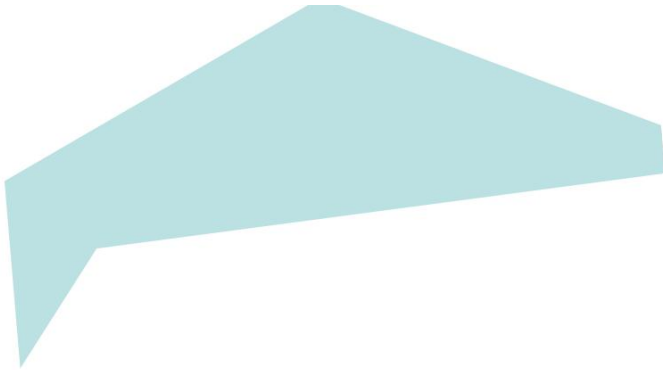




2015

mecasa

**MAINE COALITION AGAINST
SEXUAL ASSAULT**
ANNUAL REPORT



MECASA...proud to be leading Maine's sexual violence prevention and response efforts

Over the last year, MECASA's programming and support of Maine's sexual assault support centers and our statewide partners has grown by leaps and bounds. We had another amazing year of successes in sexual violence prevention and response, all of which is made possible by our funders, our statewide partners, and Maine's remarkable sexual assault advocates. A few highlights, detailed in the following pages, include:

- Launching several anti-sex trafficking and exploitation initiatives to support the work of Maine's anti-trafficking multidisciplinary teams (MDT).
- Developing programming to respond to Maine's incarcerated victims and survivors;
- Reaching nearly a million people via our social media networks;
- Coordinating notable policy efforts to gain housing protections for victims and survivors, and;
- Supporting the significant growth of Maine's Children's Advocacy Centers across the state.

Thank you for your support and for being partners in this important work. As we work toward ending sexual violence in Maine and ensuring quality ongoing support for victims and survivors of all walks of life, we couldn't do it without you.



Elizabeth Ward Saxl
Executive Director

Our Board

Tamar Mathieu, Board Chair
Rape Response Services

Donna Strickler, Treasurer
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center

Lydia Christie, Secretary
AMHC Sexual Assault Services

Arian Clements
Sexual Assault Support Services of
Midcoast Maine

Fatuma Hussein
Immigrant Resource Center of Maine

Marty McIntyre
Sexual Assault Prevention
& Response Services

Amy Stanley
Sexual Assault Response Services of
Southern Maine

Our Staff

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Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network



The Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network established a statewide Provider Council which is comprised of service providers from the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Workgroup, service provider chairs of local anti-trafficking multidisciplinary teams, and trafficking-specific providers in Maine. Their task is to consult on statewide service provider tools and training, and share information related to trafficking efforts throughout the state. The Provider Council helps to ensure that trafficking efforts, tools, and training are both informed by local practice and expertise, as well as known to all members of the anti-trafficking service provision community in Maine.

Other projects included launching a volunteer data bank which connects community members with local services providers; established a trafficking victims fund which provides support for victims' basic needs and currently unfunded anti-trafficking initiatives; created media guidelines which support Maine media in reporting on trafficking in the most informed way possible; and supported the start of a fifth and sixth local anti-trafficking MDT: the Kennebec Somerset Coalition Against Sex Trafficking and Exploitation. We are also proud to have developed a statewide training-of-trainers with our partners at the Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Coalition which is a foundational human trafficking training for service providers and law enforcement, that now can be provided by a training team from each local anti-trafficking MDT.

Maine Network of Children's Advocacy Centers



The Maine Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (the Network) continued to support a significant expansion of services to victims of child sexual abuse by working with existing Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and developing CACs and MDTs across the state. In FY 15, the number of CACs in Maine increased from two to three, and the number of counties covered by CAC services increased from three to six. Additionally, there are three emerging MDTs that have initiated the process of developing a CAC.

The Network was also able to partner with the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center to bring the MDT Training Academy to five Maine CAC teams representing seven counties. The MDT Academy brings together six members of a CAC MDT to explore the nature of multidisciplinary work. Teams delve into the culture of their disciplines and examine how their roles compliment and sometimes challenge one another. Teams also have an opportunity to focus their efforts through working with a facilitator to outline goals, enhance current practices and plan future development.

We continue to build strong statewide partnerships; provide expert training and technical assistance; and provide resources and training opportunities to our local service providers so that they can continue to provide high quality, trauma informed care to children and non-offending caregivers.

