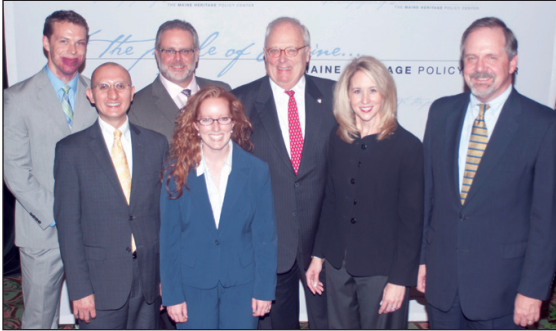


The Heritage Foundation President Speaks at Freedom and Opportunity Event

The Maine Heritage Policy Center hosted its annual Freedom and Opportunity event on October 9, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Edwin Feulner, president of

The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., and special guest speaker, Governor Paul LePage.

Michael Duddy, Esq. was named the 2012 Freedom and Opportunity Award winner for his commitment to the principles of freedom and opportunity that serve to improve the economic well being of our great state.

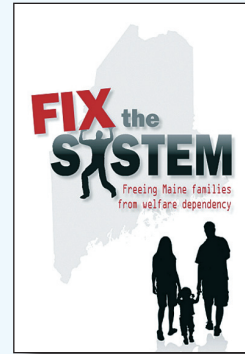


MHPC staff with Dr. Edwin Feulner: (l. to r.) Sam Adolphsen, J. Scott Moody, Peter Steele, Amanda Clark, Edwin Feulner, Heather Noyes and David Crocker

MHPC Releases “Fix the System” Report on Maine Welfare

The Maine Heritage Policy Center’s “Fix the System” report on Maine’s welfare system showed that recent reforms by the LePage administration have improved Maine’s system, but more must be done to move Maine out of welfare dependency.

Co-authored by MHPC CEO J. Scott Moody, the report uses numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Department of Health and Human Services



and other sources to show exactly where Maine’s welfare system stands.

Maine is the only state in the country to rank in the top 10 of three major areas of welfare. Maine ranks sixth in percent of households receiving food stamps, second in the nation in percent of households receiving cash assistance and third in the country in percent of population enrolled in Medicaid.

“Renewable Energy” Raises Electricity Prices by \$145M

Maine’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law, which requires that some of the state’s electricity must be generated by expensive “renewable” sources, will increase the cost of electricity by \$145 million within five years and will cost the state nearly 1,000 jobs.

According to a new study by The Beacon Hill Institute in partnership with MHPC, the state’s electricity prices will surge eight percent by 2017, thanks to the RPS law.

That means homeowners will pay \$85 more a year for electricity—and businesses will pay over \$600 more a year—because proponents of “green energy” have mandated that a certain percentage of Maine’s electricity must come from wind power, solar and other “green” energy sources.

HUD Orders MaineHousing to Repay \$200K

An investigation into the Maine State Housing Authority has revealed mismanagement and a lack of oversight that could cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

HUD’s Boston Office will require MaineHousing to pay back almost \$200,000 in housing assistance payments for units that did not meet federal housing quality standards.

A further investigation will be made into \$112,000 in payments to an information technology consultant who worked on the Homeless Management Information Systems program.

The consultant was paid \$848,000 in just two years.



MaineHousing Spent \$7 Million on Two Computer Consultants

While the furor over inappropriate spending at the Maine State Housing Authority has faded, one large expense still stands out: \$7.1 million has been paid over seven years to just two vendors for MaineHousing’s computer systems—and the systems are still not completed.

The MaineHousing commissioners have authorized a forensic audit to determine if the \$7.1 million was a legitimate expense. “Seven million dollars. That’s a lot of money—and it’s not done yet,” said Peter Anastos, chair of the MaineHousing board of commissioners. “We’re having a hard time figuring out where the money went.”

MHPC Opposes Medicaid Expansion Under Obamacare

The Maine Heritage Policy Center reported that Maine should not expand its Medicaid coverage under Obamacare. States will have the option to add government-funded coverage for healthy individuals under 65 who are at 133 percent of the poverty level because of the controversial health care overhaul.

Originally, the law sought to force states to expand Medicaid, but the Supreme Court threw out that requirement, giving states the option to deny the expansion without penalty.

In Maine, more than 25 percent of all residents are on Medicaid. The MHPC report says that adding more enrollees to a system that is already too expensive would spell disaster.