

**Remote HHS and Public Safety
Meeting Agenda**
February 11, 2025 at 5:30 PM
Remote Meeting



MEMBERS

Councilor Anna Bullett, District 4, Chair
Councilor April Fournier, At-Large
Councilor Sarah Michniewicz, District 1
Councilor Wesley Pelletier, District 2

There will be no public comment taken during the meeting. To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email HHSPS@portlandmaine.gov. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Health & Human Services and Public Safety meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the agenda item (see below).

The Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee will conduct this meeting remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland City Council. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!

When: Feb 11, 2025 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: HHS&PS Committee

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/89302063729?pwd=S2o0faSsiNCX6ukwq7pTx6Pxc6xT9W.1>

Passcode:180350

Phone one-tap:

+19292056099,,89302063729#,,,,*180350# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89302063729#,,,,*180350# US (Washington DC)

Join via audio:

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

Webinar ID: 893 0206 3729

Passcode: 180350

International numbers available: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/kcuTM00hyU>

1. Announcements
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2025
 - a. January 14, 2025 Draft Minutes
3. The State of Childcare in Portland (Councilor Anna Bullett, Chair)
 - a. Panel Discussion (Executive Director of Youth & Family Outreach, Camelia Babson-Haley; Director of Starting Strong, Katie Soucy; Early Care and Education Associate Director in the DHHS Office of Child and Family Services, Tara Williams)
4. Discussion Re: ARPA Funding for the Expansion/improvement of Public Restrooms (Ethan Hipple, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department)
In 2021, the City Council appropriated \$600,000 to expanding the availability of public restrooms in Portland. Of that funding, approximately \$203,000 remains and must be spent by December 31, 2025. At the February 11 Committee meeting, staff will present two options for the remainder of the funding and seek Committee feedback.
 - a. Staff Update
5. Public Safety Update (Jason King, Police Major)
 - a. Update
6. Discussion: 2025-2026 Warming/Cooling Shelter (Councilor Anna Bullett, Chair)
7. Finalization of the Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee 2025 Work Plan (Councilor Anna Bullett, Chair)
 - a. Draft work plan
8. Next Meeting: March 11, 2025

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

Committee Attendance:

Anna Bullett, Chair (District 4), April Fournier (At-large), Sarah Michniewicz (District 1), Wesley Pelletier (District 2)

Councilor Attendance:

Mark Dion; Mayor.

City Staff:

Adam Harr, Executive Assistant for Health and Human Services; Chad Johnston, Fire Chief; Mark Dubois, Police Chief; Dena Libner, Assistant City Manager; Caity Hager, Emergency Management Coordinator; Jason Grant, Fire Marshal; Maggie McLaughlin, Director of Health and Human Services;

Guest Speaker: Gordon Smith, Director of Opioid Response, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

Announcements

Review and Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2024

- Minutes moved by first Councilor Michniewicz and seconded by Councilor Fournier. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Department Introductions

- Health & Human Services: Maggie McLaughlin, Director
 - 465 staff across 4 divisions
 - Barron Center: Mary Beth Daigneault, Director
 - Skilled nursing facility to more than 100 residents.
 - 85% are on MaineCare
 - Most have dementia.
 - Office of Elder Affairs: Linda Weare, Director
 - Adult day care
 - Age friendly Portland Policy initiatives.
 - Public Health: Bridget Rauscher
 - 4 free clinics: immunization, Portland Community Free Clinic, SPUR clinic (screening for asylum seekers), and the STI clinic that offers free screening and PrEP to prevent HIV infections and links to CDC for infection management.
 - Links to resources.
 - Prevention and Community health needs

- Tobacco prevention
 - Lead program
 - Harm reduction services for people with active substance use
 - Safe injection kits
 - Wound care
 - Link to health care and treatment
 - Mobile Medical Outreach partnership with Fire.
- Social Services: Aaron Geyer
 - General Assistance for basic needs.
 - Representative payee to help individuals manage social security benefits
 - Resettlement Program helps asylum seekers entering the community.
 - The three largest shelters in state for:
 - Single adults at the Homeless Services Center
 - Single asylum seeking adults at 166 Riverside
- Administration including HR and Finance
- Data
 - Epidemiologist
 - Accredited public health institution
- Funded by many grants.
- Overdose to Action Grant for OD data in Cumberland County.
 - Tier 1 distributor of Narcan in Cumberland County.

Police

- 158 sworn officers and 60 civilians, including dispatch.
- \$20 million budget
- 3 divisions
 - Operations
 - Patrolled uniformed operations
 - Community services
 - Behavioral health
 - Administrative services
 - Communications/Dispatch
 - Training
 - Professional Standards
 - Crime analyst
 - Investigations
 - Detectives
 - Federal task force officers

Fire

- 230 people
 - 10 civilians & 220 sworn

- 4 divisions
 - Admin
 - Chief, assistant chief, PFO, PAO, exec. assist
 - Code enforcement
 - 3 full time: Jason Grant, Captain in Fire Prevention and an electrician/fire alarm system specialist.
 - Mental Health expert on exchange street.
 - Training
 - Rescue
 - Jetport: 14 people, 3 people around the clock at the crash station.
 - Field ops
 - 10 stations
 - 7 neighborhood stations
 - 4 engines of 3 people each
 - 4 ladders of 3 people
 - Heavy rescue of 3 people
 - 5 ambulances (sometimes 6th ambulance under EMS grant: M-F 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)
 - Fire boats on peaks
 - \$22 million budget with \$4-5million in revenue from ambulance billing and fire prevention/code enforcement.
 - Staffed at the moment.

Presentation re: the Harm Prevention Center Working Group

Resolve, to Study Methods of Preventing Opioid Overdose Deaths by Authorizing

- Committee previously was interested in overdose prevention centers. The State studied harm prevention centers with a report due to the legislative committee next month.
- Gordon Smith, Director of Opioid Response, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future presented:
- 94% of people who overdose survive due to the immense harm reduction and outreach efforts.
- Safe consumption sites are where people who obtain illicit drugs are able to use them under medical supervision.
 - There are two operating in New York with more on deck to open in RI and VT.
- Graysol Lookner bill passed the house to allow municipalities to operate such a center but lost in the senate by two votes; had it passed, the Governor planned to veto it.
- Report is due February 15, 2025 with a budget of 15,000.
- Have had four meetings with presentations from New York and Vermont.
- Looking at mobile sites model from Canada.

- Harm Reduction Health Center defined as a facility that provides health screening disease prevention and recovery services and allows persons to consume previously obtained controlled substances on the premises.
- We are unlikely to make a unanimous recommendation.
 - Funding common ground on what the legislature should know were they to choose to implement.
- We thought Providence, RI would have been open by now to share data; Providence is only having a soft opening this week.

Committee Questions and Discussion

- Mayor Dion and the committee thanked Director Smith.
- Councilor Bullett asked Director Smith what the Governor's veto reasoning may be.
 - She is a former Attorney General and the public safety community are largely against, potentially favoring treatment.
 - There is a chance to fund a solution unique to Maine that could be consistent with federal law and for our rural state; a mobile solution makes sense for Maine versus one bricks and mortar site.
 - Stigma needs to be addressed
 - Substance use is caused by trauma and adverse childhood events which can be prevented.
- Contemporary drugs are so dangerous, that continued use makes dangerous situations/overdose inevitable.
- Councilor Fournier said that treatment needs an entry point and safe consumption sites, with the relationship building the model entails can be that entry point to treatment such as methadone or other medically assisted treatment.
- A concern is that they are only open a few hours a day.
 - It is extremely rare for anyone to fatally overdose while onsite; what happens when the site is not open?

