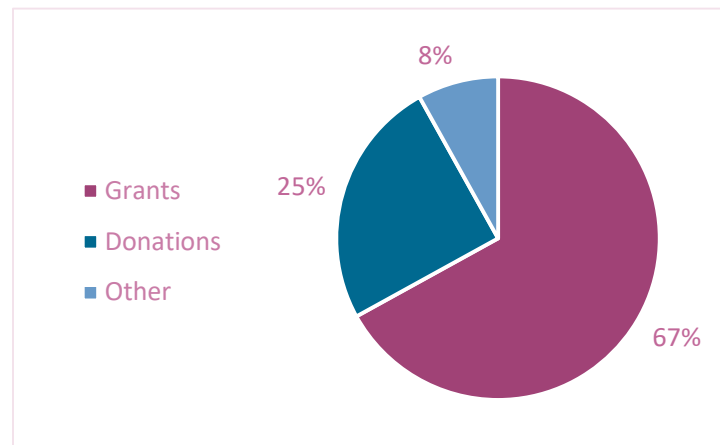
from over the last year

- 365 *media references* in 40+ different outlets
- Published 3 *major reports and briefs* and over 44 *blog articles*
- Delivered 103 *pieces of testimony* before the Maine legislature on 130+ bills and coordinated multiple *legislative briefings*
- Organized a *Tax Day Rally outside the State House* and spoke at *meetings, town halls, and webinars* with advocates, partner organizations, and elected officials
- Produced 30+ *videos on pressing issues* that were viewed over 1 million times
- 332 people attended MECEP *Lunch & Learn webinars*
- Engaged directly with rural working-class Mainers in *video series about billionaire tax breaks* and people's personal experiences with income inequality
- Created and continually updated a *Tariffs Explainer* with key data on the impact of this everchanging policy
- Coordinated and participated in *multiple coalitions and committees* that advance racial equity and worker justice and provide tax, budget, and economic insights

Financial Statement

Revenues

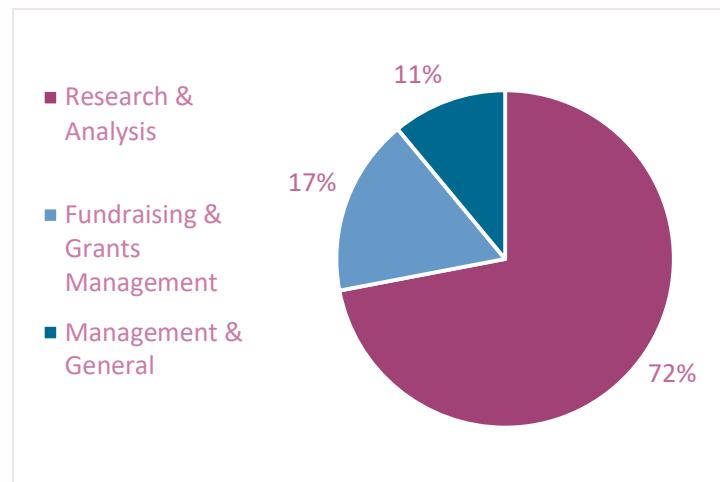
Grants		\$1,029,751
Donations		\$383,697
Other		\$124,212
Total		\$1,537,660



MECEP received grants from 19 state and national private foundations and over 200 individual donors. We are deeply grateful for their support that makes our work possible.

Expenses

Research & Analysis		\$1,094,515
Fundraising & Grants Management		\$258,427
Management & General		\$167,218
Total		\$1,520,160



Assets

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$1,351,690	Unrestricted Funds	\$430,373
Net Assets End of Year	\$1,306,903	Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$508,950
		Restricted for Operating Reserves	\$367,580
		TOTAL	\$1,306,903

Note: MECEP operates on a modified cash basis. Revenues include grant income received in 2024 and restricted for use in 2025 and exclude grants received in 2025 and restricted for use in 2026.

MECEP Staff & Board of Directors

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

Arthur Phillips

Economic Policy Analyst

Maura Pillsbury

State/Local Tax

Policy Analyst

Karin Leuthy

Community Engagement Manager

Ellen Ramsden

Development Associate

Cara Scozzafava

Communications Manager

Ryan Tipping

Director, Campaigns & Strategy

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Chief Strategy Advisor, Maine Health Access Foundation

Jessica L. Maurer, Esq.

Executive Director, Maine Council on Aging

Matt Schlobohm

Executive Director, Maine AFL-CIO

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