



Maine Equal Justice  
People Policy Solutions

## Pass LD 1877 to move more Maine families beyond survival to long term economic stability!

An Act to Reduce the Number of Children Living in Deep Poverty in Maine will modernize Maine's TANF program, making it possible for more families to access job supports and increasing grant amounts to meet their needs.

Right now, one in every eight children in Maine lives in poverty (closer to one in five in rural counties). Families with TANF describe their lives as being like a constant 'survival mode' – a family of three receives just \$723 a month, the lowest TANF grant of any New England state.

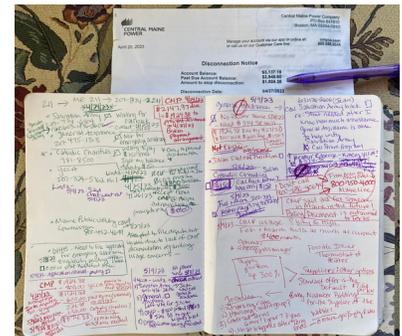
Maine parents and kids deserve a chance at long-term economic stability and opportunity. By increasing grant amounts and allowing more families with very low incomes to access TANF support, LD 1877 can significantly reduce child poverty.

When parents have enough food in the fridge, a safe place to call home, and can meet their kids' basic needs, they can focus more on training, education, and future goals. Their families' success has positive ripple effects in our schools, governments, and downtowns.

### Families on TANF need to be able to access supports to pursue education and workforce training:

To support parents finding and keeping a well-paying job, TANF provides education and workforce training, and helps with practical workforce needs such as childcare, car repairs, or dental care. LD 1877 would create a more streamlined process for DHHS to verify eligibility for support services, reducing administrative burdens and delays and maximizing accuracy.

Modernizing Maine's TANF program, bringing it in line with other states' approaches and current economic conditions, will ensure families have opportunities to meet their needs and their goals, strengthen our communities, and support our state's workforce goals. Support LD 1877!



### A little more support for families would go a long way

"This is all of the documentation of two weeks worth calls...looking for help to prevent the disconnection of my electricity.

Living in poverty is about trying to prioritize the immediate need. It's a juggling act of trying to pay rent so one can avoid becoming homeless; feeding your family so they can be healthy; keeping the power on so daily life isn't interrupted; not running out of heating oil so you don't have to use electric heaters and end up with a \$400 electric bill...and so much more." -**Genevieve, Kittery**