Hi Library Land,

As a Maine newbie, the Harold Alfond College Challenge was definitely a new program to me. If you’re not familiar, the Alfond College Challenge grants $500 to every baby born as a Maine resident, with the hopes that future educational endeavors will be more achievable for all children. Below is some information from the CEO of the Alfond Scholarship Foundation. They are very interested in strengthening their relationship with libraries to reach out to more families, especially so we can help spread the word that families need to keep their contact information updated. Their new My Alfond Grant website is designed to help parents plan financially for their child’s future educational needs.

Did you know that the Alfond Scholarship Foundation has now invested over $40 million for more than 80,000 Maine children?! We hope that investing the $500 Alfond Grant at birth will have both practical and aspirational benefits. Children born as Maine residents in 2013 and later have automatically been awarded the Grant. For Maine kids born in 2008-2012 the grant was available on a more limited basis.
To make sure that Maine families get information from us about the current value of the Alfond Grant, as well as tips, information and resources, encourage your families to go to www.500ForBaby.org to update their contact information!
There’s lots more on our new website, www.MyAlfondGrant.org - including a great planning tool to encourage families to Do, Save and Learn each month to support their child’s future!
Please Like and Share MyAlfondGrant on Facebook - launched just a few weeks ago: https://www.facebook.com/MyAlfondGrant/

Pretty sure there will be a some new printed materials that will be developed by fall that might got out to libraries too. Stay tuned.

Thanks,

Stephanie Schott | Early Literacy Specialist | Liaison to Franklin & Oxford Counties
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