



# ANNUAL REPORT

**mecasa**  
MAINE COALITION AGAINST  
SEXUAL ASSAULT

FFY 2019

## OUR MISSION

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.

Friends:

Happy 2020! We believe Maine can be free of sexual violence, and in 2019, we continued our work to transform how our state supports survivors and engaged in efforts to prevent future violence. We are excited to share our progress with you.

Here are highlights from the past year that our team is particularly proud of:

- Providing critical, immediate support to trafficking survivors through the Maine Human Trafficking Survivor Fund
- Training 530 school personnel in child abuse prevention through the Children's Safety Partnership (Check out the great resources for families and community members on the CSP's website!)
- Partnering with MCEDV and the Legislature to access the first statewide funding increase in twenty years - \$5 million over the next two years for sexual assault and domestic violence services across Maine
- Increasing the amount of time survivors have to seek justice through the expansion of Maine's statute of limitations on the prosecution of many sex crimes from 8 to 20 years
- Providing 1,289 hours of direct technical assistance to member center staff, as well as 65 technical assistance site visits
- Receiving MaineTransNet's 2019 Betsy Parsons Accomplice of the Year Award (Thanks MaineTransNet!)
- Hiring new staff who bring their enthusiasm, expertise, and commitment to our collective mission

It is an honor to share this work with you. We appreciate the many ways you value and support it. As always, our successes are a result of our many partnerships with funders, donors, and allies (on both the state and national level) who not only make our work possible, but who also help make it the best it can be.

Want to learn more about what we were up to last year? Our Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report is hot off the presses! If you would like to share feedback on our programs or the work, we are always listening.

Thanks for your continued support,



Elizabeth Ward Saxl  
Executive Director

P.S. Funding from individual donors is absolutely essential to cover the full range of our work and, in particular, our time at the State House advocating for wide-reaching policy changes. Please consider making a gift to MECASA in 2020 and help end sexual violence in Maine.

## Legislative Updates

The first session of the two-year 129th Legislature wrapped up in June. It was a very productive year with many successes to celebrate. It's always hard to pick favorites, but some highlights include:

- Filling the halls of the State House (not once but twice!) with sexual assault and domestic violence advocates in support of the \$5 million funding bill
- The decriminalization of engaging in prostitution for individuals under 18
- The expansion of the statute of limitations from 8 to 20 years for some of Maine's most serious sex crimes
- The creation of significant new tools for tenants who are being sexually harassed by their landlords
- The expansion of the time anonymous kits must be stored from 90 days to 8 years
- A new requirement that all sexual assault reports are shared by law enforcement with Maine's prosecutors



We look forward to the upcoming legislative session and to continuing to represent the interests, experience, and expertise of Maine's sexual assault support centers at the State House.

## MaineTransNet Partnership



Survivors cannot heal if they have to leave a piece of themselves at the door. They need an environment where they can bring their whole and honored identities. This year we wrapped up an 18-month first-of-its-kind project for sexual assault services in

Maine. The Maine Transgender Network and local sexual assault centers worked together to create co-facilitated support groups for trans survivors. This project included extensive cross-training and development of shared tools, curriculum, data collection, and evaluation to meet the needs of survivors and providers.

Partnering with MaineTransNet on this project has strengthened our relationship. We are committed to working together to advocate and find funding for MaineTransNet to provide both support and services to trans and gender non-conforming survivors of sexual violence.

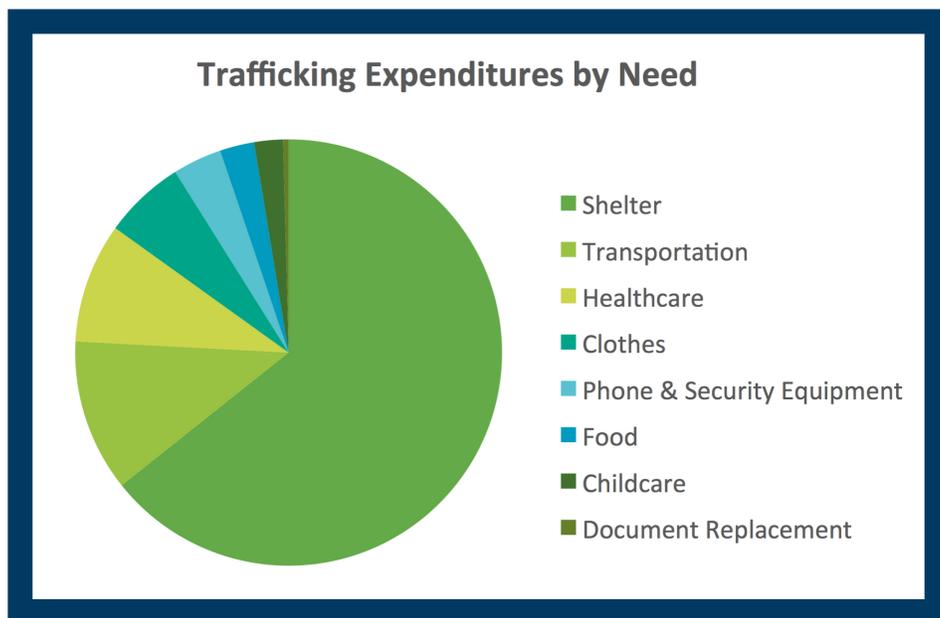
In addition, MECASA, MaineTransNet, and the support group facilitators presented on this collaboration at the National Sexual Assault Conference.

