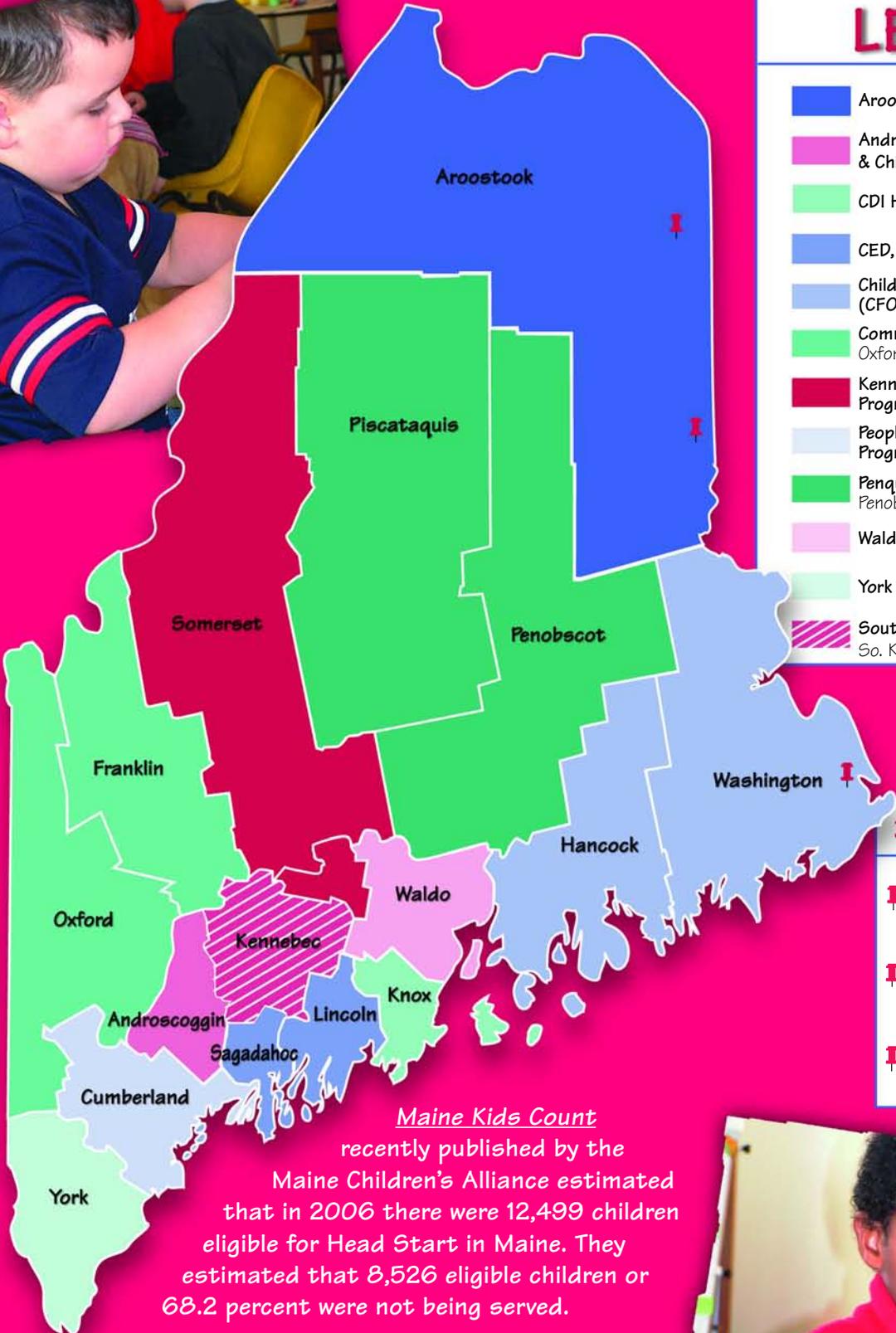


Head Start in Maine





LEGEND

- Aroostook County C. A. P.
- Androscoggin Head Start & Child Care
- CDI Head Start Knox
- CED, Inc Sagadahoc & Lincoln
- Child & Family Opportunities (CFO) Hancock & Washington
- Community Concepts Oxford & Franklin
- Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP) No. Kennebec & Somerset
- People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP) Cumberland
- Penquis CAP Penobscot & Piscataquis
- Waldo County Head Start
- York County Community Action
- Southern Kennebec Child Development So. Kennebec

