



2025

MAINE AAP

Year End Summary

From our President, Vice President and Executive Director

In 2025, we steered Maine AAP through constant change in public health directives on the state and national level by remaining dedicated to strong advocacy for children's health and support for the pediatricians who care for their patients and families.

We strengthened our role as a leading voice for child health to speak up for evidence-based, science backed public health initiatives. A major milestone was the success of Maine's Gun Safety Coalition in helping pass the red flag referendum. Maine AAP members contributed clinical perspective, public education, and advocacy.

Our professional sustainability committee examined workforce strain and inadequate reimbursement as reasons for the healthcare workforce shortage in the state, particularly in rural Maine. Our work on payment reform and system-level solutions will ensure pediatric practices remain viable and children continue to receive care close to home.

Organizationally, we made steady progress implementing our strategic plan, aligning board, committee, and staff efforts around our priorities of provider wellness, healthy mental development, substance use prevention and treatment, and health access and community engagement.

We continue to lead advocacy, committee work, and partnerships across the state with the energy and diligence of our incredible Board, volunteers, committee members, and partners.

Together, we remain focused on our mission: to improve the lives of children and adolescents in Maine. Thank you to all who helped support and move our work forward in 2025.

Brian Youth, MD, President
Anne Coates, MD, Vice President &
Dee Kerry, Executive Director



Introduction to Maine AAP

Our Work

The Maine AAP is a membership organization of pediatricians and subspecialists who are dedicated to fulfilling the Chapter's mission: to improve the lives of children and adolescents in Maine.

- We believe all children and adolescents deserve access to quality mental and physical health care.
- We believe that pediatricians must provide leadership in promoting excellence in health care for children and adolescents.
- We believe in advocacy for the well-being of children and adolescents, their caregivers, and other adults important in their lives.
- We believe that maximizing the health and wellness of children and adolescents is a sound investment in the future of families and communities.

Our Committees

- Advocacy & Legislation
- Career/Leadership/Engagement
- Conference & Education
- Executive/Nominating
- Foster Care
- Gun Safety
- Healthy Mental Development
- Professional Sustainability
- Environmental Health & Climate Change
- School Health

2025 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Brian Youth, MD, FAAP – President, Co-chair, Environmental Health & Climate Change Committee
Anne C. Coates, MD, FAAP – Vice President, Co-chair, Career, Leadership, Engagement Committee
Genevieve Whiting, MD, FAAP – Secretary, Co-chair, Professional Sustainability Committee
Jeffrey Stone, DO, FAAP – Treasurer
Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP – Immediate Past President

Board Members

Joseph Anderson, DO, FAAP – Chair, Advocacy Committee
Rebecca Brakeley, MD, FAAP – Co-chair, Professional Development Committee
Amy Buczkowski, MD, FAAP
Melissa Burch, MD, FAAP – Co-chair, Gun Safety Committee
Adrienne Carmack, MD, FAAP
Gabriel Civiello, MD, FAAP
Alyssa Goodwin, MD, FAAP – Chair, School Health Committee
Deborah Q. Hagler, MD, MPH, FAAP – Co-chair, Healthy Mental Development Committee
Dan Hale, MD, FAAP
Jennifer Jewell, MD, MS, FAAP – Co-chair, Education/Conference Committee
Stephanie Joy, MD, FAAP – Co-chair, Education/Conference Committee
Emily Keller, MD, FAAP
Alton Kremer, MD, PhD, FAAP – Co-chair, Career, Leadership, Engagement Committee
Michele LaBotz, MD, FAAP
Lawrence Losey, MD, FAAP
Christopher Motyl, DO, FAAP
Valerie O'Hara, DO, FAAP
Andrea Tracy, MD, FAAP – Co-chair, Foster Care Committee
Lara Walsh, MD, FAAP
Margaret Zamboni, DO, FAAP

