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Poverty in Maine

Despite decades of concerted federal, state, local, and private effort, poverty persists in Maine and many parts of the nation. Ann Acheson updates the profile of poverty in Maine, examining recent trends and the nature of regional disparities. She concludes with a brief overview of current policies and programs.

Ann W. Acheson 12

THE FUTURE OF MAINECARE

The state's Medicaid program, called MaineCare, provides health care coverage to one in five of the state's citizens. Paul Saucier raises key questions regarding MaineCare's mission, complexity, and financial stability. Commentaries critique reform efforts in other states and stress MaineCare's role in the Maine's health care system (Lisa Pohlmann and Christine Hastedt) and look at MaineCare from the providers' point of view (Erik Steele).

Taking a New Look at MaineCare

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State Earned Income Tax Credits and "Making Work Pay": How Maine Might Help Workers

Since the mid-1990s, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has been the nation's largest anti-poverty program for citizens under 65. Glenn Beamer gives a brief overview of how the program works and how states have piggybacked on the federal EITC to further assist their working poor. He suggests that expanding Maine's EITC would direct resources to parts of the state that are struggling economically.

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You Don't Always Get What You Want: Lessons to Be Learned from the Demise of Maine's Local Assessment System

Rebecca Berger looks retrospectively at how the problems associated with implementing Maine's local assessment system (LAS) were caused by a lack of understanding of important aspects of assessment. As the state considers future standards-based reform efforts, she raises three concerns: lack of capacity at state and local levels to implement change; problems related to alignment between curricula and assessments; and competing priorities among current federal/state reforms.

Rebecca H. Berger 54

Nature-based Tourism in Maine: The State's Role in Promoting a Strong Tourism Industry

Many would argue that Maine's tourism industry has not fully realized its potential to enhance the well-being and sustainability of communities, particularly through high-quality, nature-based experiences that leverage Maine's extraordinary landscapes, wilderness, and rural culture. Based on Elizabeth Munding's interviews with tourism stakeholders, Munding and John Daigle suggest that the state plays a key role in realizing this potential.

Elizabeth Munding and John J. Daigle 66