Serving Incarcerated Victims and Survivors

With the support of STOP funding, MECASA provided substantial support for Maine's sexual assault support centers in responding to incarcerated victims and survivors of sexual violence. Through this process, which also helped Maine comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, MECASA:

- Conducted a needs assessment of Department of Corrections (DOC) staff and Maine's sexual assault support advocates related to serving incarcerated victims and survivors;
- Ensured the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between all state-run correctional facilities and their local sexual assault support centers;
- Expanded resources for advocates to ensure a best practice response to incarcerated victims and survivors;
- Established a system for incarcerated victims and survivors to access Maine's sexual assault support centers either via the crisis and support line or one-to-one support;
- Assisted Maine's sexual assault support centers in the development of policies and protocols in responding to incarcerated victims and survivors;
- Created resources for inmates and correctional facility staff about the role of sexual assault advocates and the support available to them; and
- Developed and continued to co-facilitate sexual violence 101/PREA response training for both DOC staff through DOC trainings and county jail staff through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Basic Corrections Officer Trainings Program (BCOR).

As our work moves forward in this arena, we hope to continue the expansion of services in county jails across Maine, develop a working group to address issues as they appear, and continue to develop resources for Maine's sexual assault support centers in responding to victims and survivors who are incarcerated.

LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Advisory Board



MECASA convened the first statewide LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) Advisory Board this year. Composed of sexual assault and LGBTQ+ advocates from across the state, the board works to enhance partnerships and cross-referrals to better support LGBTQ+ survivors of sexual violence. Members of the board came together in FY15 to create and deliver a Safe Space training for sexual assault service provider agencies. The Safe Space Training offers sexual assault support centers the tools to create a welcoming and inclusive space for survivors of sexual violence from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities.

In addition, the board created a support group facilitator's manual and screening tools, created a set of shared outreach tools regarding incidence of sexual violence in the LGBTQ+ community, and developed a screening tool that LGBTQ+ survivors of sexual violence could use in assisting them in finding a trauma and LGBTQ+ competent therapist.

Public Policy Initiatives

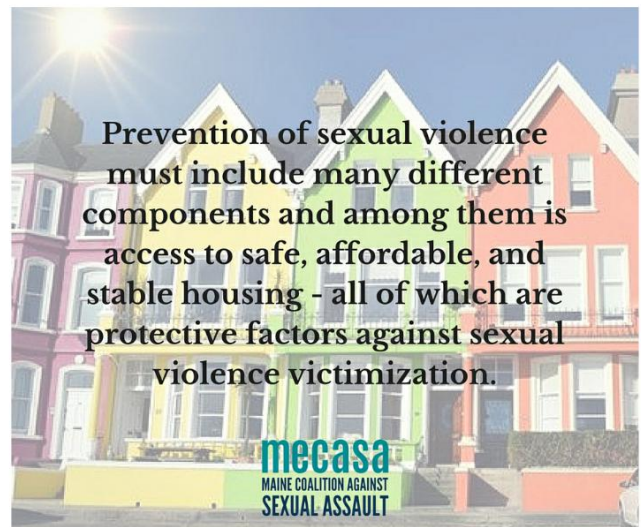
This session, several bills to protect and support victims of sexual violence passed, while several bills that would have been harmful to Maine's victims and survivors were successfully defeated. These bills – now laws – included: requiring school staff and faculty to have training on child sexual abuse awareness and response; the creation of a Class D crime for the unlawful distribution of private sexual images (also known as revenge porn); remedies for victims who were wrongly denied leave under Maine's current Employment Leave for Victims of Violence law; and many more.

Of particular note in the last fiscal year was the passage of a bill that extends housing protections for victims of sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sex trafficking. "An Act to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking" became law as the result of the work of a coalition of partners. Among several provisions, the law:

- Prohibits a landlord from evicting a tenant when events such as noise complaints or property damages are the result of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- Provides that a victim can't be held liable for property damage beyond the value of their security deposit as related to the violence against them (with appropriate notice);
- Renders the perpetrator liable for certain damages; and
- Allows the landlord to bifurcate a lease in order to evict the perpetrator of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

The housing protections bill was unanimously supported by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. It was also supported, among others, by:

- Maine's Landlords' Associations
- Maine State Housing Authority
- The Maine Chiefs of Police
- The American Bar Association
- The Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence



Prevention

MECASA's prevention programming grew to support the needs of prevention educators statewide. The creation of the online MECASA Prevention Education Toolkit allows Maine's prevention educators to access training tools and guides as well as submit their own ideas and resources. The site is home to a compilation of primary prevention resources such as webinars and program planning guides, lesson plans and activities from MECASA staff and educators across the state, resources for childhood sexual abuse prevention for adults, including two comprehensive curricula and outreach materials, as well as a newly established curriculum on gender bias and harassment to accompany the Backbone Zone social marketing campaign.