**"I've looked for a group that would fit my needs for a while. I'm glad that I found one, and that the group was as supportive and effective as it was."**

**-Support Group Participant**

## New Fund for Human Trafficking Survivors

This year, MECASA received funding from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to meet the immediate needs of survivors of human trafficking. Over a period of four months, more than 60 people received funding to meet over 170 needs. Needs, including housing, food, clothes, transportation, and medical care, would not have been funded by other community programs. The graph below charts how the money was spent for each type of need.



**60**  
survivors with over  
**170**  
needs meet in just  
**4**  
months

## Incarcerated Services Trainings & Tools

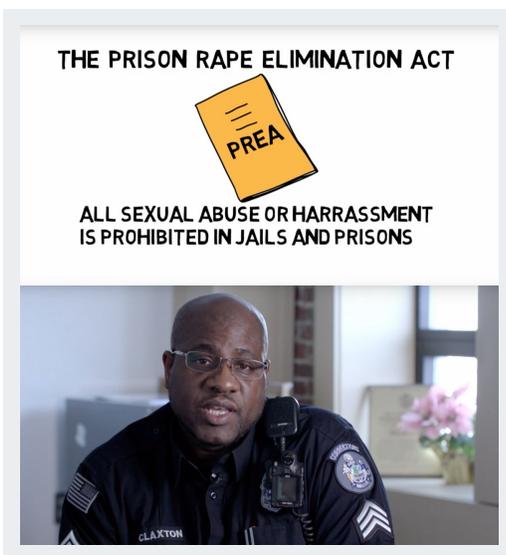
“Thank you for the opportunity to have this important discussion, share ideas, and acquire new tools! Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

-Training Participant

In May, we hosted a training led by Just Detention International on facilitating support groups in incarcerated settings. A total of 33 advocates employed by 8 different sexual assault and domestic violence programs around the state attended.

In partnership with Leighton Images, we completed a series of videos on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) to train corrections officers and inform inmates of their rights under this federal law. Videos include

interviews with corrections staff from the Maine Department of Corrections and county jails, sexual assault advocates, and people who were formerly incarcerated. Videos are available for viewing on our YouTube channel and hard copy DVDs are available on request. The inmate rights video is also available in Spanish, Somali, and closed captioning for accessibility.



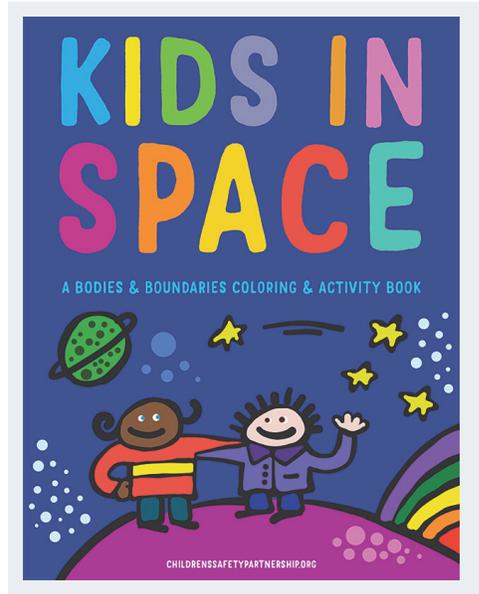
# Services for Maine Children & Families

## The Children's Safety Partnership

Last year, MECASA, in partnership with the Department of Education, began the roll out of the Children's Safety Partnership, preparing schools to implement Maine's 2015 child abuse prevention law. Over the last year, the Children's Safety Partnership has provided trainings to over 530 school personnel throughout the state and produced a training webinar that has been viewed over 500 times.

