

Montana Health Care Programs MESSENGER

Free Mammograms and Pap Tests for Montana Women

For women who are underinsured or uninsured, the Montana Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (MTBCCEDP) provides free mammograms, Pap tests, and follow-up diagnostics. If a woman is diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the MTBCCEDP, the cancer treatment is covered by Montana [Medicaid](#).

Available through local public health departments, community health centers and medical providers across the state, DPHHS's Montana Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has provided free breast and cervical cancer screenings since the late 1990s. Local public health staff enroll women and guide them through the screening process in coordination with medical offices.

Find your local program online at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cancer/RegionalPrograms/index>, or call 1-888-803-9343.

DPHHS MTBCCEDP contact: Mark Wamsley mwamsley@mt.gov or DPHHS Physician Program Officer: Stephanie King stephanie.king@mt.gov

Discover Telehealth

Although telehealth has been available in many states for decades, the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) accelerated interest in this method of service delivery. There is promising preliminary evidence of positive impacts, particularly for remote patient monitoring for individuals with chronic conditions, communication/counseling for individuals with chronic conditions, and psychotherapy as part of behavioral health.

Telehealth can be of benefit to anyone. It is extremely helpful in meeting service needs for those who need the convenience, have mobility limitations, or those in rural areas who don't have access to a local doctor or clinic.

To find a telehealth provider in your area, ask your Passport to Health/primary care provider or reach out to the Montana Healthcare Programs/Medicaid/HMK Plus Member Help Line at 1-800-362-8312.



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Money Follows the Person

Money Follows the Person (MFP) assists states with developing foundations to promote and enhance access to Home and Community Based Services. MFP is the longest running demonstration project in the history of Medicaid and has resulted in over 91,000 people transitioning from institutional settings (nursing homes, hospitals, etc.) back into their communities nationwide.

Since its inception in 2014, Montana's Money Follows the Person demonstration project has assisted approximately 236 seniors and individuals with disabilities move out of institutional settings and back into their communities.

Eligible participants include those who have resided in an institutional setting (nursing home, hospital, etc.) for at least 60 days and whose care has been paid for by Medicaid for at least one of those 60 days. Participants must also be eligible for one of the Montana Waiver Partner programs (i.e., the Big Sky Waiver, the Severe Disabling Mental Illness Waiver (SDMI), or the Developmental Disability Waiver).

MFP assists participants with their transition into the community by providing demonstration services that remove barriers, such as but not limited to:

- When necessary, provision of the rent and utility deposits
- Assistance with past due rent and utility bills/deposits
- Purchase of household goods and services to include (limited) basic household furnishings, bedding, kitchenware, etc.
- Environmental and/or vehicle modifications

Participants must transition to an MFP qualified residential setting. Such housing options include:

- A home owned or leased by a participant or their family member.
- An apartment with an individual lease, secure access, as well as living, sleeping, bathing, and cooking areas where a participant or family member has control.
- A community-based residential setting such as a group home with a maximum of 4 unrelated people (excluding caregivers or personal attendants).

Referrals can be made by providers or individuals who would like to self-refer. To make a referral, please contact Money Follows the Person:

- Email to MoneyFollowsThePerson@mt.gov
- Call (406) 439-6870
- Fax (406) 655-7646
- Submit a secure referral form via the website:
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/mfp>

Colorectal Cancer Awareness

Colorectal cancer is preventable through early screening, diagnosis, and treatment. Of cancers affecting both men and women, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. and the risk increases with age. Colorectal cancer most often occurs in people ages 50 years or older. New data shows Montana has experienced an increase in the percentage of men and women ages 45-75 who reporting up to date with colorectal cancer screening.

According to 2023 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFFS) data, 68 percent of Montanans are up to date, which is up from 62 percent in 2018. Screening tests can find precancerous polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. Colorectal polyps and early cancers don't always cause symptoms, especially at first. That is why getting screened regularly for colorectal cancer is so important.

You may be at increased risk for colorectal cancer if you or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer, you have inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, or ulcerative colitis, or you have a genetic syndrome, such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome). Please ask your Passport to Health or primary care provider for any additional questions or concerns.

Healing and Ending Addiction through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Waiver Approval

This approval will expand behavioral health services for Montanans. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) have approved a waiver sought by DPHHS to provide three new Medicaid funded services as part of the state's HEART program. This waiver will allow the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to provide three new services as part of the state's Medicaid program.

These services will help Montanans struggling with addiction and mental health conditions find and keep stable housing, provide incentives to those meeting treatment goals, and provide services to incarcerated individuals in the 30 days before their release from the state prison system. These new services will be referred to as Tenancy Supports, Contingency Management, and Justice-Involved Reentry Services.

Service 1: Tenancy Support – will help Medicaid recipients with a diagnosed severe mental illness or a substance use disorder who are experiencing housing instability or homelessness to find and keep stable housing. Eligible individuals must have at least one risk factor such as being homeless or at risk of homelessness, history of frequent or lengthy stays in an institutional setting, or frequent emergency department visits or hospitalizations.

Service 2: Contingency Management – will allow individuals in treatment to earn small motivational incentives for meeting treatment goals and will be available to Medicaid members aged 18 and older, with a diagnosed stimulant use disorder.

Services 3: Justice-Involved Reentry Services – expected to begin in late 2025, will provide targeted Medicaid services for eligible justice-involved populations 30-days prior to release, aged 18 and older, who have a substance use disorder and/or mental health diagnosis. Eligible individuals will receive services such as care management, limited community-based clinical consultation services in person or via telehealth, and medication.

To see if you qualify for any of these services, please contact the Office of Public Assistance at apply.mt.gov or 1-888-706-1535.



Maternal Mental Health Hotline

The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline provides 24/7, free, confidential support, resources and referrals to any pregnant or postpartum mothers facing mental health challenges and their loved ones. The service is available via phone and text in English or Spanish.

Call or text 1-833-TLC-MAMA (1-833-852-6262) to connect with counselors at the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline or you can get more information online at <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/national-maternal-mental-health-hotline>.

Pregnancy and a new baby can bring a range of emotions. In fact, many women feel overwhelmed, sad, or anxious at different times during their pregnancy and even after the baby is born. For many women, these feelings go away on their own. But for some women, these emotions are more serious and may stay for months.

The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline's counselors provide real-time emotional support, encouragement, information, and referrals.

Pregnant and postpartum women can get the help and resources they need when they need it.

Are you a new parent and feeling sad, worried, overwhelmed, or concerned that you aren't good enough? You aren't alone. Reach out to connect with counselors at the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline for help.

Key Contacts

Montana Healthcare Programs/Medicaid/HMK *Plus* Member Help Line

For questions regarding benefits or Passport to Health:

1-800-362-8312

[MT Healthcare Programs](#)

Montana Relay Service

For the deaf or hard of hearing.

1-800-253-4091 or 711

Montana Public Assistance Help Line

For eligibility questions.

1-888-706-1535

[MT Public Assistance](#)

Transportation Center

For questions regarding travel or approval. **Call before you travel, or you may not be reimbursed.**

1-800-292-7114.