A statewide training of trainers introduced prevention educators to a new series of training for CSA prevention, intended for adults, to develop skills to promote healthy sexuality and enhance response to CSA. Parents in the Know is a practice-based CSA prevention program that assists parents in promoting safe and respectful behaviors, recognizing questionable behaviors in adults, and talking with their children about healthy sexuality and sexual abuse prevention. "They said what?" presents strategies to educate and empower early childhood professionals to integrate development and prevention into their work.

Additionally, the first round of primary prevention programming funded through MECASA's Mini-Grant Program debuted across the state. MECASA awarded between \$1,000 and \$3,000 to ten projects intended to increase comprehensive prevention programming using the principles of effective prevention. Projects ranged from a film and conversation series with a focus on media literacy to a super hero themed presentation to encourage students to use their everyday abilities as superpowers to stand up against bullying and harassment.

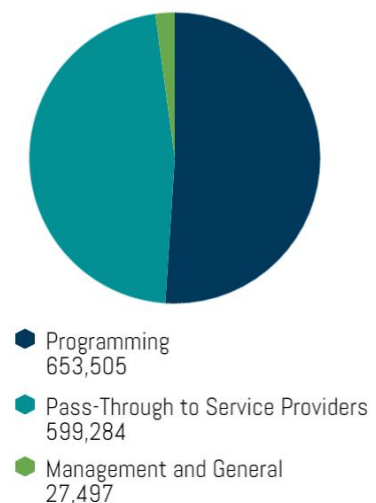
FY 2015 Financial Overview

REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	FY15 (Audited)	FY14 (Audited)
Dues/Donations	44,803	35,834
Foundations	62,052	1,201
State and Federal Grants	1,159,555	792,115
Sub-Contracts	21,883	8,084
Interest and Dividend	2,953	1,305
Unrealized Gain/Loss	4,077	4,907
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	1,287,169	843,446

EXPENSES

Prevention & Victim Services	406,017	207,638
Technical Assistance & Coalition Building	126,219	108,785
Pass-Through to Service Providers	599,284	477,241
Other Sub-Contracted Programming	121,269	11,424
Management & General	27,497	26,047
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	1,280,286	831,135
Change in Net Assets	6,883	12,311
Net Assets at Beg of Year	112,529	100,218
Net Assets at End of Year	119,412	112,529

FY 2015 Expenses



Communications

~900,000

Total people reached through
MECASA's Facebook page

~12,000

Unique visitors to MECASA's
website

"Everything that comes out of
MECASA is
sheer brilliance
and if you care about this stuff
at all and aren't following them,
you are
totally missing out."
- IowaCASA Staff Member

"My goal in life is to be as
social media savvy
as you all are.
On point, **as always.**"

- MECASA Facebook Fan

~450,000

Total people reached through the
Backbone Zone Facebook page

~30,000

People reached through MECASA
blog posts

Two of our most popular social media posts from 2015:

"The trivializing and
eroticising of these
cases has to stop."

"Children do not have affairs with older
women - they are abused by them."

<http://goo.gl/2FWhN>

THE PROBLEM
WITH GENDER IS
THAT IT
PRESCRIBES HOW
WE SHOULD BE,
RATHER THAN
RECOGNIZING HOW
WE ARE.

OHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

Voices of 2015

"We have **amazing people** in the work who have been in this work for a long time. I'm really proud of everyone at the coalition, and I'm **proud of the work you do**. I tell the staff here, 'If you think this is what every single coalition looks like this you're wrong.' I encourage staff all the time to connect to you. The people I get to call colleagues **really inspire me**."

- Center Staff Member

One of the things I love about MECASA is you ask me what I want and then **you make it happen**. I still question whether it is too good to be true.... You all are a **large reason** that I am a happy employee on most days.

- Center Director

Working at MECASA means I get to build **meaningful relationships** with partners and allies in this movement. And I'm **super proud** that more often than not when I walk into a meeting, training or event anywhere in the state, the room is **full of friends**.

- Coalition Staff Member

Since I began working in nonprofits, the work I've always found **most meaningful** has been helping direct service providers do what they do best – **provide services**. So the backbone work, like helping gather data, making it meaningful, building resources and systems, is my favorite thing to do. **I love coming to work** knowing that I'm supporting such a great team of people on the front lines of this movement.

- Coalition Staff Member

We have the **great support of MECASA** looking at things at a macro level. When we get info on legislative updates, it reminds us that people see the bigger picture and there are people working on that. **Advocacy is a team approach**.

- Center Staff Member



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