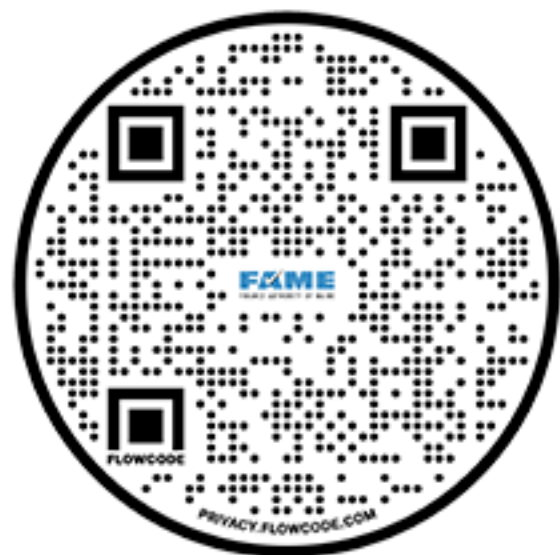


While you wait...

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Finance Authority of Maine



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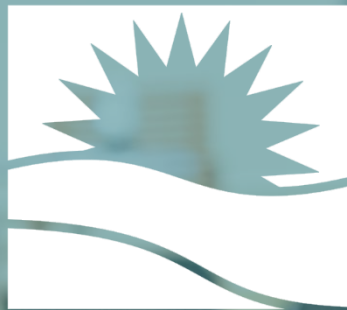
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Finding Funding for College Without the FAFSA

April 02, 2026

PRESENTED BY

Floreka Mananga, New Mainer Specialist



HAROLD ALFOND CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF **MAINE'S WORKFORCE**

Short-term workforce training through Maine's community colleges



70,505

MAINERS BY 2030

\$163 Million Investment in Maine's Future Over Five Years





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Short-term workforce training through Maine's community colleges

Stackable Workforce Training

Pre-Hire

Short-Term Training

Designed to equip underemployed individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to secure employment. Designed to meet the needs of regional employers and developed in collaboration with business and industry leaders. Short-term pre-hire training programs offer pathways into certificate and degree programs at Maine's community colleges.

Goal: 19,342 Students

Incumbent Worker

Professional Development

Maine employers can sometimes double their training budget for their frontline workforce. By joining the Compact, employers can access up to a \$1,200 match per employee per year to provide additional skills and knowledge to enhance their performance, advance their careers, and adapt to changing job requirements.

Goal: 43,721 Workers

Scholarships

For Continued Education

Enabling more Mainers to access opportunities to advance their education and careers. Alfond Center Scholarships provide 50% off two community college courses each semester for working Mainers starting or pursuing a certificate or a degree program. Students can access 4,000 courses statewide to customize their career pathway.

Goal: 7,442 Workers



HAROLD ALFOND CENTER
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
MAINE'S WORKFORCE

Short-term workforce training through Maine's community colleges

Offering short-term training programs designed to deliver the skills needed for today's workplace.

MAINE'S WORKFORCE

Join the Maine
Workforce
Development
Compact

The Harold Alfond Center provides Maine employers up to a

———— **\$1,200** ————

Match for professional development per front-line employee.*

**Employees must be Maine residents, 18 or older, with a high school diploma or equivalent.*



@alfondcenter

MCCSworks.com

HAROLD ALFOND CENTER
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
MAINE'S WORKFORCE

Short-term workforce training through Maine's community colleges



What Kind of Training?

Industry Specific Training

Example:

Financial services or compliance training for employees in banking

Role Specific Training

Example:

A LinkedIn advertising course for someone in marketing

Professional Development for Career Advancement

Example:

A medical assistant taking courses to earn a degree in nursing

Company Wide Training

Example:

A company wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training

Training Required for Certification or Licensure

Example:

CPR training for childcare employees





Rigor, Relevance, & Relationships



Michael Hale
Director of College,
Career, & Citizenship



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Resources for FAFSA-ineligible Students



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Mission

ProsperityME empowers refugee and immigrant communities to invest in themselves so they can build financial stability, careers, businesses, and wealth. We provide financial education and counseling to improve their quality of life.

