



Maine Council on Aging
P.O. Box 988
Brunswick, ME 04011

Media Contact

Jess Maurer, Executive Director
Maine Council on Aging
jmaurer@mainecouncilonaging.org or 207-592-9972
February 14, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAINE TO BECOME MORE AGE-EQUITABLE WITH SUPPORT FROM POINT32HEALTH FOUNDATION

[Brunswick, Maine]— [The Maine Council on Aging](#) (MCOA) just received major support for its efforts to create an Age-Positive Maine, with a three-year, nearly \$300,000 grant from [Point32Health Foundation](#). This grant will expand MCOA's impact in eliminating ageism through education, advocacy and research.

The new grant funding from Point32Health Foundation supports three MCOA programs: the [Power in Aging Project](#), [Equity & Healthy Aging Initiative](#) and [Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging](#).

"Core to our work is growing the number and kinds of people directly engaged in efforts to build an Age-Positive culture in Maine," said Jess Maurer, executive director of the Maine Council on Aging. "This investment from Point32Health Foundation enables us to work with leaders from every sector to eliminate age-bias and promote age-positivity, to break down barriers facing diverse older Mainers, and support shared learning on healthy aging initiatives across borders."

"The Maine Council on Aging is a leader in the movement to advance equity in aging," said Nora Moreno Cargie, president, Point32Health Foundation, and vice president, Corporate Citizenship, Point32Health. "Their advocacy and educational programs are centered in community, include the voices of diverse older people, and will help eradicate ageism while advancing collaboration in the region."

MCOA's Power in Aging Project offers businesses and organizations the opportunity to learn about ageism, its impacts and how to address it through interactive programming. An important part of the Power in Aging Project is the [Leadership Exchange on Ageism](#), an innovative, reflective peer-learning leadership experience.

The first of its kind in the nation, the Leadership Exchange helps leaders to see their own age-bias, understand how age-bias operates at every level, and learn how to use available tools to disrupt age-bias to create a more age-positive culture in our communities, institutions and systems. Eighty-four leaders from a multitude of sectors have already graduated from this program that is garnering national attention. Three more cohorts will be offered this year, thanks in part to the support of Point32Health Foundation.

After more than a year of work focused on ageism and its intersection with racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia, the MCOA will soon issue an action plan for Equitable Aging in Maine to ensure greater equity and inclusion in communities, institutions and systems for all older adults, especially those who have experienced generations of institutional and systemic discrimination. The Point32Health Foundation grant will support the implementation of parts of this plan through the Equity & Healthy Aging Initiative.

“We’re well positioned to move the needle on building age-equitable systems in Maine that support positive, connected, inclusive, and healthy living later in life,” Maurer noted. “This multi-year grant from Point32Health Foundation will help make real progress toward this goal.”

-###-

About Maine Council on Aging

The Maine Council on Aging is entering its second decade working to create a Maine where we can all live healthy, engaged and secure lives as we age in our homes and communities. We’ve woven together a broad, multi-disciplinary network of more than 130 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older people that defies typical social and political constructs and shares the common goal of building an age-positive culture in Maine. To learn more, visit www.maineCouncilonaging.org.

About Point32Health Foundation

Building on values of service and giving, [Point32Health Foundation](http://Point32HealthFoundation.org) works with communities to support, advocate and advance healthier lives for everyone. Point32Health Foundation is the result of the combination of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation and Tufts Health Plan Foundation and advances equity-focused solutions in healthy aging, access to healthy food and behavioral health in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.