2025 Work Plan

- Year is outlined through the end of the summer.
- Panel presentation on childcare next month.
- Spring
 - Childcare
 - Syringe Services
 - Opioid settlement funds & RFP
 - Built for Zero (homelessness) and asset mapping around the region.
- Summer
 - Safety of streets

- Emergency preparedness for elders.
- Should there be standard updates?
 - Rotate them between Fire, PD, and HHS.
 - Patrol updates form Police.
- We should have no pedestrian deaths; should we have a joint meeting with S&T on vision zero?
 - Check S&T's schedule to make sure it is addressed promptly.
- Warming Shelter stability coordination.
 - May include finance committee.

Proposal to move the Regulation of Explosives, Chapter 11, to Fire Prevention Rules and Regulations.

- Fire Marshall Grant recapped the update that changed some fines and moved between sections of city code to under the board of appeals; there were no real substantive changes outside of the fees for violations bumping up an offense from \$500 to \$1,000 for initial and then 2,000 for subsequent to be in line with
 - A technical manual from planning was pulled into fire prevention rules and regulations as well as they go hand in hand.
- **Public Comment**
 - Opened at 6:45 and closed at 6:46 PM.
- **Committee Vote**
 - Councilor Fournier moved to approved the ordinance change with Councilor Pelletier seconding; the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Warming Shelter Update

- Commonsplace provided a [memo](#) with an updated on the Warming shelter in First Parish Church.
- Opened 13 nights; all December nights were in the Commonsplace building at 103 India Street.
- Guest low: 50
- Guest high:107
- Average guests:80
- Served 5 families
- Maintain low barrier access while maintaining safety guidelines.
- Partnership with Portland PD has been vital, especially on weekday mornings when high school students use the shared alley as guests leave.
- Bathrooms and bathroom safety has been an issue
 - Not enough bathrooms
 - Not designed for the needs of this population.

Committee questions and discussion

- There is an impact on other First Parish users and Freshman alley.
- Where does the committee see a lack of preparedness (as the Commonsplace partnership was initiated in October of last year)?
 - Councillor Pelletier clarified that 15 degrees feels like a very low threshold and people could die with temperatures above that, looking for dedicated effort that is visible throughout the year.
- Councilor Michniewicz asked how the threshold temperature was chosen?
 - Determined by funding; it was established by common space with coordination with the emergency management coordinator; it is a higher threshold than last year. Commonsplace considered how often the threshold would open the space with anticipated cold nights and the availability of funding to maximize the resource.
 - There is an assumption by the public that it is based on science, not available funding.
- Councilor Fournier agrees it is a year-round conversation.
 - Last year talked about warming shelters and cooling centers in summer.
 - It is important to consider that we put out an rfp for day space and got no responses; the community does not have the staff, money, or space and must be a larger conversation with the County and State for a longer term solution versus the months of planning that has a perception of being last minute each Winter.
 - Could GPCOG help?
 - Not just any volunteer has the skillset to safely serve this population.
- Mayor Dion supports the committees observations and is a member of GPCOG and will present this to the executive committee.
 - The public has an ingrained sense that the City runs the warming shelter.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2025

Meeting adjourned approximately at 7:08 PM.



Policy Recommendations for the City of Portland - Improving Access to Quality Child Care

February 11, 2025

Develop a child care scholarship program

A child care scholarship program supports families access to child care by offering financial assistance. When parents and caregivers have access to affordable child care, they are more likely to remain employed - contributing to a stable workforce which in turn boosts the local economy. A city with robust childcare opportunities and support is more attractive to businesses. Providing child care assistance can help bridge the gap for lower income families and contributes significantly to a child's early development, and better educational outcomes later in life.

The following is an abbreviated version of a process outlined in [“Let’s Grow Kids Community Child Care Scholarship Handbook”](#)

Phase 1: Research and Community Engagement

Conduct a Community Needs Assessment

A community needs assessment for child care involves evaluating the demand and supply of services, including whether the current supply meets the needs across different age groups and neighborhoods. Affordability is another key factor, examining the cost of high-quality child care, existing funding sources, and who may be excluded from access. Barriers to expanding and accessing quality care, including affordability and funding limitations, are explored to understand the challenges in meeting needs.

Establish a Scholarship Design Committee

Establishing a scholarship design committee ensures the program has broad community support and is informed by the needs of key stakeholders. The committee should represent important sectors of the community including health care, public education, early childhood education, parents, business, and local government. It is also important to engage individuals with expertise in evaluation to ensure appropriate inclusion of evaluation of impact in the program design.

Phase 2: Design Scholarship Program

Establish guiding principles, target populations, scholarship eligibility, program costs and financing, and delivery model. Potential program designs include direct support to families and/or contracting with child care providers.

Phase 3: Pilot Implementation

Implementing a scholarship program requires a pilot phase to test all aspects of the program. A one-year pilot will allow the opportunity to examine and refine the design, and determine any changes needed to

bring the program to scale. Specifically, the pilot year will allow for testing the delivery model, the program partnerships, the family experience, and the enrollment and payment processes. The evaluation plan developed in the design phase will provide guidance for collecting stakeholder input and design revisions, as well as being one basis for making iterations to the model before implementing beyond a pilot phase.

Phase 4: Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

During the program design phase, the advisory committee should create an evaluation plan for the scholarship program. Focusing on evaluation from the beginning of the project helps establish a culture of continuous improvement for the scholarship program and ensure that data guides every step of the program design and implementation. The evaluation will yield results that could continue to inform and improve the scholarship program while also setting the stage for a larger and longer-term impact evaluation.

Develop a salary supplement program for early childhood educators

A childcare employee salary supplement supports employees by offering financial assistance. Salary supplement programs have been shown to increase employee retention and attract more qualified new teachers.

Phase 1: Program Planning & Design

Identify the program's objectives - this includes determining the specific purpose of the stipend. The next step is to define the eligibility criteria. This involves establishing who qualifies for the stipend, whether it's based on factors such as tenure, full-time status, or financial need, and setting clear guidelines for eligibility. Additionally, the stipend structure must be determined, including how much the stipend will be, how often it will be awarded, and whether it will be a fixed sum or tiered based on need.

Phase 2: Funding & Application Process

The second phase focuses on securing funding and developing the application process. It's important to identify the program's funding source, which could come from the city's budget, external partnerships, or other financial resources. Ensuring long-term sustainability is key to the program's success. Additionally, decisions need to be made about whether childcare workers will need to apply for the stipend and how the review process will work.

Phase 3: Communication & Pilot Implementation

Clear communication is critical for the success of the program. In this phase, the stipend program should be communicated including details on eligibility, the application process, and important deadlines. It's essential to ensure that all potential applicants understand the program's purpose, how to apply, and what they need to do to qualify.

Phase 4: Monitoring, Evaluation & Continuous Improvement

Once the program is launched, it's important to monitor its impact and effectiveness. This involves tracking the stipend's results, collecting feedback from recipients, and making necessary adjustments to improve the program. Evaluation will help ensure that the program continues to meet the needs of the childcare workforce and align with organizational goals. Adapting the program over time will help address evolving employee needs and keep the program relevant.

Additional no-cost/low-cost opportunities to further support access to child care

Eliminate or minimize barriers to opening new child care businesses in the city:

- Update [this step-by-step guide](#) (located [here](#)) to opening family-based child care businesses; identify and address potential barriers. Orient existing business assistance and microenterprise services to address the unique needs of child care businesses.
- Make operating a family-/home-based child care permitted as-of-right in all zones (including zones where it is currently conditional).
- Connect the City's business assistance and microenterprise programs with the Child Care Incubator run by Portland ConnectED/Starting Strong, United Way of Southern Maine, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., and Southern Maine Workforce Initiative. This will leverage existing resources to support more entrepreneurs to open child care businesses in Portland.
- Identify any city-owned spaces that might be available to locate a child care business.