Resident Board Members

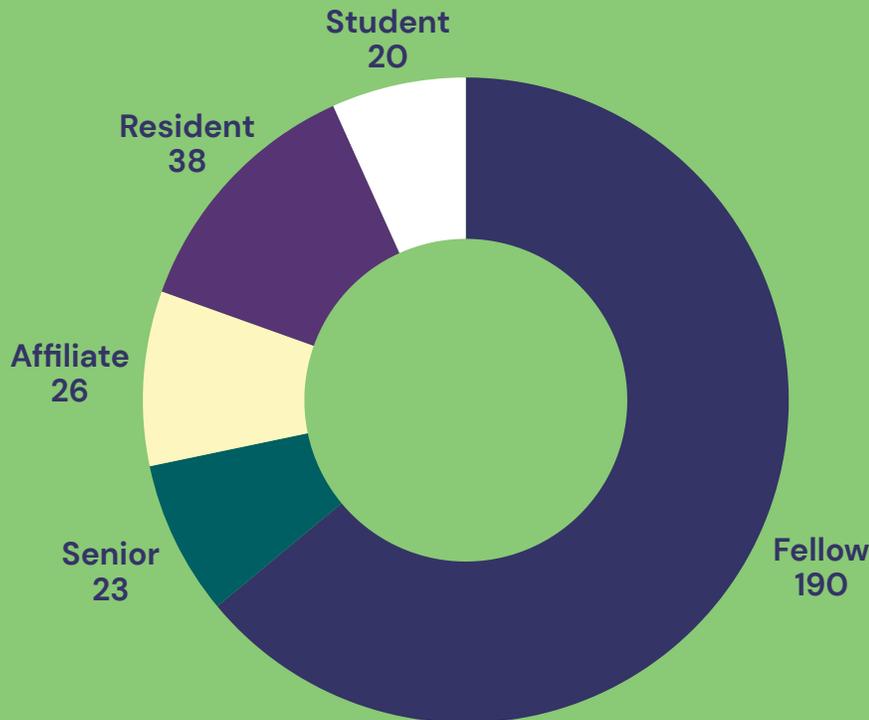
Allison Grover, MD
Calvin Schaffer, MD

Student Board Members

Afnan Yahya, UNE COM
Sophia Martens, Tufts MaineTrack



Chapter Membership



In 2025, our membership held at

297

members.

Our membership represents:

All major hospital systems in Maine.

All 16 Counties in Maine.

The Chapter supports the achievement of our mission and success of our members by:

- Providing members with the best tools, skills and knowledge to remain the best qualified health professionals who deliver care to infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Participating in forums in which issues of importance to children and pediatricians are addressed.
- Working with individuals, government, and non-governmental organizations to secure access to and delivery of high quality care in a medical home for all children.
- Monitoring the effect of changes to the health care delivery system on children and pediatricians.
- Providing opportunities for members to get involved in committees, programs and initiatives at national AAP.

Serving our Members

Maine AAP remains active across nearly every domain of pediatric health:

- Gun safety initiatives
- Immunizations
- Substance use prevention and treatment
- Oral health
- Foster care
- School health
- Environmental health
- LGBTQ+ health
- Healthcare equity and access initiatives

Maine AAP's committees, Board, and network mobilize expertise quickly to advocate for improved children's health.

3 full-time employees and contract employees

Our team includes:

Dee Kerry, Executive Director

Emily Belanger, Education & Membership Manager

Madeleine DesFosses, Advocacy & Public Health Manager

Lizzy Garnatz, Healthy Mental Development Manager

Tiffany Harrington, Development Director

Cindy Park, Bookkeeper

In 2025, we awarded

1,885

continuing medical education (CME)

hours to

428

learners.

Advocating for our Community

In 2025, the Maine AAP tracked 90 bills, and 113 testimonies were submitted on the our behalf, helping to pass the following bills into law.

Gun Safety Legislation

- LD 1126, An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms
- LD 1378, An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act (*Citizen Referendum*)

Infant Health Legislation

- LD 865, An Act to Require MaineCare to reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons
- LD 1523, An Act to Improve Perinatal Care Through Expanded Access to Doula Services

Minor Privacy Legislation

- LD 1945, An Act to Clarify Data Collection Processes in Health Care Facilities
- LD 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action

Substance Use Legislation

- LD 166, An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies and Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies
- LD 1938, Act Regarding the Regulation of Tobacco

Our 2027 advocacy priorities seek to:

- **Ensure safe storage of firearms to prevent injuries & deaths.**
- **Prevent accidental cannabis ingestions.**
- **Improve access to mental and behavioral health care.**

Together with our members & partners, we look forward to continuing our advocacy work to help make Maine a safer & healthier place for kids.