**530**  
school personnel  
trained in  
**2019**

Staff at the sexual assault support centers have also started to offer trainings in their local communities to respond to the growing demand for child sexual abuse personnel awareness and education within local schools.



To bolster the familiarity with the law and the branding, a social media and marketing campaign was created with print and marketing materials that have been distributed to centers and with partners throughout the state.

## Children's Advocacy Centers

The Maine's Children's Advocacy Centers now have dedicated services in 14 of 16 counties with hopes of continued expansion in 2020. This year, 1,326 forensic interviews, totaling 2,163 hours, were completed. And, the family advocates spent 2,765 hours assisting families and connecting them to community resources.

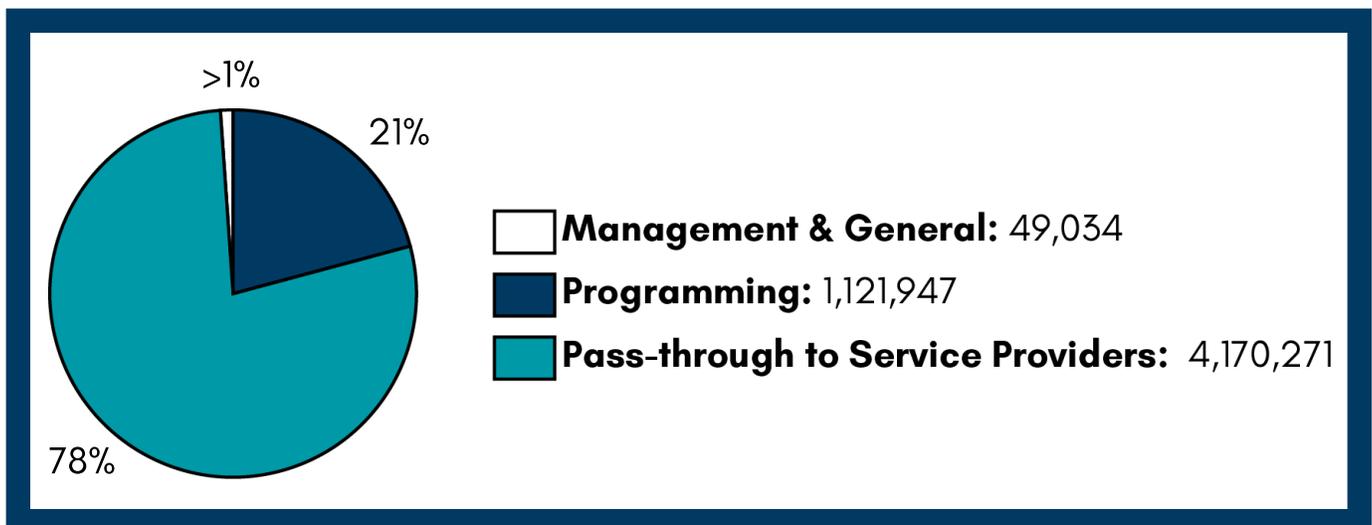
To further support these services for children and families, we trained over 70 professionals in responding to children with problematic sexual behaviors and partnered with the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center to provide vicarious trauma training to Children's Advocacy Centers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams across the state. The National Children's Advocacy Center was also brought in to provide an advanced forensic investigator training.

**1,326**  
forensic interviews  
**2,163**  
hours spent  
interviewing  
**2,765**  
hours of advocacy  
to families

# FY 2019 FINANCIALS

<b>REVENUES:</b>	<b>9/30/2019 (Audit in progress)</b>	<b>9/30/2018 (Audited)</b>
Dues/Donations	46,043	35,861
Foundations	10,000	10,000
State & Federal Grants	5,278,215	4,975,418
Sub-Contracts	2,700	-
Investment Return	3,673	5,970
Other Revenue	8,954	6,108
	<b>5,349,584</b>	<b>5,033,357</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Prevention & Victims Services	615,976	630,920
Technical Assistance & Coalition Building	289,216	243,862
Pass-Through to Service Providers	4,170,271	3,995,027
Other Sub-Contracted Programs	216,756	138,097
Management & General	49,034	22,455
	<b>5,341,252</b>	<b>5,030,361</b>
Change in Net Assets	8,332	2,996
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	217,971	214,975
Net Assets at End of Year	226,303	217,971

## FY 2019 EXPENSES



# MECASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## MECASA STAFF

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