TRIBAL HEAD STARTS

- Little Feathers, Houlton, Presque Isle
- Houlton Band of Maliseet
- Passamaquoddy Head Start, Perry

Maine Kids Count recently published by the Maine Children's Alliance estimated that in 2006 there were 12,499 children eligible for Head Start in Maine. They estimated that 8,526 eligible children or 68.2 percent were not being served.

Maine Head Start is funded by federal and state funds, including money from the Fund for a Healthy Maine.

Federal Head Start	\$27,537,146.00
State Head Start	\$2,417,784.00
Fund for a Healthy Maine	\$1,383,498.00



Head Start in Maine

Head Start may well be the nation's best known education program. Since its inception in 1965 it has served 25 million children, 150,000 of them here in Maine.

Originally Head Start was designed as a school readiness program for four-year-olds. Educators long knew that to succeed in kindergarten, children must know how to listen, follow directions,

express their needs and respect others. But many children arrive at school without those skills.

Head Start recognizes that parents are children's first teachers, and supports them in that role. Head Start is a comprehensive program that deals with the whole child. It provides education, support, and a variety of opportunities for children and families to grow and develop.

Over the years Head Start has expanded to include programs for pregnant women, younger children and those to age five. These programs are designed to meet the specific needs of the communities they serve.



Head Start in Maine

by Judy Reidt-Parker,
Chairman,
Maine Head Start
Directors Association

Director of People's
Regional Opportunity Program

(the Head Start program
serving Cumberland County)

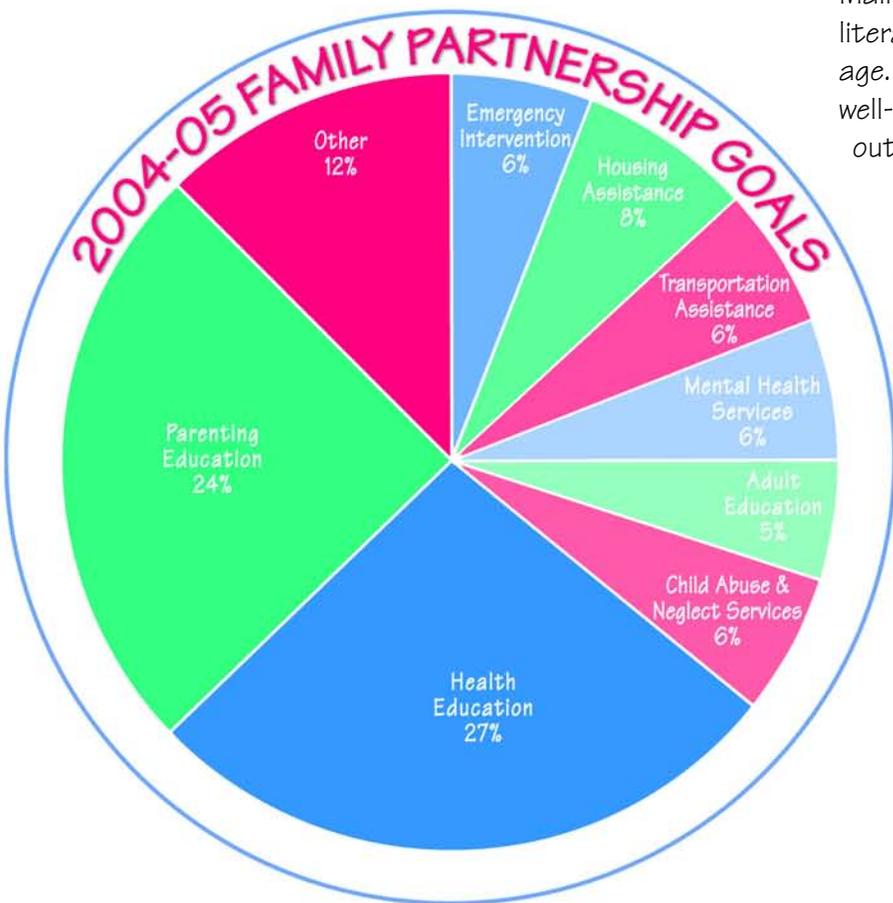
Maine Head Start serves more than 4,000 children annually.

