

60%  
by 2025



#### Partners

Educate Maine  
Finance Authority of Maine  
Maine Community  
College System  
Maine Development  
Foundation  
Maine State Chamber  
of Commerce  
University of Maine System

## OVERVIEW SHEET

### What is MaineSpark?

MaineSpark is a 10-year commitment from Maine's most influential education and business leaders to work together to ensure that Maine's workforce is productive and competitive. MaineSpark agencies connect people with the education, training, jobs, programs and resources needed to thrive in Maine's robust and changing economy. MaineSpark is powered by a coalition of organizations—schools and universities, nonprofits and foundations, government agencies and businesses—with a common goal: **by 2025, 60% of Mainers will hold the credentials of value that position Maine and its families for success.**

MaineSpark's efforts are grouped into four tracks, each offering and supporting programs and services for Mainers at all stages of life to reach their education and career goals.

### What is a credential of value?

MaineSpark defines a credential of value as "a recognized degree, diploma, certificate or certification awarded for an occupation that leads to further education and high quality employment."

### Why is MaineSpark important?

Maine has jobs—excellent jobs in growing industries. And Maine has workers—hard workers with dreams to fulfill. By working together, MaineSpark's team of organizations and services will best serve Mainers who are aspiring to gain access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to land the jobs they want.

### What is MaineSpark's mission?

MaineSpark's mission is to shed light on the current employee/employer mismatch; to close the gap between worker skills and industry needs by connecting people with programs that provide training and education resources and services; to increase the overall educational attainment of Maine's people; and to broaden the understanding that Maine is a state full of opportunities and a great place to live and work.

### Who is MaineSpark for?

MaineSpark links people in every stage of life, from every economic and educational background, and from every corner of the state and beyond who are pursuing their goals in this great state with member organizations that provide support and services. Whether you are preparing a child for a bright future, getting ready to start work toward or complete a degree or credential, looking to switch careers, or considering a move to Maine, MaineSpark can connect you to a network of beneficial resources.

To connect with  
MaineSpark, or to sign up  
for updates and news,  
go to: [MaineSpark.me](http://MaineSpark.me)

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## Tracks

MaineSpark's coalition members offer and support a wide range of services and resources aligned with the goals of its four tracks. Below are some highlights of the innovative programs offered.



Strong Foundations, for children  
from birth to 6th Grade

**Strong Foundations** wants all Maine's children to begin life with good educational opportunities and plenty of hope. MaineSpark can connect children to their futures through programs like the Harold Alfond College Challenge, which gives every Maine baby a \$500 start toward higher education costs, and Educare, a state-of-the-art early learning facility for low-income children in Central Maine.



Future Success, for students from 6th Grade  
through post-secondary education

**Future Success** prepares Maine's youth for college, trainings and career options so they are ready to launch successful adult lives. MaineSpark can connect young people to their futures through programs like JMG's Drop Out Recovery program, which counsels youth back into quality jobs and post-secondary enrollment, and the Island Institute's Island Fellows Program, which places recent college graduates in professional positions in Maine's year-round island communities.



Adult Promise, for adult learners looking  
to earn credentials or change careers

**Adult Promise** supports those looking to start or finish a degree or certificate, change careers or learn a new trade or skill. MaineSpark can connect Mainers to their futures through programs like the Finance Authority of Maine Lifetime Learning Kit, providing tools that adults need to get ready (and pay) for education beyond high school; and through the University of Maine System's Adult Degree Completion Scholarship.



New Opportunities, for professionals looking  
to move or begin new careers in Maine

**New Opportunities** contributes to workforce sustainability by attracting and retaining skilled professionals to live and work in Maine. MaineSpark can connect new and potential residents with the resources they need to thrive through programs like Live + Work in Maine's interactive job board, and the Opportunity Maine Tax Credit student loan reimbursement for college graduates.

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