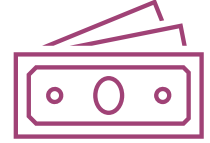




## Are tax giveaways worth the money?

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

Maine forgoes billions of dollars in tax collections each year by giving out tax breaks. These “tax giveaways” are costly and sometimes poorly targeted to achieve intended outcomes. When Maine chooses to invest in unproven tax breaks, we lose revenue that could be better spent to strengthen Maine’s workforce and grow our economy.



Instead of funneling money into unproven tax giveaways, the state should invest funds in programs including housing, child care, and paid leave that will improve economic opportunities for all Mainers, advance equity, and allow people to fully participate in the workforce.

### Did you know?

- Tax giveaways cost Maine billions of dollars each year
- Outcomes and impacts of Maine tax giveaways are often unclear
- Research shows business tax giveaways aren't worth it
- Business tax giveaways shift costs onto Maine taxpayers
- Unproven tax giveaways take money from other important priorities
- Giving money to powerful corporations perpetuates wealth inequality and structural racism

### Solutions

- **Make data on business tax giveaways transparent and accessible to the public.** Data challenges make it difficult to draw conclusions about Maine’s programs and their effectiveness. Without this information, we’re in the dark about whether money the state is giving away could be better spent elsewhere — including proven ways to achieve the outcomes tax giveaways often promise but don’t deliver.
- **Ensure businesses receiving tax breaks fulfill expected outcomes.**
- **End unproven tax expenditures and dedicate resources to evidence-based policies and programs.** These include programs such as the child tax credit; policies that advance equity and address barriers for women and people of color, and others traditionally left out, such as paid family leave and criminal justice reform; supports Mainers need to fully participate in the workforce, such as child care and housing; job and skills training; and programs supporting entrepreneurship and innovation.

**Supporting tax giveaway programs in hopes they will solve the challenges facing an industry or Maine’s economy is putting a band-aid on a problem, rather than finding solutions at a deeper systemic level.**