Eligibility is based on family size and income. Maximum eligible income for a family of four is \$20,000. Ten percent of the children may be from "over income families." Families receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income)

are automatically eligible. Besides providing child care and education, Head Start offers health and dental screening and services, mental health support and family advocacy. Family service staff members work closely with families to develop a Family Partnership Agreement with goals related to community resources and opportunities that will help them forge a better life for their children and themselves.

Maine Head Start has been at the forefront in finding ways to deliver services to the state's neediest children. Program options include Early Head Start for pregnant women and children from birth to age three offered at home or in centers. There are a variety of programs for children between the ages of three and five. One is a 32-week part-day program in centers, others are family child care partnerships, full day, full year programs offered in centers that combine child care with Head Start, and home based programs. In each program, the goal is the same: to provide experiences that prepare the child to succeed in kindergarten.

The National Reporting System showed that Maine Head Start students developed early literacy and math skills above the national average. Those outcomes are the direct result of the well-trained Head Start teaching staff throughout the state.

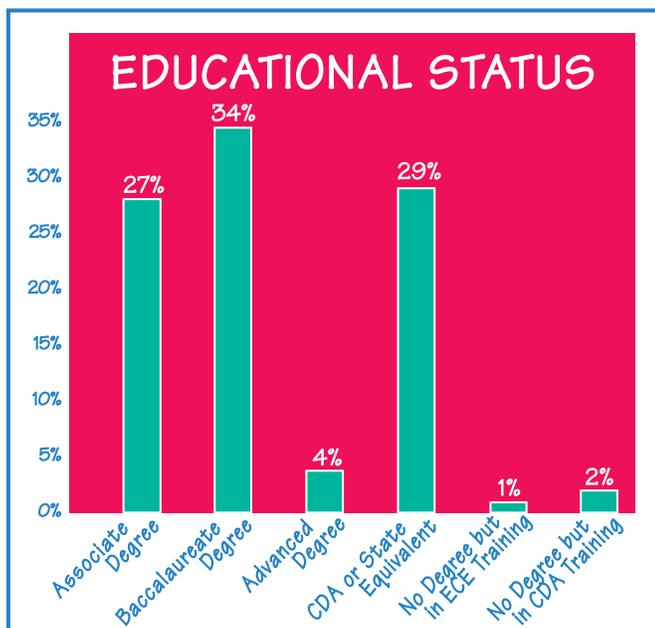




Staff Training

Staff training plays a vital role in the quality of early care and education provided by Head Start. The Head Start Reauthorization Act of 1998 mandated that at least 50 percent of the teaching staff must have earned, at a minimum, an Associate Degree in early childhood education or in a related field.

The most recent figures for Maine indicate that 65 percent of the Head Start teaching staff has earned an associate, baccalaureate or advanced degree.



Public School Collaborations

Maine Head Start collaborates with public schools to provide preschool programs. Some schools provide space for Head Start programs. In twenty programs staff is shared by Head Start and public school. Such cooperation maximizes the use of scarce resources and establishes an on-going relationship between Head Start families and the local school system.

At the Hussey Elementary School in Augusta Head Start children and public pre-k children share the same preschool classroom. Principal Michele Michaud commented that “the collaboration allows the public school to establish a relationship with Head Start children and their families to build a solid foundation for success in the school community.”



Community Cooperation

Maine Head Start works with many other agencies and community groups to enhance services provided for children and parents. For example, to enhance literacy opportunities for both children and parents, Head Start works with the EvenStart program, Adult Basic Education, the Maine Humanities Council, Reading First and Born to Read.

