

2008 Legislative Mini-Forums Bridging Research & Policy in Maine

Under the auspices of the Legislative Council, these mini-forums are designed specifically for legislators to discuss critical issues with each other and researchers in an open, participatory environment. Topics were chosen in cooperation with Legislative Leadership and focus on a select set of key issues for this session.

The mini-forums will be held from **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** in the back room of **Cross Cafe** (coffee/refreshments at 7:30 a.m.). Each forum will begin with a short presentation followed by 45 minutes for questions and discussion.

January 31 **Investing in Economic Development: What, Where, How Much?**

Lead presenter: Ed Cervone, Maine Development Foundation (MDF)

MDF has conducted a detailed, comprehensive inventory of Maine's economic development programs. Come hear the recently released findings of how the State is investing over \$200 million to grow our economy!

February 6 **Getting a Handle on Maine's Prison and Jail Population**

Lead presenter: Mark Rubin, Muskie School of Public Service, USM

What are the factors influencing prison and jail census? Presenters will draw on state and national research to summarize the impact of the state's crime rate, pretrial practices, changes in sentencing, probation violation, and community evidence-based practices.

February 13 **Maine's Mental Health Approach in a National Context**

Lead presenter: David Lambert, Muskie School of Public Service, USM

Maine is implementing an Administrative Service Organization (ASO). What research has been done on the implementation and impact of ASOs and what does this point to as important focus areas for policymakers?

February 27 **What Drives MaineCare Costs?**

Lead presenter: Cathy McGuire, Muskie School of Public Service, USM

This session will look at MaineCare costs relative to a sample of comparison state Medicaid programs, and highlight some of the more significant cost drivers in Maine's program.

March 5 **Energy Alternatives and Policy**

Lead presenter: Jonathan Rubin, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, UMaine

This session will include an overview of alternative energy strategies and a discussion of their environmental and economic implications.

Maine Development
Foundation

Margaret Chase
Smith Policy Center,
University of Maine

Muskie School of
Public Service,
University of
Southern Maine

University of Maine
School of Law

Under the auspices of
the Maine Legislative
Council

With support from
Maine Community
Foundation

**Coffee & refreshments will be provided,
starting at 7:30 a.m.**