

New Beginnings

2025 Annual Impact Report



We partner with youth to create lasting change so all youth have a safe place to live and opportunities to grow.

A note from our Executive Director, Chris Bicknell

Resilience in Action: Meeting the Moment for Maine's Youth



Dear Friends,

Over the past year, our state and federal funding has been at risk due to shifting priorities in Augusta and Washington, D.C. In these challenging political and economic times, New Beginnings has been a staunch advocate at both the state and federal levels. We work to ensure our representatives understand exactly how critical their support is in providing homeless youth in Maine with pathways toward becoming productive members of our communities. Throughout all of this uncertainty, New Beginnings staff have continued to provide transformative resources for children and youth experiencing homelessness in central Maine.

We continue to provide core services — outreach, shelter, housing, and case management — to any youth in need who comes to us for help, regardless of the political or funding challenges the agency faces. Resilience in the face of adversity is a strength we see in the youth we serve each and every day. Now, it is New Beginnings' turn to learn from those we serve and do whatever is necessary to weather these difficult times and continue to stand as a bulwark between the youth we serve and an increasingly cruel and seemingly uncaring world. Not all of the news, however, is bad. As I write this, 10 young people who access services at New Beginnings will graduate from high school or receive their GED this spring. Without the stable housing and supportive services New Beginnings provides, these young people might still be on a pathway toward underemployment and reliance on government subsidies. Instead, because of New Beginnings, they have achieved the first critical step toward independence and productive adulthood.

New Beginnings is more committed than ever to creating and maintaining spaces and programming for youth who have no safe place to go in our communities. The ongoing support of our partners is critical to this work, and I thank each and every one of you for standing with us in support of vulnerable children and youth. Together, we can maintain pathways of hope and healing for children and youth in Maine, no matter the challenges we currently face.

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

32,517 
Meals served at the Shelter & Outreach Drop-In Center

411 
Youth and families served this year

12,573 Nights of housing where **youth were safe and off the streets** 

 **500+** Hours of participation by YAB Members

83% of youth served reunified with family or acquired safe housing



49 Youth gained life skills at our **transitional living apartments** 

47 Teens from throughout Maine stayed at our 24-hour shelter

6,751 Street outreach interactions with urban and rural youth



OUR PROGRAMS

With your support in 2025, New Beginnings enhanced the lives of more than 400 young people.

Thank you for helping Maine youth find safety, connection, and opportunities for growth.



STREET OUTREACH

New Beginnings' Outreach Program works to find and engage young people ages 10-24 at high risk for being unstably housed, unhoused or experiencing trafficking or exploitation through our Lewiston Drop-In Center, as well as street outreach and case management services in 9 counties.

Since 1990, the Street Outreach Program and Drop-In Center have offered services to meet young people's immediate safety and basic needs (food, clothing, shelter referral, etc.) and provide case management services to help connect individuals to resources in downtown Lewiston (Androscoggin County), with rural satellite offices serving Franklin and Kennebec counties; in 2022 services expanded to include Oxford, Somerset, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc Counties as well. And, in 2024 with increased state support, the Lewiston-based Drop-In Center began opening 7 days per week to provide services to some of the communities most vulnerable young people when other providers are unable to do so.

In 2025, Outreach totaled 6,751 interactions with youth (on the streets, via phone/text/social media, and/or at Drop-In), 15,858 Drop-In Center meals, and 9,231 mobile food pantry meals. 36 unhoused young people worked individually with case managers to achieve their goals.

MARIAN'S PLACE

Since 1980, New Beginnings' Marian's Place has met the immediate needs of youth in crisis with 24-hour safe shelter, food and basic needs, and caring adult support.

Marian's Place is Maine's only youth shelter licensed to provide 24-hour emergency housing and support for up to 12 youth ages 10-19 who have run away, are experiencing homelessness, or are at high risk due to intense family conflict. Supportive services like case management, prevention groups, education and employment support, and family mediation help youth improve their skills and work toward stability during their short-term stay (up to 90 days).

In 2025 Marian's Place served 44 youth with 2,583 nights off the streets and over 7,428 meals. 85% of youth had safe exits to family or stable housing.





PREVENTION & TRAINING

New Beginnings' Prevention & Training Program has three primary focus areas: (1) ensuring young people who access New Beginnings' services have access to a wide variety of medically accurate, trauma-informed prevention- education groups, harm reduction information, and supplies; (2) improving New Beginnings programs through staff training in agency Model of Care and youthwork-related topics; (3) providing evidence-based HIV Prevention and positive youth development-focused research and trainings to youth-service providers and educators statewide – in partnership with Maine DOE since 1989.

