

June 2024

## **MAINE ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED FOR TOBACCO-FREE ACHEIVEMENTS**

Forty-four Health Organizations Celebrated for Leadership through Annual Gold Star Standards of Excellence Program

On June 5<sup>th</sup> during the Maine Tobacco Treatment and Prevention conference, the MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence's Breathe Easy Initiative recognized forty-four hospitals, healthcare organizations, higher education organizations and behavioral health organizations and four individual Gold Star Champions for efforts to address tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure. Celebrated organizations received a plaque for their achievements in advancing their campus smoke and tobacco-free policies as well as promoting tobacco-free lifestyles.

All Maine behavioral health organizations, hospitals, higher education organizations and healthcare organizations were encouraged to apply for recognition. Organizations are recognized at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels are based on best practice criteria such as a smoke and tobacco-free campus policy, annual screening for tobacco use, referral to tobacco treatment and supporting employee education related to tobacco treatment.

"We applaud the ongoing efforts of Maine hospitals, healthcare, higher education, and behavioral health organizations to address tobacco use, secondhand smoke exposure and nicotine dependence by meeting the Gold Star Standards of Excellence," says Sarah Rines, Senior Program Manager for the Center for Tobacco Independence. She continued, "Advice and assistance from healthcare providers are powerful tools to help individuals to quit tobacco products, these awardees are taking key steps to support their patients, clients, and communities."

For more information about the Gold Star Standards of Excellence, please visit [BreatheEasyMaine.org/GSSE](https://BreatheEasyMaine.org/GSSE).

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The Breathe Easy Initiative at the MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence is dedicated to providing Maine's hospitals with the information and resources needed to make all organizations smoke and tobacco-free. Learn more at [BreatheEasyMaine.org](https://BreatheEasyMaine.org). This initiative is supported through a grant from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

## 2024 Gold Star Standards of Excellence Awardees



The Breathe Easy Gold Star Standards of Excellence program recognizes Maine behavioral health, healthcare, higher education and hospital organizations that are addressing tobacco use and exposure by implementing strategies that support tobacco treatment and prevention.

### Behavioral Health

- Platinum Catholic Charities Maine
- Gold Crossroads
- Platinum Kennebec Behavioral Health
- Gold Kerish Benttinen LCSW LLC
- Platinum Maine Behavioral Healthcare
- Platinum Mid Coast Hospital  
Addiction Resource Center

### Healthcare

- Gold AK Health and Social Services
- Platinum Boothbay Region High School  
School-Based Health Center
- Platinum HealthReach Community Health Centers
- Platinum Hometown Health Center
- Platinum Lincoln Academy  
School-Based Health Center
- Platinum Mabel Wadsworth Center
- Platinum Medomak Valley High School  
School-Based Health Center
- Platinum Morse High School  
School-Based Health Center
- Platinum Oasis Free Clinics
- Platinum Pines Health Services

### Higher Education

- Platinum Maine Maritime Academy
- Gold Northern Maine Community College
- Platinum University of Maine
- Platinum University of Maine at Farmington
- Platinum University of New England
- Platinum University of Southern Maine
- Gold Washington County Community College

### Hospitals

- Gold Calais Community Hospital
- Platinum Cary Medical Center
- Platinum Down East Community Hospital
- Platinum Franklin Memorial Hospital
- Platinum Houlton Regional Hospital
- Platinum LincolnHealth
- Platinum Maine Medical Center
- Platinum MaineGeneral Medical Center
- Platinum Mount Desert Island Hospital
- Platinum Mid Coast Hospital
- Platinum Northern Light AR Gould Hospital
- Platinum Northern Light Eastern Maine  
Medical Center
- Gold Northern Light Inland Hospital
- Platinum Northern Light Mercy Hospital
- Platinum Northern Light Sebasticook  
Valley Hospital
- Platinum Pen Bay Medical Center
- Platinum Penobscot Valley Hospital
- Platinum Spring Harbor Hospital
- Platinum Southern Maine Health Care
- Platinum Stephens Memorial Hospital
- Platinum Waldo County General Hospital

### Gold Star Champions

- Jennifer Bartlett, RN
- Northern Light AR Gould Hospital
- AnniPat McKenney
- LincolnHealth
- Malinda Scannell, RN, MSN, ANP-C
- University of Southern Maine
- Penn Whiteside, PMHNP-BC
- University of Maine at Farmington



[BreatheEasyMaine.org/GSSE](https://BreatheEasyMaine.org/GSSE)

**BREATHE EASY**  
REDUCING SMOKE EXPOSURE IN MAINE



The Breathe Easy Maine program is administered by the MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence on behalf of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services