

FORT FAIRFIELD

- A PASSION FOR COMMUNITY -

October 2011



Dear Parents,

Great news! In August the Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council asked the Fort Fairfield Town Council to establish a college education fund for newborns and kindergarteners. With a unanimous vote, the Town of Fort Fairfield is excited to announce our new college education program named, Fort Kids First -- Future College Plan.

The plan has two tiers; the first tier is for any newborn resident of Fort Fairfield born after July 1, 2011 being eligible to receive a \$250 scholarship grant. The second tier; any child entering Kindergarten in the Fort Fairfield Elementary School beginning the 2011-2012 school year is eligible to receive a \$50 scholarship grant. Both are a great start for establishing a college savings plan or deposited in an existing account.

If you have already established a college savings fund for your child you are still eligible for the Fort Kids First program funds. Join us to pick up your voucher for Fort Kids First. This is a great opportunity for you and your child to ensure a good education is in their future. We sincerely hope you can attend. Please call Michael Bosse at 472-3802 to confirm you will be attending this public announcement event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Churchill".

Brent Churchill
Chair
Quality of Place Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. McCrea".

David McCrea
Council Chair
Town of Fort Fairfield

Fort Fairfield Education Fund

Introduction: The cost of attending college continues to rise and financial realities often pose a formidable barrier to attaining postsecondary educational goals. Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council (QPOC) implemented a new strategy intended to promote the habit of saving, to develop a more intimate understanding of financial matters, and to provide another way for Fort Fairfield residents to demonstrate their commitment to the pursuit of postsecondary education. The QPOC proposed that the Fort Fairfield create an education fund for Fort Fairfield youth that contributes to their NextGen account Fort Kids First – Future College Plan.

In order to achieve the objective of the QPOC, Fort Fairfield residents are strongly encouraged to open and maintain a NextGen College Investing Plan[®] account (NextGen Account) and to contribute their NextGen Account in order to take advantage of matching grants available to Maine residents who own NextGen accounts.¹ NextGen[®] has been selected as the investment vehicle for the Fort Kids First because it provides a convenient and easy way to save for higher education expenses and offers a variety of investment options, designed to accommodate differing risk tolerances and time horizons.

Creation of the Fort Kids First – Future College Plan: *To be funded by the Town of Fort Fairfield*

Scholarship Programs:

Baby Scholarship: The Fort Kids First – Future College Plan will provide a one-time \$250 Baby Scholarship into a NextGen account opened for the benefit of a Fort Fairfield resident baby born on or after July 1, 2011 to encourage and assist Fort Fairfield families to save for college.

Kindergarten Scholarship: The Fort Kids First – Future College Plan will provide a one-time \$50 Fort Fairfield Kindergartener Scholarship into a NextGen account opened for the benefit of a Fort Fairfield resident child entering kindergarten in the fall of 2011, which can be used as the initial contribution to open a NextGen account for the benefit of the Fort Fairfield kindergartener.

Eligibility Requirements:

To receive the Baby Scholarship, the baby must be a resident of Fort Fairfield, born after July 1, 2011 and the baby must be named as the designated beneficiary to a NextGen account before the baby's first birthday.

To receive the Kindergartener Scholarship the youth must be a resident of Fort Fairfield and entering kindergarten in the fall of 2011-2012 .

Fort Fairfield Scholarship Account

Scholarship Awards:

Baby Scholarship: Upon a request from a parent of a child meeting the above requirements, a redeemable certificate will be presented to the parent or guardian of all Fort Fairfield babies entitling the baby to receive a \$250 scholarship to be deposited into a NextGen account for the baby. Once the account is opened and account number assigned, the account owner can complete and return the certificate to the town of Fort Fairfield, who will make a deposit directly into the baby NextGen account.

Kindergartener Scholarship: A redeemable certification will be provided to the parent or guardian of Fort Fairfield residents who have a child entering kindergarten in the fall of 2011, entitling the child to receive a \$50 scholarship to be deposited into a NextGen account opened for the benefit of the kindergartener. Since the \$50 is used to open the NextGen account, the account owner can complete and return the certificate to the Town of Fort Fairfield, who will give the parent/guardian a \$50 check payable to *NextGen FBO the kindergartner*. The family may then submit with \$50 check with the NextGen Account Application.

If a NextGen Account has previously been established for the benefit of the eligible Fort Fairfield youth, then the scholarship may be deposited directly into that previously established NextGen Account at the discretion of Fort Fairfield. Only one NextGen Account is eligible to receive a Fort Fairfield Scholarship.

Investing of Grant Funds. The Baby Scholarship and the Kindergartener Scholarship will be invested into a Portfolio selected by the account owner. The NextGen account owner (Participant) must select an investment option(s) applicable to the NextGen Account at the time the NextGen Account is opened.

NextGen Matching Grant Programs:

In addition to the Fort Fairfield Scholarships, Fort Fairfield residents can take advantage of the following NextGen Matching Grant Program.

- **\$500 Alfond College Challenge Grant** provides a one-time \$500 grant for Maine resident babies for accounts opened before the baby's first birthday, regardless of income.
- **\$200 Initial Matching Grant** provides a one-time \$200 grant for eligible Maine Accounts opened after January 1, 2011 with a contribution of only \$50, regardless of income. Beneficiaries eligible for the Alfond Grant are not eligible for the Initial Matching Grant.
- **\$50 Automated Funding Grant** provides a one-time \$50 grant for eligible Maine Accounts opened after January 1, 2011 receiving contributions through automated funding from a bank account or payroll direct deposit, regardless of income.
- **\$400 NextStep Matching Grant** provides a one-third match on contributions made within the first 24 months of account opening to eligible Maine Accounts opened after January 1, 2011, up to a maximum total award of \$400, regardless of income.

To qualify, either the NextGen account owner *or* the account beneficiary must be a Maine resident; the account must be opened after January 1, 2011, and the account beneficiary is not already named as beneficiary to an existing account:

NOTE: See the NextGen Grant Terms and Conditions for other restrictions that may apply.

Contacts:

Karen J. Vigue, College Savings Officer
NextGen College Investing Plan
c/o Finance Authority of Maine
5 Community Drive
PO Box 949
Augusta, ME 04332
800-228-3734 ext. 3526
kvigue@FAMEmaine.com

Michael Bosse
Town of Fort Fairfield
18 Community Center Drive
Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742
Economic Development & Marketing Director
207-472-3802
mbosse@fortfairfield.org

The anticipated number of children per year eligible for the establishment and maintenance of the Fort Kids First – Future College Plan; Fort Fairfield Next Gen & Next Step savings accounts is based on approximately 40 births per year that are residents of Fort Fairfield and averaging 40 children entering Kindergarteners each year.