2024
-
2028

4-Year Strategic Priorities

The Maine AAP's 2024–2028 Strategic Plan outlines key priorities to advance pediatric healthcare in Maine.

The plan focuses on four strategic areas:

- **Provider Wellness**
- **Healthy Mental Development**
- **Substance Use**
- **Health Access & Community Engagement**

These priorities guide the organization's efforts to support pediatric providers, address mental and behavioral health needs, improve substance use screening and treatment, and ensure equitable access to healthcare for all children and families in Maine.

Readers appreciate
accurate information

2024–2028 Strategic Priorities

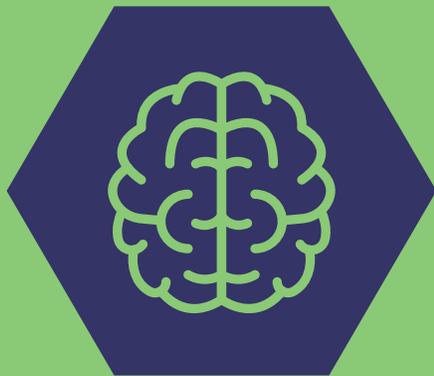


Provider Wellness

We are investing in Maine’s pediatric workforce to ensure pediatric healthcare workers have the support, resources, and financial security to sustain their careers. We are addressing the healthcare shortage in our state by prioritizing our healthcare providers’ mental and financial wellbeing.

Substance Use Prevention

We are advancing early identification, education, and treatment of substance use affecting Maine’s children, teens, and families, from prenatal exposure through adolescence. By working with partners statewide, we aim to provide rapid, accessible, coordinated care for youth and families affected by substance use.



Healthy Mental Development

We are strengthening collaboration between primary care providers, specialists, schools, and families and expanding behavioral health resources to improve mental health access and outcomes for children, including those with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Health Access & Community Engagement

We are addressing barriers to healthcare and engaging directly with community voices most affected by health care barriers to ensure families have access to accurate health information, quality treatment, and access to services.



Clinical Expertise and Actionable Data from HMD Committee

Maine AAP strengthened its leadership in youth mental health with the creation of the Healthy Mental Development Committee, which led to the launch of the Access to Youth Mental Health report.

The Healthy Mental Development Committee brings together developmental pediatricians, primary care clinicians, and child and adolescent psychiatrists to address escalating mental health needs across Maine.

By late 2025, the committee developed a structured “Office Hours” consultation model for primary care providers. The program offers a forum for non-patient-specific case consultation, expert guidance, peer discussion, and streamlined referral pathways with the goal of faster support and stronger coordination of care.

Maine AAP launched the Mental Health Access Initiative to consolidate data from multiple sources for objective indicators of children’s behavioral health access across the state.

By pairing clinical expertise with data that had never been analyzed collectively, Maine AAP has positioned itself to identify pain points in mental health care delivery, inform policymakers with credible evidence for system changes, and advocate effectively to increase children’s access to behavioral health care.

The first report, released in early January 2026, has a wealth of information to point policy makers and providers toward behavioral health access solutions, especially in rural areas struggling with workforce shortages. [Read the full report.](#)



Expanding Vaccine Education Through Strategic Outreach

In fall 2025, Maine AAP and the Maine Immunization Coalition delivered evidence-based vaccine information at three statewide conferences:

- Maine Public Health Association Annual Conference
- Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition Conference
- Maine Primary Care Association Conference

These events engaged diverse provider audiences, including public health professionals, lactation specialists, and primary care teams.

Providers shared real-time challenges related to vaccine communication, and hesitancy. The feedback is informing Maine AAP's future vaccine education strategy to align materials with frontline clinical realities.

Additionally, a targeted digital audio campaign featuring 30-second ads, each voiced by a Maine pediatrician and focused on RSV, COVID-19, or influenza vaccination, streamed on Spotify to Maine listeners ages 25 to 44, a demographic likely to include parents of young children. To date:

- 54,713 Maine listeners reached
- 84,109 total audio impressions
- 35 direct clicks to linked vaccine info at [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.HealthyChildren.org), directing them to trusted, evidence-based information.