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Programs At ProsperityME

Financial
Education

Job &
Business
Support

Higher
Education

Housing
Services

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~~Financial Aid~~ Education Affordability Act

Individual Development Account

\$1 for \$1
match up to
\$5000 Match

Education &
Business
Assets

3 months to 1
year

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Eligibility

- 18 years old and above
- First generation immigrant in the BIPOC community
- Income at 100%AMI or less
- Basic money management required

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Education asset

- Someone else can enter the program on behalf of the student
- The school needs to be in Maine and it must be accredited
- If 1 year of saving is chosen, student can withdraw two times to cover for two semester

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To Apply

- Fill out the Application
- Submit:
 - 2 paystubs (if you are paid bi-weekly)
 - Bank Statement
 - Tax Return
 - Household Budget

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For More Information

- Please join me on Zoom for an Information Session
- Dates
 - April 9th at 5:30 online
 - April 30th at 5:30pm online

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Presenter

- Amen Mibaraka
- IDA coordinator
- amibaraka@prosperityme.org
- Office: (207) 797-7890 ext. 111

prosperityme



Promise Scholarship Program

Equitable Scholarships for Equal Outcomes



Who We Serve:

The Promise Scholarship is designed to help underserved young achievers from Maine overcome financial, academic, social, and cultural barriers, remain in school, and graduate in four years with minimal debt – prepared to make their own contributions to Maine’s social and economic well-being.

Specifically, students are eligible who:

- are residents of Maine
- demonstrate financial need
- plan to enroll full-time
- are a first-generation college student
- demonstrate academic promise, and
- demonstrate commitment to community service and civic engagement



Follow us on Instagram @usmpromisescholars

Serving 100 Scholars

Promise Scholars come from all across Maine and are generally referred by partnering youth-serving organizations including:

- Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maine
- Camp Susan Curtis
- Make It Happen! Portland Public Schools
- Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute
- JMG
- TRIO Upward Bound
- 4-H Cooperative Extension

Among all Promise Scholars...

- 94% are first-year students
- 79% are first-generation college students
- 71% are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant
- 64% identify as female
- 54% identify as underrepresented minorities



More than a Scholarship.

The Promise Scholarship awards equitable, renewable, top-off scholarships that meet 100% of demonstrated need in covering the cost of tuition, fees, housing & meal expenses.

Additionally, scholars...

- Attend our Immersion Week Experience that occurs prior to the fall semester
- Meet with Promise Peer Leaders each month throughout their first year
- Receive extra support in advising, goal setting, and career & experiential learning opportunities
- Have access to a textbook library, emergency, and support funds



Since 2018, Promise has awarded over \$2.1 million dollars in direct student aid

Sense of Belonging & Connection

Students who feel integrated into their campus are significantly more likely to seek out tutoring, faculty office hours, and mental health services. More so, when scholars feel a sense of belonging they are more likely to take on campus leadership roles.

Scholars are integrated into campus life through some of our key, perennial events...

- Immersion Week
- FAFSA Help Nights
- First Gen Celebration
- The Path of Promise
- Grad & Gratitude Gala
- Maine Law Mock Trial
- National Black Pre-Law Conference
- Biomedical Science Careers Program





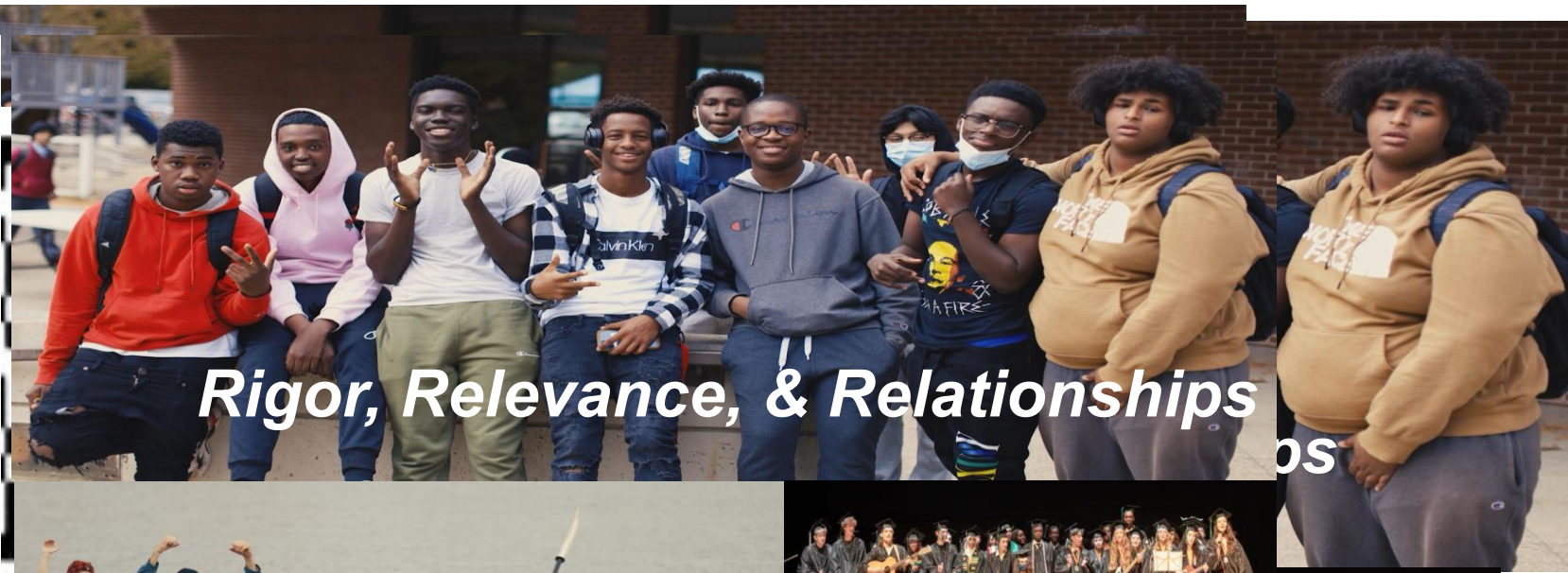
Promise Reaching New Heights!