The program coordinates both live and virtual training opportunities, sponsors Maine's annual Comprehensive Sexuality Education Conference, and collaborates with community partners to ensure a wide variety of relevant programming.

Young people and community providers participated in multiple trainings such as creating safety for LGBTQ+ young people, working with young people who may be at increased risk of experiencing human trafficking or exploitation, Motivational Interviewing, High Risk HIV/AIDS Prevention (HRAP), and more.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING

Since 1989, New Beginnings' Transitional Living Programs (TLP) has provided supportive housing for up to 18 months to help homeless young people develop the skills they need to live on their own.

TLP offers teens and young adults (ages 16-24 at intake) supervised and community living apartments that combine housing and case management with hands-on life skills education. Learning to manage finances, roommates, rent, and chores prepares youth for maintaining housing after exit. Support engaging with education, employment, Adventure Challenge trips, risk-reduction groups, and counseling during the program and for up to a year of aftercare case management builds skills and confidence for self-sufficiency.

In 2025, the program saw 49 unduplicated youth in our TLP for 8,026 nights of housing and/or utilized aftercare. 81% of youth exited to safe, stable housing.

In addition, New Beginnings operated another housing program through HOME-ARP funding, in which youth were provided rental resources while they maintained employment. This program provided 1,694 nights of housing.

YOUTH ACTION BOARD (YAB)

The Maine Statewide Youth Action Board (YAB), a program of New Beginnings, Inc., is an independent statewide forum for Members ages 14-24 with lived experiences including homelessness, poverty, or interaction with systems of care (child welfare, corrections/juvenile justice, behavioral health, etc.) to influence positive change and promote advocacy on a systems level regarding issues affecting their peers. YAB strives to influence positive, systemic change while highlighting the values of respect and diversity amongst its membership, and has been active in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) and Maine's Homeless Continuum of Care (MCoC).

In 2025, the YAB continued to offer youth paid leadership opportunities to consult, train providers, and advocate to ensure youth/young adult voice is valued and present when and where decisions are made that impact young Mainers. Over the year, YAB members attended 240 meetings and 10 trainings. Currently, YAB Members sit on multiple boards across the state, including New Beginnings Board of Directors.

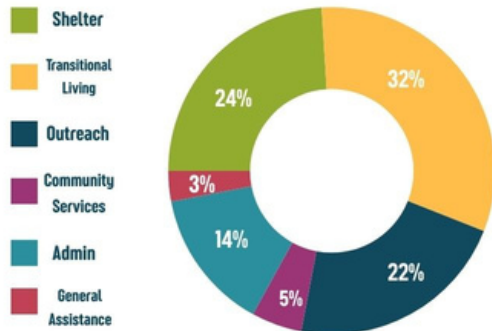
To be added to the training announcement list, please email prevention@newbeginmaine.org.



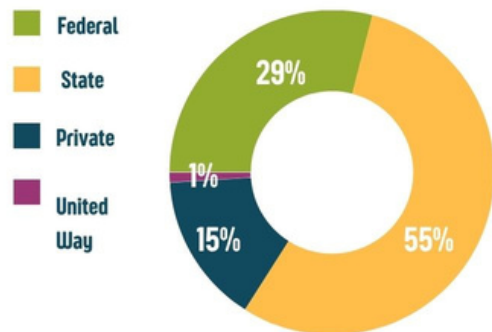
2025 Financial Overview

2025 Annual Budget – \$4,157,488

New Beginnings INVESTMENT BY PROGRAM



New Beginnings REVENUE BY FUNDING SOURCE



State: MaineHousing, ME Depts. of Education, CDC, Corrections, and Health & Human Services.
Federal: Housing & Urban Development (HUD), FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP), MaineCare, and Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (HHS/ACYF/FYSB).
Private & Local: Foundation grants, fundraising, municipal/City of Lewiston CDBG, and donations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Members

Steven McDermott, President
Peggy McRae, MSN, RN, Vice President
Chelsea Amaio, Secretary
Melissa Ferinas, Treasurer
Beverley G.H., Youth Action Board/Youth Member
Sabrina Nadeau
Michael Lacasse
Pat Ladd
Jagos Medenica
Tess Parks

Advisors

Darby Ray
Joseph Philippon
Kristina Therrien
Melissa McLeod
Molly Watson Shukie
Nancy Grenier

New Beginnings