Maine AAP remains committed to providing accurate health information delivered by trusted pediatric voices.



First-Ever School Health Summit Brings Together Nurses and DOE

In October 2025, Maine AAP joined forces with the Maine Association of School Nurses and the Maine Department of Education to host the first School Health Summit, marking a major milestone in collaboration between pediatricians, school health professionals, and education leaders across the state.

Held over two days, with networking and kickoff sessions on October 24 followed by a full day of learning on October 25, the Summit brought together physicians, nurses, administrators, EMS professionals,

and public health experts to build shared understanding and action around school health priorities. Numerous pediatricians attended the event which will now be held biennially.

The agenda covered a broad range of topics that reflect the complexity of promoting health and wellness in school settings including:

- Whole-child education and the link between physical health and academic success
- School health as public health practice
- Innovations in communication between schools and medical homes using the AAP Bidirectional Consent Toolkit
- Emerging issues such as appearance and performance enhancing substances among youth
- Emergency preparedness and safety planning
- Climate change impacts on child health and strategies for student engagement outdoors
- Concussion management best practices tailored to schools

The Summit moved beyond conversation to practical coordination between pediatricians, school nurses, educators, and public health leaders.

As Maine's first dedicated statewide convening focused exclusively on school health, Maine AAP hopes to continue the collaboration in the future.



Community Action to Prevent Firearm Injury

Celebrating Leaders in Pediatric Health

In August 2025, Maine AAP members Joe Anderson, DO and Erin Van Wagenen, MD participated in Lewiston Night Out, a community safety event organized by the Lewiston Police Department in collaboration with the Maine Gun Safety Coalition.

More than 150 firearm lock boxes were distributed to families with children in the home, providing a practical tool to reduce accidental shootings and youth suicide risk. Lockboxes are one of the most effective ways for families to secure firearms to avoid accidental death or injury as well as teen suicide.

Both physicians practice at Central Maine Medical Center and engaged directly with families about safe storage, reinforcing that firearm injury prevention is a pediatric health issue.

Dr. Anderson, Maine AAP's Advocacy Chair and a founder of Maine Providers for Gun Safety following the October 2023 Lewiston tragedy, continues to advocate for firearm safety as a public health priority. Community-based distribution events like this complement Maine AAP's gun safety project such as legislative advocacy to strengthen firearm safety policy, provider education on lethal means counseling, and integration of safe storage conversations into pediatric care.

By pairing policy advocacy with direct community engagement, Maine AAP is working at multiple levels to keep kids in Maine safe. We look forward to continuing gun safety work in 2026.

Maine AAP Board Members Recognized for Contributions

Maine AAP is proud to recognize two Board members who received national awards for their contributions to child health.

Michele LaBotz, MD, FAAP, received the 2025 Thomas E. Shaffer Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness. This national award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to pediatric sports medicine through leadership, scholarship, and excellence in education.

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP received the 2025 American Camp Association National Service Award. The award recognizes sustained service and leadership at the national level. Dr. Blaisdell serves as Chief Medical Officer for SeriousFun Children's Network, where she helps advance best practices in camp health and safety.

We congratulate Dr. LaBotz and Dr. Blaisdell on these well-deserved honors and thank them for their continued leadership and dedication to Maine children and families.



Photo: Drs. Anderson and Van Wagenen distribute firearm lock boxes in Lewiston.

2025 Maine AAP Spring Conference Makes Statewide Connections

Maine AAP welcomed 170 attendees to the 2025 Annual Spring Conference at the Samoset Resort, bringing together pediatricians, trainees, and child health professionals from across the state for education and collaboration.