The Promise Scholarship is built on a simple but transformative premise: when scholars are provided with adequate resources, the space to focus deeply on their academics, and a genuine sense of belonging and purpose, they don't just succeed—they thrive.

The Power of Promise:

- 92% or more of scholars return for their sophomore year for the last four years (+19.9%)
- 79% of scholars from the class of 2025 graduated within four years (+44.9%)
- 45% of scholars from the class of 2024 graduated within four years (+16.8%)

Questions? Contact daniel.barton@maine.edu



Rigor, Relevance, & Relationships



Resources for FAFSA-ineligible Students



Michael Hale
Director of College,
Career, & Citizenship





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New Mainers

What the New Mainers page provide?

- Getting Ready for College
- Paying for College
- Credential Evaluation
- Foreign Credentialing Grant Program
- Resources
- FAQ

Not sure if you are eligible to FAFSA?



FREE COLLEGE IS HERE!

High school graduates from the classes of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 qualify for a Free College Scholarship at any of the seven community colleges across Maine.

[Learn More](#)

Need Help?

Contact Floreka Mananga

New Mainer Specialist

(207) 620-3530

[Email Floreka](#)



Not sure if you're eligible?

If you're not sure of your eligibility, you can use our interactive eligibility questionnaire to help you determine your status:

Interactive Eligibility Questionnaire:

1.) Are you a US Citizen?

- Yes
 No

You indicated you are not a U.S. citizen, but you may be an eligible noncitizen. We'll ask a few more questions to help you find out.

2.) Are you a U.S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swains Island)?

- Yes
 No

3.) Are you a U.S. permanent resident with a Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C (Permanent Resident Card, Resident Alien Card, or Alien Registration Receipt Card), also known as a "green card"?

[View examples](#)

- Yes
 No

4.) Do you have an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing one of the following statuses?

Refugee
Asylum granted
Cuban-Haitian Entrant
"Conditional Entrant" (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)

Eligible

- U.S. Citizen
- Eligible Non -Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Asylum Granted

Not Eligible

- Undocumented individuals
- International Students
- Asylum seekers

Who's Eligible



Sample Identification Cards

Permanent Resident – Known as the Green Card

The **Permanent Resident** or **Green Card** is an identification card indicating the holder's status to live and work in the USA permanently.



I-94

The Arrival and Departure Record is the I-94, in either paper or electronic format, issued by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer to foreign visitors entering the United States. After April 30, 2013, most Arrival and /or Departure records will be created electronically upon arrival.



Work Permit

An Employment **Authorization** Document (**work permit**), or. An employment-related visa which allows you to **work** for a particular employer.



- <https://www.famemaine.com/newmainers>



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Helpful Tools

- Determining Eligibility for Federal Student Aid
- Tracking Status of Immigration Application
- Paying for Higher Education Video
- Scholarships for New Mainers

Not sure if you're eligible?

If you're not sure of your eligibility, you can use our interactive eligibility questionnaire to help you determine your status:

Interactive Eligibility Questionnaire:

1.) Are you a US Citizen?

- Yes
- No

Track Your Case Status Online

Are you waiting to hear back about your case status? You can track the status of an immigration application, petition, or request with the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services' [online case status tool](#).

VIDEO: Paying for Higher Education for New Mainers



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Are you a new Mainer wondering how you'll pay for your higher education? This video will tell you what you need to know, guide you through options for paying for college, and help you navigate the New Mainers section of the FAME website.



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Questions?



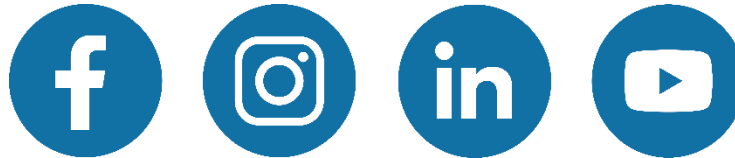
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Thank you for joining us today!

Find more FREE resources and information at

FAMEmaine.com/education.

Follow Us:



Contact Us:

Education@FAMEmaine.com

PH: 207-623-3263 or 800-228-3734

TTY: 207-626-2717