



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maine Cancer Foundation Awards \$1,572,000 in Grant Funding to Partners Across the State

Funding Targets Cancer Prevention, Screening, and Access to Care for Mainers

Falmouth, Maine - Maine Cancer Foundation (MCF) today announced its most recent funding awards totaling **\$1,572,000** to be distributed to twelve organizations throughout the state. Grant awards are given to Maine-based nonprofit organizations working to further the MCF mission to reduce cancer incidence and mortality in Maine. This round of funding supports patient navigation, HPV vaccination efforts, operational needs of selected partners, and a breast cancer detection diagnostic tool.

\$758,000 of the grants funds are allotted to 5 organizations across the state to underwrite 5 new Patient Navigator positions. Patient Navigators work individually with cancer patients and community members to help them access prevention information, appropriate screenings, and logistical support to access the best possible care. Organizations selected for Patient Navigator grants are:

- Bangor YMCA, Caring Connections Patient Navigator Program, **\$110,386**
- Central Maine Medical Center, Lung Screening Navigator, **\$164,000**
- MaineGeneral Medical Center, Navigators for Kennebec and Somerset Counties, **\$161,562**
- Mount Desert Island Hospital, New Patient Navigator Program, **\$161,614**
- Pen Bay Medical Center, Patient Navigator Program, **\$161,388**

MCF also allocated **\$264,000** to Maine Quality Counts to work with primary care practitioners to increase the HPV vaccination rates among Maine youth. Quality Counts, based in Manchester, Maine, is a regional health improvement collaborative that brings together people who give care, get care and pay for care to improve health care quality throughout Maine. This two-year project will increase HPV vaccination rates in 11-13-year-old girls and boys by implementing evidenced-based interventions through quality improvement strategies in eight primary care practices in Maine.



In addition, MCF is awarding **\$175,000** in operational grants to 5 organizations whose missions support MCF’s overarching goals of reducing cancer incidence and mortality in Maine, and who have demonstrated excellence in programming in the past. These grants are not tied to a specific project or outcome, but allow trusted partners to further their mission and reduce the burden of cancer on Mainers. Operational grant recipients include:

- Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center, Ellsworth, **\$15,000**
- Sarah’s House, Holden, **\$10,000**
- Healthy Acadia, Ellsworth and Machias, **\$50,000**
- Healthy Communities of the Capital Area, Augusta, **\$50,000**
- Healthy Community Coalition of Greater Franklin County, Farmington, **\$50,000**

Lastly, MCF is providing **\$375,000** in funding to University of New England in support of the work of Dr. Srinidi Mohan to advance his research into a blood test to detect a biomarker that indicates estrogen-negative cancer at extremely early stages. The two-year award will focus on developing a less-invasive, blood-based indicator for estrogen-negative breast tumors. Estrogen-negative breast cancer is an aggressive tumor with no readily available effective targeted therapy. Approximately 60,000 individuals are diagnosed each year in the United States, with young women and African Americans most at risk.

“We are proud to invest in such a broad array of programs working to prevent cancer in Mainers, and to help those who face a diagnosis receive the best possible care. We are fortunate to have so many trusted partners who will utilize these funds effectively and help further the MCF mission of reducing cancer in our state. We look forward to following their work and tracking their successes,” says Aysha Sheikh, Director of Programming at MCF.

ABOUT MAINE CANCER FOUNDATION:

Maine Cancer Foundation is dedicated to reducing cancer incidence and mortality rates in Maine. 100% of funds raised by the Foundation are used to benefit the people of Maine. MCF leads a state-wide effort to advance the most promising and effective cancer-fighting efforts available to the people of Maine through a combination of grant-based financial support and coalition building.

**For more information about Maine Cancer Foundation please visit www.maineccancer.org
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