Use existing contact points with low-to-moderate income families to inform and support families in applying for the state Child Care Affordability Program.

Expand Portland Recreation Before & After the Bell Program to include Pre-Kindergarten students (self-funding).

Ensure future comprehensive plans address child care as key economic infrastructure.

City of Portland's past efforts to improve access to child care

- [Portland Growing Child Care Grants](#) for start-up or expansion of child care businesses, funded with ARPA dollars, expiring end of year
- [Community Development Block Grants](#): Childcare vouchers identified as "High Priority" under Economic Opportunity goal. (Most recent funding: Childcare Voucher Collaborative, \$81,295 in 2023-24, no funding 2024-25)
- Office of Economic Opportunity [created this resource to help families navigate finding child care](#).

For more information, please contact Katie Soucy, Director, Starting Strong ksoucy@portlandconnected.org

Office of Child and Family Services

Early Care & Education

Child Care Licensing

Presentation to Portland HHS/PS
February 2025



Licensed Child Care Programs

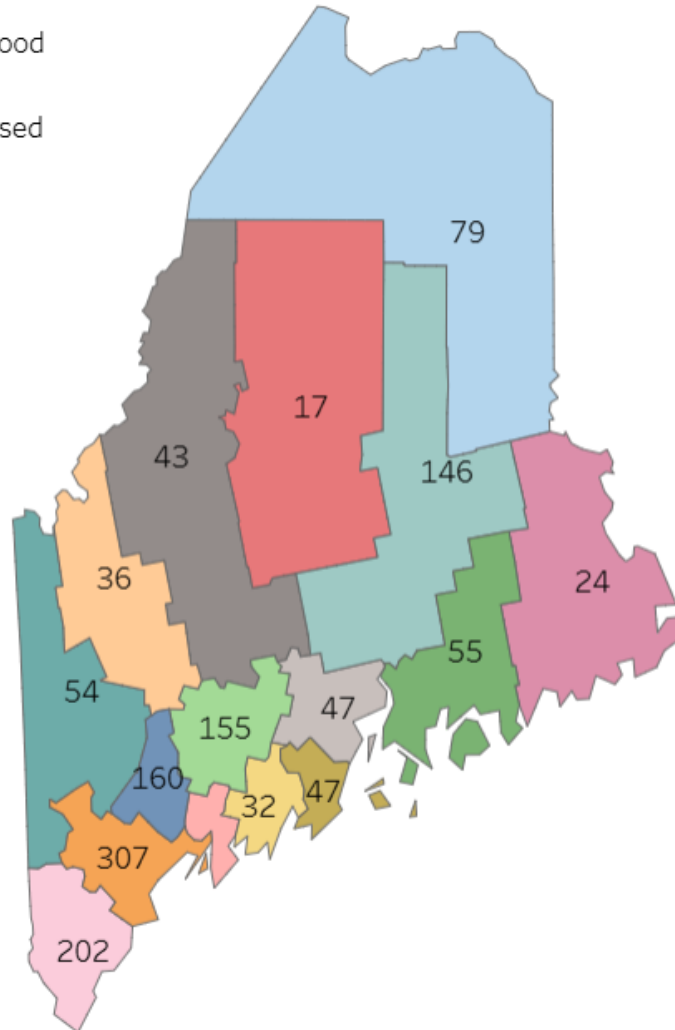
Licensed Providers

The goal of the Department is to provide early childhood education services in a safe, healthy and secure environment. This report shows the number of licensed providers by type, Rising Star rating and county.

Point in Time Data

State Totals

Star Rating ^{A Z}	CHILD CARE FACILITY	FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER
2 Stars	548	583
3 Stars	58	35
4 Stars	50	29
5 Stars	129	9
Grand Total	785	656



Select Month

January 2025



Select Star Rating

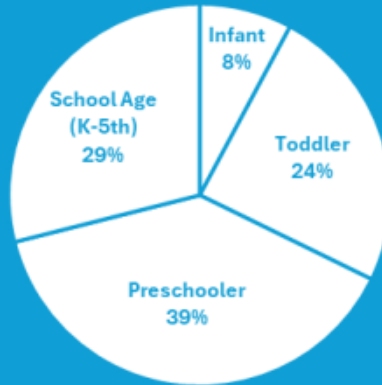
- ☒ (All)
- ☐ 2 Stars
- ☐ 3 Stars
- ☐ 4 Stars
- ☐ 5 Stars

Select Provider Type

- ☒ (All)
- ☐ CHILD CARE FACILITY
- ☐ FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER

Enrollment in Child Care Programs

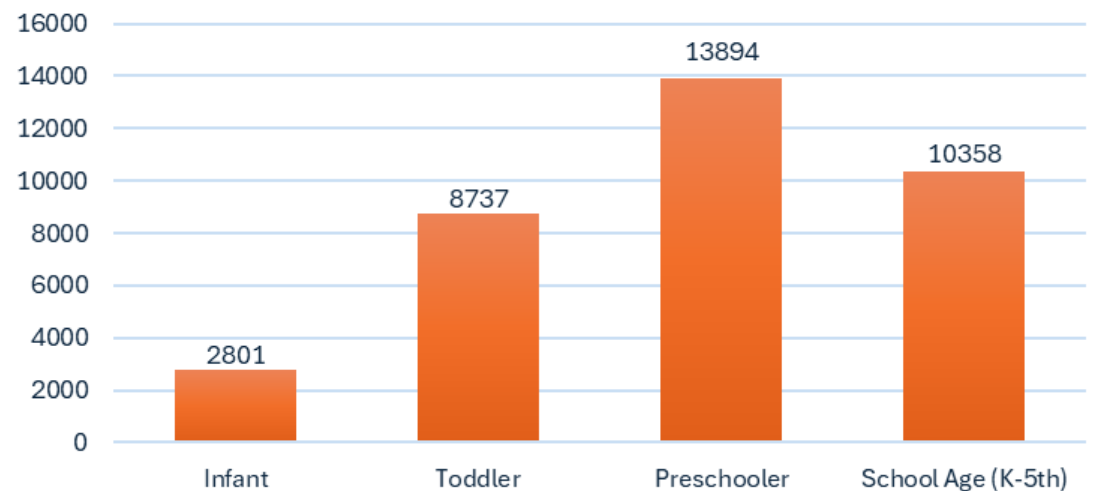
ESTIMATED ENROLLMENT IN MAINE
CHILD CARE PROGRAMS 2024



Approximately 8% of children enrolled in licensed programs are infants, 24% are toddlers, 39% are preschoolers, and 29% are school age.

