

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition

2018 *Support Service Fund* Annual Summary

The Maine Breast Cancer Coalition *Support Service Fund* provides financial assistance for breast health or breast cancer related needs to qualified Maine residents. The Fund assists low-income, uninsured, or underinsured people, including those newly diagnosed with breast cancer, who don't qualify for, or whose particular needs aren't covered by other assistance programs.

Support Service Fund milestones:

- Number of years since the Fund was started: 19
- Number of applicants the first year: 50
- Number of applicants in 2018: 314
- Total amount awarded to qualified applicants in the past 19 years: more than \$2,117,000
- Number of Maine people helped by the Fund since it began: more than 4,000

Statistics from the 2018 Support Service Fund program:

- Number of approved applications: 308
- Counties represented: all 16 Maine counties
- Total amount awarded: \$172,328
- Average grant amount per approved applicant: \$560
- Age range of approved applicants: 20 to 93

Representative items and services funded in 2018:

- breast imaging (mammography and ultrasound)
- lab/pathology
- radiologist readings
- surgeon/physician fees or copays
- lymphedema compression garments (lymphedema is a side-effect of breast cancer treatment)
- prescriptions
- breast prostheses
- wigs
- temporary living expense support for people in breast cancer treatment
- travel expenses to treatments
- many other support services

To find out more about the [Support Service Fund](#) or to apply for a grant, download an easy-to-complete, printable application from our website at www.mainebreastcancer.org/support, or call the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition at 207-945-0008 to request that an application be mailed to you. Call us if you need help completing the application.

Support Service Fund recipients wrote:

- Thank you so much for easing the stress of financial obligations surrounding my breast cancer care, so I can focus on health and healing!
- Service was exceptional; very caring
- Thank you for your assistance. It allows me to follow up with my oncologist; otherwise I couldn't.
- Cancer is expensive. Without you I would not have a (lymphedema) compression sleeve for my arm.
- Receiving this help eases some of the financial strain I have since being diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer.

The 2018 Support Service Fund was supported by the Maine Breast Cancer Specialty License Plate Program; CDC Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program contract funds supported by a Cooperative Agreement from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; dedicated fundraisers by many Maine organizations and businesses, including long-term supporters Maine Fraternal Order of Eagles Groups, F.R. Carroll Concrete, Douglas Dynamics (Fisher Engineering), and Hannaford Supermarkets; individual contributions by members and supporters of MBCC, and the dedication of our volunteers and our Support Service Fund program assistant.