



Help the Future Faces of Maine have more opportunities with less debt.

Join Us! The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) is reaching out to employers around the state — inviting them to **Invest in ME**. As an employer, when you invest in your workforce, you'll be investing in Maine's future!

For Maine to succeed, we need all Mainers to aspire to, plan for, and be able to afford education after high school, and a NextGen 529[®] account can be a great start. A NextGen 529 account is a tax-advantaged way to help families invest and plan for higher education costs. And, children with college savings are seven times more likely to pursue higher education.¹

What can you do as an Employer?

Together, we can invest in Maine by investing in Maine's residents:

- Connect families to information about NextGen 529 and grants for Maine residents.²
- Hang posters and share brochures.
- Host a learning session. FAME can come to talk about planning for college and help families open NextGen 529 accounts.
- Enable payroll deductions to NextGen 529 accounts.

How does FAME Invest in ME? NextGen 529 offers generous matching grants for Maine residents, which can really help maximize your employees' contributions. FAME can share details during sessions or you can learn more at **NextGenforME.com**.

Start Today! Share information with your employees and/or contact FAME at **800-228-3734** for more information, materials or to schedule sessions.

¹ Elliott & Beverly, 2011; American Journal of Education.

² Grants for Maine residents are linked to eligible Maine accounts. Upon withdrawal, grants are paid only to institutions of higher education. See Terms and Conditions of Maine Grant Programs for details about eligibility and other conditions and restrictions that apply at NextGenforME.com. Grants may lose value.

NextGen 529 is a Section 529 plan administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). You may obtain the NextGen 529 Program Description by requesting a copy from your financial professional, visiting NextGenforME.com or calling the program manager at 1-833-336-4529. The Program Description should be read carefully before investing.

The Program Description contains more complete information, including investment objectives, charges, expenses and risks of investing in NextGen 529, which you should carefully consider before investing. If you are not a Maine resident, you also should consider whether your or your designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan.

NextGen 529 accounts are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Returns on investments in NextGen 529 accounts are not guaranteed or insured by the State of Maine, FAME or any NextGen 529 service providers. NextGen 529 participants assume all investment risk of an investment in NextGen 529, including the potential loss of principal and liability for tax penalties that are assessable in connection with certain types of withdrawals of amounts invested in NextGen 529.

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Learn more about
Matching Grants
 for **Maine residents**
 inside!

Why NextGen 529?

NextGen 529 is Maine's Section 529 plan which many families use to save for higher education. 529 plans are tax-advantaged college savings plans. NextGen 529 offers multiple investment options.

■ Tax-Free Growth

Any earnings in a NextGen 529 account are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses.³

■ Grants for Maine residents¹ are real investments in your child's future!

- Open your account with \$25 and get the \$100 Initial Matching Grant. To get the \$100 Initial Matching Grant, Alford Grant recipients must open a NextGen 529 account and add \$25 before their first birthday.
- Make six consecutive automatic contributions from your payroll or bank account and get a \$100 Automated Funding Grant.
- Make contributions and get a 30% NextStep Matching Grant up to a \$300 match.

■ Contributions can be low.

Make contributions when you can, at your own pace. **Even \$5 a month can really add up!**

■ Reduce student loans and debt.

Every dollar in a NextGen 529 account, when used for higher education, is a dollar that doesn't have to be borrowed and repaid with interest.

■ Investment vs. Savings Accounts

NextGen 529 offers multiple investment choices that can give your savings an opportunity to grow as opposed to earning interest (as in a typical savings account).

³ If a Section 529 account withdrawal is not used for qualified higher education expenses (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code), any earnings withdrawn are subject to federal income tax and may be subject to a 10% additional federal tax, as well as state and local income taxes. Aggregate distributions from all Section 529 accounts for payment of elementary or secondary education tuition expenses cannot exceed \$10,000 in such expenses incurred during the taxable year, per beneficiary. In addition, withdrawals used to pay for principal or interest on any qualified education loans of a designated beneficiary or sibling of the designated beneficiary, cannot exceed a lifetime maximum of \$10,000 per individual and may impact student loan interest deductibility. State tax treatment of distributions for certain qualified higher education expenses, including withdrawals for elementary or secondary school expenses, varies. All tax benefits, federal and state, are conditioned on meeting certain requirements. Please consult your tax advisor for specific advice regarding distributions.



