



ANNUAL REPORT

mecasa
MAINE COALITION AGAINST
SEXUAL ASSAULT

FY 2018

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The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault is organized to end sexual violence and to support high quality sexual violence prevention and response within Maine communities.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends:

Fiscal year 2018 found MECASA staff hard at work supporting and improving Maine's sexual violence prevention and response efforts. As always, we are grateful to Maine's sexual assault support centers for their dedication to victims and survivors and for their deep commitment to ending sexual violence in Maine's communities. We are also thankful for our many partnerships with our funders, donors, and statewide and national allies who make our best work possible.

In the following pages you will find a few highlights from the year including:

- The launch of the Children's Safety Partnership which helps parents and schools address child sexual abuse. Check out the great tools that can be found at childrenssafetypartnership.org.
- The founding of MaineCanDo and its website which provides accessible templates and tools for responding to workplace sexual harassment.
- The launch of the second statewide text and chat sexual assault helpline in the nation, expanding the reach of these life changing services.
- The opening of two new Children's Advocacy Centers resulting in coverage of 14 of Maine's 16 counties.

Thank you for your support of our mission and work. We are privileged to do this work together with you. Please let me know if you have any questions or thoughts about our programming.



Elizabeth Ward Saxl
Executive Director

New Initiatives for Maine

The Children's Safety Partnership

In 2018, MECASA teamed up with the Maine Department of Education (DOE) to launch the Children's Safety Partnership, a comprehensive online toolkit and training series to address child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.

MECASA and DOE worked with Senator Joyce Maker to establish a requirement that Maine schools have a policy for child sexual abuse response, prevention education for all K-5 students, and education for all school personnel.

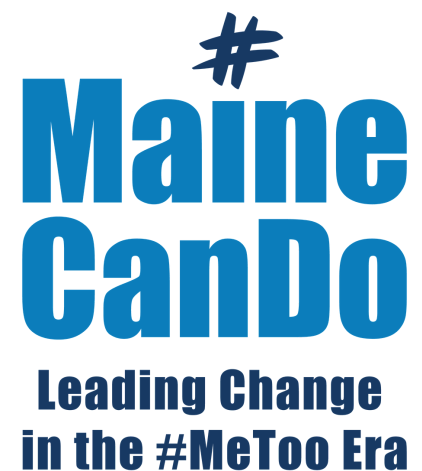


The Partnership helps parents and schools address child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.

The Partnership is a resource to help schools implement the law effectively. Online tools support parents and caregivers in talking about sexual abuse and sexual abuse prevention with the kids in their lives. In addition to the online toolkit, MECASA and DOE are presenting a statewide series of free trainings to support school personnel in informing adults and students in their communities on these issues.

MaineCanDo

One of the highlights of 2018 was watching #MeToo take the nation by storm and helping lead innovative responses to the movement. This year, we partnered with the business, investor, and nonprofit sectors to develop and launch MaineCanDo, a platform to help people, nonprofits, and businesses prevent and respond to sexual harassment. This is the first time that information about sexual harassment, victims' rights, and organizational instruction and policy materials have been made available in one place, in an easily adaptable form.



MaineCanDo is a readable and practical response for Mainers no matter what role they occupy in the workplace.

The site also provides information for victims and survivors about their options for reporting and what that may look like, where to get support and more information, and considerations for those who may want to publicly tell their story for the first time. MaineCanDo is a readable and practical response for Mainers no matter what role they occupy in the workplace. We are proud to be part of such an important effort to provide victims and survivors with information they need to make the best decision for them. To find out more, visit mainecando.org.

New Services for Survivors

This year, MECASA worked with member centers to launch text and chat helpline services in Maine. These new services offer a new way for people who may have never reached out by phone to get help.

This is only the second statewide sexual assault helpline in the nation to develop this service, and the number of contacts to the service has grown each month since it was launched in March.

New text and chat helpline services offer a new way for people to get help.



We are grateful to our partners at the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance for their ongoing support as we developed this important and exciting new resource for survivors.

New Resources for Support Groups

We significantly expanded sexual assault support centers' ability to offer survivor support groups, thanks to a partnership between MECASA, member center staff, and Nancy Ansheles of Catalyst and Company.

Over six months, we worked together to develop a statewide support group facilitator's training and toolkit. Nearly 50 participants from sexual assault support centers and the Wabanaki Women's Coalition received the initial training, which will be repeated annually. Participants reported that the session and tools help them feel more prepared and confident facilitating groups. All of these programs have ongoing access to a range of new support group tools, including interim instructional materials to support new facilitators between annual statewide trainings.

