

Maine vs. MIRC

Mainer Average Salary vs. MIRC Director

Average annual wage in Maine		~\$69,300	
Individual	Position	Salary	Other Compensation
Mufalo Chitam	Executive Director	\$98,702	\$11,325

According to the current MIRC membership page, the coalition is organized into members and partners. Membership is open to organizations committed to advancing the rights of immigrants and refugees in Maine, while partner organizations participate in the coalition without voting rights.

The coalition includes organizations involved in legal services, faith communities, workforce development, education, health care, housing, refugee resettlement, business development, and immigrant community organizations. MIRC also states that its broader ecosystem includes more than 100 organizations supporting immigrants and refugees throughout Maine.

Union of Saints Findings

The following section reflects the perspective of the Union of Saints.

From our review of publicly available financial information and organizational relationships, we believe there is considerable political controversy surrounding portions of this coalition and its funding. Mainers have traditionally paid close attention to where public funds are directed, particularly when taxpayer dollars and public school resources “intersect” with nonprofit advocacy organizations. Many Mainers themselves are still learning how to navigate the “new normal” political landscape, whereas these organizations have developed intelligent and strategic networks designed to support the immigrant community.

Many of these organizations are operating within places that have long represented the ancestry, heritage, and historical identity of Maine families. We recognize that many Mainers are concerned about rapidly changing demographics, housing pressures, public resources, drug trafficking, crime, and undocumented immigration. These concerns exist alongside national conversations regarding border security, immigration policy, and public safety. The Union of Saints believes these concerns deserve respectful public discussion rather than dismissal.

These communities have, for generations, been places of memory, heritage, and safety for Maine families. We believe rapid demographic and cultural change should be approached thoughtfully and with consideration for those who have long called these places home. While we recognize the dignity of immigrants and refugees and understand the compassion many

Americans have extended toward newcomers throughout our nation's history, we also believe governments have a responsibility to protect their citizens, preserve public safety, and maintain secure borders.

The Union of Saints is very concerned about the size and influence of coordinated advocacy networks and the effect they may have on public policy, taxpayer funding, and the representation of long established American communities. We believe Americans have the right to examine these organizations, understand their funding, evaluate their policy objectives, and determine whether public resources are being used in a manner consistent with the interests of Maine taxpayers.

Our organization has placed many of its own nonprofit and business goals on the back burner because we believe the safety of our home front deserves our full attention. We have devoted significant time to studying public records, nonprofit filings, government grants, and related materials because we believe Americans deserve transparency regarding organizations that influence public policy. Although we have reached many of our own conclusions, our research continues as new public information becomes available.

The Union of Saints believes American taxpayer dollars belong to the American people and should be managed transparently, responsibly, and in accordance with the law. Public funds should never be used in ways that suppress public participation or diminish the voices of the communities they are intended to serve. We sympathize with those seeking safety and opportunity, but we also believe America must carefully guard against growing political polarization, social instability, historical erasure, and any form of political coercion or loss of democratic representation.

MIRC Member Organizations

Advocacy and Legal Support

- ACLU of Maine
- Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, Maine Law School
- Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)
- Maine Business Immigration Coalition
- Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, LWVM
- Maine Equal Justice
- Maine People's Alliance
- Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network
- NAACP
- New Mainers Alliance

- Southern Maine Workers Center

Faith Based Organizations

- Bahá'í Community
- Congregation Bet Ha'am, Tikkun Olam Council
- First Parish, Faith in Action Committee
- Jewish Action Maine
- Maine Council of Churches
- Organic Change
- Portland Diocese, Hispanic Ministry
- Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland
- Portland Friends Meeting

Integration Services, Women and Youth

- Aspire for Humanity Initiatives
- Capital Area New Mainers Project
- Catholic Charities Maine, Refugee and Immigration Services
- Choose Yourself
- Cross Cultural Community Services
- Gateway Community Service
- Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
- Mano en Mano, Hand in Hand
- Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services
- New Mainers Resource Center
- Office of Maine Refugee Services, Catholic Charities Maine
- Presente! Maine
- Preble Street
- Welcoming Immigrants Network of Greater Portland
- Welcoming Immigrant Neighbor, Bangor
- Welcoming Immigrants, Our New Neighbors
- YMCA of Southern Maine

- YWCA Central Maine

Business, Financial and Workforce Development

- Black Owned Maine
- Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI)
- New Mainers Resource Center, Portland Adult Education
- Prosperity Maine

Health

- City of Portland, Minority Health Program
- Frannie Peabody Center
- Maine Access Immigrant Network (MAIN)
- Maine Association for New Americans (MANA)
- Maine Mobile Health Program

Education, English Language, Arts and Culture

- Boundless MEdia
- Empower the Immigrant Children and Students (ETHICS)
- Ladder to the Moon Network
- Maine Multicultural Center
- Network and Scholarships for Maine Immigrants Organization
- Portland Adult Education
- Portland Empowered

Housing

- Furniture Friends
- Greater Portland Family Promise
- Hope Acts

Immigrant Organizations

- African Women and Development
- Angolan Community of Maine
- Afghan Community of Maine
- Burundi Community Association of Maine

- Congolese Brazzaville Community of Maine
- Congolese Community of Maine
- Khmer Maine
- Maine Community Integration
- Rwandese Community of Maine
- Somali Community Center of Maine
- South Sudanese Community, Maine
- Unified Asian Communities

Women's Issues

- Maine Women's Lobby, Maine Women's Policy Center

MIRC Partner Organizations

Advocacy and Legal

- Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center

Education and Culture

- LearningWorks English Program
- Maine Humanities Council
- New Mainers Speak
- Portland Public Schools Multilingual Multicultural Center
- Portland Public Library
- The Salvation Army, Tools for Life
- Southern Maine Community College

Integration Services

- Chinese American Friendship Association of Maine
- Djiboutian American Community Empowerment Project
- Friends of Mind, Amigos de Mente
- Intercultural Community Center
- Somali Bantu Community Association
- New England Arab American Organization
- The Telling Room

- Tree Street Youth

Business and Workforce

- Androscoggin Bank
- City of Portland Economic Development Department
- Diversity Hiring Coalition
- Goodwill Northern New England
- IntWork.co
- Maine Career Center
- New Ventures Maine
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- University of Southern Maine, Prior Learning Assessment
- Upwardly Global

Health

- Atlantic Global Aid
- Healthy Androscoggin
- Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
- Slim Peace

Housing

- Families First Community Center
- Portland Housing Authority Family Program

Women's Issues

- EMERGE Maine
- My Sister's Keeper
- Women United Around the World
- Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor

In total, the MIRC membership page lists approximately 80 organizations across its member and partner categories. MIRC also states that it has an ecosystem of more than 100 organizations supporting immigrants and refugees throughout Maine and provides an ecosystem map that includes additional organizations beyond the formal member and partner lists.