- Infants are children from birth to age 1
- Toddlers are 1-year-olds and 2-year-olds
- Preschoolers are 3-year-olds & 4-year-olds
- School Age children are K-5th graders

Estimated Enrollment in Maine Child Care
2024



Child Care Infrastructure Grants

July 2022 – September 2024

Category	Total Number of Awards	Total Amount Awarded	Number of Slots Added (Anticipated*)	Avg Cost Per Slot By Category
Family Child Care Start Up	106	\$965,900	1095	\$882.10
Family Child Care Growth	5	\$20,000	20	\$1,000
Facility Expansion - Renovation	30	\$745,200	769	\$969.05
Facility Expansion - New Construction	26	\$5,608,600	883	\$6,351.76
Facility Start Up - Renovation	73	\$3,582,900	2553	\$1,403.41
Facility Start Up - New Construction	16	\$3,305,300	786	\$4,205.22
Facility Acquisition	2	\$50,000	68	\$735.29
Totals	258	\$14,277,900	6174	\$2,312.59

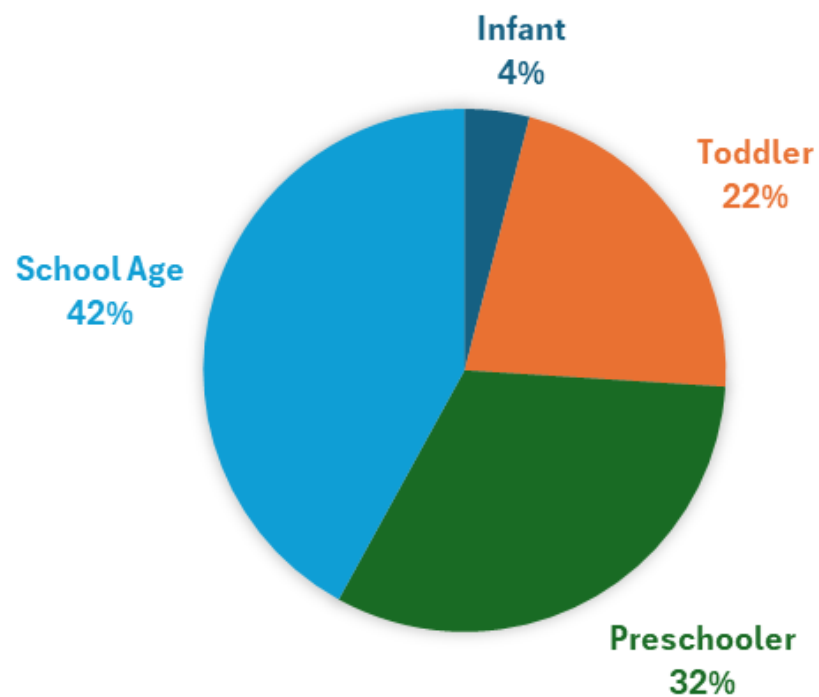
Above: This chart shows award categories, total number of awards in each category, total award amount in each category, number of anticipated child care slot increases, and average cost per slot in each category.

On the Right: This chart shows total Infrastructure Grant amounts by County, anticipated increase in child care slots by county, and number of awards by county.

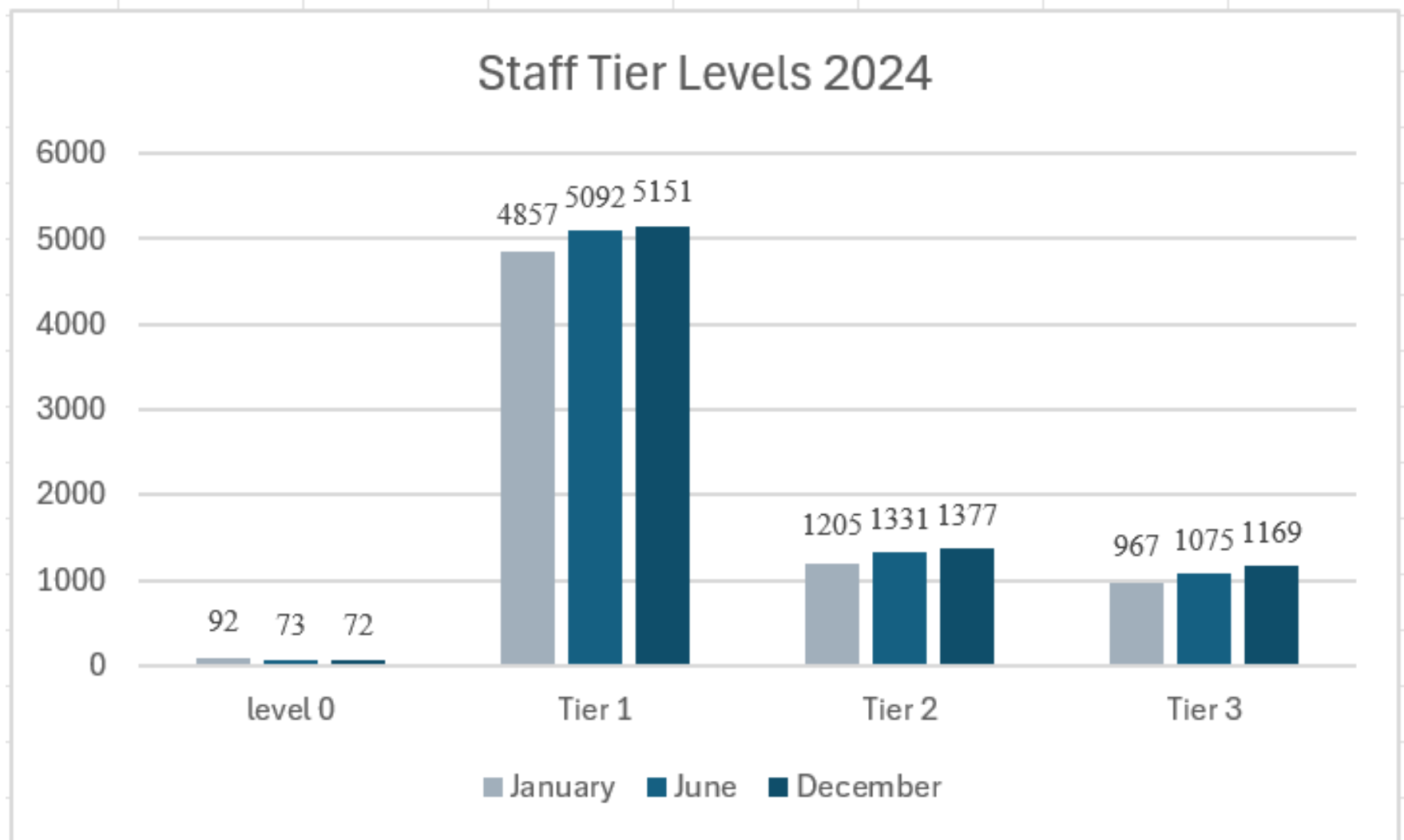
Total	Anticipated Slots	County	Number of Awards
\$1,143,400	563	Androscoggin	30
\$813,500	345	Aroostook	15
\$2,792,100	1574	Cumberland	53
\$737,900	193	Franklin	8
\$789,000	148	Hancock	7
\$1,494,900	740	Kennebec	35
\$234,100	88	Knox	6
\$425,500	66	Lincoln	4
\$844,500	349	Oxford	14
\$1,236,500	553	Penobscot	23
\$554,700	146	Piscataquis	6
\$344,600	73	Sagadahoc	6
\$524,000	305	Somerset	7
\$34,000	46	Waldo	4
\$674,100	134	Washington	6
\$1,635,100	851	York	34
\$14,277,900.00	6174		258



