

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bethany Rhodes | National Strategies Public Relations

Phone: 719-205-7227 | Email: bethany@nationalstrategies.org

~~Reach Out and Read is pleased to announce the expansion of its national program, Evidence-Based Early Literacy, to all 17 counties in the state of Maine.~~

## ~~National Strategies~~ Evidence-Based Early Literacy Statewide

PORTLAND, MAINE (Oct. 17, 2023). — Reach Out and Read plans to expand its national program, which promotes healthy children and stronger communities, in Maine. Reach Out and Read's regional Northeast Affiliate — currently comprised of Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Upstate New York, and Vermont — is planning an expansion into the state, which is home to more than 60,000 children under age 5. Maine's early literacy program, which began in 2019, will wind down operations in 2024.

A national, family-focused nonprofit works with medical providers to parents/caregivers about how shared reading with young children builds strong family bonds. During routine well-child visits from birth to five years old, trained clinicians not only give age-appropriate, culturally responsive books to families, but they also give parents a copy of those books to engage with their infants and young children. This parent- and mitigating adverse childhood experiences.

Reach Out and Read, which already has a clinical presence in the state, is collaborating with a program. Raising Readers will be a statewide program.

"This expansion means that clinicians and children in Raising Readers could benefit from the nearly 35 years of experience, research, and having a transformative impact on millions of families across the country, and further our efforts in Maine."

As the only evidence-based national reading program, Reach Out and Read reaches 4.2 million children through more than Reach Out and Read's program, which recent research has again increasing the frequency of daily

"We are thrilled to bring the impact of Reach Out and Read to the children and families of Maine," "As we  
expand our footprint over the next several years, we are committed to ensuring that every "  
underserved community gains the lifelong benefits

Reach Out and Read's national office and Reach Out and Read Northeast will collaborate on,  
starting -2024.

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**About Reach Out and Read Northeast:** Reach Out and Read Northeast is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that promotes early relational health and language development at well-in clinics throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Upstate New York. The organization has partnerships with medical providers and 200+ pediatric sites in the region serving 435,000 children and their families. To learn more, please visit [reachoutandread.org/affiliates/Massachusetts](https://reachoutandread.org/affiliates/Massachusetts)

**About Reach Out and Read:** Reach Out and Read is a national nonprofit that provides children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging on emotional connections endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read serves children in all 50 states through 6,000 clinics and 33,000 staff. For more information, visit [reachoutandread.org](https://reachoutandread.org).