

Moral imperative  
Student achievement  
Ready workforce



**Elevate Maine** is designed to **elevate** early education to the highest standards and practice, to **elevate** student achievement for optimal success in school and beyond, and to **elevate** the quality of Maine's workforce today and into the future...one community at a time.

The greater Skowhegan area (towns incorporated into School Administrative District #54) has been selected as **Elevate Maine's** premiere location. This area has the highest number of child risk factors (poverty, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and lack of high quality learning experiences) in the state of Maine. These risk factors erode the brain's ability to form solid architectures that support all future learning. Children experiencing these risk factors need community champions who are focused on influencing their opportunity for success in school and life. The foundation for student achievement and lifelong success is built prior to a child's entry into public school. Maine's economic future depends on the healthy development of today's children.

The **Maine Early Learning Investment Group (MELIG)** is asking for your help to **elevate Maine** in the greater Skowhegan area as we support at risk infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children through the following program:

**100 Children** – will be provided 1) year round access to safe and developmentally enriched care-giving environments with highly skilled caregivers; 2) supports to address their physical (including mental and dental) health; and 3) cognitive, social, emotional, and language development. Nutritious meals, physical activity and developmentally appropriate learning activities which support school readiness and child assessments are also part of the program. Inclusion strategies that respect the unique developmental trajectories of young children in the context of a typical setting, including children with disabilities, are also provided.

**150 Parents** - will receive ongoing support for their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children. Families will also receive support to meet personal goals and improve self-sufficiency across a wide variety of domains. Parent education and support of positive parent-child relationships, as well as access to work ready supports, will be offered.

**20 Teachers/Providers** - will receive ongoing coaching and professional development to improve their early childhood education skills and knowledge. Independent evaluation will be done to support improvement in teacher/provider practices.

**Community** – will receive **increased** public awareness of the impact of adverse childhood experiences on children and the greater Skowhegan area's economic future. This awareness will inspire **collaboration** among community members to expand high quality early care and education services to families with infants and toddlers into the larger community. This project will **mobilize** these communities to secure necessary resources to ensure a comprehensive, integrated array of services and support for families.

**Maine** – will benefit from an independent evaluation of child, family, provider, and community outcomes that will inform a community replication guide.

**Per-Capita Investment Per Year** – will be \$4,335 based on combined federal and private funds of \$5,851,817 over five years (including the MELIG \$363,000 annual match) for the 270 children, parents and teachers/providers impacted.