



2017

Annual Report

The Maine Center for Economic Policy provides citizens, policymakers, advocates and media with credible and rigorous economic analysis to advance economic justice and prosperity for all Maine people.

In Honor: Mark Sullivan



Was there ever a more loyal and loving friend, a more trustworthy and devoted colleague, a more skilled advocate for the natural environment and a just economy, a more gifted voice for all those without one, a more devoted state and municipal public servant?

— Remarks by Richard Barringer and Martha Freeman

MECEP dedicates this annual report to Mark Sullivan, who retired in March 2017.

Mark served as MECEP's communications director for eight years before retiring, the culmination of 33 years of service to the people of Maine. Prior to coming to MECEP, Mark directed communications for the NO on 1/Protect Maine Equality referendum in 2009, where he worked tirelessly as spokesman for the \$4.6 million statewide campaign. Mark served for 12 years as communications director and senior policy advisor to Congressman Tom Allen on the national stage. His enduring legacy is his work as the deputy commissioner for the Maine Department of Conservation, where he crafted the landmark legislation to create the Land for Maine's Future program, and as director of the state's Land and Water Resources Council, where he wrote the Maine Rivers Act.

We at MECEP miss Mark's wise counsel and guiding hand, and we wish him the best in his retirement.

Dear Friend and Supporter,

We are in a transitional moment.

Upcoming changes in the Blaine House and Maine Legislature will bring new opportunities to achieve MECEP's vision of economic justice and shared prosperity. As we look ahead to what comes next, we reflect on our achievements in the past year. MECEP has been central to advancing meaningful change for Mainers and our communities.

We are reducing poverty and boosting economic security.

Tax policies MECEP proposed and passed with the help of legislative allies are boosting household incomes for low-income families by as much as \$1,100 a year. In fact, newly available census data affirm the impact of these changes, indicating recently enacted state tax changes have helped lift more than 2,500 families out of poverty.

We are helping to grow Maine's economy through people-powered prosperity.

MECEP was a vital contributor to the successful effort to increase access to health care at the ballot box. As a result, 70,000 Mainers are now eligible for access to affordable health coverage.

During the legislative session, MECEP was one of the staunchest opponents of efforts to rollback Maine's voter-approved minimum wage increase. Thanks to our analysis and advocacy, 38,000 Mainers saw their paychecks grow as a direct result of the minimum wage increase in 2017, while even more will see increases in future years. MECEP also provided the analysis necessary to support a successful expansion of the property tax Homestead Exemption.

When working families can keep up with basic expenses and see their doctor when they need to, we all come out ahead. MECEP has proven our ability to make a difference.

None of our work would be possible without the commitment of dedicated staff, board members, and donors. In 2017 we welcomed Mario Moretto as our new communications director and promoted Megan Michaud to be our Director of External Affairs. Ben Chin, Ericka Dodge, and Lucy Van Hook all joined our board of directors.

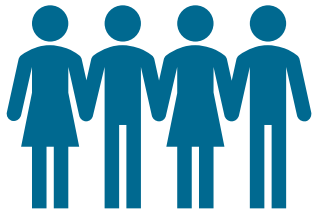
Each of these additions puts MECEP in an even stronger position to provide high-quality, credible analysis that makes a difference for Maine families in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Garrett Martin, Executive Director

Key Accomplishments



Impact

- ✓ Helped secure a wage increase for 103,000 Maine workers
- ✓ Secured \$162 million funding increase for K-12 schools; the largest biennial increase in education funding in over a decade
- ✓ Helped win access to health care for 70,000 Mainers
- ✓ Increased property tax relief by doubling the Homestead exemption for Maine homeowners



Featured Analysis

- ✓ *State of Working Maine 2017*
- ✓ *Missed Opportunities in LePage Biennial Budget*
- ✓ Town-by-Town Property Tax Increase from proposed elimination of Homestead Exemption
- ✓ *Lost Federal Funds: Lost Opportunity for Maine*
- ✓ *Affordable Care Act Repeal Would be a Disaster for Maine*



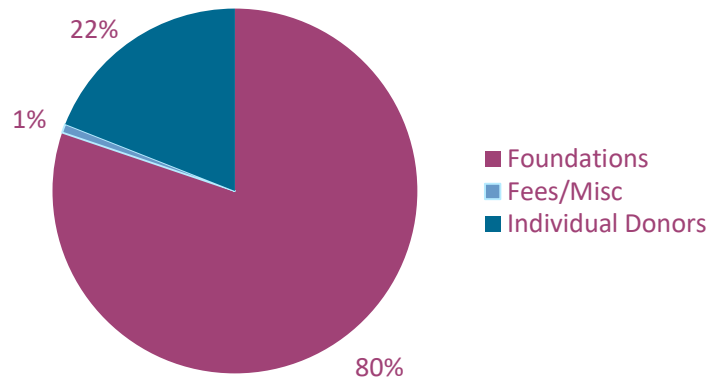
Advocacy and Outreach

- ✓ Reached more than 200,000 people and generated 894 phone calls in opposition to harmful federal tax changes
- ✓ Cited 130 times by the media
- ✓ 48 percent increase in Facebook page likes

Financial Statement

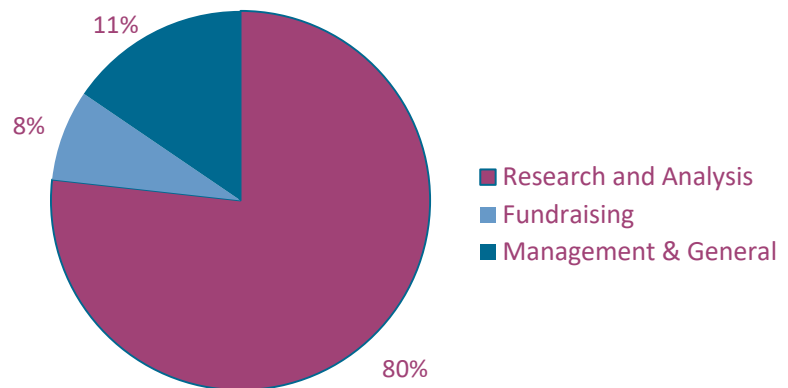
Revenues

Grants	.....	\$846,255
Donations	.....	\$202,094
Other	.....	\$7,858
Total		\$1,056,207



Expenses

Research and Analysis	.....	\$704,001
Fundraising	.....	\$70,123
Management and General	.....	\$97,314
Total		\$871,438



Assets

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$472,190	Unrestricted Funds	\$455,208
Net Assets End of Year	\$656,959	Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$201,751

Note: The revenues over expenditures reflect restricted funds. MECEP operates on a modified cash basis where multi-year grant revenues received in 2017 are restricted for use in 2018.

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In Recognition

Lynn Davey – Lock Kiermaier – Mark Sullivan

In Memory

Ruth Benedict – Joe Mayo – Milton C. Hillery

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Policy Analyst



Marpheen
Chann, Digital
Communications



Jody Harris,
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External Affairs



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People's Alliance
Lewiston, Maine

Pamela Cox

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Scott Cuddy

Director, Social Media Marketing,
Saco Design, Inc.
Winterport, Maine

Ericka Dodge

Communications and Organizational
Consultant
Portland, Maine

John Dorrer

Retired Labor Economist
Brunswick, Maine

Karen Heck

Program Officer, The Bingham Program
Waterville, Maine

Lucky Van Hook

Community Development Manager, Our
Katahdin
Millinocket, Maine

Marcus Hutchins

Retired Economist
Southport, Maine