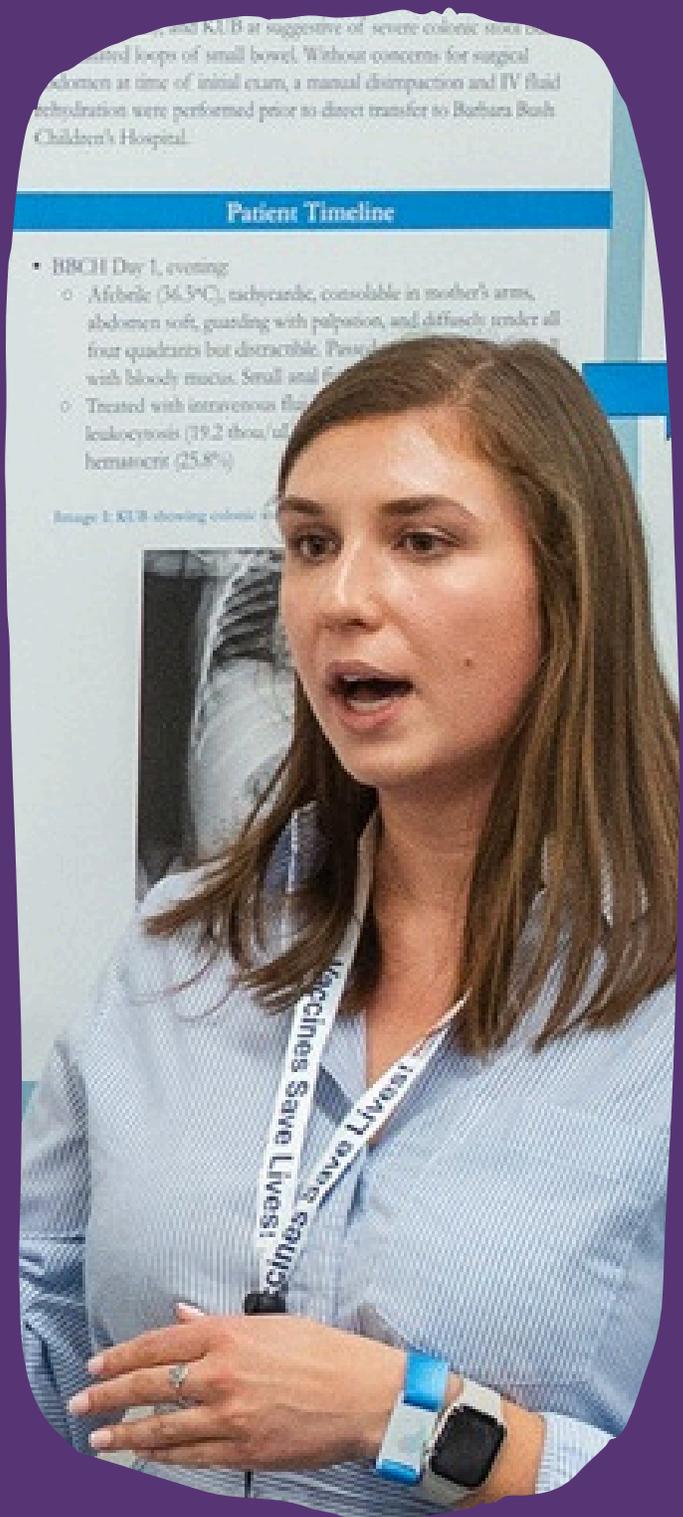
Sessions explored topics including the brain-gut connection, emerging screening opportunities for pre-clinical type 1 diabetes, long-term care for survivors of childhood cancer, and practical implementation of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) in pediatric primary care.

The weekend also highlighted the strength of Maine's pediatric community. Residents, medical students, and clinicians presented academic posters and participated in pre-conference training through Operation Access: Diagnosing Autism in the Medical Home. Families were welcomed as well, with a dedicated children's play space and informal networking opportunities throughout the weekend.

During the Awards Ceremony, Maine AAP recognized several leaders for their contributions to child health:

- Legislator of the Year: Annie Graham
- Child Health Advocate of the Year: Marc Minkler
- Jan Pelletier Resident of the Year: Calvin Schaffer, MD

The conference remains one of the Chapter's most important opportunities each year for continuing education, professional connection, and celebrating the shared commitment of Maine's pediatric community to improving the lives of children and families.



Resident poster presentations are a highlight of the conference and connects residents with seasoned pediatricians. Emma Freeman, MD, presents her poster.

