

*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**

## Building Pathways of Hope and Healing for Maine's Youth



Dear Friends,

I am continually moved by the resilience and creativity of the youth who access New Beginnings and the unwavering commitment of our staff, community partners and supporters. Even amidst ongoing uncertainty, our priorities remain clear: bringing young people from a place of crisis into safe and stable housing in communities that care about them.

This year, we increased our housing capacity to meet the growing needs of youth in our community. With the addition of two new family units and exploration of additional properties, we are expanding the safe and supportive housing options available to young people and families. We are also actively evaluating opportunities to grow both transitional and permanent housing, ensuring that our programs respond to the diverse and evolving needs of the young people we serve.

These efforts are made possible by leveraging new funding sources and strengthening partnerships that allow us to maintain shelter, outreach, and supportive services for over 300 youth per year. Every new opportunity moves us closer to a future where no young person has to face homelessness alone.

Thank you for standing with us in this work. Together, we can build pathways of hope and healing for children and youth in Maine.

## SUCCESS **BY THE** NUMBERS

**33,267**   
Meals served at the Shelter & Outreach Drop-In Center

**114**   
Youth and families served this year

**11,463** Nights of housing where **youth were safe and off the streets** 

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

**93%** of youth served reunified with family or acquired safe housing



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



**41** Teens from throughout Maine stayed at our 24-hour shelter

**7,812**

Street outreach interactions with urban and rural youth



## OUR PROGRAMS

With your support in 2024, New Beginnings enhanced the lives of 601 unduplicated 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 2024, Outreach served 725 unduplicated young people through 7,812 interactions (on the streets, via phone/text/social media, and/or at Drop-In), 11,928 Drop-In Center meals, and 6,657 mobile food pantry meals. 93 unhoused young people worked individually with case managers to achieve their goals. Due to the steady increase in service provision, the Street Outreach Leadership team has grown to a team of three: Street Outreach Program Director Gabe Smith, Rural Street Outreach Program Coordinator Donna Bilodeau, and Drop-In Center Coordinator Anna Pertel.

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## 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 2024 Marian's Place served 46 youth with over 2,100 nights off the streets and over 5,400 meals. 95% of youth had safe exits, with 90% reunifying with family or exiting to 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.

More than 150 young people and community providers participated in 9 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.

***To be added to the training announcement list, please email [prevention@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:prevention@newbeginmaine.org).***



## 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 2024, the program expanded housing options for youth referred through the Department of Corrections. 54 unduplicated youth lived at TLP for nearly 8,000 nights of housing and/or utilized aftercare. 92% were either pursuing education or working when they left TLP, and 93% exited to safe, stable housing.

## YOUTH ACTION BOARD (YAB)

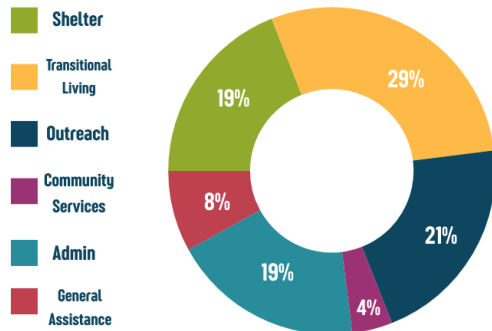
The Maine Statewide Youth Action Board (YAB), a program of New Beginnings, Inc., is an independent statewide forum for Members ages 14-24 with lived experiences including homelessness, poverty, or interaction with systems of care (child welfare, corrections/juvenile justice, behavioral health, etc.) 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 2024, 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.

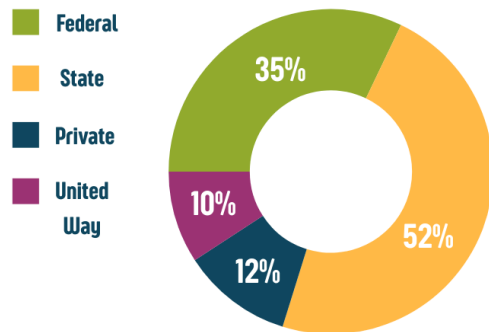
# 2024 Financial Overview

2024 Annual Budget – \$4,542,203

## 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

### Advisors

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

# New Beginnings