CHILDREN SERVED IN CCAP

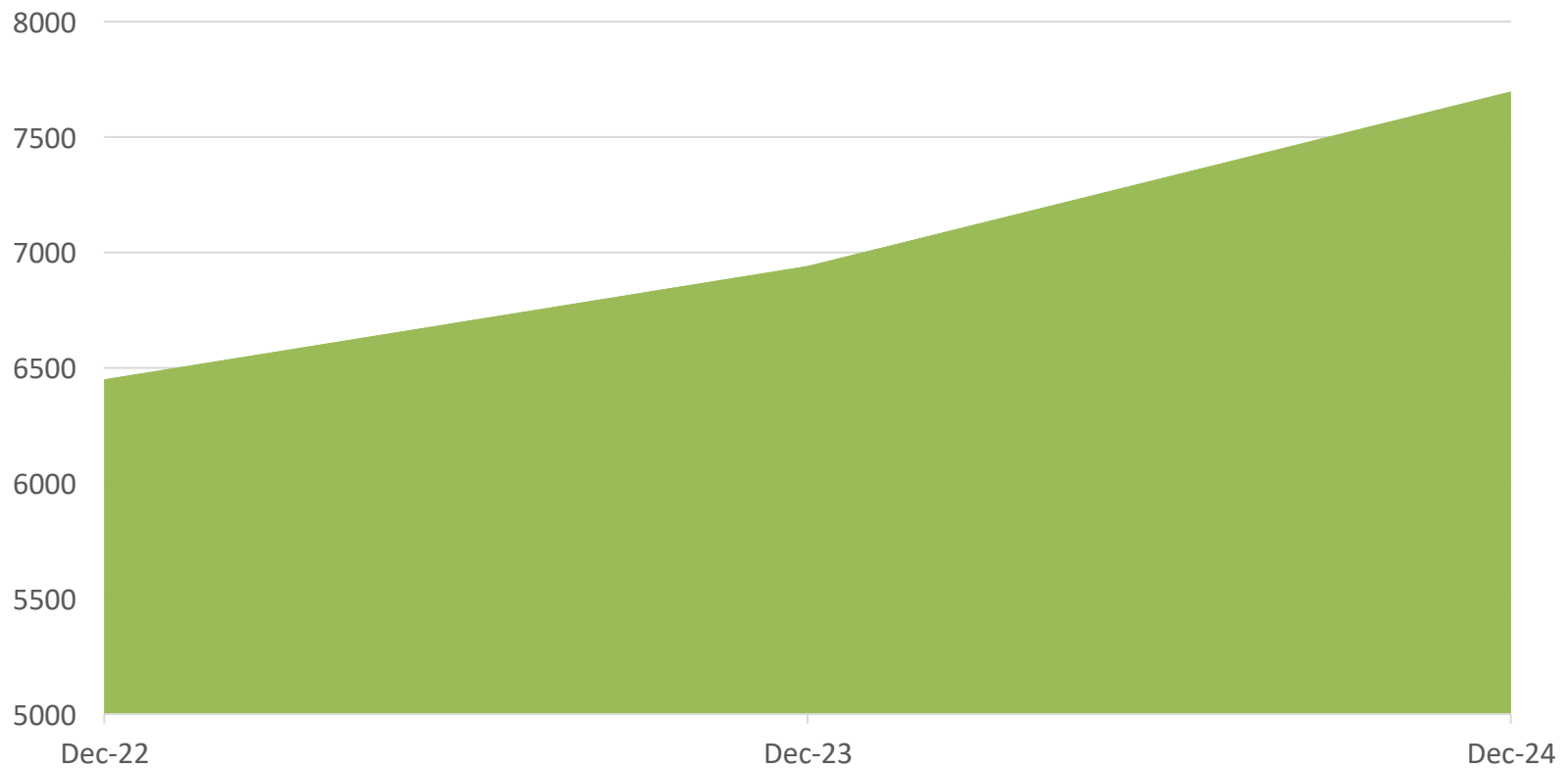


Early Childhood Educator Workforce Salary Supplement Program



Early Childhood Educator Workforce Salary Supplement Program

Salary Supplement Program
Number of Early Educators 2022-2024





Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Maine
ECCP®

Served:

- **1544** children
- **143** child care programs
- **459** teachers, assistant teachers, and providers
- **49** of the children had Child Welfare involvement

Consultations Provided:

- **137** child-specific
- **116** classroom and program

79% Classrooms
Improved in
CLASS Dimensions

100% children
not suspended
or expelled

2024 Help Me Grow Data

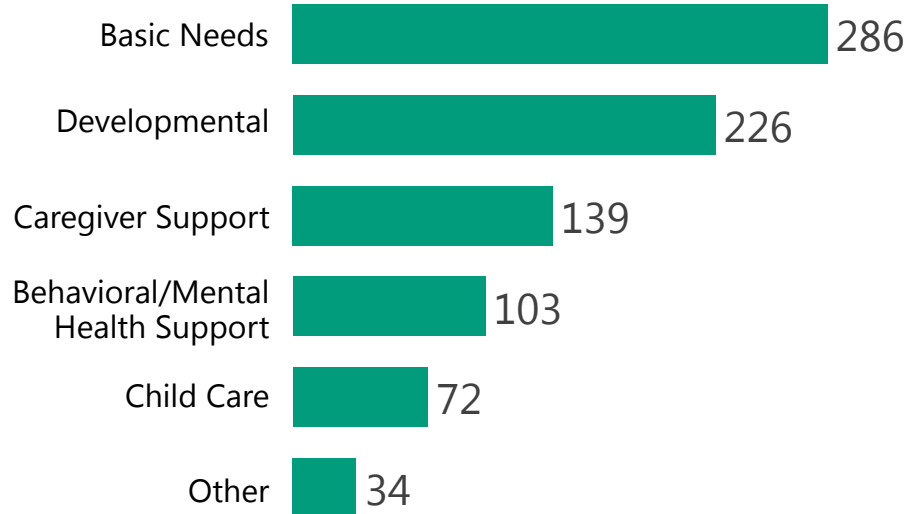


783 children
served



197 developmental
screenings

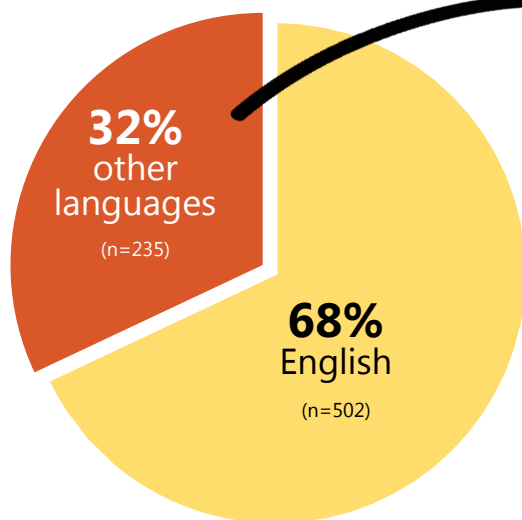
Reasons* for Contacting HMG Maine



*Categories are not mutually exclusive

Home Language

In nearly 1 in 3 HMG Maine cases*, the primary home language is not English.



*Cases with unknown primary home language have been excluded.

Most common non-English languages reported as the **primary home language**:

Lingala	115
French	32
Portuguese	30
Spanish	16
Kinyarwanda	12

2024 Barriers Identified



2024: 30 cases experienced a total of **147 referral service barrier(s)**

2023: 75 cases experienced a total of **274 referral service barrier(s)**

Most common barriers

2024

1. Cultural sensitivity/ language barrier (34%)
2. Eligibility (20%)
3. Provider unable/ unwilling (11%)

2023

1. Waitlist (27%)
2. Eligibility (16%)
3. Language barrier (12%)

Type of concern	Total concerns	Total referrals	Total referrals resulting in barriers	% of referrals resulting in barriers	Change from 2023
Child care	72	97	49	51% 	
Behavioral/ mental health	103	175	22	13%	
Basic needs	286	454	44	10%	
Developmental	226	203	15	7%	
Caregiver support	139	319	17	5%	

 Families contacting HMG for support accessing **child care** have the highest percentage of referrals resulting in barriers. **41% of referral barriers are eligibility barriers. These barriers were also present at the same high rate in 2023.**