Maine AAP in Action Statewide

Convening vaccine leaders statewide

We are the administrative home for the **Maine Immunization Coalition (MIC)**, supporting statewide efforts to improve vaccine education and advocacy. MIC hosted a strategic planning session and began restructuring its membership model to expand engagement in the state and launch immunization education campaigns. Learn more [here](#).

Expanding access to preventive oral health care

Maine AAP participates in a statewide initiative to increase access to non-invasive oral health treatments such as fluoride varnish and silver diamine fluoride (SDF) in primary care offices. Through a partnership with the Maine Children's Oral Health Network (COHN), the Chapter is also helping integrate oral health screening into foster care intake exams and exploring teledentistry and clinic partnerships to improve dental care access for youth in the foster system with the **Oral Health in Foster Care project**.

Developing tools to serve children in foster care

With support from the Maine DHHS Office of Child and Family Services, Maine AAP is creating two practical toolkits for pediatric providers serving children in foster care: A **Foster Care Comprehensive Intake Protocol Toolkit** to help practices expand capacity for intake exams, and a **Psychotropic Medication Prescribing Toolkit** to support safe and informed medication management.

Connecting youth to substance use treatment

Maine AAP partners with Day One to manage **TREAT ME Now**, a low-barrier rapid assessment system that connects youth to substance use treatment and coordinates care with primary care practices. Learn more [here](#).

Supporting pediatric emergency readiness

We host and manage the statewide **Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator** website and collaborates with hospitals across the state through quarterly meetings and recognition efforts for facilities achieving Always Ready for Children status. Learn more [here](#).

THANK YOU to our 2025 Donors, Sponsors, and Partners!

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Maine AAP operates on a small budget of just over \$400,000 a year, of which 90% is dedicated to directly supporting our programs and advocacy work. A significant portion of our yearly budget is supported by grants, sponsors, and donors. We greatly appreciate our generous individual and corporate donors, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and partners whose support allows us to continue our mission of improving the lives of children and adolescents in Maine. We thank the following:

Mahmuda Ahmed
Joseph Anderson
Amy Barrett
Christine Bennett
BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.
Laura Blaisdell
Rebecca Brakeley
Thomas Brewster
Anna Briley
Amy Buczkowski
Melissa Burch
Donald Burgess
Adrienne Carmack
Children's Oral Health
Network of Maine
Gabriel Civiello
Anne Coates
Alexa Craig
Victoria Dalzell
Davis Family Foundation
Rosie Davis
Stephen DiGiovanni
Docket Health
Douglas Dransfield
Laura Faherty
FASD Maine
Abby Fleisch
Julia Fritz
John Goodrich
Alyssa Goodwin

Allison Grover
Deborah Hagler
Dan Hale
Timothy Hawkins
Jennifer Hayman
Anna Henderson
Emily Jacobs
EMS for Children
Lauren Jamele-Townley
Stephanie Joy
Brian Jumper
Phyllis Kaplan
Emily Keller
Jessie Kerr
Klingenstein Philanthropies
Alton Kremer
Kyowa Kirin
Michele LaBotz
Julia Lockwood
Lawrence Losey
Maine Department
of Education
Maine Health
Access Foundation
Carol Mansfield
Stephen Maturo
Amy Mayhew
Amy McBee
James McMahon
Stephen Meister

Moderna
Christopher Motyl
Neurelis
Valerie O'Hara
Christopher Pezzullo
Gretchen Pianka
Tom Reynolds
Victoria Rogers
Jessica Rosenthal
Calvin Schaffer
Sydney Sewall
Iris Silverstein
Maine Department
of Public Health
MaineHealth Barbara Bush
Children's Hospital
MeadJohnson
Moderna
Neurelis
Sanofi
Jeffrey Stone
Susan Talbot
Lynne Tetreault
Andrea Tracy
United Way of Southern Maine
Lara Walsh
Genevieve Whiting
Samantha Louise Wood
Brian Youth
Margaret Zamboni

Join us for our future annual conferences

April 2-4, 2027
March 24-26, 2028



<https://www.maineaap.org/>

**Thank you for taking
time to read about
our work across
Maine.**



**We look forward to sharing
more with you next year!**

2025

Maine Chapter, American
Academy of Pediatrics
30 Association DriveBox 190
Manchester, ME 04351

<https://www.maineaap.org/>

