

Northern Maine Development Commission 11 West Presque Isle Road Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 493-5756 www.nmdc.org

May 12, 2025

United Way of Aroostook 830 Main Street Presque Isle, ME 04769

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC), I am writing to express our strong support for the establishment of the Aroostook County Daycare Resource Center, a vital initiative led by the United Way of Aroostook.

As a regional economic development organization, NMDC is deeply aware of the critical need for expanded and accessible childcare services throughout Aroostook County. The challenges facing working families in our rural communities—particularly in accessing affordable, high-quality childcare are among the most pressing barriers to economic participation and workforce retention in our region. The proposed Daycare Resource Center addresses this need directly and strategically.

By serving as a centralized hub for information, licensing guidance, training, support services, and advocacy, the Aroostook County Daycare Resource Center will play an essential role in strengthening existing childcare providers, encouraging the growth of new providers, and equipping families with the tools they need to make informed child care decisions. This initiative also aligns with NMDC's mission to improve the economic conditions of northern Maine by supporting family stability and workforce availability.

We commend the United Way of Aroostook for their leadership in responding to this critical need with foresight and collaboration. NMDC is committed to supporting this project through regional partnerships, technical assistance, and outreach, and we look forward to the long-term impact this Center will have on the vitality of our communities.

Thank you for considering this important effort. Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you require any additional information or support.

Sincerely,

Robert Clark

Executive Director

Northern Maine Development Commission



Robert Clark Northern Maine Development Commission LD 1859

In support of LD 1859 based on Aroostook County Childcare Resource Center model