Parent Ambassador Program



- **26** Parents currently participating in the two current core program cohorts: Portland and Lewiston / Auburn
- Core program cohort members attended over **150** hours of training, conference attendance, community of practice, advocacy activities, and community events during the 12 month intensive training
- **130** Parent Ambassador Alumni, with **35** of those alumni considered highly active in community and with local and state partners
- **12** Immigrant parents with children 0-8 participated in cohort one of the Parent Leadership Pilot
- Cohort two schedule for April / May 2025

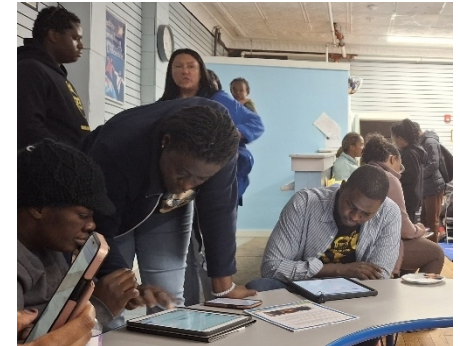


Core Program and Alumni



Parent Leader Pilot Cohort

- **22%** of First4ME providers have increased their quality level since beginning with the pilot project
- **576** children impacted by targeted quality program improvements
- **8** school district partnerships have formed to align kindergarten transition efforts to support families
- Two sites held Career with Kids workforce recruitment events in 2024



Photos from an onsite ASQ screening event in November with Help Me Grow at a First4ME Lewiston Auburn Provider. The event was conducted in four languages

“Our overall experience with the First4ME pilot program has been nothing but tremendous. The in person coaching and communication with our coach has dramatically increased the confidence and skills of our teaching team. The skills and confidence developed by the teaching team has been noticeable in day-to-day operation and curriculum development. It goes without saying that the additional funds to update learning materials and equipment has had a tremendous impact on the quality of the programming we can offer.” – **Child care provider leadership**

Preschool Development Grants

Maine Preschool Development Grant (PDG B-5)

A Systems Grant to Facilitate Support for Children from Birth through Elementary

PDG B-5 is a 3-year federal grant, \$8 million per year, from 2023-2025. PDG B-5 funds a large number of early childhood initiatives in Maine. The grant is implemented by a leadership team of five staff from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, and the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. The collaborative PDG work is bringing state offices and community groups and organizations together to make a positive impact in the lives of young children in Maine.

- Parent and Family Engagement
- Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce
- ECE Quality Improvement
- Inclusive Practices in ECE
- ECE Systems Collaboration and Coordination
- PDG B-5 Needs Assessment, Strategic Plan, and Evaluation

2024 Child Care Stability Grants

September 2024 – January 2025

Stability Grant

Total Amount Awarded \$5,600,00

Quality Bumps

Total Amount Awarded \$746,200



Child care directors and owners utilized the grant awards to support families, early childhood educators, and their program curriculum and materials.

2025 Next Steps

Highlights of 2025 Initiatives:

- Launch of the Baxter Child Care Management System
- Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP) Rule update to include new federal rules
- Support for child care programs through the transition of special education services from CDS to school districts (SAUs)
- Improved coordination of ECE consultation services between the Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP) Program, Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network (MRTQ PDN), First4ME, OCFS ECE program and workforce navigators, and Maine DOE Early Learning Team

Questions?

Tara Williams
Associate Director, Early Care and Education
tara.williams@maine.gov







To: Health and Human Services and Public Safety Committee

Anna Bullet, Chair

From: Ethan Hipple, Director

Date: January 15, 2025

Re: Public Restroom ARPA Funds Allocation

MEETING DATE

February 11, 2025

AGENDA ITEM

Public Restroom ARPA Funds Allocation

PURPOSE

Seeking Committee guidance on allocation of remaining \$200K of American Rescue Plan funding for Public Restrooms.

COMMITTEE WORK PLAN/CITY COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Since 2023, the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities (PRF) Department has installed 18 permanent public restrooms ("City Toilets") throughout Portland. PRF staff and a local metal fabricator developed an innovative design for these "City Toilets" that improves public safety, reduces installation costs, and increases equitable access to safe and clean public bathrooms.¹ Many of the models utilize below-ground vaults to collect waste that is pumped out at a later date, thereby reducing utilities installation costs and allowing for rapid expansion and installation into areas where need is the highest.

These facilities have been partly funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, allocated for this purpose by the Council. At that time, \$600,000 in ARPA funding was allocated toward the expansion of public restrooms in Portland; \$397,000 of these funds have been spent to date.

Staff have identified several potential uses for the remaining \$203,000 allocated for this purpose, and is seeking Committee guidance in order to move forward:

Option 1: Repair Spring Street Garage Restrooms

¹ All City Toilets meet accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They are not equipped with running water. Their simple design results in a low development and installation cost (approximately \$40,000), compared to a traditional brick-and-mortar restroom.

City Toilets include safety features such as solar-powered lighting and visibility gaps at the bottom of the walls for crime prevention and detection of people in distress. Units are sanitized and pressure-washed twice daily, and are stocked with paper products, hand sanitizer, and sharps collection boxes.

Under this option, the majority of the remaining ARPA funds (\$150,000) would be used to repair the existing Spring St Garage Restrooms. These have been out of service for several years due to plumbing and mechanical issues. When functional, these facilities are open approximately nine (9) months out of the year, due to exposed pipes.

Staff had originally intended to invest in these facilities to restore functionality and achieve compliance with federal accessibility standards. However, quotes received by staff to achieve ADA compliance increased project costs by over 100% (\$450,000), exceeding available funds.

With the estimated \$50,000 in funds remaining, staff would install one additional City Toilet at East End Beach. Porta potties are currently available at this location, which is one of the most highly-used restroom facilities in the City; the installation of a City Toilet here would achieve ADA compliance and improve operational efficiency as a result of increased collection capacity.

Option 2: Installation of Additional City Toilets

Under this option, approximately four (4) new City Toilets could be installed throughout the City. Locations would include the East End Beach, as well as others based on priorities that includes achieving ADA compliance, serving areas or populations with lack of public restroom access, and replacing inefficient or sub-standard existing porta potties.

Background

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no anticipated fiscal impact for construction of the facilities listed in this memo because we would be utilizing existing federal funds. In addition, ongoing maintenance of any new facilities created with this funding is not anticipated to exceed \$50,000 annually.

CONCLUSION(S)

Staff seek Committee guidance regarding the use of \$203,000 of remaining ARPA funds allocated to the expansion of public restrooms by the Council in YEAR.

Staff recommend restoring functionality to the Spring Street Garage restrooms (Option 1) despite accessibility challenges because it provides crucial restroom access in the Downtown District, which will serve a wide variety of residents, businesses, and unhoused people.

PRIOR COMMITTEE REVIEW

N/A

PREPARED BY

Ethan Hipple
Director
Parks, Recreation and Facilities

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Assistant City Manager
Executive Department

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A -- Photo of City Toilet

Attachment B -- Photos of Spring St Garage Restrooms







CITY OF PORTLAND

Increasing Public Restroom Availability

In a survey conducted by the City of Portland asking for input on how American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds should be distributed, funding for public restrooms was frequently mentioned as a “write in”. Increasing access to public restrooms was also identified as priority for elected officials. The availability of public restrooms has a wide reaching impact as it is important to public health as well as economic recovery in supporting patronage to shopping districts, public parks, and downtown areas. Any efforts to support public health, outdoor recreation, and economic recovery are eligible uses of ARPA funds.

City staff have been considering numerous ideas in increasing the number of public restrooms in key areas keeping in mind such things as safety, ADA accessibility, construction costs and maintenance, and year-round or seasonal use options. Staff will continue to explore all available options to maximize the \$600,000 in funds that have been allocated.

