



FIX the SYSTEM

www.FixWelfare.com

Freeing Maine families from welfare dependency

Maine's welfare system *undermines hard work* and traps parents and children in poverty. We must fix the system to free families from dependency through accountability and hard work.



THE PROBLEM:

Because of the Baldacci administration's policies, the number of people trapped in Maine's welfare system is skyrocketing.

- Between 2003 and 2010, welfare system enrollment grew 73% (from 226,000 to 391,000)
- Without reform, Maine will have more people on welfare by 2013 than are working in private sector jobs

Almost 1 in 3 Mainers is trapped in the welfare system.

- 30% of Maine's total population is on some form of welfare
- Maine ranks 2nd in the nation in percent of its population on Food Stamps, 2nd for TANF cash assistance, and 2nd for Medicaid

Maine's poverty rate is growing despite the welfare system's huge cost and size.

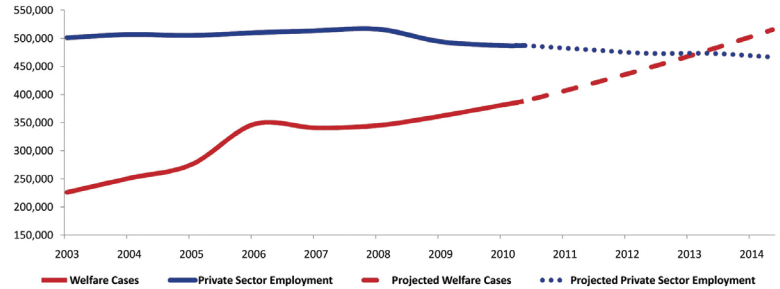
- Between 2001 and 2007, the portion of Mainers living in poverty grew from 10.3% to 10.9%

Maine spent \$2.506 billion on its welfare system in 2008 alone—more than it spent on:

- Attracting new jobs (\$47.6 million)
- K-12 public education (\$2.278 billion)



Individuals in the Welfare System versus Private Sector Job Growth, 2002-2014(Projected)



Sources: Maine Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services, Maine Heritage Policy Center

THE SOLUTION:

Focus aid on the truly needy.

- Tighten income eligibility requirements
- Eliminate handouts for drug felons and non-citizens

Define success as a new paycheck, not more welfare checks.

- Help people move toward work and self-sufficiency first, with welfare as a last resort
- Create real, enforceable work and job search requirements
- Establish clear and firm time limits

Overhaul Maine's welfare bureaucracy.

- Rename Maine's welfare bureaucracy from Office of Integrated Access and Support to *Maine EMPOWER* (Employing and Moving People Off Welfare and Encouraging Responsibility)
- Simplify and streamline the system in order to provide a clear path to self-sufficiency
- Set work and self-sufficiency goals for recipients, and report total results to taxpayers each month

Visit www.FixWelfare.com to sign the petition to fix Maine's welfare system, and learn more about Maine's dependency crisis.