Head Start also works with the Early Start Arts Program of DHHS and the Maine Arts Commission to introduce artists and their work to children and parents.

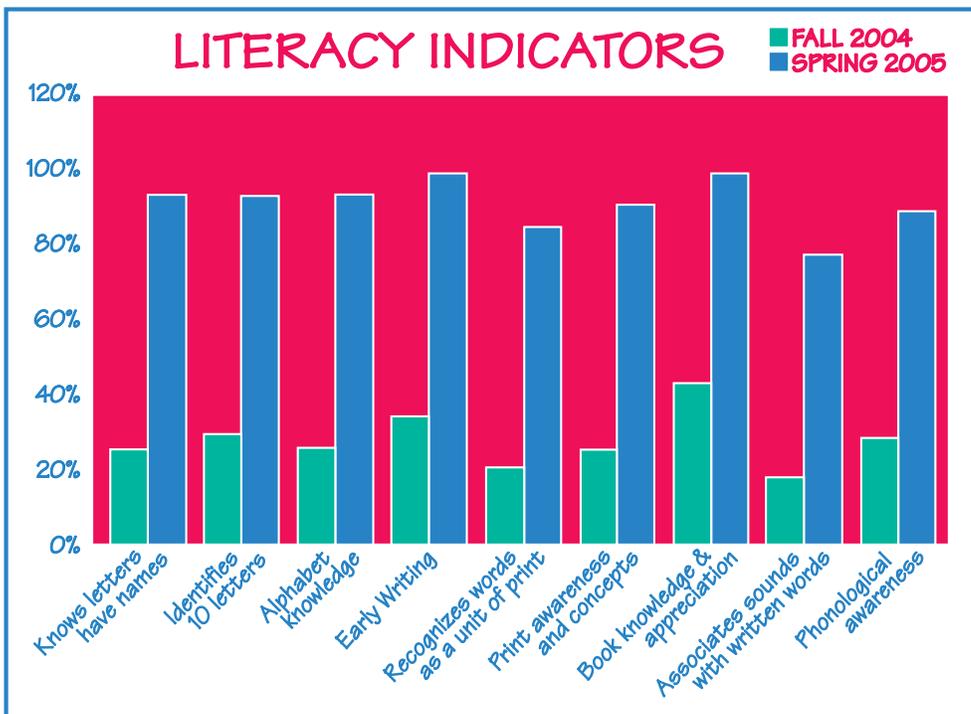


The Head Start Path to School Readiness

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that encompasses all aspects of a child's development and learning. Upon entry into the program each child receives required screenings (behavioral, developmental, speech, hearing, and vision) to confirm that he or she is in good health and developing well.

The Head Start Outcomes Framework and the

State of Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines guide curriculum planning. Head Start programs are mandated to measure children's progress three times during the year in eight areas of development: Literacy, Language, Mathematics, Science, Creative Arts, Social and Emotional Development, Approaches to Learning and Physical Development. The information is shared with parents and used by teachers to enhance learning. An example of progress in literacy development in one Maine Head Start program is shown on the left:



Head Start Stories

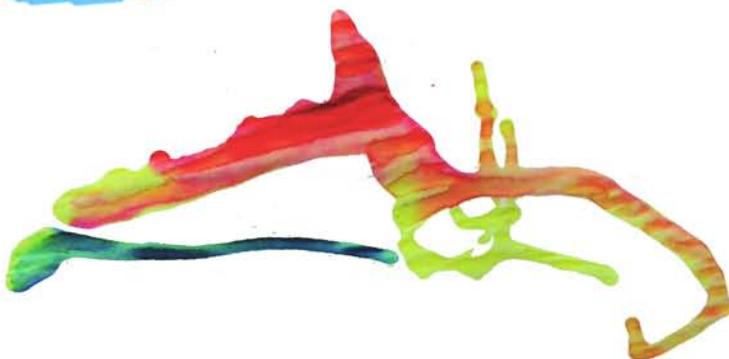
Sandi Wilson & Katie Bryant

Katie Bryant was crying in 1983 when she and her mother, Sandi Wilson, first walked through the doors of Tri-Town Head Start in Mechanic Falls. The next year Katie could hardly wait for her mother to kiss her good-bye before stepping inside the classroom. What a difference a year made. Head Start has been a vital part of the Wilson family since that day. A year later Sandi Wilson became a teaching assistant at Androscoggin Head Start. Today she serves as site supervisor. "This is not only a job, but work that gives me a chance to make a difference in the lives of others. It gives me an opportunity to live out my values", Sandi Wilson said.

After graduating from high school, daughter Katie began working at Androscoggin Head Start. She was drawn to children with special needs and realized she wanted to help them on a more personal, one-on-one basis.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Social & Behavioral Sciences from the University of Southern Maine. She also married and had two children of her own. In the spring of 2006 she received a Master's degree in Social Work and plans someday to open a private practice.

Katie Bryant encourages parents to seek out Head Start for their children. "I know Head Start made a difference in my family. You can't overestimate the help and support that Head Start provides children and parents," she said.



Marge Kilkelly

Marge Kilkelly was a single mother in 1976 when she enrolled her son in the Head Start program administered by Coastal Economic Development in Bath.

"It was a transformative experience for me. Not only did my children grow from a positive preschool experience, but I did as well," she said. As a Head Start mother, Kilkelly participated in the policy council, served as liaison to the board of the program,



worked for Head Start, and began work on her college degree. She earned a bachelor's degree in Social Science, then in 1986 a master's degree in Community Economic Development.

Kilkelly was elected to the Maine legislature in 1986, serving for the 16 years allowed by term limits. She considers advocacy her life work.

Over the years Kilkelly has spoken out about the impact of Head Start on her family's life. "Head Start was a place where I was listened to. The staff supported my growth as well as the growth of my children. They made it possible for our family situation to improve," she said. Today Kilkelly works for the Council of State Governments as Director of the Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship.





Tracye Fortin

Tracye Fortin, Director of Operations for KYCAP Head Start, describes her experience.

My first recollection as a Head Start child back in 1966 is riding in a "busette," sitting on the heater between the driver and the teacher with no seat belt. Not a "safe" seat by today's standards, but I sure felt special!

I was the fourth child of a young divorced mother who was supporting her family by herself. While I was in Head Start, my mother became involved in program governance. Later she continued her education, became a social worker and an advocate for the elderly and was active in community affairs and politics. My mother was a positive role model for me, even though as a teenager I fell in love, dropped out of school and moved out-of-state. Determined to continue my education, I passed my GED.

Six years later with three kids I returned to Maine divorced from an alcoholic, abusive husband. I worked to provide a home for my children and continued my education, including a Head Start practicum under the guidance of a master teacher at Kennebec Valley Community Action Program. That experience guided me to what has become my life work. Now I am Director of Operations for KYCAP Head Start. I will be forever grateful for the impact Head Start has had on my life, and hope I can pass on these benefits to other children, families and staff members.

Tammy Olsen

Tammy Olsen, mother of Kalle, describes their experiences.

We first became involved in Head Start when I was at a low point in my life. I had just packed myself up with my two children, ages 5 and 2-1/2, and moved to Maine from the Midwest.

At Kennebec Valley Community College I learned that the college and Kennebec Valley Community Action cooperated in offering student-parents child care and education services for children from birth to five years old.

Even after researching the services offered, I was nervous about enrolling my two-year-old daughter Kalle, a child with Downs Syndrome, in the program. But on the first day when Kalle was welcomed with a hug by the teacher, my mind was put at ease.

Kalle, whose program includes both Home Start and center-based Head Start, has blossomed in the program. I attribute her success in large part to the trained staff and family care providers who adapted activities so she could always be part of the group. It wasn't until I saw her with other children that I realized that child-to-child interaction sometimes was even more effective than parent-child interaction. Her three-year Head Start experience has been priceless in her speech and language development.