Plans, including location and types of bathrooms will be shared once City staff determine the best way to utilize funds in compliance with ARPA guidelines.



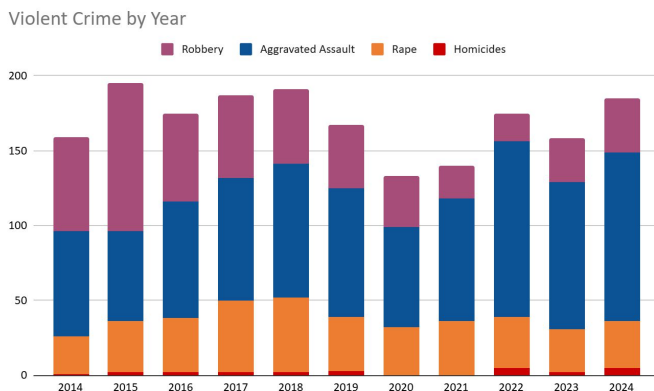
Health and Human Service / Public Safety Committee

*Public Safety Update
Portland Police Department*

February 11, 2025

Crime Trends and Analysis

Violent Crime by Year

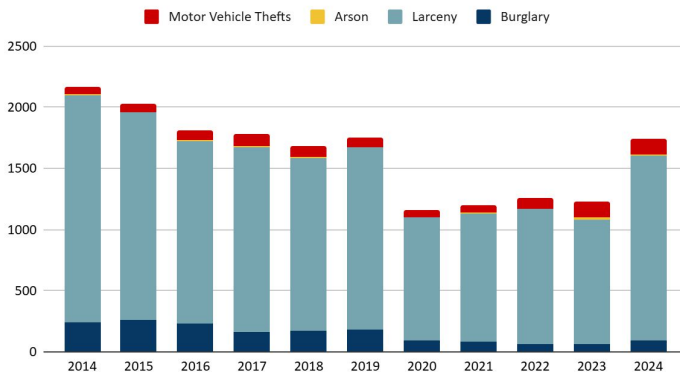


- 10% increase in violent crime from 2023 to 2024, and a 31% increase since 2020.
- Rise is largely attributed to growing gun violence over the past several years.
- Sexual assaults and robberies have remained consistent with the city's ten-year averages.
- 12 homicides in the last three years, matching the total number from 2014 to 2020.

Crime Trends and Analysis

Property Crime by Year

Property Crime by Year



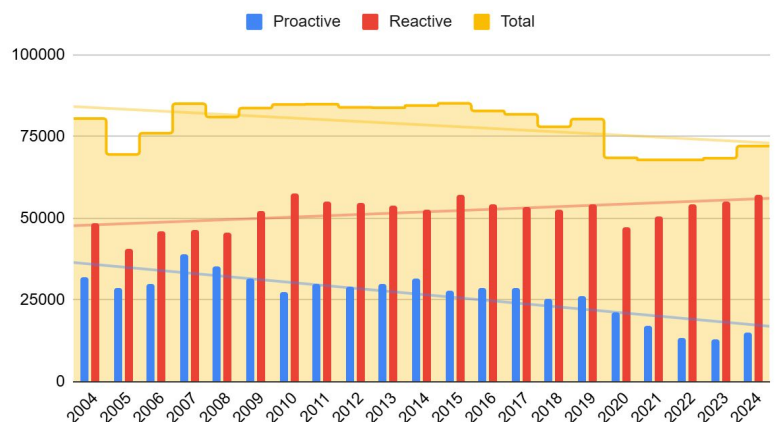
- 42% increase property crime from 2023 to 2024.
- Property crime rates are rising once again, returning to pre-pandemic levels.
- Motor vehicle thefts reached 127 in 2023 and 125 in 2024, the highest they've been in the past ten years.
- Larcenies have also risen to pre-COVID levels, partly due to increased access to online reporting, making it easier for incidents to be documented and tracked.

Crime Trends and Analysis: Calls for Service

Calls for Service (CFS) are broken down into Proactive and Reactive.

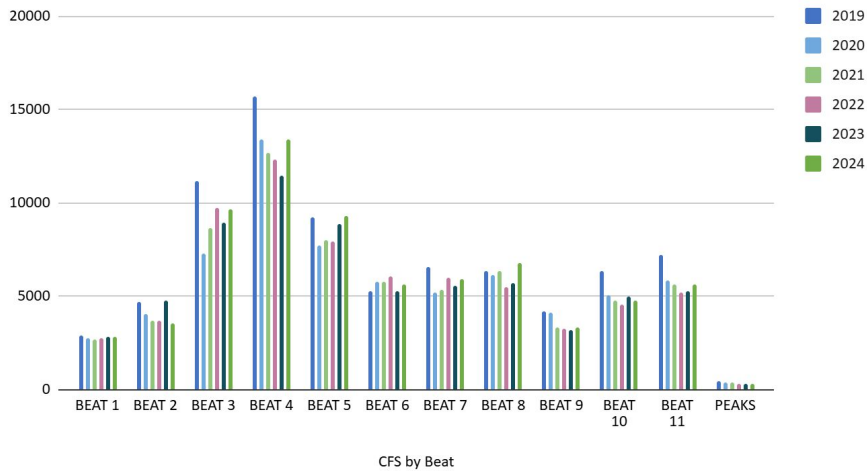
- **Reactive** - initiated by member of public usually via 911 or non-emergency line- this type of call has been generally increasing over the last 20 years.
- **Proactive** - Officer initiated engagements or actions have been declining since 2014 due mostly to reduced staffing.

Proactive vs Reactive CFS



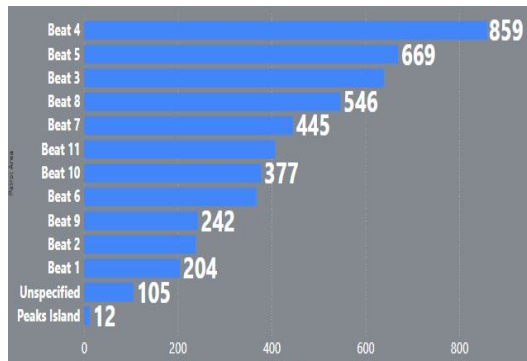
Crime Trends and Analysis - Calls for Service

CFS by Beat

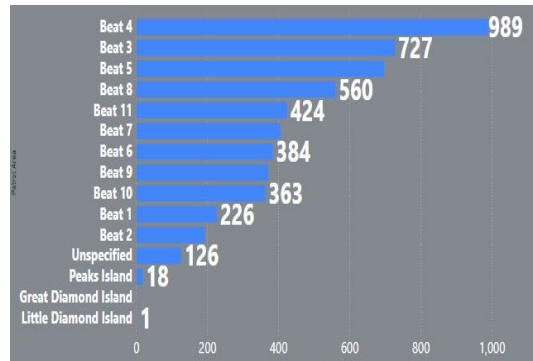


Calls For Service - Monthly Snapshot

January 2024



January 2025



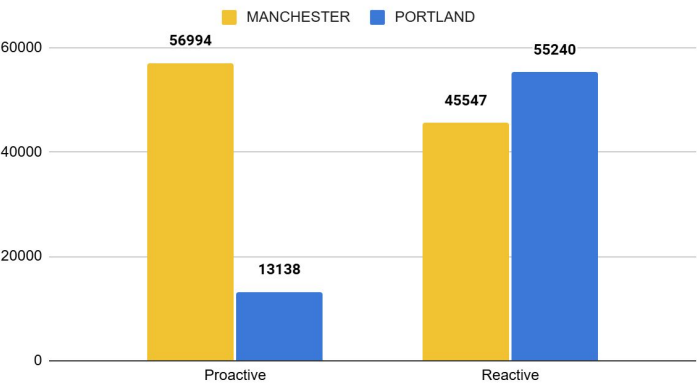
- Calls for service have increased 7% this January compared to last year.
- Beat 4 (Bayside) continues to have the highest call volume, followed by Beat 3 (Old Port) and Beat 5 (West End).
- The top 5 CFS (Jan 2025): Motor Vehicle Stops, Persons Bothering, Check Well Being, Burglar Alarm, and PD Crash.

