

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 4 FY 96/97  
DATE January 16, 1997

**AN ORDER TO ESTABLISH  
THE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, Maine aspires to build and support communities where families can raise children who are healthy, resourceful, resilient and well-educated;

**WHEREAS**, close cooperation and working partnerships among state and local governmental agencies and private organizations is essential to making this aspiration a reality;

**WHEREAS**, advances in social science have provided policy makers with research tools to identify the specific factors in any given community that place children at risk of serious educational, health or behavioral problems, including violence, crime, pregnancy, alcohol and other drug use, limited opportunities for higher education or low aspirations, as well as the factors that protect children from these risks;

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that Maine state agencies integrate their delivery of services in order to empower interested communities to use these tools to develop a local plan adapted to local needs to prevent the risk factors that place children at risk in that community, drawing upon the experiences of other communities throughout the state and nation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANGUS S. KING, Jr.**, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Communities for Children Partnership as follows:

**I. State Agency Participation**

**A. Participating Departments**

State agencies, including the Departments of Corrections, Education, Human Services, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and Public Safety, shall work collaboratively with local communities interested in identifying and preventing factors that place children at risk in their community. During the first year of the program, the Departments shall work with no fewer than twelve communities that demonstrate the necessary commitment to support the creation of a local plan.

These services shall be provided from existing state resources, as supplemented by available federal and private grants.

## II. Executive Council

### A. Purpose and Charge

The Executive Council shall advise the Commissioners of the Departments of Corrections, Education, Human Services, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and Public Safety in developing the Communities for Children Partnership initiative. The Council shall exist for two years, during which time it shall work with the state agencies to develop and implement the initiative and shall develop partnerships with private organizations to build community and private sector support for the initiative.

### B. Membership

The Executive Council shall be composed of up to twelve members, including the Commissioners of the Departments of Corrections, Education, Human Services, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and Public Safety or their designees. The Chair of the Children's Cabinet shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Council.

### C. Report

No later than August 1, 1998, the Committee shall submit a report to the Governor evaluating the success of the initiative and make recommendations for the future.

## III. Advisory Committee

### A. Purpose and Charge

The Advisory Committee shall provide advice and counsel to the Executive Council and its member state agencies concerning effective prevention strategies as well as effective administration models for implementation of programs at the local level. The Advisory Committee is designed to tap the expertise of specialists in providing services to children in both the public and private sectors, as well as feedback from the children and families who will benefit from the program, in order to support the initiative. The Advisory Committee shall exist for two years.

### B. Membership

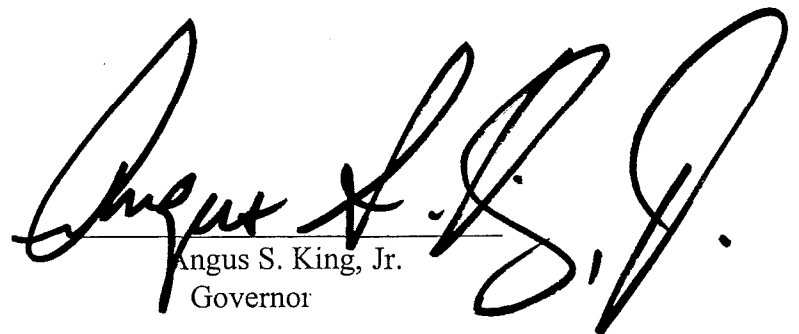
The Advisory Committee shall be composed of up to twenty members who shall be selected to represent as broad a spectrum of expertise as possible in what communities can do to minimize the risks to their children. The Advisory Committee shall include members under the age of eighteen.

#### IV. Funding and Staff

Members of the Executive Council shall serve without compensation. The Children's Cabinet shall provide staff to the Executive Council from existing resources. The Executive Council may recommend that the Governor accept appropriate governmental or private grants or gifts to support the initiative.

#### V. Effective Date

The Effective date of this Order is January 16, 1997.



Angus S. King, Jr.  
Governor