

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition

2019 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: 20
- Number of applicants the first year: 50
- Number of applicants in 2019: 317
- Total amount awarded to qualified applicants in the past 20 years: more than \$2,238,000
- Number of Maine people helped by the Fund since it began: more than 4,300

Statistics from the 2019 Support Service Fund program:

- Number of approved applications: 305
- Counties represented: all 16 Maine counties
- Total amount awarded: \$121,660
- Average grant amount per approved applicant: \$400
- Age range of approved applicants: 27 to 88

Representative items and services funded in 2019:

- breast imaging (mammography, tomosynthesis, and ultrasound)
- lab/pathology
- radiologist readings
- surgeon/physician/hospital fees or copays
- lymphedema compression garments (lymphedema is a side-effect of breast cancer treatment)
- prescriptions
- breast prostheses
- 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:

- "Wonderful program. Very much appreciated! Awesome staff."
- "Thank you very much for the Hannaford card and gas money. Most people don't realize what cancer costs."
- "The Fund was very helpful to me in purchasing two (lymphedema) compression sleeves. Without the Fund's support, I would not have been able to purchase them at this time."
- "We so appreciate the support from the MBCC during the stressful time in our family's life!"
- "Since my operation I haven't been able to work. You people are my guardian angels. Because of your help, I've been able to get rid of some stress, and be happy some days."
- "Your services came through when the insurance company didn't."

The 2019 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 major supporters Maine Fraternal Order of Eagles groups, Douglas Dynamics (Fisher Engineering), Hannaford Supermarkets, Medomak Valley High School "Paws for the Cause", DND Disc Golf, United Martial Arts Academies, "Pink Cart to the Cure"; business contributions and individual contributions by members and supporters of MBCC, and the dedication of our volunteers and our Support Service Fund program assistant.