Crime Trends and Analysis - Peer City Comparison

Calls for Service: Portland ME vs. Manchester, NH.

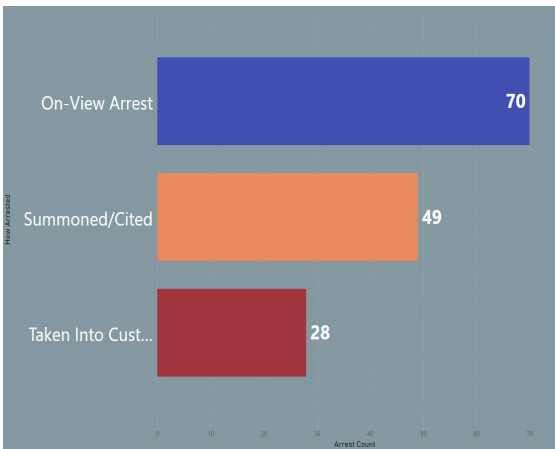
- **Manchester, NH** - 21% fewer reactive calls for service, but four times the amount of proactive calls.
- **Portland, ME** - reduced staffing has greatly impacted PDs ability to allocate resources toward proactive police initiatives such as traffic enforcement, hotspot policing, and targeted patrols.

2023 Calls For Service

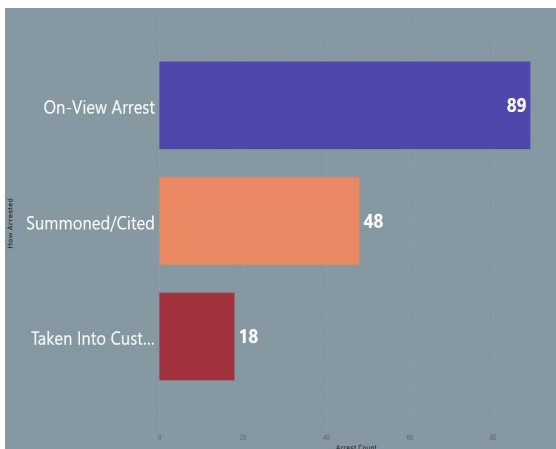


Arrests - Monthly Snapshot

January 2024



January 2025



Strategic Priorities & Department Initiatives

Performance Analysis and Resource Allocation

- **Crime Analyst in Residence (CAR)** - this will allow PPD to have interactive dashboards that update in real time with statistics across a variety of metrics.
- **Monthly Lieutenant Reports** - Lieutenants will be analyzing their team's performance every month and report it up the Chain of Command - helps us identify issues earlier.
- **Calls for Service (CFS) Analysis** - PD continually analyzes trends and adjust resources as necessary - new patrol schedule times were shifted to account for heavy call load times.
- **Special Deployments** - New weekday morning detail deployed to Arts District; additional beat officer in Bayside to help with CFS in the afternoons, early evenings to help with call volume.
- **Additional Data Sets/Analytics Under Development** - 911 Call Volumes & Response Times; Case Clearance Rates.

Strategic Priorities & Department Initiatives

Mitigating Staffing Shortages (**29 sworn officer vacancies out of 158 authorized/budgeted**)

- Volunteer overtime to augment understrength traffic enforcement/Crime Reduction Unit.
- Assigning Sergeant to focus on recruiting full-time in close coordination with Human Resources.
- Assigning a Lieutenant to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a Cadre - guarantees we receive a seat for every officer we need to send.
- Major King now a Board Member on the MCJA Board of Trustees and chairs the Complaint Review Committee.
- New Patrol Schedule effective January 2025 - more effective and efficient approach under reduced staffing conditions.



The Portland City Council established its 2025 Common Goals (included below) on December 16, 2024, formally communicating its policy priorities for the coming year and setting a foundation for the development of Council committees’ work plans.

The 2025 schedule currently includes 10 meetings for each committee, and the development of a single, original policy initiative typically takes two or three committee meetings. This includes conceptual discussion, review of a draft ordinance or other policy document, and a public hearing where the committee votes on whether or not to recommend that the City Council adopt the policy initiative. Based on those constraints, it is recommended that a committee work plan include no more than five original policy initiatives to start.

In addition to the development and consideration of original policy initiatives, committee work will also include consideration of items referred to a committee by the Council or brought by staff, as well as hosting panels or presentations as needed.

Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee
2025 Work Plan

Policy Initiative	Related Council Goal	Priority Ranking ¹
Discussion: 2025-2026 Warming/Cooling Shelter	#2	1
Addressing the Opioid Epidemic	#2	2
Childcare in Portland	N/A	3
Built for Zero	#2	4
Safe Streets	N/A	5
Elders and Emergency Preparedness	N/A	6
SPRINKLER STUFF	#2	7
POT/FOOD PREP	N/A	8

¹ Priority ranking determines the order in which the Committee will discuss the various initiatives. In the event that there is not enough time or resources to consider all of the Committee’s initiatives or a more urgent matter comes up, this ranking system can help the Committee decide how to reallocate its time.

2025 City Council Common Goals

1. The Council will work to expand DEI practices through equity analysis, living wage initiatives and improving involvement in decision making processes.
2. The Council will work to implement solutions to the housing crisis, including building more working class housing, improved support for the unhoused community such as an overdose prevention center as well as continued support for warming shelters. Additionally conduct independent assessment of Efficiencies, Outcomes and Expenditures.
3. The Council will develop sustainability strategies to address sea-level rise mitigation and storm surge management for the Commercial Street Corridor.
4. The Council will explore creating an Office of Community Engagement, create opportunities for participatory budgeting, and evaluate the structural effectiveness of Council committees.

Health & Human Services Committee 2025 Calendar
As of January 16, 2025. Dates and topics are subject to change.

January 14: 2025 Work Plan Development

- Presentation on overdose prevention centers working group
- Develop 2025 Work Plan
- Warming Shelter Update

February 11: Childcare

- The state of childcare in Portland
 - Panel Discussion (invitees TBD)
- Discussion re: ARPA funding for the expansion/improvement of public restrooms (*staff to seek Committee guidance on expenditures*)
- Public Safety Update
- Discussion: 2025-2026 Warming/Cooling Shelter

March 11: Childcare, continued

- Policy consideration re: the state of childcare
- Staff update re: Opioid Settlement Funds RFA
- Staff update re: Syringe Services Program
- Public Safety Update

April 8: Opioid Overdose Epidemic

- Presentation on “substance use disorder pre-release” programs (invitees TBD)
- Public Safety Data

May 13

- Staff update: Syringe Services Program
- Staff update: Charitable food distribution
- Discussion: “Built for Zero” (panel invitees TBD)
- Public Safety Update

June 10: Safe Streets

- Discussion re: investment in maintenance and installation of street lights
- Public Safety Update

July 8

- Discussion: Elder Residents and Emergency Preparedness
- Public Safety Update

August: No meeting

September 9

- Staff update re: Syringe Services Program
- Public Safety Update

October 14

- Sprinkler requirement for single family homes
- Public Department Update: Public Safety Data

November TBD

- TBD
- Public Safety Update

December: No meeting

DRAFT