Lucy, Cumberland

Open a NextGen 529 account today!

Get started at NextGenforME.com



1-800-228-3734

NextGenforME.com

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Help your child **succeed!**

Open a NextGen 529[®] Account

Invest in
ME



Aidan, Whitefield

Hundreds of Dollars Available in Matching Grants for Maine Residents

See inside for more info.

Grants for Maine Residents Can Really Add Up!

Invest in the future with Grants for Maine residents.

Grants for Maine residents can really add up! Grants for opening a NextGen 529 account and for making additional contributions are real investments in the future. Grants are available for accounts owned by a Maine resident or for the benefit of a Maine resident, and are limited to one per beneficiary/student.¹

About *my* Alfond grant

Use the \$500 Alfond Grant to open a NextGen 529 account without making an initial contribution. All babies born Maine residents on or after January 1, 2013 have a \$500 Alfond Grant.²

Alfond Grant Recipients— Start Saving Early and get a \$100 boost!

Open a NextGen 529 account and add \$25 before your baby is a year old and get an additional \$100 grant!¹

¹ Grants for Maine residents are linked to eligible Maine accounts. An Alfond Grant recipient is eligible to receive the \$100 Initial Matching Grant if the minimum required initial contribution is made before the beneficiary's first birthday. Upon withdrawal, grants are paid only to institutions of higher education. See Terms and Conditions of Maine Grant Programs for details about eligibility and other conditions and restrictions that apply at NextGenforME.com. Grants may lose value.

² The Alfond Grant is awarded by the Alfond Scholarship Foundation and is not automatic in all circumstances and is also available in limited other circumstances. For more information see NextGenforME.com/AlfondGuidelines.



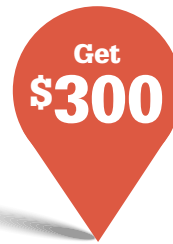
Open Your Account

Open your account with \$25 and get the \$100 Initial Matching Grant.



Make it Automatic

Set up and make six consecutive automatic contributions from your payroll or bank account and get a \$100 Automated Funding Grant.



Add to Your Account

Make contributions and get a 30% NextStep Matching Grant up to a \$300 match per year.



NextGen 529 is Maine's education savings plan that many Maine families use to invest for higher education. NextGen 529 is for people of all ages—babies, kids, even adults... it's never too early to start planning ahead for future education expenses!



Start today at NextGenforME.com



Open a NextGen 529[®] account today!

Start saving for higher education.
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Take Advantage of Grants for Maine Residents!¹

Get
\$100

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Get
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Limington

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Get \$300

Add to Your Account

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It's not too late to start saving!

Even small amounts saved now can help reduce student loan debt. Every dollar in a NextGen 529 account is a dollar that doesn't have to be borrowed and repaid with interest.

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Raymond

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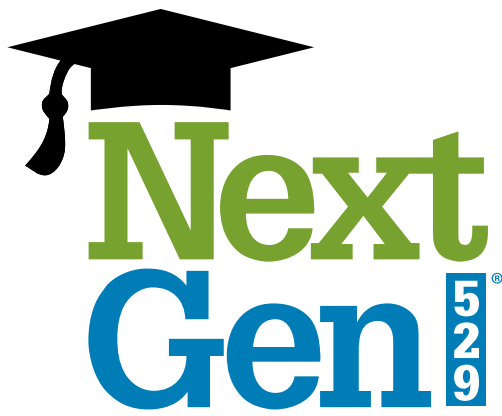
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Thank you for sharing information about NextGen 529. You can order brochures on our website FAMEmaine.com/publications or if you need to communicate electronically, please share the information below without changes or deletions. If you have questions, please contact [FAME Employee name] at 800-228-3734.