Kalle is a visual learner and the learning environment is wonderful for her-there are plenty of manipulative and concrete touchable items and mirrors. The staff expects enough of her, but never so much as to frustrate her. They understand that it is difficult for her to comprehend what she cannot see, touch or experience. Kalle will move on to kindergarten next year and we are already working on a transition plan for her. I will graduate soon, too. Head Start is truly a priceless gift for us-its knowledgeable, loving people helped Kalle and me reach our potential.



HEAD START PROGRAMS

Androscoggin Head Start & Child Care

County Served: Androscoggin
Coburn School
269 Bates St.
Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 795-4040
Estelle Rubinstein, Director
erubinstein@androkids.com

Aroostook County C. A. P.

County Served: Aroostook
P.O.Box 1116
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 768-8345
Sue Powers, Director
spowers@acap-me.org

CDI Head Start

County Served: Knox
P.O.Box 1377
Rockland, ME 04841
(207) 594-5342
Rebecca Dinces, Director
rdinces@kona.midcoast.com

CED, Inc

Counties Served: Sagadahoc & Lincoln
34 Wing Farm Pkwy.
Bath, ME 04530
(207) 442-7963 ext 214
or 1-800-221-2221
Chris Rallis, Director
Chris.m.rallis@maine.gov

Child & Family Opportunities (CFO)

Counties Served: Hancock & Washington
P.O.Box 648
Ellsworth, ME 04605
(207) 667-2995 &
1-800-834-4378
Jeanie Mills, Director
Jeaniem@childandfamilyopp.com

Community Concepts

Counties Served: Oxford & Franklin
P.O. Box 278
S. Paris, ME 04281 or
284 Main St., Suite 3
Wilton, ME 04294
(207) 743-7716 (S.Paris)
(207) 645-9512 (Wilton)
Deb Florenz, Director
Dflorenz@community-concepts.org

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP)

Counties Served: No. Kennebec & Somerset
97 Water St.
Waterville, ME 04901
(207) 859-1613
Pat Kosma, Deputy Director
patk@kvcap.org

Little Feathers Head Start Aroostook Band of Micmacs

County Served: Aroostook
13 Northern Rd.
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 768-3217
Rick Getchell, Director
rgetchell@micmac-nsn.gov

Maliseet Head Start

1 Maliseet Dr.
Houlton, Maine 04730
(207) 521-2410
Cindy Fitzpatrick, Director
cindyfitz@maliseets.com

Passamoquoddy Head Start

County Served: Washington
P.O.Box 344
Perry, ME 04667
(207) 853-4388 &
(207) 454-2128
Betty Lewey, Program Director
Cindy Pollock, Fiscal Director
cpollock@bia.edu

Penquis CAP

Counties Served: Penobscot & Piscataquis
P.O.Box 1162
Bangor, ME 04402-1162
(207) 973-3500
Jean Bridges, Director
jbridges@penquiscap.org

People's Regional Opportunity Program

County Served: Cumberland
510 Cumberland Ave.
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-1140 ext 359
& 1-800-698-4959
Judy Reidt-Parker, Director
Judyrp@propeople.org

Southern Kennebec Child Development

County Served: So. Kennebec
99 Western Ave., Suite 6
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 626-3410
Michele Pino, Director
michelep@skcdc.org

Waldo County Head Start

County Served: Waldo
P.O.Box 130
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-3827
Jane Adams, Director
Jadams@waldocap.org

York County Community Action

County Served: York
P.O.Box 72
Sanford, ME 04073
(207) 324-5762 ext 2964
Mabel Desmarais, Director
mabeld@yccac.org

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Report Development Team: Carolyn Drugge, Maine Head Start Collaboration Director and Linda Capone-Newton project assistant.

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Head Start in Maine



For more information about Head Start contact:

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Early Childhood Division

Maine Department of Health & Human Services

Marquardt Building
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Telephone: 207-287-5099
TTY: 1-800-606-0215
FAX: 207-287-5031
www.maine.gov/dhhs/occhs/

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