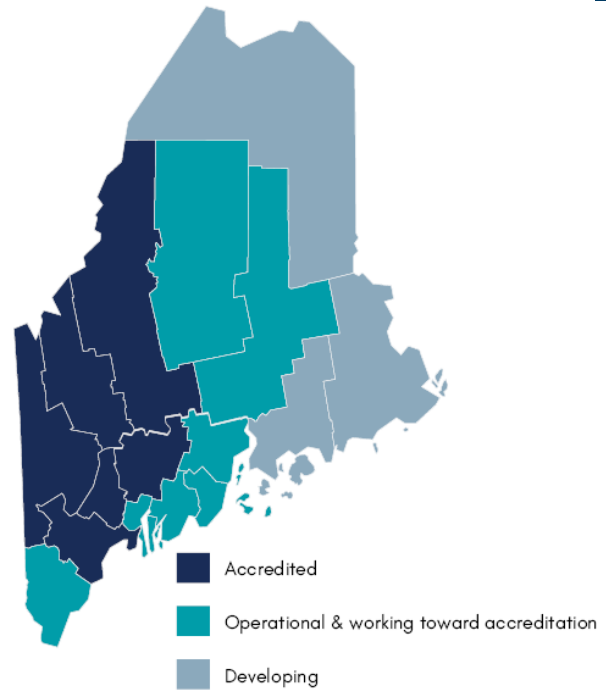
"The most valuable parts of this training were the practical tips and tangible tools for building a [support group] foundation."

-Training Participant

New Supports for Child Sexual Abuse Victims

We are thrilled to have welcomed two new Children’s Advocacy Centers to the Network this year. Families in Aroostook County and the Midcoast (Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo Counties) are now able to access forensic interviews in their own communities, and now 14 of Maine’s 16 counties are home to a CAC!

In addition to supporting these regions with their instruction and technical assistance to launch services, the Network offered two statewide trainings. The first educated 24 new forensic interviewers, doubling Maine’s capacity to interview children. The second trained 40 clinicians in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, significantly increasing access to this evidence-based therapy for families affected by child sexual abuse statewide.



40 Maine clinicians trained to help families affected by child sexual abuse with Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

24 New forensic interviewers, doubling Maine's capacity to interview children.

New Laws to Support Victims

Labor Trafficking

With the help of many partners, we worked to pass a new law that defines labor trafficking in Maine. This new law creates the new crimes of “forced labor” and “aggravated forced labor.” These new crimes mean that it is illegal for an employer to use force, fraud, or coercion to compel someone into labor or services, including using drugs or alcohol as a means of coercion. Before these crimes were established, Maine did not have any state-level law to prosecute trafficking that was not based on commercial sex. This new law will also likely improve access to T-visas for victims who experience labor trafficking.

Protecting Victims

Working once again with our partners at Pine Tree Legal Assistance (PTLA), we addressed gaps in protections for victims of sexual violence by amending both the protection from abuse and protection from harassment statutes. The protection from harassment law now includes a much broader range of sexual violence as the basis of an issuance of an order. These changes also ensure greater access to protection from abuse orders for victims of sexual violence who are minors. We pleased to hear from PTLA that victims have already gained orders based on these new tools.

FY 2018 FINANCIALS

REVENUES:

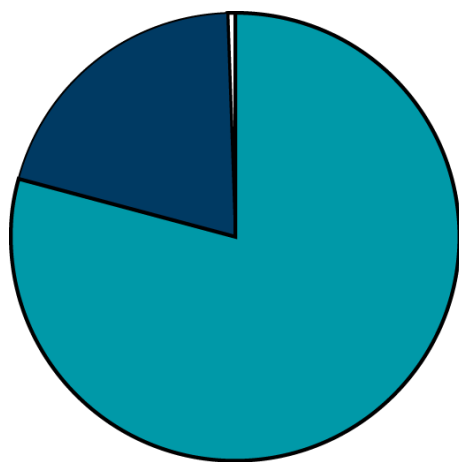
	9/30/2018 (Audited)	9/30/2017 (Audited)
Dues/Donations	42,626	24,383
Foundations	83,431	95,000
State & Federal Grants	4,975,045	2,755,326
Sub-Contracts	988	3,635
Interest & Dividend	439	1,816
Unrealized Gain/Loss	5,531	5,828
Other Revenue	198	-
	5,108,258	2,885,988

EXPENSES:

Prevention & Victims Services	747,946	590,916
Technical Assistance & Coalition Building	134,038	128,996
Pass-Through to Service Providers	3,995,027	1,998,234
Other Sub-Contracted Programs	127,006	66,563
Management & General	26,718	26,291
	5,030,735	2,811,000

Change in Net Assets	77,523	74,989
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	214,975	139,986
Net Assets at End of Year	292,498	214,975

FY 2018 EXPENSES



- Management & General: 26,718
- Programming: 1,008,990
- Pass-through to Service Providers: 3,995,027

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