Headline/Subject Line: Learn how you can save for higher education with NextGen 529®

[Employer or school name] is sharing this information provided by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). FAME helps Maine families plan and pay for higher education. They also administer NextGen 529, Maine's Section 529 plan that many Maine families use to save for college.

NextGen 529 is an investment account used to save for education after high school. Any earnings in a Section 529 account are tax-free, when used to pay for qualified higher education expenses.¹ NextGen 529 is for people of all ages—babies, kids, even adults saving for their own education!

Contributions to a NextGen 529 account can be low—even just \$5 a month can help.

FAME also offers matching grants for Maine residents to boost your savings—there are hundreds of dollars available each year!²

Check them out:

\$100 Initial Matching Grant

Open your account with \$25 and get the \$100 Initial Matching Grant.

Alfond Grant Recipients— Start Saving Early and get a \$100 boost!

Open a NextGen 529 account and add \$25 before your baby is a year old and get an additional \$100 grant!³

\$100 Automated Funding Grant

Set up and make six consecutive automatic contributions from your payroll or bank account and get a \$100 Automated Funding Grant.

NextStep Matching Grant - \$300 each year

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Get started at NextGenforME.com.

¹ To be eligible for favorable tax treatment afforded to any earnings portion of withdrawals from Section 529 accounts, such withdrawals must be used for qualified higher education expenses, as defined in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Any earnings withdrawn that are not used for qualified higher education expenses are subject to federal income tax and may be subject to a 10% additional federal tax as well as state and local income taxes. State tax treatment of distributions for certain qualified higher education expenses may differ. Please consult your tax advisor for specific advice regarding such distributions.

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Questions Employers May Have

What is NextGen 529®?

- NextGen 529 is Maine's Section 529 education savings plan. Section 529 refers to the section of the Internal Revenue Code that provides unique tax advantages and other special features to encourage families to invest for college.
- Funds contributed to a NextGen 529 account are after-tax. Contributions are not deductible for federal or Maine state income tax purposes.
- Any investment earnings have the opportunity to grow free from federal and Maine income tax. This means no federal or Maine state income taxes are incurred when funds are withdrawn and used to pay for qualified higher education expenses.¹

Who can benefit from a NextGen 529 account?

- NextGen 529 is for people of all ages: babies, kids, even adults.

Who can open a NextGen 529 account?

- Anyone who resides in the United States age 18 or older with a valid Social Security Number or U.S. taxpayer identification number can open a NextGen 529 account. A non-U.S. citizen must be a permanent resident with appropriate documents. There are no income restrictions. An account can be opened for a child, grandchild or any loved one. An account can also be opened to invest for the account owner's own higher education expenses.
- The account owner, also called the participant, is the person who retains control of the account. The designated beneficiary is the student on whose behalf the account has been opened.

Can employees use payroll deduction to fund their NextGen 529 accounts? If so, how?

- Yes! Most employers can work within their existing payroll system. A NextGen 529 contribution from payroll is similar to a direct deposit to a bank account. Here's the process:
 1. An employee must first own a NextGen 529 account. The employee can choose to do payroll deduction, either during the account opening process or by completing and submitting a payroll deduction form.
 3. After the form is processed, the employee receives instructions to share with his/her payroll department.

Can an employer make a contribution to an employee's NextGen 529 account?

Yes! Here are some considerations:

- A contribution constitutes a benefit to the employee and may be subject to payroll taxes.
- A contributor, other than the account owner, to a NextGen 529 account does not receive confirmation of the contributions and will have no subsequent control over funds contributed.
- The employee must provide the NextGen 529 account number to the employer, to facilitate the employer making contributions.
- Employers are advised to consult their tax and legal advisors about these considerations before deciding whether to undertake such contributions.

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